

The Town of Groton Select Board Minutes, March 5, 2015 (Approved)

The duly warned meeting of the Groton Select Board of March 5, 2015 was held at the Groton Community Building, 1476 Scott Highway at 7:00 PM

The following members were in attendance: Peter Lyon, Gary Lamberton, and Andrew Dorset

Attendance for the regular meeting included: Fire Department: Wayne, Dorothy, & Henry Knott, Highway: Brent Smith, Phillip Palmer, Visitor: Dave Spencer, Building Committee: Kitty Diggins, Clerk: Linda Nunn, Treasurer: Lisa Hart

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM

Andrew Dorset was welcomed as the newly elected member of the Select Board.

Lisa Hart was welcomed as the newly elected Treasurer of the Town.

Background: A petition had been submitted to the Vermont Board of Libraries to name a mountain near Seyon Pond "Prosperity Peak". David Spencer summarized the status of the request by noting that there was no support expressed at Town meeting for the name. Dave reported that he is circulating a petition requesting the mountain be named "Goodwin Mountain" to honor the Goodwin Family who lived at the bottom of the mountain and who made significant contributions to this area.

On a motion by Peter Lyon, seconded by Andrew Dorset, voted unanimously to support Dave Spencer's recommendation. Peter agreed to represent the Board and present the towns position at the Vermont Board of Libraries meeting being held on April 14th.

Background: The Board organizes and sets pay rates at its first meeting after Town meeting.

On a motion by Andrew Dorset, seconded by Peter Lyon, voted unanimously to appoint Gary as Chair of the Board.

On a motion by Peter Lyon, seconded by Gary Lamberton, voted unanimously to appoint Andrew as the primary signer of Warrants and Purchase Orders.

On a motion by Peter Lyon, seconded by Andrew Dorset, voted unanimously to set the Treasurer's pay rate for Lisa Hart at \$15.53 per hour. It was the consensus of the Board to table the remaining employee rates since the current year rates were not available at this meeting.

Background: The Groton Town Plan has expired and there a need to activate the Planning Commission. Peter reported that we have an excellent set of volunteers for the Planning Commission and that the staff at NVDA has volunteered to meet with them for training and orientation by providing a high-level overview of the local planning process.

On a motion by Peter Lyon, seconded by Andrew Dorset, voted unanimously to appoint Julie Oliver, Renee Curtis, Kelly Emerson, Carrie Peters, and Sara Dennis to the Groton Planning Commission. (Nancy Vaughan was appointed to the Commission at the last Board meeting).

Background: The Select Board makes the appointments to the town positions at its first meeting following the Town meeting on the first Tuesday of March.

On a motion by Peter Lyon, seconded by Andrew Dorset, seconded, voted unanimously to support the following appointments for 2015: (Linda will send a letter to each person informing them of their appointment)

- Heath Officer: Reginald Guertin
- Fire Chief: Wayne Knott
- Fire Warden: Wade Johnson Sr.
- Emergency Management Coordinator: Brent Smith
- Fence Viewers: Terry Dana, E. Charles Frost Jr., Kenneth Murray
- Inspectors Wood, Lumber, Shingles: Fred Braman, Robert Dorr, Kenneth Ricker
- Town Service Officer: Linda Nunn
- Energy Coordinator: Caroline Diggins
- NVDA Representative: Peter Lyon
- NVDA Alternate: Mark Simaskaski
- Zoning Administrator: Bradley Houghton Jr.
- 911 Coordinator: Brent Smith
- Board of Adjustment: E. Charles Frost Jr., Mark Gleicher, Aaron Smith
- Select Board Secretary: Linda Nunn
- Animal Control Officer: Josephine Guertin
- Pound Keeper: Josephine Guertin
- NEK Solid Waste Supervisor: Timothy Dailey Sr.
- NEK Solid Wastes Alternate: Caroline Diggins
- Tree Warden: Harry Chandler
- Weigher of Coal: Richard Peters
- Web Master: David Spencer
- Recreation Committee: Paul Berlejung, Ann Hatch, Nichole Wolfgang, Lisa Hart

Background: The Fire Department has selected a new Pumper to purchase and there is a need to ensure that the proper financing is in place. Peter reported that the Lease Application for the new fire truck has been approved by the Financial Institution and we are now waiting for the paperwork to be prepared for processing. Peter provided a "Resolution and Declaration of Official Intent" that had been created & requested by MLC to move forward with the next steps.

On a motion by Andrew Dorset, seconded by Gary Lamberton, voted unanimously to approve and sign the resolution provided by MLC.

Background: Brent Smith had an accident with a pickup on Seyon Pond road. There is a question as to whether or not the town is required to pay the \$1000 deductible. Andrew is going to do some research to determine the town's responsibility.

Background: Brent Smith had received a request to push back snow on driveways that access Rt 302. Brent asked VLCT if there an insurance issue if the town was to push back snow on private driveways. VLCT responded that they can't say yes or no but would likely have to defend the town if a claim arises from this service. They also responded that plowing back driveways of private residents may not be considered a "government function" and could jeopardize the Town's "sovereign immunity" defense if a claim arises from this action. In addition, if you are providing this service for some residents, you may be

obligated to do this for others, and before you know it, the whole Town wants it done. The Boards consensus was to support the VLCT recommendation.

Background: The Town has failed a State Public Safety audit due to the fact that a repeater was purchased for a transmission tower without going through the competitive bid process. Gary reviewed the response from the State audit on the repeater grant where they stated that the town did not address the conflict of interest standards. Until the town becomes fully compliant, it has been placed on the "Restricted Parties List" by the Department of Public Safety. Peter has asked VLCT if they could incorporate the required conflict of interest details in the VLCT procedures which the Town could then adopt. Gary will coordinate the creation of the requested asset list. Andrew will work with the State to coordinate an overall response.

'Round The Table;

A general discussion took place on Financial Policies and Peter agreed to coordinate the review and implementation of the set (of ten policies) as proposed by VLCT.

Gary reviewed his proposed draft of the Purchase Order procedure. Some modifications were proposed and Gary will now send it out to all department heads for their feedback.

Peter provided documentation given to him by Pastor Dennis Walton on the subject of prayer at town meeting. Pastor Walton would like to meet with the Board in a future meeting to share the legal feedback that he has received.

Brent reported that the 2001/2004 loader had a badly slashed tire and that two tires needed to be purchased. New tires could be purchased for a cost of \$3000 each. Recaps could be purchased for \$1250 each and if the recaps were purchased there was a \$150 credit per returned casing available. Brent found six casings that could be purchased from the town of Barnet for \$150 each. The loader is planned for replacement in 10 years and the replacement tires would be expected to last 10 years. Brent recommended purchasing the 6 casings from Barnet and the 2 recaps. The net cost to the town would be \$900 to Barnet for the casings and \$2200 (2500 minus 300 received on the returns) for the recaps. The Board felt that Brent was properly following the Procurement Policy.

Brent had a complaint and wanted more changes to the Board minutes than was included. Peter stated that all the changes that were approved by the Board were included. It was agreed to discuss in detail at a later Board meeting.

Brent reported that the 2010 truck had an issue with the engine brake and the motor was skipping. Phillip responded that they plan on taking it back to the dealer for repairs sometime this next week.

Lisa provided a status of her becoming orientated on the new job and on upcoming VLCT classes she will be taking. The Board signed the authorization forms for Lisa with all the local banks.

Andrew reported that there were PACIF grants available to the Town to assist with purchasing safety related items and it would be good to be aggressive as the money runs out later in the year.

Peter was appointed to be the building committee liaison for the Board to replace Nathan.

Andrew moved, Peter seconded, and the motion passed unanimously to adjourn (at 9:50 PM).

Gary Lamberton, Chair

Prepared by Peter Lyon