

January 23, 2014 Select Board Minutes, Groton Community Building (Approved)

Select Board: Gary Lamberton, Peter Lyon, Nathan Puffer

Fire Department: Wade Johnson, Phillip Palmer, Brent Smith. Visitor: Dave Spencer,

Treasurer: Roberta Dana, Clerk: Linda Nunn

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM

Peter moved, Nathan seconded, and the motion passed unanimously to approve the January 16, 2014 minutes with corrections.

Dave, representing the Lake Groton Association, reported that the Association would like to apply for a grant (that has a due date of February 5th) to survey weeds and Eurasian milfoil in Lake Groton. Dave requested the Boards support for two reasons; First that application for the grant needed to be submitted by the Town and second that they anticipated hiring a couple of college kids to do the survey and therefore need payroll & insurance coverage. Dave assured the board that the association would reimburse the town for all the expenses. Peter moved, Nathan seconded, and the motion passed unanimously to approve the Lake Groton Associations request to provide the Town's support as requested. The Board thanked Dave for his effort to address this concern.

Peter reported that Annie has confirmed that she has met with the town auditors and that they have completed their audit with her and all looks good.

Roberta presented to the board the employee pay-rate increases for 2014 for approval. Peter felt that it was better to hold and process after the Town meeting once the budget was approved. General discussion took place on the effective date for the increases since Nathan would be not be available with Nathan and Peter supporting an effective date of January 1. All agreed to schedule the final decision after town meeting.

Roberta presented a corrected reserve fund report. The "12/31/13 Fund balance" total was \$439,973.80. The "Owed to Fund from General Fund" was \$134,441.00 and the "Actual 2013 Ending Bank Balance" was \$463,432.80. Peter recommended that an Emergency Reserve Fund also be created to provide for the ability to fund unforeseen emergencies that occur. Gary wanted to see a precise description of the purpose and use of an Emergency Reserve Fund. Peter agreed to create a proposed description for the Boards review. Peter moved, Nathan seconded and the motion passed unanimously to add to the Town meeting warning a proposal to create an Emergency Reserve Fund.

Wade provided an update on the Fire Department truck search by reporting that even though they had Jon representing 4 Guys Fire Apparatus attend the previous board meeting they were actually working with three and perhaps four different vendors to ensure that they obtain the best proposed price for a new truck. Wade presented a petition to include in the warning for Town meeting requesting a vote on authorizing \$300,000 for the purchase of a new Fire Truck. Wade also reported that the Fire Department members unanimously supported the Fire Department's search committee specification recommendations;

- Tandem (duel axel)
- Single Cab
- Two wheel drive

- 2500 gallon tank
- Not to exceed \$300,000
- Utilize a lease/purchase agreement

Nathan asked for the status of the potential of obtaining a free truck from Hebron, Conn. Wade said that four members of the fire department would be traveling to Hebron to look at the truck. The view is that it has the potential of not fitting the department's needs.

General discussion took place on how to fund the purchase of a new truck, the number of years for payments, and the amount per year that would be paid. The Board pointed out that they have been requesting a capital plan from the Fire Department for a number of months and have not yet received one. They pointed out that plan is required for them to be able to conduct discussions on what the appropriate funding is for the Fire Department's capital needs. Department members said that to make it easier they are working on two separate capital plans; one would cover major equipment such as the trucks and the other would cover the supporting hardware. The Department members committed to have the major equipment capital plan to the Board by the Board's second meeting in February.

Phillip reported that he had a conversation with a person who would support a Fire Truck purchase and considered the police cruiser to be a waste. Peter responded that we are fortunate to have Jim within our community, using the cruiser, supporting the community. Wade ended his presentation by assuring the Board that the Fire Department would continue to look for ways to reduce the cost of a new truck as much as possible under the \$300,000.

Linda presented to the Board the proposed warning for the "Notice of Groton, Vermont Annual Town Meeting Tuesday, March 4, 2014". Peter moved, Nathan seconded, and the motion passed unanimously to approve the warning as presented. The Board signed the warning.

Brent demonstrated an iPad tablet that he had on loan from Vermont Local Roads. This is one of only two that are available across the State. Brent utilized some of the apps and is researching and trying it out for the potential use for project control and reporting purposes within the Town. The Board thanked Brent for reaching out and leading the Town forward in this technology.

Peter moved, Nathan seconded, and the motion passed unanimously to close the meeting (at 8:22 PM)