

Town of Groton, Vermont - Selectboard Minutes April 20, 2017 (approved)

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

Attendance for the meeting included: Debra Johnson, Brent Smith, Jim Cilley, Mark Shallberg, Dan Robinson, Peter Lyon, James Downing and Linda L Nunn

Mary called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Wade Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes of April 6, 2017 with corrections made, Deborah Jurist seconded and motion passed.

Financials/Budget Update

The Selectboard discussed a few questions concerning the quarterly budget which Lisa had submitted at the last Selectboard meeting. They will be discussed at the next Selectboard meeting.

The Selectboard did not sign the changes that the treasurer, Lisa Hart, had on the Personnel Policies because they have some questions. The changes will be put on the agenda for the next Selectboard meeting. Deborah Jurist made a motion to change the personnel policy at the next Selectboard meeting, Wade seconded and motion passed.

John Ashford - Parking in front of homes in town

John Ashford could not make the meeting due to sickness.

AED's - Peter Lyon/Dan Robinson/Dorothy Knott/Kathy Lamberton

Dorothy Knott and Kathy Lamberton could not make the Selectboard meeting. Peter Lyon brought up that on fall foliage day, at the chicken pie supper, a person died in the Community Building and then a couple of weeks later another person was lost in the Community Building. These events show that there is a need for an AED machine in the Community Building. Peter also said that it would be good if the Fire Dept. moved their vehicles out of the fire station during the Chicken Pie Supper. Peter Lyon said that the Community Club Committee supports having an AED from the Zoll Company that is user friendly and compatible with the one that Woodsville Ambulance uses so it can be plugged into their machine. Deborah Jurist said that the problem is finances to purchase the AED machine for the Community Building, the other AED machine, which is going in front hall of the town office is going to be paid for from the surplus in the Food Shelf Fund. Dan Robinson has applied for a Grant through the AED Superstore for \$2000 that can be used for purchasing one new AED machine from the Superstore. Peter Lyon stated that the Buckaroos said they would donate \$500 towards an AED unit. Deborah Jurist stated that it would cost approximately \$1735 for an AED machine with pediatric pads, case and signs. The Selectboard authorizes Kathy Lamberton and Dorothy Knott to meet with Linda Nunn before she purchases the AED machine.

Highway - RFP/6 Wheeler

Brent Smith handed out a copy of the RFP to each Selectboard member. This RFP is just for the Chassis for the 6 Wheeler. It was discussed that there is \$125,273 in the Highway Equipment Fund for this truck

as of now and another \$58,000 will be put in this fall. Wade Johnson made a motion to go with the RFP Proposal for the Chassis for the new 6 wheeler truck, Deborah Jurist seconded and motion passed.

Constable - Jim Downing/parking on sidewalks

Jim Downing brought the issue to the Selectboard of John Ashford parking his vehicles on the sidewalks. This has been a problem for a long time. Jim Downing stated that the policy is that there is no parking overnight, no long term parking unless there is permission from the Selectboard, and no parking on the sidewalk. Jim Downing said the penalty is for the vehicle to be towed away or the person is given a ticket. The Selectboard told Jim Downing he needs to follow the procedure and tell John Ashford he needs to park his vehicles elsewhere or he will face the penalties.

Jim Downing brought another concern that people have been brought to him. Letters that were sent by the Selectboard, quite a while ago, to residents of Groton that needed to clean up their yards. There was some discussion on this issue. The Selectboard wants Brad Houghton, the Zoning Administrator to come to the next Selectboard meeting on Thursday, May 4, 2017 to discuss this issue and to continue with the process.

Library - Amazon Account, Personnel Policy

No one from the Library Trustees was able to come to the Selectboard meeting so this will be scheduled to discuss at the next Selectboard meeting on Thursday, May 4, 2017.

Maintenance - Mark Shallberg/review insurance audit

Mark said that the handrails at the front entrance to the Community Building, are worn and cracked and need to be replaced. Mark said he would like to replace them with a metal pipe to make it ADA compliant. The Selectboard said it was fine to replace the hand rails with a metal pipe.

Open to Public & Other Business

Peter Lyon brought the 2006 survey that was done on the property on the Community Building which had been stamped and signed. There was discussion about the drainage of the water on this property. It was said that the drainage needs to be upgraded. Deborah Jurist asked Peter Lyon for a plan of the wall, and what is going to happen next and when the wall will be finished. Peter mentioned that Freddy & Signa Braman gave \$10,000 for the well to be drilled. There was quite a long discussion on this issue about the property and drainage. There will be another meeting set up to go over these issues. Peter Lyon will contact Mary Grant to set up a date for the special meeting. Mary Grant will also contact Tom Otterman, the surveyor that was involved with the property issue.

Peter Lyon went to a meeting that was sponsored by the NVDA, and was told that there is a tight calendar to apply for grant funds and that the funding is drying up quickly and being allocated. Mary said the Town Plan should be approved by the Selectboard on May 18, 2017 at their public hearing and then the Town of Groton can apply for grants. Alison from the NVDA will work with the town to apply for these grants.

Peter Lyon brought up the issue of a new basketball backboard for the Community Building. Peter said there are two sources of grant money which are cultural and recreational. You can get one or the other. The cost of a backboard is approximately \$7500 and the Groton Community Club will give \$1500 towards the backboard. Mary Grant said that the (CEDC) Community & Economic Development Committee needs to go over the issue of the basketball backboard and then bring in to the Selectboard.

Wade Johnson, the Forest Fire Warden for Groton said that State funding for fighting forest fires has changed as of Jan. 1, 2017. The State of Vermont used to pay the town 50% of the cost of fighting all the forest fires in Groton. The new rule is that the State will only pay 100% for forest fires on State of Vermont property or a forest fire that is threatening state land. The State of Vermont also has changed the rules on the pay that the Forest Fire Warden and Fire Fighters get at a forest fire. The Forest Fire Warden used to get the same pay as the Road Commissioner and the Fire Fighters got the pay that the Road Commissioner's helper got. Now is up to the Town of Groton Selectboard to determine what the Fire Fighters get paid. The Selectboard asked Wade Johnson to take this pay issue to the Groton Fire Department for discussion. There was also discussion about paying just the Groton Fire Dept. at forest fires or all other Fire Departments that assist in the forest fires as well. The Selectboard asked Wade to ask some of the other Fire Departments in this area about their current practices on paying other town fire departments for assisting in fighting the Forest Fires in the Town of Groton.

The orders were signed and the mail was opened.

Set Agenda for Next Meeting

Meeting Called to Order

Review/Approve Minutes - April 20, 2017

Financials/Budget Update - Personnel Policy Updates, Carrie/delinquent tax questions

Department Updates - Highway - bids for 6 wheeler; Constable - Jim Downing; Library - Amazon

Account, Personnel Policy; Maintenance - Mark Shallberg; Zoning - Brad Houghton/letters

Open to Public & Other Business

Sign Orders & Open Mail

Set Agenda for Next Meeting

Adjourn

Deborah Jurist made a motion at 8:25 PM to adjourn, Wade Johnson seconded and motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Johnson

Selectboard Secretary

Mary Grant, Chair

Wade Johnson, Sr.

Deborah Jurist

