

January 22, 2015 Select Board Minutes, Groton Community Building (Approved)

Select Board: Peter Lyon, Gary Lamberton, Nathan Puffer

Highway: Brent Smith, Phillip Palmer, Treasurer: Roberta Dana, Clerk: Linda Nunn

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM

Roberta Dana reported that the total amount to borrow for the new fire truck has been adjusted to reflect the actual cost and now is \$176,421. (It was planned at \$178,000). Wade had a new proposed ten year contract from Municipal Leasing Consultants with annual payments of \$20,322. Nathan felt that, prior to processing the Lease Purchase agreement that we should have in hand the updated contract from Dingee Machine and the final/approved truck specifications. The Board also requested that Roberta work with Wade and Municipal Leasing Consultants to update the proposed Lease Purchase agreement to include the conditions that were contained in the original Board approval. The Board agreed to conduct a special meeting on Jan 29 to review the updated documents (if they are ready).

The Board reviewed the final proposed budget:

General Fund: proposed \$410,777 (current year is \$410,972)

Special Services/Non Profits: proposed \$6,920 (current year is \$7,120)

Voter Approved Appropriations: proposed \$15,000 (current year is \$16,800)

Highway: proposed \$347,877 (current year is \$344,448)

Grand Total: proposed: \$780,574 (current year is \$769,390) An increase in the overall budget of 1.5%

Gary moved, Nathan seconded and the motion passed unanimously to approve a proposed 2015 budget totaling \$758,564 for the General and Highway funds.

Linda Nunn reviewed a proposal by the town's current Justice of the Peace to increase from what is currently five members to seven members. This is allowed by State Statues for a community that has a population of over 1000 and the population of the town is now 1020. The Board supported the request and this will be a separate article for consideration at town meeting.

The Board asked Roberta the reasons for her proposal to move the deadline for payment of taxes from the second week of October to November 6. Roberta explained that this would move the date to be after the last of the tax adjustments are completed by the State of Vermont thereby simplifying the processing of the tax bills. The Board supported the request with November 6, 2015 by 5:00PM as the deadline for payment of taxes proposed in the article for consideration at town meeting. Gary reviewed and supported Brent's request to ask the voters about the purchase of a ten wheeler using highway equipment reserve funds. The request was not supported by the majority of the Board.

The Board signed the Warning: Notice of Groton, Vermont Annual Town Meeting, Tuesday, March 3, 2015.

Peter moved, Nathan seconded, and the motion passed unanimously to adjourn (at 10:09 PM)

Gary Lamberton, Chair

Prepared by Peter Lyon