

Town of Groton, Vermont – Select Board Minutes of August 9, 2018 (draft)

Select Board Members in Attendance: Wade Johnson, Sr., Deborah Jurist and Aaron Smith

Attendance for the meeting included: Debra Johnson, Lisa Hart, Carrie Peters, Mark Shallberg, Lise' Shallberg, Brent Abare, Kitty Diggins, Linda Nunn, Janet Puffer, David Puffer, Jim Cilley and Brent Smith

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

Deborah made a motion to approve the minutes of July 19, 2018 with corrections, Aaron seconded, motion passed.

### **Adjustments to Agenda**

No adjustments made.

Wade Johnson made a comment about keeping each subject on the agenda to a minimum due to such long agendas, people waiting to speak and getting out of Select Board meetings late.

### **Janet & Dave Puffer – land behind UVG**

Dave Puffer asked the Select Board for a right-of-way on the Railroad Bed near his property. The answer from the Select Board was a No. Dave also asked the Select Board about a right-of-way for the land on the old dump road behind Curtis Colby.

### **Highway/Brent Smith – RR Street**

Brent has been looking at the project on a class 4 road on the Eastman's road that is called Town Highway 47. Brent stated that Warehouser is taking out a culvert that is in extremely good condition. To purchase this culvert from Warehouser would cost \$2000. To purchase this culvert new could cost anywhere from \$8000 to \$12,000. Brent said the issue is on a Class 4 Road that we usually do not take care of however installing a culvert will prevent water from damaging a Class 3 Road. The old culvert that has failed several times and water has come down and washed out Buzzy Eastman's road.

Wade a motion to replace the culvert on Town Highway 47 to be replaced with the new culvert to protect the Class 3 Road for flood control only, Deborah seconded, and motion passed.

Brent said that the surveys have come in. Brent can now locate the sites on his phone and locate the 100-meter sections that the state has set out. Brent suggested that a tablet be put in next year's Highway Budget.

Brent asked the Select Board permission for doing RFP's on paving, roadside mowing and crushing for this year and have them returned by Sept. 6, 2018 for the Select Board to review. The Select Board gave Brent permission to go ahead and do the RFP's now.

The issue on Railroad Street with the pond being made on the road, Pat Ross has spoken to the individual doing this and will keep watch to see if it happens again. The town crew fixed this by stoning the face back up with stones.

**Constable – update on speed sign**

Jim was not in attendance. Jim will be returning his cell phone to the town. Lise said that the speed sign is having diagnostic testing done.

**Admin. Asst./Lise – updates**

A letter was received from Gary and Joe Dennis that was specifically sent to Wade Johnson and Linda Nunn concerning the moving of the bell. Wade said he had talked to Gary about the moving of the bell. The bell needs to be moved due to an insurance issue.

Lise gave the Select Board members of the current building permits.

The AED has arrived. The adult pads and batteries were donated items and were not ordered so the AED can't be put up yet.

A quote was received from Robco for moving the bell which is \$2550. Two quotes were received for the fabrication of the rail. Robco is for \$1750 and DMS Machining is for \$2920.

It was discussed that the Dennis's be contacted again and tell them the bell will be moved up. Lise will check to see when Robco can move the bell and the fabrication of the rail.

When Robco was in the office recently, they were asked if the supports could be moved upward for the basketball hoop. They said it could be easily done. There was some discussion on getting a new basketball hoop put up.

The Select Board gave Deborah permission to contact Gavin Reid to have him write a letter to Robert Hutchins from Lajeunesse for the \$1500 that is owed to the Town of Groton.

Lise has spoken with the new director, Tod Robinson from the Emergency Services (Woodsville Ambulance), he will be attending the Select Board meeting on September 20, 2018.

Lise has been going through all the minutes to the Select Board meetings and found a couple of things that need to be finished. It was asked by Jim Downing at a meeting about where the championship banners that used to hang in the gym are. No one seems to know where they are. Lise had been asked if there were any permits denied by the Select board in any of the minutes in the fall of 2017. Her answer was no.

**Listers – reappraisal & recycling**

Kitty Diggins gave the update on the reappraisal that is in process. Kitty said the reappraisers are hoping to have all of the reappraisals done in Oct.-Nov. Kitty is very pleased with this company doing the reappraisal. The reappraisal will be used for the 2019 Grand List.

Kitty got a notice from the NEKWM that the glass situation has changed on the type of glass that they will except at recycling. Copies of the new rules are in the entrance way of the Groton town office.

**Planning Comm. – members appointed**

The Select Board appointed Steve Hart, Jennifer Ivery (Bone) and Hannah Williams Bees to the Planning Commission. There was discussion that the Planning Commission needs one more member to make it a five-member board.

**Financials/Lisa – set tax rate, review financial management questionnaire**

Lisa put budgets in all of the department heads mail boxes. The budget which is at 58% was handed out to the Select Board members to review and email Lisa any questions.

The financial management questionnaire Lisa filled out and needs to the Select Board to sign. Wade Johnson, Chair of the Select Board signed the questionnaire.

There was a short discussion on the setting of the tax rate for this year.

Deborah made a motion to use the \$100,000 of the Fund Balance to set the tax rate, Wade seconded, motion passed.

There was a discussion on the tax bill inserts.

Lisa and Carrie had the grant review with the state. There was a positive feedback with Groton being at a low risk. There is a copy of the letter from the review for the Select Board to read.

Copies of the Reserve Fund Articles for the Select Board to see will be put in the SB folder.

The auditing firm would like to meet with the Select Board sometime in September. Lisa will ask if she will meet on Sept. 26 at 4:00 PM.

### **Linda Nunn – CV Run Sept. 8**

Mark Howard would like blessing from the Select Board to run on Boulder Beach Road as far as Cold Water Brook from 11:30 to 5 PM.

Deborah made a motion on the use of the road for the Annual CV Race on September 8, 2018, Aaron seconded, motion passed.

Lisa mentioned that the Recreation Club needs 4 adults to help with this run from 7:30 am to 1:30 pm on Saturday, Sept. 8, 2018. As of now, there are 75 people that have signed up for this race.

### **Act 46 Update**

The update on Act 46 was given by Brent Abare. There is a vote in all three towns on Tuesday, August 14. On August 15, BMU is meeting in Montpelier with the Education State Board on the revised AGS structure. On August 22<sup>nd</sup> there is a very important meeting for the School Board to convene and assess the information from the vote and the Aug. 15<sup>th</sup> meeting with the state board and whether warn a binding vote on School Choice. Brent Abare asked the Groton Select Board to approve him to begin establishing a Groton School Choice Transition Committee. This group could work with the School Board and the Ryegate and Wells River to prepare for a school choice vote.

Wade made a motion for the Groton Select Board to approve letting Brent Abare to establish a Groton School Choice Transition Committee, Aaron seconded, motion passed.

### **Civil Ordinance – go over changes made**

The Select Board will be reviewing this ordinance and decide at the next Select Board meeting on Aug. 30, 2018.

### **Railroad Bed Ordinance - update**

The most recent Railroad Bed Ordinance was handed out for the Select Board to review. A date was set for a Groton Town Forum meeting on Friday, September 14, 2018 at 6:30 pm at the Groton Community Building. Deborah will contact Attorney Reid to see if he can attend.

### **Update on Cilley Property**

The closing for Aug. 15, 2018 will be changed. No other new information to report.

### **Wade Johnson – Lewy Jolley septic system**

Wade had talked to Lewy Jolley about the problems he is having with the septic system that many homes are on. Wade discussed briefly about some of the issues that are going with this multi-sewer system.

**Possible petition submission**

Linda Nunn gave the Select Board a petition that has more than 5% of the Groton voters. A special meeting on this petition on Monday, September 17, 2018 at 6:30 PM at the Groton Community Building was discussed. A special Select Board meeting for Monday, August 12, 2018 at 6:30 PM will be warned to set the date for the Special Town Meeting and to sign the warning.

**Open to Public & Other Business**

Carrie Peters, the delinquent tax collector gave a report that there is \$34,256 on about 12 parcels still to be collected.

**Sign Orders**

The orders were signed.

**Set Agenda for next Select Board meeting on Aug. 30, 2018**

Meeting called to order

Review/Approve Minutes of August 9, 2018

Adjustments to Agenda

Michael Nahmias – Agency of Natural Resources/Montpelier

Department Updates:

Highway/Brent Smith – open RFP’s for paving, roadside mowing and crushing

Constable – update on speed sign

Admin. Asst./Lise – updates

Listers – reappraisal & recycling

Town Clerk/Linda – CV run Sept. 8

Health Officer – Dan Webster – library issues

Act 46 Update – update on Groton School Choice Transition Committee

Civil Ordinance – make decision

Update on Cilley Property

Open to Public & Other Business

Sign Orders

Set Agenda for next Select Board meeting on Sept. 6, 2018

Adjourn

To Do List: Library – trustees, Nathan Puffer – agreement form lawyer, PACIF, 9/14/18 special meeting on RR Bed Ordinance, 9/17/18 special meeting on petition on ACT 46.

Aaron made a motion at 9:40 PM to adjourn, Deborah seconded, motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Johnson

SB Secretary

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Wade Johnson, Sr., Chair

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Deborah Jurist

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Aaron Smith

