

September 18. 2014 Select Board Minutes, Groton Community Building (Approved)

Select Board: Peter Lyon, Gary Lamberton, Nathan Puffer

Northeastern Vermont Development Association: Allison Low, Building Committee: Kitty Diggins, Mark & Lise Shallberg, Treasurer: Roberta Dana, Town Clerk: Linda Nunn

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM

Allison, from the NVDA, provided a review of action required by the Town now that the Town Plan has expired. She explained who is on the planning commission and what the planning commission does. Alison also described what happens when a plan has expired and that the old plan can't simply be re-adopted as there is now a requirement for a flood element to be included. She explained that the plan needs to be updated every 5 years and estimated that it would take 24 hours of mapping, reviews and incorporated items such as FEMA data. Allison also noted that the town could try to apply for a Municipal planning grant to start the work. The Board thanked Allison for taking the time to come and meet with them.

Kitty reported that the building committee would like DeWolfe Engineering Associates to start the analysis for the Community Building roof. Nathan said that he had held off on signing the contract at Peter's request to allow discussion at this meeting. Peter explained that he did not support doing the analysis without also including in the contract the requirement to propose a solution. Nathan supports the approach of two contracts, one now to analyze the problem and another later to provide the solution. Mark responded that he believes that DeWolfe is qualified to provide a solution and supports first completing the analysis. Gary said that he supports completing the analysis first. Nathan signed the time & material contract with DeWolfe Engineering Assoc. Inc. estimated to be between \$1,500 and \$2,000. Kitty reported that both the gutters and painting of the roof are on hold until the analysis is complete.

General discussion took place on the Clearwater filtration system proposal for \$2,000. The Board explained that it is looking for assurances that it will fix the problem. Since this is only cleaning out the "pipes" in the existing system, what is the assurance that sulfur smell will not come back from the well? Kitty agreed to contact Clearwater to obtain a response.

Gary reviewed the current package of reserve funds descriptions noting that it was close to being complete. The restoration & preservation fund needs to have a reference to the specific legislative body action that set the fees. The next steps are to find & include the enabling articles that created each reserve fund and then standardize the total package for inclusion in the town report.

The Board completed a detailed line item review of the budget vs actual for all departments and noted that they expected the total expenditures to be equal to or under the plan by year end. Several departments had spending that was too high year to date. Gary will send a letter to all department heads requesting that they review their budgets and where ever the spending rate is excessive to provide a proposal for balancing either within that line item or by allocating funds from another line item.

Roberta provided the Board four reports: A Reserve Fund Balance report, a 2014 Reserve Fund Budgeted Appropriations Status report, a 2014 funds borrowed from reserve accounts for General Fund

report, and an Appropriations owed to Reserve Fund report. Roberta reported that she is having trouble obtaining delinquent tax information in a timely manner from Annie (Collector of Delinquent Taxes). The Board encouraged Roberta to contact Annie to express her concerns to see if she could get them resolved.

It was agreed that at the first meeting in October the Board would have a general discussion on planning next year's budget and finalize the year-end schedule.

Linda reported that the Patricia Grant dog complaint had been resolved and all parties are satisfied. Linda also reported that the warrant for unlicensed dogs was closed and that all dogs were now licensed.

The status of the boundary question by the Wernecke and Cilley family behind the Community Building and Emergency Services building was discussed. Peter agreed to contact Gunther Wernecke and Dave Darling to see how they are progressing.

Peter reported that all the work by volunteers and donations are on hold until the boundary line question is resolved. Peter provided a summary of the donations that have taken place so far. \$5,310 of decorative stone has been donated by several families and all the long distance trucking of the stone has been donated by Fred Grant. 44 feet of donated Granite has been cut and ready for lettering (in memory of members of the community) worth a total of \$2,650. Excavator, Hammer, and crush stone valued at \$16,250 have been donated by Chief Bogie. The Town has also contributed by having Brent & Phillip haul material for close to 5 days.

Peter reported that it appears that grants are available for the addition of a kitchen & storage space for the Community Building and meeting room for the Emergency Services building. The thought is to name the Emergency Services addition in honor of Dale Brown as Dale was a major supporter of the Fire Department. The next step is to create a design proposal.

General discussion took place on the use by people of the Community Building. The ceiling has been damaged, tables are missing legs, and chairs have been missing from the building. Because of the damage, six new tables needed to be purchased at \$110 each which when including transportation totaled \$896.10. Potential ideas discussed were the need for damage deposits, increasing the \$5 per hour building use fee, charging a fee for taking chairs & tables off site, etc. It was agreed to take a look at how other towns operated for additional ideas.

Peter moved, Nathan seconded, and the motion passed unanimously to adjourn. (at 10:00 PM)

Gary Lamberton, Chair

Prepared by Peter Lyon