

Town of Groton, Vermont - Select board Minutes August 3, 2017 (approved)

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

Attendance for the meeting included: Debra Johnson, Brent Smith, Lise Shallberg, Mark Shallberg, Carrie Peters, Lisa Hart, Jim Cilley, Linda Nunn, Dan Webster, Kitty Diggins, Dorothy L. Knott, Wayne C. Knott, Henry Knott and Dave Spencer

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

Deborah moved to approve the minutes of July 20, 2017, Wade seconded and motion passed.

Mark Shallberg/Cilley Family - update

There was a meeting with Jim Cilley, Colleen Darling, Mark Shallberg and Deborah Jurist on Thursday, Aug. 3, 2017; they have an offer to settle with the damages that incurred to their property. Mary made a motion to accept the offer from the Cilley's and move forward with a special meeting as soon as possible, Deborah seconded and motion passed. Here is the offer:

I, Colleen Darling, Administrator of the Estate of Ernest J. Cilley, am willing to sell to the Town of Groton the house and property located at 1494 Scott Highway, Groton, VT for the amount of \$98,000.00.

I agree to sign a document releasing the Town of Groton from responsibility for any damages incurred to said property. Signed by Colleen Darling and Jim Cilley on Aug. 3, 2017

The special town meeting for the Town of Groton to vote on this offer from the Cilley Family is going to be Thursday, September 14, 2017 at 6:00 PM at the Groton Community Building.

Wade Johnson made a statement thanking all those that worked with this issue of damages done to the Cilley Property and getting it settled.

Mark Shallberg stated that there were no RFP's on the roof painting and only one RFP on the gutters. Mark handed out copies of the RFP to the Select Board. The RFP is from Willey's Seamless Gutters, Inc. for \$7841.00. Mark stated that he has used Willey's before and he has been pleased. The town specified getting the Gutters done in the resolution at Town Meeting, 2017. Deborah made a motion to accept the Willey's Seamless Gutters, Inc. bid for \$7841.00, Wade seconded and motion passed.

Health Officer/Dan Webster - Feral cats

Dan Webster said there is home in Groton that has 30+ Feral Cats that is interfering with this individual's life style. Dan asked the Select Board what they want him to do with this situation. There was much discussion on this issue. It is up to the landlord of this home to take care of these Feral Cats.

Highway/Brent Smith - Road Classifications (Railroad Bed)

The road classification of the railroad bed and other roads is put on hold. Brent got a request for an address on the Railroad Bed. Mary said the town has not accepted the Railroad Bed as a town highway and until it is accepted as a town highway, there can't be an address given. There was much discussion

on this issue. Dave Spencer said the town owns the Railroad Bed; and does not exist on the 911 map. Dave Spencer, Brent Smith and Kitty Diggins are going to start working on the road reclassification on the Railroad Bed as a trail and mapping on other roads in Groton.

Brent has a memorandum on equipment from Vermont Municipal Equipment Loan Fund on purchasing and using equipment between towns and explained the process how towns would share a piece of equipment and the financial responsibilities of each.

Brent had an RFP on paving the sidewalks and patching needing to be done. RFP's were received from BlakTop and Green Mountain. There was some discussion. Deborah made a motion to use BlakTop to do the repairs on MInard Hill and start the mitigation process for Branch Brook Road, Wade seconded and motion was passed.

Jon Kaplan from the sidewalk grants would like a letter on town stationary saying that the Town of Groton is refusing the grants. Debra Johnson, the Select Board secretary will take care of this.

Town Clerk/Linda Nunn - Porta Potty at Frost Field

Linda has contacted Hank Eaton on the Porta Potty and has not heard back from him. Linda will continue in trying to contact Hank Eaton.

Mary brought up the issue of the water in the Community Building smelling. Lisa has called Clear Water Filtration Co. and they are coming on August 25 or 26th and the Town of Groton is on their cancelation list. Lisa asked if the person at Clearwater can come on Friday morning when Mark Shallberg, the town maintenance person will be available to assist them.

Fire/Wade Johnson - trailer

Henry said the box trailer they would like to purchase is used and is in pretty good condition. Henry said there is a lot of equipment that is not used too often that needs to be put on the trailer so it can be pulled when the equipment is needed. Henry said that \$500 will be coming from the Groton Fire Inc., \$500 from the Donation Acct and \$500 from the Fire Department town budget, so the trailer can be owned by the Town of Groton and be covered by the town's insurance. Lisa checked with the VLCT insurance because the trailer will be pulled by a non fire department vehicle to check if it covered under the insurance. Lisa said she was told that she needs the copy of the person's registration, and insurance prior to the trailer being pulled. Mary made a motion to use \$500 out of the Groton Fire Inc, \$500 from the Donation Account and \$250 from the Town Fire Supplies Budget and \$250 from the Fast Supplies Budget, Deborah seconded the motion, Wade Johnson abstained from the motion due to conflict of interest as Asst. Chief on the Fire Department. The motion passed.

Lister's/Kitty Diggins - map program

Kitty said the Grand List was launched last week so Lisa and Carrie can set the final tax rate. Kitty wants to thank Dorothy Knott and Lise Shallberg for working hard on getting the lister's cards up to date. Dave Spencer has helped Kitty with the tax map program. The program was activated today. You can search a

person's name and address and it will bring you up to the property. Dave Spencer will be putting a link on the front page of the Groton Town Website making people aware of the program.

Dormer in front of the Community Building

Mark Shallberg had talked to a person who gave him a rough estimate of \$8000 - \$10,000 for the new dormer. Another solution to protecting the public from falling snow and ice from the bell, would be to move the bell back and up higher up on the community building. There is a very good spot for it up there, essentially on the east outside wall of the gym. The rope will have to come down. There was discussion on the new dormer and the handicap ramp. Mark said the ramp needs to be concrete but there is an issue with the septic tank being under the ramp. Mary said there are grants being looked at to meet the ADA requirements on some of the things that need fixing or changed in the Town of Groton buildings. Mark Shallberg will look further in ideas for a new dormer in front of the Community Building.

Roll Off/Tires and Zoning Laws

There was some discussion on having a day in town to have a roll off and another day to collect old tires. Deborah said our zoning laws need to be redone in the near future because there is little in them which enable the town to enforce them. The process of redoing the Zoning Bylaws of Groton was discussed. Deborah recommended the town do a tire collection at the town garage. Deborah will be contacting Vermonters Helping Vermonters about the tires being picked up.

Bidding Process - raise the amount to be higher than \$2500

Wade suggested raising the amount to be \$5000. The Purchasing Policy needs to have \$2500 changed to \$5000. Deborah moved that the Town of Groton raise the amount for the bar for the bidding process to \$5000, Wade seconded and motion passed. Mary said that the quote system will still be used under anything that is purchased under \$5000.

Update workers on town list

Wade mentioned that it was said at a former Select Board meeting that Chub Bruleigh ran a piece of equipment helping out with the last flood and at that time Chub Bruleigh's name was not on the town list as a temporary highway worker. Mary asked Brent to add chub Bruleigh and Harold Hatch on the temporary highway worker.

Financials/Budget Update - Tax Collection Policy

Lisa had previously in the meeting handed out the Financials at 58%. Lisa asked that if there any questions please email her before the next Select Board meeting. Lisa handed out a copy of the new Tax Collection Policy to each Select Board member. The Select Board members looked over the policy. Deborah made a motion to approve the New Tax Collection Policy, Wade seconded, and motion passed.

Lisa mentioned that the Vault is almost cleaned up with the help of Linda, and Carrie. Lisa has 8 boxes to be shredded. Lisa has got a quote for \$50 for 10 boxes to be shredded. The company will pick up the 10 boxes and they will give in writing a certification that the boxes were shredded properly. Deborah made a motion to spend \$50 for the shredding company to come pick up the 10 boxes to be shredded, Wade

seconded and motion passed. Lisa said she is planning on printing the tax bills on Aug. 28 and mailing them by September 1, 2017. Lisa said the AED signs have come for Mark Shallberg to put up. Deborah made a motion for the Open Purchase Order for Puffer Excavation for Gravel to be raised to \$10,000, Wade seconded and motion passed.

Open to Public & Other Business

Mary read a postcard that was written to the Select Board Members from H. Paul Berlejung. It reads as follows:

Dear Select Board Members:

1. I have privately thanked Brent and Phillip on the excellent job they did on our section of North County Road and Great Road too.

2. This is to publicly thank them.

3. I also want to thank the Select Board for the appropriation that allowed Brent and Phillip to do the work.

*Thanks again,
Paul & Mary*

There was extensive discussion on the wall. There was discussion on issues ranging from the wall to the bell. Mary will be getting a copy of the engineering plans for the Memory Wall from Peter Lyon.

Sign Orders & Open Mail

The orders were signed and mail opened.

Set Agenda for next Select Board meeting on Aug. 17, 2017

Meeting called to order

Review/Approve Minutes - August 3, 2017

Department Updates - Mark Shallberg - ADA; Highway/Brent Smith - Road Classification update; Town Clerk/Linda Nunn - Porta Potty update, Feral Cat update; Roll off Update; Financials/Budget Update - Purchase Policy Change; Zoning Bylaws to be redone in the future.

Open to Public & Other Business

Sign Orders & Open Mail

Set Agenda for next Select Board meeting on Sept. 7, 2017

Adjourn

Respectfully submitted,
Debra Johnson
Select Board Secretary

Mary Grant, Chair

Wade Johnson, Sr.

Deborah Jurist

