

Town of Groton, Vermont – Select Board Minutes of October 11, 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, Joe Dennis, James Downing, Shaun T. Stetson, Derek Curtis, Todd Robinson, Dan Webster and Jen Ivery

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

Aaron made a motion to accept the Sept. 20, 2018 minutes, Deborah seconded, motion passed.

Deborah made a motion to accept the minutes of the audit review on Sept. 26, 2018, Aaron seconded, motion passed.

Aaron made a motion to accept the minutes of the Railroad Bed Ordinance meeting minutes on Sept. 26, 2018, Deborah seconded, motion passed.

Adjustments to Agenda

The adjustments were to move Act 46 and the Executive Session after the Financials. Todd Robinson will be moved before Financials.

Highway/Brent Smith

Brent was not present at the meeting.

Admin. Asst./Lise – updates

Lise was not present at the meeting.

Todd Robinson/Director of Woodsville Ambulance Service

Mr. Robinson said there will be no increases in the ambulance service for 2019 but there will be an increase for 2020.

Financials/Lisa – Final audit review, post dated check policy, NEMRC update, 2019 VLCT PACIF renewal, Reminder of Nov. 17th budget talks-schedule

The audit review is final. The town will be receiving the bounded copies of the audit soon. Lisa said that the audit went well. The town had two material weaknesses. The first one was a couple of Highway grant expenses hit the regular Highway budget line. The second one was Highway inventory will need to be kept track of. Highway inventory has not been done in the past.

There is also new terminology for some of the Funds, example Reserve Funds is now called Committed Funds. The two accounts that were to be reviewed at this meeting were: The Groton Food Shelf and how this account was set up. The Groton Food Shelf is supported by pure donations which means the Food Shelf is not a Reserve Account. This was tabled and will be discussed at the next Select Board meeting. The Restoration and Preservation Reserve Account is for special paper and Land record books and this is what the account is used for.

Lisa said there has been an issue recently with postdated checks. The Town has no policy. Lisa researched this and wrote up a policy for the Select Board to review. This policy will be discussed and passed at the next Select Board meeting.

NEMRC system is adding an IT service. The town's NEMRC will be staying the same.

Lisa stated that VLCT PACIF RENEWAL is due Friday, Oct. 12, 2018. Lisa reviewed the values and saw that the Community Building, Bell and Statue values were lumped together. Lisa got a value on the monument from Gandin Brothers. Mark Shallberg gave Lisa the value of the bell.

A reminder that budget talks are Nov. 17th. The schedule for the budget talks has been emailed out. IT/Gary Lamberton has been added to the list.

Blue Cross and Blue Shield and the HRA are coming up for renewal. These will be discussed at the next Select Board meeting.

The library is looking for a new librarian. Also, Jim Burke has resigned as a library trustee.

Act 46 update

Deborah Jurist talked to Gavin Reid about the position that the town has in the Union with regards to ownership of the building and land. He has been informed about the town's wishes now and Deborah has reviewed the deed and Charter. She has also called Attorney Gillies to see if Groton, as a town in the Unified Union District member, can join the joint legal action concerning Act 46. Deborah wrote a letter to the BMU School Board to ask them what they have done in order to determine the value of the school's property, among other things. The Select Board signed this letter.

Brent Abare updated the Select Board on the newest information that he had. Brent said the voters should have a choice if BMU joins OESU. Also, joining OESU will affect the three towns for the next 50 to 100 years.

Executive Session – to discuss personnel issues

Wade made a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:15 PM to discuss personnel issues, Deborah seconded, motion passed.

Wade made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 7:30 PM. Aaron seconded, motion passed. The outcome was that Lise Shallberg has resigned immediately from her position as an Administrative Assistant to the Select Board.

Deborah made a motion to accept Lise Shallberg's resignation, Aaron seconded, motion passed.

Maintenance/Mark – update on the Bell

Mark and Aaron Smith met with the Dennis family (Joe, Gary and Kelly) about the placement of the bell. Joe Dennis's suggestion is to put the bell on the western side of the monument in front of the town office. There is design that has been drawn up for this. Mark stated that the bell needs to be moved from the Highway Building for the winter. A frame on wheels has been made to put the bell on to move it inside the Town office for the winter. The Select Board thanked Mark for the extra effort he has put into resolving this issue. *

Zoning Admin./Brad and Dan – checking zoning permits when complete

Brad was not at the meeting. Dan has issued 3 permits. Two of them are done and the other one has not been started. There was discussion about which permits need to be followed upon completion

Recreation Committee – WEC Dinner Oct. 25th and foot Bridge Idea-grant

Lisa reminded the Select Board that the WEC Dinner is on Oct. 25th. Lisa asked for help with table and chairs the day before the dinner.

Dorothy brought a grant to Lisa and Brent's attention for the Recreation Committee to get a Foot Bridge to go behind the Groton Farmer's Market to the town's land. Lisa said that Brent suggest that we get a covered bridge. Jen Bone said it would be nice to have. This grant is from VT Department of Forest & Parks. Lisa will be working on the grant.

Civil Ordinance update

The Civil Ordinance will be discussed at the next Select Board meeting.

Jennifer Bone – the use of town land for a garden

Jen would like to make more jobs for the kids in the area. Jen asked the Select Board about the possibility of using the town land behind the Groton's My Farmer's Market for a garden. Deborah Jurist will check with VLCT to see if this can be done.

Discuss the data on the renting of chairs and tables

This was tabled. Mark Shallberg asked if Linda Nunn could be invited to the next Select Board meeting.

Town Constable/Jim Downing and Shaun Stetson on the possibility of getting a new cruiser next year

The cruiser now is 7 years old and has about 27,000 miles. There has been \$2000 spent in the last week on the cruiser. There was a discussion on getting a new cruiser and what type of vehicle to get and where to get one at a decent price. Also, discussed that it would be good the sell the Impala now while it only has 27,000 miles to get more for it.

Shaun said he is hoping to take the two-week constable course next spring if the Select Board supports him.

Nathan Puffer – sign agreement for Right of Way

There was one issue that needs to be checked before this agreement is signed. Wade Johnson will be checking this out and bring back to the next Select Board meeting.

Open to Public & Other Business

Mark brought up that people are having a hard time finding somebody in the area to set stones in the cemetery. Aaron said this issue should be brought up to the Cemetery Commission.

Wade brought up concerns about the upcoming budget due to two members of the Select Board that are on the Fire Department which in some people's eyes could mean conflict of interest when it comes to doing the budget especially in the areas of Fire and FAST. There were general concerns but overall it was expressed that the Select Board members were voted in by the people of Groton and they trust them. Lisa is going to look into this issue with the auditors and VLCT.

Sign Orders

The orders were signed.

Set Agenda for next Select Board meeting on Oct. 18, 2018

Meeting called to order

Review/Approve Minutes of Oct. 11, 2018

Adjustments to Agenda

Department updates:

Highway/Brent Smith

Financials/Lisa - BC/BS & HRA renewal, Check Acceptance Policy, Food Shelf/Reserve

Town Clerk/Linda Nunn – data on renting table and chairs

Act 46 update

Civil Ordinance update

Nathan Puffer – sign agreement for ROW

Tim Dailey – NEKWM

Open to Public & Other Business

Sign Orders

Set Agenda for next Select Board meeting, Nov. 1, 2018

Adjourn

To Do List: Library Trustees – elevator; Cilley Property; and Railings

Aaron made a motion to adjourn at 8:22 PM, Wade seconded, motion passed.

*Due to unforeseen circumstances the Select Board will have to go back and revisit the motion made on 9/20/18 (Deborah made a motion to have the bell and a message board installed where the current flower bed is now and have the sign go up on the building, Aaron seconded, motion passed.) to get reclarification on the current circumstances with the bell. As for now, the bell is sitting in the office.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Johnson

SB Secretary

Wade Johnson, Sr., Chair

Deborah Jurist

Aaron Smith