

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

Select Board: Peter Lyon, Gary Lamberton, Nathan Puffer

Building Committee: Kitty Diggins, Fire Department: Phillip Palmer, Dorothy & Wayne Knott, Brent Smith, Frank Lapham, Collector of Delinquent Taxes: Anne Crowley, Treasurer: Roberta Dana

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 PM

Kitty Diggins reported that at the last Board meeting Steve Parker of Clear Water Filtration had made an error in his calculations for the cost of the water system improvements and needed to increase the amount by \$850 for a new total of \$4,199.14. Kitty also reported that the Building Committee had met this week to discuss the change and unanimously supported the revised proposal. Nathan moved, Peter seconded, and the motion passed unanimously to approve the increase to \$4,199.14.

Phillip Palmer reported that in discussions he had with Tony Zider (Zider Masonry) there were serious issues trying to maintain the brick front of the Emergency Services Building as part of constructing the two new doors. The Fire Department has voted unanimously to remove the brick front and stick build using vinyl to match the Community Building. Frank pointed out that this change makes sense as it adds R value with 10" walls. Brent stated that there is a need for some engineering to be done to ensure that the corners are structurally sound. Phillip also wanted everyone to know that they are not doing this project for the new truck. The project is for mutual aid when neighboring community trucks are on hand. General discussion took place on the availability of contractors in town to complete the construction with only one being available. The Board stated that they would like the project to be put out to bid to receive at least three proposals to ensure the taxpayer is getting the best deal.

Anne Crowley reviewed issues she is facing as a result of late changes made by taxpayers on their homestead declaration that results in a revised tax bill which then potentially makes the bill become delinquent if it happens after the tax due date. Anne explained that she is willing to consider a reduction in the 8% penalty if they pay their taxes within a certain period (30 days) as long as everyone is treated the same. Anne explained that before any collection can take place that a warrant has to be issued by the Town Treasurer. The Board stated that if they were to consider making any changes that they would want to first understand the impact. Since the impact could not be quantified the Board's position was to follow existing State Statutes and if Roberta had questions on the Statutes that she should contact the VLCT.

Nathan asked to consider allocating the \$1,500 Community Building rent to the Highway fund. Peter asked to maintain the rent in the Community Building fund. General discussion took place on the size of each of the funds with no change being made.

Peter moved, Nathan seconded, and the motion passed unanimously to adjourn (at 7:53 PM)

Gary Lamberton, Chair

Prepared by Peter Lyon