

Town of Groton, Vermont - Selectboard Minutes March 16, 2017 (approved)

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

Attendance for the meeting included: Carrie Peters, Debra Johnson, Brent Smith, Kitty Diggins, Jim Cilley, Mark Shallberg, Phillip Palmer and Linda Nunn.

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

Wade Johnson made a motion to nominate Mary Grant as the chair of the selectboard, Deborah Jurist seconded and motion passed.

Wade Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes of March 2, 2017 with corrections made, Deborah Jurist seconded and motion passed.

#### **Financials/Budget Update - Carrie Peters**

The Selectboard went over the budget that was given to them at the last meeting on March 2, 2017 which was at 17%. There was a short discussion on the budget.

Carrie Peters, the CDT worked with NEMRC & Glenna Pound (CPA) over the phone on Thursday, March 9th on the transition of combining the two separate NEMRC modules into one. Carrie requested that a phone line be set up for her to use when she is working on delinquent taxes. There was some discussion on this. Fairpoint had been called on the cost of this new phone line and the new line would be approx. \$25 per month (\$300.00 annually) and \$38.50 to install.

Deborah Jurist made a motion to put in a separate phone line for Carrie Peters, the delinquent tax collector, Wade Johnson seconded, and motion passed.

#### **Town Meeting Clarity**

Lisa Hart, the town treasurer, who could not be at this Selectboard meeting, would like the following to be in tonight's minutes to clarify some things that were said on March 7, 2017 at the Groton Annual Town Meeting.

It was stated that wages were a high % of the budget increase. Lisa wants it stated in these selectboard minutes of March 16, 2017, to read that the wages are only 43 % of the Budget increase.

It was also stated about the misprint in the town report of the \$6982.00 was added incorrectly to the bottom line and Lisa wants to confirm that it was not. Like Lisa Hart stated at town meeting, March 7, 2017, the bottom line is correct, this was just a typo, misprint.

#### **Selectboard to Appoint Officers for the year 2017**

Town Agent - Wade Johnson, Sr.

Town Grand Juror - Gary Lamberton

Agent to Convey Real Estate - Gary Lamberton

Health Officer - Daniel Webster  
Fire Chief - Wayne Knott  
Fire Warden - Wade Johnson, Sr.  
Emergency Management Coordinator - Brent Smith  
Fence Viewers - Terry Dana, E. Charles Frost, Jr., Kenneth Murray  
NVDA - Peter Lyon  
Zoning Administrator - Bradley Houghton, Jr.  
911 Coordinator - Brent Smith  
Board of Adjustment - Aaron Smith, E. Charles Frost, Jr., Mark Gleicher  
Selectboard Secretary - Debra Johnson  
Animal Control Officer - Michele Boyer (contracted)  
NEK Solid Waste Supervisor - Timothy Dailey, Sr.  
NEK Solid Waste Alternate - Caroline Diggins  
Tree Warden - Henry Knott  
Webmaster - Dave Spencer  
Planning Commission - Julie Oliver, Renee Curtis, Kelly Emerson, Carrie Peters, and Nancy Vaughn  
Weigher of Coal - Richard Peters

### **Resolution Discussion**

The Selectboard secretary is to send a letter to Peter Lyon asking him about the information that he has on projects that have been done in the past or projects that will be done in the future and have him come to the next meeting to explain about the projects.

**The memory wall** - a letter will be sent to Peter Lyon to get all the information on the wall.

**The drainage around the Community Building** - This project is dependent on the resolution of drainage issues related to the "memory wall" see above.

**Gutters on Community Building** - This project is dependent on the resolution of drainage issues related to the "memory wall" see above. A bidding process will be used when drainage for the gutters can be managed in concert with overall drainage for the parking lot.

**A design for a back up septic system** - This will be added to the Capital Plan but will be further out. This will be very expensive and will have to go through several permitting processes.

### **Department Updates**

Town Clerk - Linda Nunn - Linda Nunn stated that a draft of the Town Meeting minutes are done but she is having Kristian Connolly go over the minutes of town meeting to proofread them and will have them done this weekend. Linda also stated on the cat problem that the Humane Society does not accept furrow cats so she has talked to the son of the person where the cats are gathering and causing the problem and told they need to take care of the cats.

### **Lister - Kitty Diggins**

Kitty Diggins brought the Tax Map Maintenance Contract and the Reappraisal Contract for 2018/2019. Kitty said that the program technician is working on the data for the tax maps from CAI Technologies.

Wade Johnson made a motion to accept the tax map maintenance contract, Deborah seconded and the motion passed.

Wade Johnson made a motion to accept the Reappraisal Contract, Deborah seconded and the motion passed.

**Town Clerk - Linda**

Linda Nunn made a mention that the dogs in the Town of Groton need to be registered by April 1st.

**Library - Wade Johnson**

Wade Johnson mentioned that he went to the Library Meeting this past Monday night at the request of the Library Trustees.

**Highway - Brent Smith**

Brent Smith mentioned that he had the Better Roads Grant that is going to be used to redirect the water in the Hatch Brook on the east end of Glover Road.

A motion was made by Wade to allow Brent Smith to apply for the Better Roads Grant which will be used for the east end of Glover Road. Deborah Jurist seconded the motion and motion passed.

Brent Smith also had a copy of the Better Roads Right of Way Agreement which will authorize him as an agent of Groton when a right of way is needed from a property owner for road work. Wade made a motion to authorize Brent Smith to sign the Better Roads for Right of Way Agreement, Deborah seconded the motion and the motion passed.

**Maintenance - Mark Shallberg**

Mark Shallberg said his first week of work was challenging but now he knows what needs to be done to set his routine. He finds there is a lot of work to be done to get the town buildings up to code, especially in the upstairs of the Community Building and the Library.

**Open to Public & Other Business**

Carrie Peters said that the Maps and New Groton Town Plan are on the Groton Vermont Website and there will be a Public Hearing on April 10, 2017 at 6:00 PM for questions on the Groton Town Plan and then the new Groton Town Plan needs to be adopted by the Selectboard.

Carrie mentioned that Lisa had to cancel the town's credit card because it was in Roberta Dana's name (the past treasurer). Lisa had checked into different banks in the area and suggested that the town start a relationship with the Passumpsic Bank since the Merchant's Bank is merging with another Bank. The Selectboard signed a letter that Lisa had submitted giving her permission to start a new town credit card at the Passumpsic Bank in St. Johnsbury.

Carrie mentioned that the library wanted to use the town's ID number on their Amazon account so they aren't charged any VT tax. This was discussed and the Selectboard decided someone from the library needs to come to the next selectboard meeting to discuss this.

Jim Cilley brought up the fact that he is still having the issue with the smell outside his home. It was said that as soon as the snow is gone, that Dan Webster, the health officer, will be looking into this. The Selectboard asked Linda to contact Dan Webster and have him write a letter about what is going on with this smell issue and send it to Jim Cilley and a copy to the Selectboard and have this done before the next meeting.

The Selectboard signed the orders.

Agenda for Next Meeting on April 6, 2017

Meeting called to order

Review/Approve Minutes - March 16, 2017

Financials/Budget Update

Department Updates: Highway - replacement tractor, discussion on replacement truck; Library - Amazon account; Health Officer - Jim Cilley issue; Peter - information on projects; Mark Shallberg - disposal of wooden chairs

Open to Public & Other Business

(Memory Wall, Drainage around Community Building, Gutters on Community Building, and a design for a back up septic system)

Sign Orders

Set Agenda for Next Meeting

Adjourn

Wade Johnson made a motion to adjourn at 8:20 PM, Deborah Jurist seconded and motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Johnson

Selectboard Secretary

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Mary Grant, Chair

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Wade Johnson, Sr.

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Deborah Jurist

