

Town of Groton, Vermont Select Board Minutes, July 2, 2015 (Approved)

The duly warned meeting of the Groton Select Board of July 2, 2015 was held at the Groton Community Building, 1476 Scott Highway at 7:00 PM

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

Attendance for the meeting included: Highway: Brent Smith, Clerk: Linda Nunn

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM

Background: Gary has submitted his resignation from the Select Board effective July 1, 2015 due to changes in his personal life. He would be willing continue to volunteer to be the Network Administrator for the Town.

Andrew moved, Peter seconded, and the motion passed unanimously to accept with regret Gary's resignation as a Select Board member and appoint Gary to the position of Network Administrator for the Town. The Board wanted to recognize Gary for his many years of service to the Community: 9 years on the Blue Mountain School Board, 5 years on the Blue Mountain School budget committee, 4 years as Boy Scout leader of Troop 702, Treasurer and Webmaster for the Buckaroos snowmobile club, Trustee for the Groton Methodist Church and 5 years on the Groton Select Board. Peter will contact the VLCT to identify the proper process to follow to fill a vacancy on the Board.

Andrew moved, Peter seconded, and the motion passed unanimously to appoint Peter Board Chair.

Peter moved, Andrew seconded, and the motion passed unanimously to appoint Andrew Board Secretary.

Andrew reported that he is continuing his work with the 1845 map and the highway map to identify corridors to be preserved for recreation trails through the identification of Ancient Roads. Once identified, they will be inserted on a highway certificate map to be recorded as trails and submitted to the State for recording.

Dorothy Knott requested Board approval to apply for a \$2,500 VLCT Scholarship toward a chainsaw safety course (total cost of the course is \$2,700) for members of the Fire Department. Andrew moved, Peter seconded and the motion passed unanimously to approve the application as requested.

Linda provided a State of Vermont AOT application to hold Town parades on a State highway (for Fall Foliage) on Oct. 3, 2015. Andrew moved, Peter seconded and the motion passed unanimously to approve the application.

Peter reported that he had asked the VLCT for their recommendation on how to best handle the sale of the Union Bank stock. They responded that they had never come across something like this and suggested that we talk to our Town attorney. He will provide an update at the next Board meeting.

Lisa requested approval to wire \$75,000 from the Town's line of credit to the general fund. Andrew moved, Peter seconded, and the motion passed unanimously to approve Lisa's request.

The Inter-Governmental Agreement for Ambulance Service provided by the precinct of Woodsville was reviewed noting that there was no other realistic options for service available that would be reasonable

cost and provide the required response time. Andrew moved, Peter seconded, and the motion passed unanimously to approve the agreement as presented.

Peter reported that he had attended NVDA Board of Directors meeting on June 25. Items discussed were Regional plan update, Grant applications, and budgets.

The VLCT completed a Loss prevention audit with the following recommendations: (Linda will report of the status of the items at the next Board meeting).

- No extension cords in Treasurers office - Peter is working on a bid to insulate and rewire the Treasures office.
- Fire Extinguisher - Need to correct the dates, Kitty will make the requested changes
- Emergency Exit lights need batteries - Linda will work with Brent to update the batteries.
- Electrical panel room requires yellow strip in door way - Linda will contact Charlie Frost to make the improvements.
- Boiler no. 2 leaking - Linda will contact Craig Powers to repair.
- Moisture around the oil tank - Linda will contact Craig Powers to check and repair if necessary.
- Gym need removable railing on stairs to stage - Linda will contact Charlie Frost to make the improvement.
- Suggest getting Fire Protection System - Andrew will look into applying for a grant for the system.

General discussion took place on the potential need to regulate the outdoor storage of junk and junk vehicles. Andrew is working with Brad Houghton (the Town Zoning Administrator) to draft a notice to be sent to the affected residents referencing the zoning bylaws and requesting their support to clean up the areas of concern.

The status of the following bids was reviewed:

Roadside mowing: One bid was received, Harold Wilkins Contracting, for \$75.00 per hour. (Last year the cost was \$70.00 per hour). Andrew moved, Peter seconded, and the motion passed unanimously to approve Harold Wilkins Contracting at \$75.00 per hour with the total cost not to exceed the \$6,300 that is in the budget.

Railroad Street culvert replacement project: Three bids were received. Robert Farguharson from Groton for \$9,630. Ricker's Excavation from Corinth for \$6,200. G & N Excavating, Inc. from Moretown for \$27,388. Funding for the project would be out of the Infrastructure Reserve Fund which had \$89,113 in it at the beginning of the year. The project duration is expected to be one week and there will be one day when the residents on the other side of the stream will not have access. (The town will work with the neighbors to schedule around their needs). Andrew moved to accept Ricker's Excavation for \$6,300, the motion died without a second. Peter explained that he did not support this project as it is not a priority and also due to the lack of a plan for highway projects. Peter pointed out that as an example Ricker Mills road has been talked about for two years as an environmental problem and has still not been fixed. As a compromise, it was agreed to support both projects and that all future projects will be prioritized using a 5 year project plan. Andrew moved, Peter seconded, and the motion passed unanimously to approve the Railroad Street culvert replacement and the Ricker Mills Road improvement

project and that the bid from Ricker Excavating for \$6,200 be accepted for the Railroad Street Culver replacement.

Emergency Services building door replacement: Linda reported that no bids were received. The Board requested the list of the contractors the Fire Department has sent the request for bid. The Board will poll the contractors to try and get an understanding of why they did not bid and discuss at the next Board meeting.

Andrew moved, Peter seconded, and the motion passed unanimously to adjourn. (at 8:39 PM)

Peter Lyon, Chair

Prepared by Peter Lyon