

Town of Groton, Vermont - Selectboard Minutes September 1, 2016 (approved)

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

Attendance for the meeting included: Lisa Hart, Brent Smith, Carrie Peters, Kitty Diggins, Brad Houghton, Jim Downing, Wayne Dyer, Debra Johnson, Linda Nunn and Ed Ballan, Linda Nun

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

Review/Approval of August 18, 2016 minutes. Wade made the motion to approve the minutes with Mary seconded and motion passed.

Finanacial/Budget update

Lisa said that all the tax bills are done, printed and mailed out. Everybody needs to review the financials before the next meeting. Lisa said that it would be good to have an all day Saturday for a Budget meeting with all the departments of the town with each department having 20 minutes each. The tentative dates for this meeting are November 12th and 19th from 9 am to 3 pm.

Lisa said she had a meeting with Linda Nunn and Debbie Johnson on the town report schedule. We went we over dates as to when all the reports needed to be in by, November 1st a notice will be sent out letting the Departments know their reports need to be in by December 1st. If the reports are not in by this date, they will not go in the town report.

Lisa handed out budget statuses and everybody should be at 67%.

Lisa met with the delinquent tax collector and she has handed out reports on 2013, 2014 and 2015. The information will be filed with these minutes.

On Monday, Lisa had a monitoring grant review and Brent took time to help her. Lisa received a letter stating that the grant files were all readily available and organized.

Highway Projects

There are 3 bids for the sand that were opened. They are:

Sydney Smith Trucking

Pricing per Yard Screening - \$2.00

Price per Yard Trucking - \$2.40

Chief Crushing & Excavation, Inc.

Price per Yard Screening - \$1.90

Price per Yard Trucking - \$2.30

Horne Excavating

Price per Yard Screening - \$1.94

Price per Yard Trucking - \$2.32

Wade Johnson made a motion to approve Chief Crushing & Excavation, Inc. bid for \$1.90 for price per yard screening and \$2.30 for price per yard trucking and Mary seconded the motion. Motion approved.

A motion was made by Mary for Wade to sign the sand contract, Wade seconded the motion passed.

Sidewalk

Mary read the letter from the Selectboard to Brent on being the sole contact person for the sidewalk project. Andrew was not present at the time and his signature was the last one needed.

Water issue

Brent met with Lorraine Grant on the water issue. Andrew stated he has been in litigation for this type of issue in another town in the past and recommended a letter of release be sent to the property owner before work starts. The letter was just saying who was responsible for any future repairs. Brent said that Lorraine will stop in the office on Tuesday.

Boulder Beach project

Brent stated that Green Mountain Power expects to pour concrete next Thursday. They have 2 days left to work on the project on Goodfellow Road.

Zoning Issues

Linda stated that on John Darling's house, Elsie Boisvert has an issue with the height of the house which is blocking Elsie Boisvert's view of the lake. Brad said they went to the Darling house to measure the height. He measured 35 feet 5 inches. It's five inches over.

Discussion on the letters sent out previously on junk yards. Andrew stated that the first letter sent out was like a warning and the next step is to check them out and see if they have complied with the letter. Andrew is willing to help Brad draft up a letter to send to those that are not in compliance.

There was a brief discussion back on the sidewalk issue about contact communications and concerns whether the selectboard would have control over that.

Mary is going to the library meeting on Monday, September 12 at 7 PM.

Health Officer

There is the well water issue with Barbara Johns, chicken issue, odor across from Puffer Ball Field. Andrew stated that the odor is a state and environmental issue and not the health officer. Also, the town needs a Health Officer. Andrew will check on the polluted water well. Chicken issue is going to be turned over to Gilman Housing. It was decided between the selectboard that this is a civil issue.

Linda suggested that we put in Dan Webster for the Health Officer. So Wade made a motion to appoint Dan Webster for the Health Officer, Mary seconded and motion passed.

The approval to use the Puffer Field for Labor Day has already been approved.

Jim Downing discussed the radar installation with the request of Phillip and Brent's help in putting up poles on town highway, excluded state highway because we need to get their permission.

Jim Downing also stated that the Yellow House by the Post Office is a hazard. It was said the fire marshal has checked it out but he can't do anything. It was also said that the selectboard needs to contact VOSHA because the building is a safety hazard and needs to come down before the fall foliage day because of the safety issue.

ATVs and trails discussion on where the trails will go. At this point, the best route is coming over Hooper Hill and down on Minard Hill and over across Powder Spring. Jim has suggested to bring Danny Hale as the head one of the state to deal with ATV's to come and address the issue in a special town meeting and let the town's people decide. There was discussion on other options to where some other trails might go.

Donald Bliss/tractor - Building on Mill Street

The issue was brought before the board about the building for the town tractor for the winter and at this time the selectboard is waiting for bids for renovation of the Mill Street Building to house the town garden tractor.

Andrew made a motion to accept Perry's Oil Service for \$1227 which is for putting in the heating system for the Mill Street Building, Wade seconded and motion passed.

Andrew made motion for Brent to choose the lowest bid for the restoration project of the Mill Street Building, Wade seconded and motion passed.

Kitty mentioned the town is having trouble with sulfur in the water. Kitty said that Robert from Clearwater filtration is coming tomorrow to check it out.

It was discussed that in the budget next year there should be money put in for a janitor/maintenance person.

Prayer Issue

It was discussed at the last meeting about rescinding the last selectboard resolution on prayer and to draft a new one and bring it before the town's people in Groton to discuss and vote on the resolution. There was much discussion on the issue of prayer at town meeting.

Wade made a motion to rescind the existing prayer resolution in 2015 Groton Town Report, Andrew seconded and motion passed.

Mary read a tentative resolution on the prayer issue and would be distributed to the selectboard on the prayer issue. This will be discussed at the next selectboard meeting.

October 25th is the tentative date for the special town meeting for the prayer resolution.

Nathan Puffers ROW/Solar Panels

The selectboard is waiting to hear back from the lawyer. Mary wants to do a site visit on the solar panels and where Nathan's alternative driveway will be.

Town Report

The following are the quotes for the town report:

REPRO - \$1,620 (this includes them mailing the reports)

RC Brayshaw and Company - \$1,676

Copies and More - \$2,000

L Browns and Sons Printing - \$3,054

Andrew made a motion to accept the 1 year contract with REPRO for \$1620 for the 2016 Town Report, Wade seconded and motion passed.

Debra Johnson will be putting the Groton Town Report together for 2016.

Personnel Policy

There was much discussion on the personnel policies. It was suggested to have a Saturday meeting for a couple of hours to work on these policies. At the next selectboard meeting, the date will be set.

Andrew made a motion for amendments made on the minutes of August 18th, Wade seconded, and motion passed.

Wade made a motion to appoint Andrew Dorsett as a VLCT voting delegate at the annual meeting on October 5, Mary seconded, motion passed.

November 19th is the tentative date for the proposed budget meeting to meet with each department.

Andrew made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 PM, Wade seconded and motion passed.

Agenda items:

Review/Approve MInutes of September 1

Financials/Budget Update - review financials

Department Updates - Highway (sidewalk), zoning(letters), library(meeting), Health Officer(chicken issue), Town Clerk(building)

Prayer Issue

Nathan Puffer - Row/Solar Panels

Town Report
Personnel Policy - set date for meeting
Open to Public
Set Agenda for Next Meeting
Adjourn

Respectfully submitted,
Debra Johnson
Selectboard Secretary

Mary Grant, Chair

Andrew Dorsett

Wade Johnson, Sr.