

Town of Groton, Vermont - Selectboard Minutes, August 20, 2015

The duly warned meeting of the Groton of August 20, 2015 was held at the Groton Community Building, 1476 Scott Highway.

Attendance for the meeting included: Dorothy Knott, James Langlois, Janet Locke, H. Paul Berlejung, Caroline K. Diggins, Brent Smith, Tim Dailey Sr., Fred Braman, Roberta Dana.

The following members were in attendance: Peter Lyon, Andrew Dorsett

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM

Minutes

The Board reviewed and signed the minutes for their meeting held on August 6th.

Public Comment

Tim Dailey inquired about ancient laws and spoke to recycling law, Act 148 requiring the availability of recycling receptacles at trash collection locations. Andrew inquired about locations around town that currently have trash receptacles. Locations considered were Puffer Softball Field, Frost T-ball field, and the playground. The Board agreed to have the public parks established as carry-in-out facilities, with park users remove their own trash. Tim agreed to provide information for discounted purchase of recycling containers for the Community Building and to research if recycling requirements extended to restrooms and the Community Building trash hauler. Lisa indicated she would inquire with the cleaning service to discover recycling options.

Winter Salt 2015-16

Brent presented the American Rock Salt delivered price per ton at \$79.83. Brent indicated he would develop and present a comparison sheet demonstrating the Cargill and American Rock Salt quotes as compared to the estimated use and budgeted figures for the next regular meeting.

Winter Sand 2015-16

Brent inquired about the Board's desire to have Topsham join with Groton in a bidding effort. Peter inquired if Ryegate should be considered in joining the requests for bids. Brent indicated that Ryegate's proximity would make the viability of joining with Groton and Topsham less desirable due to the location of alternative material provider's locations. The Board agreed to have Brent pursue joining with Topsham in seeking of bids for winter sand with bid responses being presented at the next regular meeting.

North End of Ricker Mills Road Request for Proposals

Peter presented the RFP, discussion ensued. Information was presented as to the condition of the section of road and required improvements.

On a motion by Andrew, seconded by Peter the Board voted unanimously to authorize Peter to release the request for proposals for road improvements to the North end of Ricker Mills Road to contractors for presentation of results at the next regular Selectboard meeting.

Union Bank Stock Sale

Lisa reported that the Union Bank Stock sale of all 2,445 shares had been completed with revenues from the sale totaling \$62,518.65. The Board thanked her for her efforts in researching and completing the sale.

Tax Rate

Lisa presented the Board with her worksheet and calculations that incorporates all the variables required to establish the tax rate. Lisa informed the Board that some in Montpelier are considering altering the State's payment in Lou of taxes legislation that exists for Groton and Montpelier's State held lands. Andrew and Peter indicated that if this was the case Groton residents may need to organize for a future discussion with legislators regarding this topic. Peter requested that Groton's legislative representation be requested to attend a future meeting for discussion on the topic.

Lisa then walked the Board and those present through the description of items having an impact on the calculation of the tax rate. She included a description of anticipated revenues, deferred revenues, expenses as approved at Town Meeting, the grand list value of all Groton properties and the unexpended balance from the highway's budget. Lisa continued with the breakdown of the tax rate with the total for last year being 2.1040 for resident and 2.0234 for non resident and the total for this year being 2.1105 for resident and 2.0195 for non resident. Peter noted that this was an increase of .065 cents increase for residents and .039 cents for non residents. Kitty described the impact of the grand list value on the tax rate. She said the grand list value last year was \$1,179,584 and this year was \$1,189, 038.

On a motion from Andrew seconded by Peter the Board voted unanimously to set the tax rate as presented.

Treasurer's Report

Lisa presented the detailed Budget v. Actual Budget report.

Treasurer's Office and Salt Shed Improvements

The Board reviewed the bid received from Bo Wilson for time and materials at a cost of \$35 per man hour, the bid included material disposal at cost. Discussion ensued.

On a motion by Andrew seconded by Peter the Board voted unanimously to award the work to Bo Wilson with a cost not to exceed \$5,000 with weekly invoicing and inspection by the town reserving the right by the Town to discontinue the project following any weekly inspection.

Culvert Purchase

Brent presented a proposal of quantities and cost for the purchase of culverts. Peter suggested the purchase of additional culverts for use on Harv Orr Road with the understanding that residents of that road would volunteer labor and equipment to improve the road. Peter said that ordering the culverts would allow the Town to capitalize on the volunteer labor to improve drainage. Brent said that 18' culvert would be required. Andrew inquired if work on said road could these culverts be used elsewhere on future projects. Brent indicated that these culverts were of standard size and could be incorporated elsewhere if needed in the future. Andrew inquired what the budgeted amount for the culvert line item was. Brent said that the line item was at \$2,000 and the purchase of the added culverts would exceed this. Andrew suggested that the Highway budget would run a surplus and that this should allow for the purchase and wouldn't exceed the bottom line.

On a motion by Andrew seconded by Peter the Board voted unanimously to authorize Brent to order culverts and supplies as presented by Brent with the addition of five eighteen foot culverts.

Town Office Entrance Signage

Peter said that there was a donation of a new sign designating the entrance to the Town offices. He explained that the sign would be assembled by Charles Frost and Anderson Sign would donating the sign. The Board thanked Charlie Frost and Anderson for their donation.

Highway Truck

Brent indicated that Milt Lamberton donated provided radios for teh highway ten wheeler. The Board expressed its thanks to Mr. Lamberton.

Robert Dana inquired about the cost of the new ten wheeler. Lisa indicated that the total was \$161,984.

Memory Wall

Robert stated her position about the memory wall. Paul Berlejung presented his thoughts about the ability for this project to continue to move forward with volunteers and read a citation from a law he interpreted as protecting volunteers for their efforts on the Town's behalf. The Board thanked both for their input.

Audit

Lisa discussed her understanding for the need for an audit and indicated that if funds weren't expended prior to the end of the year for that purpose that they would be unavailable for next year unless voted for approval in the following Town meeting.

On a motion by Andrew, seconded by Peter, the Board voted unanimously To enter into executive session for the reasons that premature general public knowledge would place the public body or a person involved at a substantial disadvantage.

The Board entered into executive session at 9:07 pm.

The Board came out of executive session at 9:15 pm with no action taken.

The Board discussed their review of interested candidates to fill the vacancy on the Selectboard.

On a motion by Andrew seconded by Peter the Board voted unanimously to appoint Mary Grant to fill the remaining term of former Selectman Gary Lamberton.

The Board adjourned at 9:20 pm.