

January 8, 2015 Select Board Minutes, Groton Community Building (Approved)

Select Board: Peter Lyon, Gary Lamberton, Nathan Puffer

Fire Department: Wayne, Dorothy, & Henry Knott, Shawn Stetson, Highway: Brent Smith, Phillip Palmer,
Treasurer: Roberta Dana, Clerk: Linda Nunn, Town resident: Michelle Boudreau

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM

Phillip Palmer reviewed a Purchase Order for DeWolfe Engineering to provide structural design services for the replacement of the existing gable end wall (for new garage doors) of the fire station. The scope includes design of wall framing & headers over new overhead door opening, limited CAD plans and details of the new wood wall and attachments to the existing masonry walls. It also includes one site visit to review existing conditions and one site visit during construction. The time and materials cost is estimated to be between \$1,500 and \$2,000. Phillip reported that he obtained a proposal from Stewart Structural Engineers from Barnet to provide the services for \$3,000 to \$4,000. Phillip also explained that it was not possible to get the work completed at no cost and still have an Engineers stamp on the design. The Board approved the PO for DeWolfe services.

Michelle Boudreau reviewed problems she is experiencing with her rental of Jennings house. Michelle reported that there are issues with the electrical, sewer, and the wood stove and she is having difficulty working with Connie Sleath, the realtor who is coordinating for the Jennings family the renting of the property. The Board told Michelle that they would take her issues under advisement and requested Linda to contact the Health Officer to complete an inspection of the home.

Dorothy Knott provided an update to the proposed Emergency Services Budget:

Emergency Services Insurance: Current year is \$11,445, Proposed is \$11,430

Emergency Services General: Current year is \$20,900, Proposed is \$24,365

Fire Department: Current year is \$25,296, Proposed is \$24,684

Fast: Current year is \$15,500, Proposed is \$14,888

Dorothy explained that the only large change was in the Emergency Services General budget and it was due to the increase in billing for the ambulance contract through Woodsville Rescue Ambulance. The Board accepted the proposed budgets.

Peter asked Henry for his view of the status on the ambulance (Rescue One). Henry reported that the plan was for it to last to 2016 and then replace it with a relatively decent used unit for a cost of approximately \$100,000. Peter asked Henry if increasing the size of the station doors was required for the new truck and Henry said yes pointing out that a larger truck was required as it was important to have at the minimum a 3000 gal vehicle.

Roberta Dana reported that she has borrowed \$50,000 from Union Bank at .84% to cover operating cost and will pay it back next week using reserve funds. Roberta reported that we are still waiting for FEMA funding for the Welton Bridge project and that there is a \$52,000 loan outstanding. Roberta also reported that a \$5,000 VLCT fire department grant was received (which was a 50/50 match for turnout gear).

The Board wanted to thank Vermont Creamery for their \$1,000 donation. The Fire Department is using the Methodist Church for training and the donation is to assist with the cost of heating.

Linda Nunn reported that she had contacted the VAOT on the hazard tree across from the church and they responded that it was out of their jurisdiction. Linda also contacted GMP who will be checking and appeared willing to help however they might like some help from the Town removing the brush. It was agreed that the highway crew would help with brush removal.

The following budgets were reviewed and approved by the Board:

Library budget (current year is \$27,461) of \$27,946
Select Board budget (current year is \$5,677) of \$5,677
Town Clerk budget (current year is \$45,326) of \$45,326
Insurance budget (current year is \$11,348) of \$9,582
VLCT & NVDA budget (current year is \$2,366) of \$2,836
Interest expense budget (current year is \$3,000) of \$500
Caledonia tax budget (current year \$14,817) of \$14,120
Planning Commission budget (current year is \$500) of \$500
Zoning budget (current year is \$1,850) of \$1,850
Town Clock budget (current year is \$450) of \$450
Field & Parks budget (current year is \$3,527) of \$2,027

The proposed sidewalk maintenance budget (current year is \$2,853) of \$4,353 was accepted. Peter proposed moving this mission to be part of the highway team. The suggestion was supported by everyone and Gary will let Don know that he will be a member of a team working with Brent and Phillip.

Solid Wastes budget (current year is \$5,800) of \$5,800
Streetlight budget (current year is \$7,350) of \$7,550
Community Building budget (current year is \$17,892) of \$21,592
Tree Warden budget (current year is \$200) of \$200
Recreation Committee budget (current year is \$1,490) of \$1,520
Animal control budget (current year is \$950) of \$950
Health Officer budget (current year is \$100) of \$150

General discussion took place on the need to budget for vacation that is carried over by elected employees since it is a financial liability for the Town. It was agreed that a line item be added to the budget recognizing the liability.

Brent Smith submitted a proposed RFP to purchase a new 10 wheel truck. He wanted to get the request in quickly to be ahead of other communities buying decisions that normally take place at town meeting so that the truck would be delivered by this Fall. Peter was concerned that a 10 wheel truck was not supported in the current capital plan, that the next truck in the plan was a 6 wheel and also that based on feedback both he and Brent had received from respected truck owners/operators in the community, buying a new truck was not a good idea. It was agreed to review the capital plan in the next Board meeting and decide on next steps.

Linda provided two checks to be given to the Community Club to assist with the purchasing of tables and chairs. \$30 was received from Catamount Forest Product and \$25 was received from Jim Larkin. The Board thanked Jim and Catamount for their very kind donations. Peter asked Linda if she had provided the information request form to all the non-profits, Linda responded that she had three left to send out.

Nathan moved, Peter seconded, and the motion passed unanimously to adjourn (at 10:31 PM)

Gary Lamberton, Chair

Prepared by Peter Lyon