

Town of Groton, Vermont – Select Board Minutes of November 15, 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, Brent Abare, Mary Grant, Brent Smith Olivia Houghton, Annabelle Dennis, Julie Oliver, Kelly Emerson, Todd Powers, Emilie Knisley, Bobbi Beck, Carrie Bogie, Gary Lamberton, Bruce Stevens and Mark Gleicher

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

Aaron made a motion to accept the Nov. 1, 2018 minutes, Deborah seconded, motion passed.

### **Adjustments to Agenda**

There were no adjustments.

### **Highway/Brent**

Brent stated that the towns didn't get enough winter sand to equal the yardage that was paid for, so Topsham will be taking 200 yds of tailings to replace the approximately of 1000 yards they didn't get. This will make the town complete with getting sand from Rickers. The Town of Groton will need to bill Topsham for \$3500.

Brent said the town will not be getting the gravel crushed this year.

The Select Board appreciated Phillip Palmer helping the Highway Dept. during the past winter storm on his vacation.

### **Financials/Lisa – Sidewalk & Professional Services Fund**

The amount collected for tax year 2018 was \$2,214,792.87. The total taxes that are delinquent is \$137,044.64 for 74 parcels. The delinquent tax system in NEMRC worked great. NEMRC Tax year closed with no problems.

The budgets that were handed out at the last Select Board meeting were at 83%. If there are any questions, they can be reviewed on Saturday, November 17, 2018 at 8:00 AM at the Budget Meeting.

For Reserve Funds, the Sidewalk Fund needs to be discussed with Brent at the Budget Meeting.

The Professional Services Fund was redone in 2016, so nothing needs to be done at this time.

There are 3 reserve funds left to discuss which are the Highway Paving Reserve Fund, Highway Equipment Reserve Fund and the Highway Infrastructures Reserve Fund.

### **Mary Grant – grants for downstairs in Community Building**

Mary Grant brought information on the electric stove she would like the Community Club to purchase for the Community Building kitchen. Mary needs approval from the Select Board before the stove is ordered. The town will own and insure the stove therefore it will be purchased by the Treasurer. A letter from the Community Club, stating their preference for this stove and committing to reimburse the town for its cost must be received. Then the Select Board will approve the purchase. The town will pay for its installation. Mary will be looking into grants in order to undertake renovations to the handicap ramp and the lower level of the community building. Her expectation is that Groton will have a 10% to 20% match for the grants, which will be covered by the reserve fund for the Community Building.

Gary Lamberton will be making copies of the plans for the basement level of the Community Building. They will be placed in the Select Board file cabinet.

Mary said it would be good if the Planning Commission got the Village Designation done. The timeline for renovations will be planning and RFP's in 2019, and work done in 2020.

### **Act 46 update**

Deborah Jurist congratulated the School Board on the good news on the State Board of Education ratifying their previous vote on Nov. 14. This decision will be finalized on Nov. 29<sup>th</sup>. The Select Board was told that the final decision of the SBOE will be issued through the announcement of the Act 46 decisions. AT that point the Select Board will be in a position to confirm whether the BMU school building will be protected from sale without the consent of the townspeople and whether the town will be protected from taking on debt of the OESU.

The current School Board representatives from the BMU district to the OESU Board are one from each town. There was discussion of the importance of making this arrangement permanent by the School Board passing a formal policy stating this going forward.

There was a discussion of the representation on the School Board from each town and the history concerning how the current arrangement, 3 from Groton, 4 from Ryegate and 2 from Wells River was changed from the original plan, which was 3, 3, and 2. It was pointed out that the current populations of the towns would merit, 3, 3, and 1. It was suggested that the School Board take steps towards bringing the representation into alignment with the current populations through the process of election at the Town Meeting of 2019.

Brent Abare pointed out that the BMU Alternative Governance Plan was not actually approved. He also expressed his concern that BMU will be classified as a School District in the new plan, not a Unified Union School District. Emilie Knisley stated that BMU School will continue to be a unified union school district under OESU, not a simple School District and that the Statutes governing BMU will not change.

### **Executive Session – Brent Smith/personnel issues**

The Select Board went into Executive Session at 7:30 pm on the issue of personnel issues. The Select Board came out of Executive Session at 8:30 pm with the personnel issues being resolved.

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

A petition was received on Monday, November 12, 2018 to have a meeting to discuss the Railroad Bed Ordinance. There was a short discussion on this and a decision was made to put this issue on the next Select Board meeting's agenda to set a date for a special meeting within 60 days of the submission of the petition. The Railroad Bed Ordinance will go into effect November 27, 2018.

### **Sign Orders**

The Select Board signed the orders.

### **Set Agenda for next Select Board meeting on Dec. 13, 2018**

Meeting called to order

Review/Approve Minutes of Nov. 15, 2018

Adjustments to Agenda

Department Updates:

Highway/Brent

Financials/Lisa – Budget, Highway Paving Reserve Funds, Highway Equipment Reserve Fund, and Highway Infrastructures Funds  
Mary Grant – Grants/new stove  
Railroad Bed Ordinance – special meeting  
Act 46 update  
Cilley Property – update from Town Attorney  
Executive Session to discuss personnel policy  
Open to Public & Other Business  
Sign Orders  
Set Agenda for next Select Board meeting on Dec. 20, 2018  
Adjourn  
To Do List: Railings, Civil Ordinance & Conflict of Interest Policy

Aaron made a motion to adjourn at 8:50 pm, 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