

January 9, 2014 Board Minutes, Groton Community Building (Approved)

Gary Lamberton, Peter Lyon, Nathan Puffer

Fire Department: Wade Johnson Sr., Shaun Stetson, Wayne Knott, Phillip Palmer, Dorothy Knott, Aaron Smith, Brent Smith, Jon Cares (4 Guys Fire Apparatus), Treasurer: Roberta Dana

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM

The Board reviewed the following updates for the 2014 budget;

- Zoning: 2014 proposal \$1,850 (2012 was \$2,115)
- Listers: 2014 proposal \$22,174 (2012 was \$20,250)
- Library: 2014 proposal \$27,461 (2012 was \$26,154)
- Select Board: 2014 proposal \$5,677 (2012 was \$5,700)
- Emergency Services: 2014 proposal \$20,900 (2012 was \$20,863)
- Police Cruiser: 2014 loan payment changed to \$0. (the loan has been paid off early with the reallocations the Board completed in the 2013 fiscal year, the payoff totaled \$10,181.31)

Peter reported he talked to Steve Blood and Steve supports the Boards view that the Green Mountain bill for street lights would not have been expected to go up. Since Steve is now retired, he provided another contact to continue the discussion. Peter also reported that he will be meeting with the Caledonia Sherriff (Dean Shatney) on Friday to discuss the possibility of a contract for Jim and the Town Cruiser.

Wade, as Chair of the Fire Truck Committee, reviewed with the Board the options the committee has considered over the last two year to address their concerns with the Departments current tanker.

- Purchasing a new tandem axel with two wheel drive
- Purchasing a new single axel with four wheel drive
- Refurbishing the existing truck
- Accepting a donated truck

Wade introduced Jon Cares, who represents 4 Guys Fire Apparatus, to provide his view on the options. Jon stated that refurbishing the existing truck would be a waste of money as the truck is too old and would be very difficult to make it NFPA compliant. Jon presented two options for the Departments consideration;

- A single axel, 4 wheel drive, duel cab with 1800 gal capacity. Total price is \$309,436 (which includes the cost of an International truck chasis of \$123,192)
- A tandem axel, 2 wheel drive, single cab with 2100 gal capacity. Total price is \$292,648 (which includes the cost of an International truck chasis of \$96,421)

Jon explained that 4 Guys, who typically build 50 -55 fire trucks per year, would personalize the truck to be low enough to fit in the current doors (that are 10' high). He also noted that a new truck should last 30 – 40 years.

Wade explained that one of the Departments considerations is a goal to minimize the use of POV's (Personally Operated Vehicles). He also noted that the current truck's age is a factor, is over loaded, and the tank needs replacement.

Wade also explained that Department members met with Kevin McDonnell to review the possibility of Hebron, Conn donating a truck to Groton. The 1993 truck has 1000 gal capacity and requires pump repairs. Wayne estimated that it would be good for five to ten years. A concern raised was that the projected life span would end up with the town needing to replace two trucks within the same time frame. Wayne is planning of traveling to Hebron to review the truck and perhaps take it for a test drive.

Roberta reported that once the 2013 allocation can be put into the fund there will be \$102,000 in the Emergency Services equipment reserve fund but there is only \$82,000 now. The Board supported the Department moving forward to create a final recommendation with the goal of having ready for the March Town meeting. They also requested that Roberta package up funding options for consideration.

Roberta offered to put bids out to banks to check interest rates once we know for sure it will be a loan or if it will have to go to a bond vote.

Roberta reviewed the need to borrow \$10,000 to cover current expenses. Gary moved and Nathan seconded a motion to approve borrowing \$10,000. Gary and Nathan voted in favor of the motion and Peter abstained. The motion passed. Peter explained that he does not support borrowing and would prefer using money from the reserve funds.

Peter moved, Nathan seconded, and the motion passed unanimously to close the meeting (at 9:26PM).

Gary Lamberton, Chair

Prepared by Peter Lyon