

February 20, 2014 Select Board Minutes, Groton Community Building (Approved)

Select Board: Gary Lamberton, Peter Lyon

Fire Department: Wayne & Dorothy Knott, Treasurer: Roberta Dana

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM

Peter reported that there is another super example of Community support where Tim (Groton Garage) donates all the work he does on the town cruiser. He changes the oil, completes the inspection and rotates the tires all at no cost. The board expressed its sincere thanks to Tim for his generosity.

Wayne updated the Board on the Fire Departments use of foam concentrate (which is added to the water to get "more punch"). To satisfy inspection requirements, there is a need for an eye wash station which Wayne estimated would cost in the neighborhood of \$200. The Board supported Wayne's recommendation since it is a safety issue and also can be covered in the Fire Department budget. Wayne and Dorothy also reviewed the latest version of the proposed Fire Department capital plan which included both the heavy equipment (trucks) as well as the supporting gear and equipment. The trucks were planned for a 25 year useful life and the gear was planned at the normally accepted replacement cycle required by safety standards. There was agreement that a few more changes would be incorporated into the plan and they then would have a solid/finished product.

Gary brought up the fact that the ice & water is causing a problem at the entrance to the gym of the Community Building. Gary is looking for the Highway Department to clear it up and make safe for Town meeting. Peter moved, Gary seconded, and the motion passed unanimously for the highway crew to make the entrance safe for Town meeting.

Gary noted that the new town report did not have contact phones for all appointed town officials per his request. He asked Roberta to coordinate adding them to the town web site and then saved for the next edition of the town report. Gary had also requested that descriptions of the various town reserved funds be included in the report. He asked Roberta to work with the appropriate contacts to assist in packaging up the descriptions also for inclusion in the next report.

Peter reported that the RFP that he had created for an external auditor had been reviewed and approved by Martha, Debbie, and Dan (the Town auditors). He suggested that it go out for bid after the budget has received approval at town meeting. Gary agreed and asked for it to be included for discussion after town meeting which is the first Board meeting in March.

Peter asked Roberta for the status of the interest rate comparisons for the reserve funds. Roberta reported that she had obtained some rates but was unable to make contact with GE Capital. Peter said he would follow up on GE Capital and asked Roberta to create a spread sheet of all the local institutions with their rates and conditions for the Boards review. Roberta agreed to have ready for the next Board meeting.

Peter noted that the Vermont Legislature is working on a State Statue update which will eliminate the role of Collector of Current taxes. They are doing this since Vermont Town Treasurers normally already have the responsibility of collecting taxes so the position is redundant. Peter asked Roberta to contact the VLCT to see how we should handle since the position is on the Town meeting warning to be voted on. Roberta was asked to update Mary (as Moderator of Town meeting) as well.

The Board received the first version of the Highway Department capital plan from Brent.

Peter moved, Gary seconded, and the motion passed unanimously to approve the February 6, 2014 minutes with corrections.

Peter moved, Gary seconded, and the motion passed unanimously to approve the contract for dispatch services by the Caledonia Sheriffs Department.

Peter moved, Gary seconded, and the motion passed unanimously to close the meeting (at 8:05 PM)

Gary Lamberton, Chair

Prepared by Peter Lyon