

January 15, 2015 Select Board Minutes, Groton Community Building (Approved)

Select Board: Peter Lyon, Gary Lamberton, Nathan Puffer

Building Committee: Kitty Diggins, Mark Shallburg, Fire Department: Wayne & Dorothy Knott, Highway: Brent Smith, Phillip Palmer, Treasurer: Roberta Dana, Clerk: Linda Nunn

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM

Kitty Diggins and Mark Shallburg presented the recommendation of the Building Committee to contract with DeWolfe Engineering Associates to provide structural design services for the design of reinforcing of the existing community building roof framing as noted in DeWolfe's November 20 2014 report. DeWolfe proposed to complete the work on a time and materials term estimated to be between \$4,300 and \$5,000. Peter believed that this should go out to bid to follow the town's policy to bid items that cost over \$2,500. Nathan thought that this should be an exception to the policy. Nathan moved and Gary seconded a motion to approve the Dewolfe proposal. Nathan and Gary voted in favor and Peter voted against the motion. The motion passed.

Kitty expressed her thanks to the Building Committee for all of the work they have done on this project. The Board also expressed its thanks to Kitty, Mark and the rest of the Building Committee for their support.

Dorothy and Wayne Knott reviewed the Emergency Services 20 year capital replacement plan. Wayne suggested that the amount required to support the purchase of a used replacement for R1 (Ambulance) could be changed to \$75 to \$80K from the current plan of \$100K. Dorothy reviewed the research that she had completed on trying to purchase a used ambulance for a cost much lower than \$75 to \$80K and her conclusion was that a purchase at a substantially lower cost would be for an unreliable vehicle. In response to a Board question, Wayne said that R1 is a 2003 chassis and that with some work might have its useful life extended another five years. In response to another question from the Board, Dorothy said that R1 services both Groton and Ryegate and the calls to each town are about split down the middle. As a next step, Peter volunteered to contact Ryegate to see if they would be willing to consider becoming a partner in the purchase of the next ambulance. It was noted that Ryegate has been very helpful and already provides assistance for the operation of the Fast Squad.

Roberta Dana reported that she had received a proposal for a short term loan for the new fire truck from Larry Dingee that totaled \$5,500. The Board did not support the proposal as the town could borrow the funds from a financial institution at a lower cost. Peter suggested that \$16,500 be reduced from the highway department truck fund and added to the fire department fund. The Board also asked Dorothy to contact Larry to delay the delivery of the chassis and to determine the terms of payment upon delivery, net 30 days? Dorothy left the meeting to call Larry and reported back that Larry said the delivery could not be delayed and that he was pretty sure that it was net 30 days. Dorothy said that Larry was expecting the Chassis to arrive between Feb. 15 and March 1. Peter suggested that rather than pay a financial institution 2 to 3% that this be offered to the Cemetery Commission and Library Board for use of their funds as they are only receiving .05 percent on their money. Peter volunteered to contact VLCT to see if this was possible and also contact the trustees of both the Cemetery Commission and Library Trustees to see if they would be interested.

The highway budget for next year was reviewed;

Highway Insurance: Current year is \$13,625, proposed is \$14,335
Contracted Work: Current year is \$15,200, proposed is \$14,700
Materials: Current year is \$63,500, proposed is \$39,900
Operations: Current year is \$26,923, proposed is \$25,100
Equipment Repair: Current year is \$25,000, proposed is \$25,000
Garage Maintenance: Current year is \$7,900, proposed is \$7,200
Highway Reserves: Current year is \$59,757, proposed is \$97,445

Also, the following budgets were reviewed:

Treasurers/Clerks Office: Current year is \$7,750, proposed is \$7,850
Delinquent Tax Collector: Current year is \$2,935, proposed is \$2,470
Building/Energy Committee: Current year is \$265, proposed is \$265. (This is a change from the current year in that the Energy Committee is being combined with the Building Committee by the Board).
Forest Fire Expenses: Current year is \$1,481, proposed is \$1,600
Constable Insurance: Current year is \$3,515, proposed is \$3,373

The Austin insurance claim that was filed with the VLCT was reviewed with Brent. Brent felt that it was very likely that he had hit the Austin truck. The Board asked Roberta is there was a deductible that the Town would have to pay and the response was that there is no deductible. It was the consensus of the Board to approve the claim.

Nathan moved, Peter seconded, and the motion passed unanimously to adjourn (at 10:46 PM)

Gary Lamberton, Chair

Prepared by Peter Lyon