

Town of Groton, Vermont – Select Board Minutes of November 1, 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, Brent Abare, Kitty Diggins, Dorothy L. Knott, Mary Grant, Shaun T. Stetson and Meredith K. Puffer

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

Deborah made a motion to accept the Oct. 18, 2018 minutes with corrections, Aaron seconded, motion passed.

### **Adjustments to Agenda**

Nathan Puffer was moved to when he arrives at the meeting.

### **Financials/Lisa – HRA renewal, Recreation Reserve Fund, Town Emergency Reserve Fund**

In the 2018 Groton Town Report, there will be a link for the town residents to review the 2017 completed audit.

Budgets should be at 83%. The Select Board and all departments have been given a printout of budgets to review and contact Lisa with any questions they may have.

An email reminder will be sent out to all departments about the November 17<sup>th</sup> Budget Meeting. The budgets need to be in the town office by Thursday, November 15 by 9 am.

Mary Grant stated that she would like to work on a grant for the downstairs in the Community Building to get it in compliance with the State of Vermont.

Mary also said that the 2 electric stoves in the kitchen need to be replaced with new ones because the stoves are unsafe. The Community Club has approved to get 2 new electric stoves. There needs to be a meeting with Mary Grant, Select Board and Lisa Hart before Nov. 17 to work on the Community Club budget.

There is an updated Agreement for the rented tables and chairs for the Select Board to sign.

After town meeting next year, the Personnel Policy needs to be updated due to the Crime Victim Leave Act.

Todd Powers has found two Basketball Backboards that will work best in the gym for a total of \$2500 and has found the funding to purchase these. Due to the warranty, the town will be purchasing the Basketball Backboards, and BMU will reimburse the town. Lisa has a letter from Lori Blood (BMU) guaranteeing these funds, Lisa will order in the next day or two. The town will be responsible for installing this in the gym. Steve Murray is willing to volunteer to help install along with Mark Shallberg. Waiting for confirmation that Willis Page will help with the welding that is needed and this cost.

Deborah made a motion to authorize Lisa to purchase the Basketball Backboard and Hoops with the understanding of getting the reimbursement of \$2500 from BMU, Aaron seconded, motion passed.

Deborah said that three letters have been sent to Lajeunesse about getting the refund of \$1500 and have not heard anything. This issue will be turned over to the town attorney.

Lisa said the Washington Electric meal/meeting Fundraiser went great. The Recreation Committee made \$650. The Recreation Committee will be putting this money into their Reserve Account. Lisa would like to thank everybody for making brownies, spaghetti sauce and people who helped to set up.

The HRA Renewal is connected to Blue Cross and Blue Shield renewal which is called Health Equity. There were no changes in the HRA Renewal so the renewal process has been completed. The Vision Eye Med is up for renewal which is a 4-year plan form 2019-2022. There were no changes in the premiums.

#### Reserve Funds

At the office meeting this week, the Food Shelf Reserve Funds was discussed and the decision was not to put the Food Shelf Account in the list of Reserve Funds in the Town Report since it is not a typical reserve fund. The Food Shelf will be listed on its own page in the town report.

There was discussion on the Recreation Reserve Fund. There was discussion on the Town Emergency Reserve Fund and a decision was made to change this and put this in an article at next year's town meeting for town's people to vote on.

The Select Board mail will now be put in a folder next to the Select Board folder in the town office. At the next Select Board meeting, the Sidewalk Reserve Funds and the Professional Services Reserve Fund will be reviewed and discussed.

#### Nathan Puffer – Right of Way Agreement

Merry Puffer, Nathan's wife arrived at the meeting to discuss the Right of Way Agreement. There was a short discussion on the agreement and then the Select Board signed.

#### Listers – update on reappraisal

The listers gave the Select Board a copy of the state statute of the dates when the lister's projects have to be done.

An announcement written by the listers about the reappraisal will be put in the Bridge Weekly and is posted in many places in town.

Kitty said the reappraisers are about half done in the Town of Groton on the inspections. There is a map in the kitchen of the Groton Community Building showing where the reappraisal has been done.

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Constable

Shaun had an update on the classes if the town votes him in as 2<sup>nd</sup> Constable at town meeting next year. The state has added a third class down at Pittsford Academy on June 10 – 21, 2019 which works out better for him. Registration needs to be in by May 24<sup>th</sup>. The Town of Groton needs to sponsor Shaun for the class for two weeks at 80 hours and 60 field hours of training. Shaun needs to check to see if there is any prerequisite for him to be able to take the class. Shaun also needs to get the packet for the class.

There was discussion about the Constable Budget needing to reflect the cost of classes for 2019, so the townspeople can approve it if a Second Constable is elected at Town Meeting.

Shaun volunteered his time on Halloween, Oct. 31, 2018 for two hours.

#### Zoning – Brad Houghton

Was not at the meeting.

#### Follow up on My Farmer's Market

Deborah checked with the town lawyer and VLCT on the issue of The Farmer's Market using town land for a garden. The most important issue would be that the owner would have to have insurance which

would be an extra cost. Also, if one person uses the town land, what determines how to let other people use the land.

**Basketball Hoop**

Was discussed earlier under Financials. The Select Board thanked Lisa, Todd Powers and all that will be involved with getting the new basketball hoops.

**Civil Ordinance Update**

There was some discussion on adopting the Civil Ordinance. The decision on the Civil Ordinance was to wait until next year to take the Civil Ordinance to the town lawyer and have a public meeting in the spring of 2019.

**Bell – adjust motion**

The Select Board decided to leave the motion as is.

**Act 46 Update**

Brent Abare’s opinion is that there are two issues. The first one is the State board decision. We do know the AGS proposal was not approved, since the state has not approved any AGS proposals. The AGS proposal would have kept the school as a unified union school district. There is a difference between the unified union school district and school district. Being a school district, you are not protected. It is much better to be a unified union school district. The Select Board will write a letter to the State Board of Education to find out actually what their decision means.

The second issue is the representation on the School Board according to the Charter. In the Charter, Groton is 3, Ryegate is 3 and Wells River is 2, but it is being run with Groton 3, Ryegate 4 and Wells River 2. The Charter is not being followed. A letter to the School Board will be written asking them why the Charter has not been followed.

**Open to Public & Other Business**

Deborah discussed the research she has done on the way town residents can take care of their recycling since the NEKWM cost is going up next year at least \$1000 due to the per capita charge.

Carrie Peters, the delinquent tax collector, said that there is only \$20,202 left to collect on delinquent taxes.

Wade went over two emails from Dan Webster, the health officer. A copy of these two emails will be put in the libraries folder at the office and emailed to Alissa, the chair of the library trustees. In one of the emails, Dan Webster mentioned that he will be resigning as Health Officer as of September 30, 2019 due to health issues.

Lisa mentioned that she needs to get the Highway grants finalized before the end of the year.

**Sign Orders**

The Select Board signed the orders.

**Set Agenda for next Select Board meeting, Nov. 15, 2018**

Meeting called to order

Review/Approve Minutes of Nov. 1, 2018

Adjustments to Agenda

Department Updates:

Highway/Brent

Financials/Lisa – Sidewalk & Profession Service Funds

Mary Grant – grants for downstairs in Community Building

Act 46 update

Executive Session – Brent Smith, personnel issues

Open to Public & Other Business

Sign Orders

Set Agenda for next Select Board meeting, Dec. 6, 2018

Adjourn

To Do List: Cilley Property; Railings; Civil Ordinance; and Conflict of Interest Policy

Deborah made a motion to adjourn at 8:40 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