

Town of Groton, Vermont - Selectboard Minutes October 6, 2016 (approved)

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

Attendance for the meeting included: Lisa Hart, Carrie Peters, Mark Gleicher, Deb Jurist, Debra Johnson, Gary Lamberton, Scott Trojanowski, Brent Smith, and Wayne Dyer.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM.

Review/Approval of September 15, 2016 minutes. Wade made a motion to approve the minutes, Mary seconded and motion passed.

Lisa said that all budgets should be at 75% and will be reviewed at the next select board meeting. The total amount to be collected from delinquent taxes from 2013, 2014 and 2015 is \$50,798.81. Lisa said that she checked with the VLCT attorney and our CPA, about the money from the reserves to pay for the engineering. The response of the Community Building Improvement fund from attorney was to check the article to see how it was exactly written. The article stated it is for Community Building Improvements and upgrades. A motion was made by Andrew to move the Community Building Reserve Acct (\$10,267.62) to the General Fund to pay for the Engineering for the Community Building. Wade seconded the motion and motion passed

Lisa presented VLCT PACIF renewal documents. Then Wade made a motion to approve the values as they have been assessed for VLCT, Andrew seconded, and motion passed.

There was discussion on the 2017 budgets. The 2016 budgets went up 1.75%. Mary said that we need to do actual budgets this year, not a flat increase but a line by line assessment of each line item.

Lisa gave an update on the Rest & Relax contract. The new contract goes from Oct 1 to December 31, 2016 and workman's comp and certificate of insurance has been done. Lisa is still waiting to get the signed contract back from Rest & Relax.

There was much discussion with Gary Lamberton about the cameras being put in the gym. Gary gave the town two options. There is a \$600 wireless system with 4 channels which is easy to install. The other one is \$300 all wired, 4 channels and takes a lot of labor to run. Mary stated that they need to be able to know who is doing the damage in the gym. The select board doesn't want to spend much money in case the cameras are damaged. It was said that cages can be put around the cameras to protect them.

A motion was made by Andrew to authorize Gary Lamberton to purchase a wireless system with 8 cameras for the gym that comes under \$1000. Wade seconded the motion and motion passed.

The guardrail on the Powder Spring Road was damaged by Scott Trojanowski. Scott said that there is a bill for around \$800 for the repairs. He asked the town if they could split bill between him and the town. There was some discussion on this issue. Brent said that it is a 50 mile zone so it has to meet the crash

standards. Andrew stated that the town has a tight budget but doesn't know if the town has money to pay their half. The Town of Groton had provided traffic control for Lafayette as they were working to fix the guard rails. Wade asked when the accident happened and was told that it happened this past spring which the select board knew nothing about. Andrew said that the town does not have the funds and has already paid almost half when the town crew did the traffic control while Lafayette did the work. The town needs to send him a copy of the bill. Andrew said that the select board will discuss this issue some more.

Lisa said that there was someone testing the water in the parking lot today and said that the levels are high. The State of VT wants this issue fixed with the water running out in the road before winter to make sure it doesn't cause icy roads. Andrew made a motion that a letter be sent to Lorraine Grant about the water leak and that she needs to fix in 30 days and attend the next select board meeting on October 20 to discuss the issue that needs to be fixed before winter. Wade seconded the motion and motion passed.

Rita from Green Mountain Power had sent Brent an email saying that she has a permit to remove the pole which will be removed soon.

Brent said that the heat is in the building for the tractor. Brent stated that the Boulder Beach project is completed. The town hasn't received a bill yet. The project should be under the \$100,000 grant so there should be no cost to the town.

Brent said that the Railroad Street Project culvert replacement is complete. The Better Back Roads stabilization project is complete. Also the Minard Hill Better Roads project is complete. The Great Road stone line ditches of 820 feet project is complete.

Andrew asked about the Brock Road project. Brent said that it was not on the list to be done this year but it did get completed.

Brent said that Forest and Parks may have two or more culverts sitting in their yard that the town might be able to purchase at a low cost to fix some other areas in the town.

Brent spoke about the sand for this year and said that Topsham can wait as long as they can. Brent said that the town has enough sand to start the winter with.

Andrew said that he was going to get together with Brad Houghton on zoning issues but they have not connected yet.

Mary is waiting to hear from Rural Edge about the Library. There was a frozen pipe outside the building that is in question for who needs to pay the bill.

Mary spoke for the health officer. Dan Webster is working with Barbara Johns on her water issue, he looked into the odor by Puffer Field and a state person was supposed to take care of it. Mary also said that Linda has another issue she is working with, she will bring the issue to the next meeting.

The town wants to say a big 'Thank You' to Linda Nunn for all the hard work n getting the building taken down that was next to the Post Office before the big Fall Foliage Day in Groton.

Mary said that the Fall Foliage Committee will be meeting with the Fire Department on the safety issues with the people in the parking lot at the chicken pie supper. Mary said that they did lower the number of tickets sold by 12 at each setting. Also the Fire Department was sent a letter asking them to remove the fire trucks out of the building for the night of the chicken pie supper. The fire trucks did not get moved. Mary said that a person had a medical issue at the supper this year and was hard to maneuver into building and parking lot. Mary also said there needs to be fire drill plans set up for all the town buildings. These should be posted on the walls of each building. There was some discussion on this issue.

There was much discussion on the prayer issue at the town meeting. Mary said that there are two resolutions which are very similar. Wayne Dyer said that you do not want two different articles on prayer at this special meeting which will be held about prayer at town meeting. Wade said he is for prayer at town meeting but he doesn't think it is up to the select board to make this decision. The Select board wants to have a special meeting on this issue before next year's town meeting. It was suggested to start town meeting at 10:30, having prayer at 10:00 until 10:15. The polls would be open the usual time of 10:00 AM. A motion was made by Wade to have the special town meeting on prayer on Thursday, Nov. 17 at 6:00 PM at the Groton Community Building to act on the article:

Shall the town of Groton vote to set aside a 15 minute period, beginning 30 minutes and ending 15 minutes before Town Meeting is scheduled to begin as the sole designated period for interested individuals to gather to offer words of encouragement through prayer, poetry, or other personal expressions of gratitude?

Andrew seconded the motion and motion passed.

Mary said the solar is not going to happen at all. Nathan Puffer is still dealing with his lawyer on the right of way.

Mary read a note from Jim Downing saying that he is having an informational meeting on ATV's on Wednesday, October 26, at 6:00 PM at the Groton Community Hall. Flyers have been put all around the town. Jim Downing would like the select board members to attend.

Wade talked about the agenda for the selectboard meetings about items being put on the agenda on the Saturday before each meeting. The select board wants to have it say Open to Public and Other Business on the agenda.

Carrie Peters spoke on behalf of the Planning Commission is having a meeting on November 1st at 5:30 PM (at 4:30 PM there will be a walk around) with Richard Amore and Caitlyn Corkins from the Planning and Project Manager Community Planning and Revitalization in Montpelier about village designation which is an open meeting.

Lisa Hart wants to thank Tom and Janet Page from the Recreation Committee for putting up the homemade glowing pumpkin decoration in the gazebo. Mary said that they are going to put something there for each holiday throughout the year.

Agenda for next meeting:

meeting called to order

review/approve minutes

financials/budget UPDATE - REVIEW FINANCIALS

Dept. Updates - Highway (sidewalks, water/Grant, discussion on bill for guardrails on Powder Spring Road), Zoning - Brad/Andrew, Library - rent issue and frozen pipe issue, Health Officer - report what is going on, Town Clerk, Lister's - RFP for reappraisal in FY18

Nathan Puffer - ROW

Open to Public & Other Business

Set Agenda for Next Meeting

Andrew made a motion to adjourn at 8:00 PM, Wade seconded and motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Johnson

Selectboard Secretary

Mary Grant, Chair

Andrew Dorsett

Wade Johnson, Sr.

