

Town of Groton, Vermont - Selectboard Minutes November 19, 2016 (approved)

Selectboard Members in Attendance: Mary Grant, and Wade Johnson, Sr.

Attendance for the meeting included: Lisa Hart, Carrie Peters Debra Johnson, and Brent Smith.

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 am.

Review/Approval of November 3, 2016 Wade made a motion to accept minutes with corrections made, Mary seconded and motion passed.

Financials/Budget Update

The budget was discussed which is at 83% at this time. Wade mentioned that the board needs to watch the figures in the budget that are higher than usual. Mary said that when something is needed it should be purchased and not wait until the end of the year so you can know what your true monthly cost is. There was much discussion on the financials/budget.

Mary made a motion that the financials will be subject to audit, Wade seconded and motion passed.

Lisa said that Blue Cross and Blue Shield needs to be renewed by December 5th. Lisa compared this insurance with other insurance companies basically for the two employees of the town. The town has the Platinum Plan which is going up \$120 a month, which is \$1446 a year. As of now, the town employees pay 5% of the insurance costs. Mary suggested the employee pay 10% and keep the same policy. There was much discussion on the health insurance. Brent said that he and Phillip need to look at other plans to make sure they are getting the best deal on insurance for them and the town.

Mary made a motion to renew the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Health Insurance with the same plan and raise the employees cost to 10%, Wade seconded and motion passed.

Lisa said she needs to have the paperwork for the renewal of the Tax Anticipation Note at the December 1st meeting. Lisa said that she had checked the rates at other banks and Union bank rates were the best. The benefit with going with Union, Lisa continued to say that we do not have to do all our banking with them. Union Banks rate is 1.02. Merchants Bank rate is 1.02. Passumpsic Banks rate is .99 but requires all banking done with them. Lisa said at first she wanted to go with Merchants Bank but they are being bought out next spring and doesn't know if rates or other things will change.

Mary made a motion to go with Union Bank for the Tax Anticipation Note at 1.02% for \$370,000 for the fiscal year 2017, starting on January 2, 2017, Wade seconded and motion passed.

The selectboard signed the warrant along with the Rest & Relax Cleaning Contract from October through December 2016. Wade expressed that from now on everything that is going to be discussed at a Selectboard Meeting needs to be on the agenda. Mary said the general public needs to know exactly what is going on so all items/issues being discussed at each meeting, be written in the agenda.

Brent mentioned the Google Calendar that both him and Lisa are using now would be very helpful to know when to put items on the agenda. It was discussed that Saturday is the last day to put items on the agenda before each selectboard meeting on Thursday night. This needs to be sent to Debra Johnson, the Selectboard Secretary.

Mary made a motion to accept the application from VELCRO for new access and maintenance on Powder Spring Road, Tax Map 16-2. Wade seconded and motion passed. Mary signed the contract.

Mary said there were modifications made to the Personnel Policies at the special meeting on Oct. 15, 2016. Lisa and Carrie went over all the changes made in the policies with the selectboard members present. There will be a copy of the Personnel Policies filed with these minutes.

Mary made a motion to approve the Personnel Policies effective November 19, 2016, Wade seconded and motion passed. Mary Grant and Wade Johnson signed the Personnel Policies.

Agenda for the next Selectboard Meeting on December 1, 2016:

Meeting called to order

Review/Approve Minutes

Financials/Budget - money moved back to the Reserve Fund, signing of the Tax Anticipation Note

Health Officer - Barbara Johns letter

Tom Staple letter - ROW to Nathan Puffer

Kathy Lamberton - Rep. from Comm. Club to purchase an AED for Comm. Building

Jim Cilley - septic issue/Scott Highway

Zoning - New Zoning Administrator

Brent - letter to property owners regarding snow removal, sand contract

Wade made a motion at 9:12 am to adjourn, Mary seconded and motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Johnson

Selectboard Secretary

Mary Grant, Chair

Wade Johnson, Sr.