

Town of Groton, Vermont - Selectboard Minutes August 18, 2016 (approved)

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

Attendance for the meeting included: Lisa Hart, Brent Smith, Kitty Diggins, Dorothy Knott, Debra Johnson, Dennis Walton, Brian Matott, Cheryl Walton, Lawrence Daniels, Sr., Wayne Dyer, Toni Dyer, David Turner, Dave Sanville, Mark Simakaski, Alex Nuti-de Biasi, and Rebecca Cummings.

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

Review/Approval of August 4, 2016 minutes. Wade made the motion to approve the minutes with corrections made. Mary seconded and motion passed.

Financial/Budget

Wade said had made mention the reason why the Fire Department Repair & Maintenance items were over budget due to high maintenance on the aged SCBA's . These are due to be changed out at some point according to the capital plan.

Highway

Brent passed out the request for proposal for the winter sand which is short term. There was a short discussion on this. Wade made a motion to accept the RFP for Winter Sand, Mary seconded and motion passed. Brent spoke on the project on Railroad Street. He said that he needs to get some guardrails. Wade asked if there was anything in the place of guardrails. Brent answered and said that he has granite there for now.

Brent said there is a permit in place for Brock Road. He wants to get this project done this year.

On the sidewalk project, Brent asked for a letter from the selectboard saying that he is the sole contact for the project.

Brent wants to thank the Fire Department for their help with the tree that was down on the Seyon Pond Road.

Zoning

Brad Houghton sent an email saying he was out of town and could not make this meeting. He will be put on the schedule for the next meeting.

Listers

Kitty mentioned that Corelogic wanted a disc with all parcels on it so a disc was sent. They were charged \$1 each for each 854 parcels for a total of \$854. Second, Kitty said that her and Dorothy Knott want to go to the IAAO (International Association of Assessing Officers) meeting which is the first course to qualify for a #1 Assessor which usually cost \$300 each but told them that we didn't have that money in the budget so as long as the course is state approved there is a grant that pays for the education. We will have to pay them first and then reimbursed. So next year the money will automatically come out of the grant.

Mary said that they have an upcoming meeting with the library with the board of trustees on September 12 at 7:00 PM. Will be talking with Rural Edge on the possibility of being the ownership of the library. Mary got an email from the lawyer on the Nathan Puffer ROW and he needs to get some more information and hoping to have a summary soon of what is going on. Mary also said there will be an upcoming meeting on the solar project at the Old Town Dump site, waiting for word back from Nathan Puffer, and will have a site visit that Wade and Mary will be going.

Prayer

Mary stated that at the last Town Meeting it was requested that the Selectboard resolve the Resolution of prayer and bring any Resolution adoption before the Town's people sixty days before making it a resolution. So a resolution would have to be drafted and hold a public hearing. Wade said that the town's people need to make the decision on this.

Pastor Walton spoke on the prayer issue. He said this town has had prayer before town meeting for many years. We want to preserve the practice of prayer. He would like a special town meeting so people can vote on this issue of prayer.

Dave Sanville said the issue of prayer at town meeting should be voted on at a special town meeting.

Wayne Dyer also spoke on the issue of prayer. He stated that the selectboard should rescind the resolution that was on page 6 of the 2015 Groton Town Report that was proposed by a lawyer that doesn't know anything about the town of Groton. He said it has been a tradition in the Town of Groton to have prayer before town meeting for many years. He would like to see a special town meeting so the town's people can vote yes/no on the issue of prayer at town meeting. He also said that the selectboard needs to rescind and rewrite the resolution before the special town meeting.

David Turner spoke on the prayer issue and said we need to word the resolution very carefully and be specific what we wish to be done.

Wade made a motion to look back at the existing resolution and have a special town meeting in the future to vote on this issue for the Town of Groton, Mary seconded, and motion passed.

The Nathan Puffer/right of way issue will be discussed at the next selectboard meeting.

The Selectboard will follow up with Linda on the Puffer Field Approval for Labor Day at the next meeting.

Tax Rate

Lisa said that the tax rate is slightly different from the last meeting. Mary made a motion to approve the tax rate as 2.0623 for the homestead rate and 1.9788 for the non-residential rate and the tax insert for this year. Wade seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Town Report Contract

Since it will be under \$2500 this year with printing less reports, a bid does not need to be done. The selectboard secretary, Debra Johnson, will get a quote from 3 different printers for the town report.

Personnel Policy

Will be put on hold until the next meeting , due to not having all three selectboard members present.

Open to Public

Mark Simakaski asked if he could serve alcohol on September 3rd between 4-8 pm at the Gazebo in the Town of Groton. Mary said that it can't be served because there is a policy that says no alcohol on the properties of the Town of Groton. Mary told him he can have his store open so they can have the alcohol in there. Wade said the reason being is because of liability issues.

Mary got an email from Annie that went also sent to Jeff on tax sales, an updated list of the last 3 years of delinquent taxes that are still owed.

Mary also mentioned about the recycling seminar that Kitty went to recently that it comes out of the Selectboard training because none of the selectboard members could go. Kitty said that we are one of the best recycling centers in the Northeast because we make sure everything is sorted.

Mary received an email from Rural Edge about chickens that are pooping on the property at Clarks Landing Apartments. Linda had contacted VLCT about this issue. Lisa read a note from Abby of VLCT stating that the town health officer is in charge of this situation which is Mary Grant, Chairperson of the Selectboard. Mary is going to inform the owner of the chickens about this issue.

Kitty Diggins complimented the Highway and Fire Departments on the good job they did on getting rid of the tree on the Seyon Pond Road.

Motion was made by Mary, that Wade will be the one to sign the contract for the roadside mowing , Wade seconded and motion passed.

Wade made a motion at 7:50 PM to adjourn the meeting and Mary seconded. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Johnson

Selectboard Secretary

Mary Grant

Andrew Dorsett

Wade Johnson, Sr.