

Town of Groton, Vermont – Select Board Minutes of July 19, 2018 (approved)

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, James Downing, Brent Abare, Dave Spencer, Shannon Choquette, Paul Tomasi, Dorothy L. Knott, Gary Lamberton and Kitty Diggins

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

Deborah made a motion to approve the minutes of July 5, 2018 with corrections, Aaron seconded, motion passed.

### **Adjustments to Agenda**

The adjustments were to move the financials after the Listers.

### **NEKWMD – to establish a small-scale composting facility at the recycling center**

Shannon Choquette and Paul Tomasi were at the meeting to discuss the new composting facility at the recycling center.

There is a potential within Ryegate Community (both space and interest) to establish small-scale composting facility at Ryegate recycling center. A Ryegate resident, Darcy Nelson, is interested in establishing and operating facility and collecting food scraps from recycling center, local schools and businesses. With area currently available at site, able to process 2-3 tons of food/week with minimal space reconfiguration. With space reconfiguration (some tree removal), upwards of 5-6 tons/week. VT ANR employee and Compost Technical Services visited the site, gave initial approval for use of site for small-scale composting facility. Ryegate Select Board gave “nod of approval” on July 7, 2018 meeting and will open up the bid process to the community and receive bids for compost facility operations on the site. Possibility of avoided tote fee for town of Groton.

Groton gave the “nod of approval” as well.

### **Highway/Brent Smith**

Brent could not make the meeting.

### **Admin. Asst./Lise - updates**

Lise will be bringing a copy of the current zoning permits to the Select Board members to look at.

### **Constable – update on speed sign (Minard Hill)**

Jim still has the sign in his garage ready to go. Someone is supposed to be coming from the company to pick the sign up.

Lise Shallberg will be checking with the company to see what is going on.

There was discussion on Jim's cell phone that the town pays for.

Before the Select Board Meeting tonight, Jim and Wade went over to Railroad Street by Troy Olivers, there is party in town that took all the stones out and made a dam and used for a swimming pool. Brent took the backhoe and put some stones back in. Jim will be discussing this issue with the person involved. Brent does have pictures of the dam.

**Library – possibility of a new trustee**

Now that there is a quorum of Library Trustees they will appoint additional Trustees. They do not need the Select Board for this anymore.

**Listers – Reappraisal update/status; setting up RFP for Town Assessor (Employee or Contractor)**

On July 5<sup>th</sup>, Ted Nelson, John McTernan and Kitty started the appraisal at Lake Groton. This week West Shore was done. Every house was done, if the people weren't home, the outside was done and a note left. Next to be done is Boulder Beach. After this they will be starting with Class 4 roads.

Next Monday night there is a meeting for two grievances. After this, the Grand List will be lodged by July 25<sup>th</sup> which is the deadline. Then the Select Board can set the tax rate.

Dorothy read part of the minutes from the special meeting with Cy Bailey on May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018 that setting up the RFP for the Town Assessor should be the summer of 2019 and article on the warning at town meeting will be in 2020.

**Financials/Lisa – forest fire wages, prepare for budget**

In the June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Select Board meeting, Lisa mentioned there was a wrong statement made that needs to be corrected. The change should read, "Brent Smith made a suggestion that the Select Board could appoint an individual to review the bank statements. The auditor stated this needs to be a Select Board member.

Wade made a motion to acknowledge this correction in the June 7<sup>th</sup> Select Board meeting, Deborah seconded, motion passed.

Lisa handed out two proposals for the tax rate. At the first meeting in August, the Select Board needs to approve the tax rate so tax bills can be printed the week of Aug. 27<sup>th</sup>.

There are changes for the Select Board meetings in the month of August. They will be Thursday, August 9<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, August 30<sup>th</sup>.

There was some discussion on the two proposals for the tax rate.

Wade had a few questions on the budget that was handed out at the last Select Board meeting which was at 50%.

Wade said the state has changed the way forest fire wages were. Now the salary of the forest fire warden is set by the Select Board. Deborah moved to set the forest fire warden pay the same as the Road Commissioners pay and the forest fire fighters would get paid what the Road Crew gets paid, Aaron seconded, Wade recused himself, motion passed.

The orders were signed.

The listers want to thank Dave Spencer for putting the information on the website about where the appraisers are working in town.

**Act 46 Update**

There is going to be a school vote on Aug. 14 in all three towns. This vote will give the School Board the sense of direction of what the voters in all three towns want.

Deborah has a letter for Groton, Ryegate and Wells River Select Boards to sign to give to the BMU School Board. The Groton Select Board signed the letter suggesting strongly that the School Board warn a Binding vote on the District closing the high school and providing education for the students through school choice by August 1<sup>st</sup>, in case the public shows its desire for this option.

There was much discussion on the issues with Act 46.

**Groton Community Club – request for Chicken Pie Supper**

There was a request to endorse and authorize the Chicken Pie Supper and all-day activities on Saturday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Deborah made a motion to approve the request for the chicken pie supper and all-day activities on Oct. 6, 2018, Aaron seconded, motion passed.

**Item Clarification on Basketball Backboard**

Wade had an issue on the \$1500 being refunded from Lajeunesse that a motion was not made. So, for the record, Deborah made a motion for our treasurer to send a formal request to Lajeunesse for the deposit on the Basketball Hoop, Aaron seconded, motion passed.

Lisa said the Community Club started the project and they are in charge now.

**PACIF Insurance – update on Bell, Basketball Backboard removal**

Mark will be looking for someone with a crane and a crew to help move the bell which will be the end of August.

Brent has removed the Basketball Backboard. The railing is going to be worked on by Eric Crum.

**Civil Ordinance – go over changes made**

There was discussion on the Civil Ordinance. Lise will make the requested changes and bring back to the next Select Board meeting for the Select Board to review.

Lisa and Lise both reached out to all the towns that had adopted the Hardwick Civil Ordinance. Only one town responded. They used it and it was beneficial but was not taken to court.

**Motion for \$600,000 liability on cleaning contract**

Deborah made a motion that the Select Board accept the \$600,000 liability from Lee Flint from Frigon Cleaning, Wade seconded, motion passed.

**Railroad Bed Ordinance – go over changes made**

Deborah said the Ordinance is back at Gavin Reid's after the last changes were made. The Select Board has not yet heard from the State of Vermont.

### **Update on Cilley Property**

There is a Purchase Sale Agreement for \$73,000. The occupant will have to be out before the closing of the property. The closing date is set for August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018. The premises will need to be broom clean, meaning everything needs to be out. Deborah just received the title search.

Aaron made a motion to allow and encourage Deborah Jurist to continue her work on the purchase of the Cilley Property, Wade seconded, motion passed.

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

Lise said Matt Puffer was at the Gayle Edward's residence at 1554 Scott Highway, Groton, VT to complete the work as estimated. Dan has talked to Matt about the project. There is a metal pile that will be taken to Stockley's.

Gary Lamberton has had the original 1920 RR Bed survey map enlarged to 36" x 80" (6 of them). Gary took care of the cost of the maps being made. These maps will be put in the vault. The Select Board thanked Gary for this huge accomplishment. Anyone with property abutting the RR Bed can now come to the office to see the survey of exactly where the property lines are.

### **Sign Orders**

Orders were already signed earlier.

### **Set Agenda for next Select Board meeting on Augusts 9, 2018**

Meeting called to order

Review/Approve Minutes of July 19, 2018

Adjustments to Agenda

Department Updates:

Highway/Brent Smith – work done on RR Street

Admin. Asst./Lise – updates

Constable – water issue on RR Street

Planning Comm. – members appointed

Act 46 Update

Civil Ordinance – go over changes

Railroad Bed Ordinance

Update on Cilley Property

Financials/Lisa – set tax rate, money returned from Lajeunesse

Open to Public & Other Business

Sign Orders

Set Agenda for next Select Board meeting on August 30, 2018

Adjourn

To Do List: Nathan Puffer – agreement from lawyer

Library – trustee

PACIF

Deborah made a motion to adjourn at 9:05 PM, Aaron 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