

The Town of Groton, Vermont Select Board Minutes, May 28, 2015 (Approved)

The duly warned meeting of the Groton Select Board of May 28, 2015 was held at the Groton Community Building, 1476 Scott Highway at 7:00 PM

The Following members were in attendance: Peter Lyon, Andrew Dorset

Attendance for the regular meeting included: Visitors: Fred Braman, Jim Cilley, Lise & Mark Shallberg, Paul Berlejung, Steve Genereaux, Clerk: Linda Nunn, Fire Department: Dorothy & Wayne Knott, Phillip Palmer, Brent Smith, Health Officer: Reg Guertin

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM

Additions to agenda:

- Dental & Medical Expense Changes - Lisa Hart
- Hi Goodwin Road Repairs - Fred Braman
- Speeding on Minard Hill Road - Andrew Dorset
- Spring Clean-up - Peter Lyon
- Status of Emergency Services Doors for New Truck - Dorothy Knott explained that the new doors are also required to host mutual aid trucks for which the Fire Department has been working for several years.

Background: A large amount of trash is on the Vicky & Brian Fahey property next to Lisa & Mark Shallbergs home. It was dumped out of the container by Pete's rubbish due to unpaid trash dumpster bills. No one is currently living on the property and Lisa & Mark are concerned that it is a health hazard.

Reg Guertin, the Town's health officer, has reviewed the rubbish and agrees that it is a health hazard. Reg has contacted the VLCT who have provided advice on how to proceed given that the Town does not have an ordinance to cover this type of situation. Reg will send a letter to the property owners following the recommendations provided by VLCT. Andrew volunteered to contact the Solid Waste District Attorney on how to best respond for the Town. Lise and Mark stated that they are willing to pay for the clean-up themselves if they have the proper approval to do so. Linda reviewed the need for the Town to adopt a trash ordinance to cover these type of situations. It was agreed to review the status at the next Board meeting.

Gary arrived at 7:30 PM

Background: There is a proposal to install solar panels on the Groton Timberworks Property and Steve Genereaux wanted to provide a review on the details of the project.

Steve provided an update on their existing solar installation on the East side of the Village stating that they are now working on landscaping, have provided space/access for Fire Truck to reach the Wells River for water, are installing picnic tables & parking for public use, and paying \$600. To the town in increase tax revenues.

Steve reported that the new installation at Groton Timberworks will be approximately 750 panels (the existing east side location has 650 panels) and the installation will be behind the Timberworks building. When asked if there was any feedback from the neighbors, Steve responded that the neighbor

is content with the installation. Steve also encourage the town to consider becoming involved in the project.

Background: Fred Braman and the Crum family would like some work done on Hi Goodwin Road. A class 4 road. They are looking for some ditching and would be willing to show Brent & Phillip what needs to be done.

Brent reported that the road should be passible. Brent agreed to meet with Fred on site to determine what needs to be done.

Background: The new Fire Truck that has been ordered requires larger doors to the Emergency Services Building and the Board wants to ensure that the project is complete prior to the delivery of the Truck.

Phillip Palmer provided a list of project items that the Department has created to be included with the design by DeWolfe Engineering. The Board suggested that the lights be LED and the new door be R18. The next step is to issue an RFP, Brent did not want to use DeWolfe due to cost, The Board suggested talking with the Building Committee to consider following the format they have used. Phillip agreed to have a proposed document for the next Board meeting.

Background: To provide for fiscal discipline and controls the Board is continuing to work on the adoption of Financial Policies and procedures using the templates provided by VLCT wherever possible.

The Debt Management Policy (05.15.01) completed its final review. Andrew moved, Peter seconded, and the motion passed unanimously to approve the Debt Management Policy as proposed with the following ground rules: (1) The town should not incur indebtedness which, with its previously contracted indebtedness, in the aggregate exceeds .004 times the amount of the last grand list. (2) Total town indebtedness per capita should not exceed \$500. (3) Total debt service (principal and interest) as a percentage of total town budget expenditures should not exceed 5%.

The Capital Program and Budget Policy (06.15.01) completed its final review. Andrew moved, Peter seconded, and the motion passed unanimously to approve the Capital Program and Budget Policy as proposed with the following ground rules: For purposes of the CIP, a capital expenditure is defined as any expenditure for land, land improvement, buildings, building improvements, vehicles, or equipment costing more than \$20,000 and any expenditure for infrastructure (e.g. roads, bridges, water & wastewater distribution and collection systems) costing more than \$20,000.

The Investment Policy (07.15.01) completed its final review. Peter moved, Andrew seconded, and the motion passed unanimously to approve the Investment Policy as proposed.

The Trustees of Public Funds Investment Policy (08.15.01) completed its final review. Peter moved, Andrew seconded, and the motion passed unanimously to approve the Trustees of Public Funds Investment Policy as proposed.

The Credit card procedure completed its final review. Peter moved, Andrew seconded, and the motion passed unanimously to approve the Credit card policy as proposed.

The Purchasing procedure was reviewed with a few more changes required. The goal is to complete the final review and approve this procedure at the next Board meeting.

Background: The Select Board is working with the NVDA looking for grants to match with the \$15,000 approved in the budget for sidewalk improvements. Plans provided by Dave Spencer associated with the Gilman project were discussed and a request from Viviano for reconstruction of the sidewalk at his driveway entrance was reviewed.

The Board will be meeting with Doug Morton from the NVDA at 8:00 AM on June 8th to develop a plan and complete an onsite review. One of the grant requirements was to take an on line class which Gary and Andrew successfully completed this week. Gary reported that based on the class it appeared that the actual construction would be in 2016. Doug has volunteered to complete the grant application for the Town which is required to be submitted by July 17th.

The plans provided by Dave called for a 5 foot wide sidewalk which would require taking of land by the neighboring property owners. Peter did not support the requirement to take additional land from the neighbors. It was agreed to hold this discussion for the meeting with Doug Morton.

The Viviano request requires the cutting out of the sidewalk and then repaving. The Board did not want to use side walk funds for this project. The Board supported the request if the highway crew could do the work contain the cost within the Highway budget.

Background: The memory wall project in the back of the Community Building is on hold due to questions on the location of the property lines by the Cilley and Wernecke families.

Peter reported that the volunteers did not want to do any additional work until the property line questions are resolved. It was also noted that the town needs to work on the drainage in the area. Andrew volunteered to identify proposed attorneys to lead the town to a resolution of the question.

'Round the Table:

Gary wanted to make sure that there was coverage and a person responsible for coordinating responses to problems when they occur on the Community Building, The Board supported Gary and Linda agreed to provide the coverage.

Andrew was concerned about significant speeding taking place on Minard Hill Road. The Board supported Andrew's concern and agreed that Andrew would contact Jim Downing (Town Constable) to spend more time in the Minard Hill area for coverage.

Peter reported that Stan Pierce had volunteered to mow the Town property by the Grant house if the Town would clean up the silt & sand from the winter. Peter proposed that the crew (Brent, Phillip and Don, spend a couple of days doing spring cleaning. The Board supported the suggestion.

Lisa reported that the dental expenses had a decrease of 1.89% and medical expenses may go up in August 2.8%. The Board requested Lisa to convert to dollars so they could see the impact to the budget.

Lisa requested, and the Board signed, the forest fire reimbursement forms to be submitted to the State.

Linda requested Gary's help to have internet access to the public records for dog licensing purposes. Gary is checking and wants to understand how it works and then will help Linda.

Peter moved, Andrew seconded, and the motion passed unanimously to approve the 5/7/15 minutes.

Gary reported that he had talked to the owners of the yellow building next to the post office and that they have hired Dave Sanville to close up the building.

Peter moved, Andrew seconded and the motion passed unanimously to adjourn (at 10:01 PM)

Gary Lamberton, Chair

Prepared by Peter Lyon