

Town of Groton, Vermont - Select board Minutes December 21, 2017 (approved)

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

Attendance for the meeting included: Debra Johnson, Lisa Hart, Mark Shallberg, Matt Puffer, Lise Shallberg, Gary Lamberton, Barbara John, David Boyce, Mary Ellen Boyce, Dean Edson, Barbara Edson, Lisa Edson Neveu, Erik Volk, Nancy Spencer, Dave Spencer, Brent Smith, Erich Crum, Tenika Bruleigh, Samantha Winget, Willis Page, Robert Reid, James Downing, Bill Kane, Tristan Vaughan

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

Deborah moved to approve the minutes of December 7, 2017, Wade seconded and motion passed.

No adjustments to agenda.

**Matt Puffer - property**

Lisa Hart had talked to Jay at Black River and he gave a name of the Civil Engineer Kevin Smith at Black River that remembered doing the preliminary and primitive design work for the septic design which the information was sent to Lisa in an email. Wade had talked to Warren Tripp about this septic design and he said there should be a copy of the design in the town office. Matt will stop in the office and ask Kitty Diggins if there is a copy in the office.

**Executive Session - "Confidential attorney-client communications made for the purpose of providing professional legal services to the body.**

A motion was made by Deborah to go into executive session at 6:37 pm to talk about confidential attorney-client communications made for the purpose of providing professional legal services to the body, Wade seconded and motion passed. A motion was made by Mary at 7:05 pm to come out of executive session, Deborah seconded and motion passed.

**Wade made the motion which stated the decision of the select board which is on the advice of the Town Attorney, we do not approve the plowing of the Railroad Bed and no other use should be authorized pending the approval of the appropriate amendment of the Act 250 permit pending for the Boyce's. The signs must be removed within 5 days. Deborah seconded the motion and motion passed.**

**Highway/Brent Smith - Winter Operations Plan**

There was some discussion on the Winter Operations Plan. The Winter Operations Plan is on the Groton Website and in the Town Report. Wade made a motion to approve the Winter Operations Plan with some changes made, Deborah seconded and motion passed.

**Jim Downing - update on call with Derek Fenby**

Jim Downing has spoke to Derek Fenby two different times. There is nothing he can do now but he is in process of doing a survey. Once he gets the survey back from the AOT then if he finds out the vehicles are in the right of way, then he can do something about them. Mary said if nothing is done in a month, then we need to Contact the Commissioner of the Department of Motor Vehicles.

### **Library - budget**

There were a few questions that the select board had. Erik Volk discussed these with the Select Board. One is the rent increase which is now at \$1383.42 a month but this is not the final definite rate will be negotiated more. The increase is due to the expenses for Rural Edge. The fixing of the water pipes and elevator will be fixed before the lease is signed which will be for five years. Erik said the librarian will be getting \$17.50 per hour which is a 50 cent raise and 2 hours added per week which will be a total of 22 hours per week.

### **2017 Town Report - warning (articles)**

Mary said there should be a special Select Board meeting to finalize the budget and articles for the Town Report. Thursday, January 11, 2018 at 6:30 PM is the date set for this Select Board meeting.

### **Financials/Budget Update - TAN Renewal, Review & finalizing 2018 budget**

Lisa handed out the final budgets with some slight cuts. The Select Board is to review these and be ready for the January 11 Select Board meeting. The Select Board signed the TAN Renewal that was approved at the last Select Board meeting.

Lisa mentioned that 20 families in town were helped with Christmas baskets which had food and presents.

### **Open to Public & Other Business**

David Boyce asked to have a copy of the motion that was made tonight about the plowing on the Railroad Bed. A copy was made and the Select Board signed it.

### **Sign Orders & Open Mail**

The orders were signed and mail opened.

### **Set Agenda for next Select Board meeting on January 4, 2018**

Meeting called to order  
Review/Approve Minutes of Dec. 14, 2017  
Adjustments to Agenda  
Department Updates - Highway/Brent Smith  
Financials/Budget Update  
Open to Public & Other Business  
Sign Orders & Open Mail  
Set Agenda for next Select Board meeting on January 18, 2018  
Adjourn

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Debra Johnson  
Select Board Secretary

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Mary Grant, Chair

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Wade Johnson, Sr.

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Deborah Jurist