

Town of Groton, Vermont – Select Board Minutes of January 17, 2019 (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, Brent Smith, Dorothy Knott, Jaime LeBlanc and Sarah Castello.

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

Deborah made a motion to accept the minutes of January 3, 2019, Aaron seconded, motion passed. Aaron made a motion to accept the minutes of January 10, 2019, Deborah seconded, motion passed. Aaron made a motion to accept the minutes of January 9, 2019, Deborah seconded, motion passed.

### **Adjustments to Agenda**

The RR Bed will be moved after the Department Updates are all done.

### **Highway/Brent**

Brent did a purchase order for the Dead Blocking that is needed for the PACIF audit that was done. Brent mentioned about the email from Steve Trainor who is a member of the motorcycle trail riding club, the Norumbega Trial Riders. There is going to be a motorcycle charity trail ride and the money will be donated back in giving AED's out free with training. Steve will be in Groton on Feb. 8 -10 and will be training 4 people that do not have any training with AED's. The Town of Groton Highway Department is going to be a recipient of a ZOLL AED Plus defibrillator. Steve Trainor will be doing the training and installing of the AED.

### **Financials/Lisa – PACIF/Audit**

Lisa went over again the issues for all the town departments areas that the PACIF audit found that need to be fixed by certain dates.

The Final Budget for 2018 was handed out to the SB to review so it can be put in the town report. The 2019 budget needs to be finalized.

Lisa and Linda worked on a sample for the articles to be put in the town report.

### **Maintenance/Mark**

Mark will rework the ad on the new maintenance job to be put in paper. Mark said he is waiting on the results from the water samples.

### **Listers – Equalization Study/Appeal**

Dorothy said the yearly equalization study was received from the State of Vermont and when they reviewed it there were two properties that need to be appealed. Both of these lands were sold to an abutting land owner which is not a valid sale which should have not been a part of this study. With getting these two parcels out, this will make the COD lower which will help the town. The Select Board signed a letter for the listers to send to the State of Vermont.

### **Contact VLCT for RR Bed**

PACIF was contacted about the possibility of a lawsuit about the Railroad Bed.

Deborah said an opinion from the town lawyer was received for Jaime LeBlanc and Sarah Castello concerning their property on the Railroad Bed. A copy of the memo was given to Sarah. The opinion

suggested that the town could give permission to Sarah Costello and Jaime LeBlanc to access the part of their land they have been parking on via the RR Bed from powder Spring Rd. and park there for a certain period of time, until July 1, 2019. VAST would need to be made formally aware and sign off on their agreeing to this permission as well as the Select Board. Sarah Costello will need to complete the driveway that has been marked out for use after July 1, 2019. A permit to build the driveway was approved by the Select Board last month.

### **Town Report 2018/Articles**

There was much discussion on three different articles to be put on the warning and how they are to be written. These changes on the articles will be given to Linda to type up on the warning and then the Select Board will need to sign.

### **Budget 2019**

There was discussion on the budget.

### **Open to Public**

Brent Abare commended the Select Board for what they did for Jaime LeBlanc and Sarah Castello in the meeting tonight. Brent said we should not lose control of the Railroad Bed. It is a community asset, and a valuable resource for the Town of Groton.

### **Executive Session – Personnel Issues**

Wade said the Select Board will be going into executive session at 8:00 PM discussing personnel issues. Wade announced that the Select Board came out of executive session at 8:53 PM with positive discussion on different items.

### **Sign Orders**

The Select Board signed the orders.

### **Set Agenda for next Select Board Meeting on Feb. 7, 2019**

Meeting called to order

Review/Approve Minutes of Jan. 17, 2019

Adjustments to Agenda

Department Updates:

Highway/Brent

Financials/Lisa

Maintenance/Mark – new position

RR Bed – Little Italy Rd

Open to Public & Other Business

Sign Orders

Set Agenda for next Select Board Meeting on Feb. 21, 2019

Adjourn

To Do List: Cilley Property, Railings, Conflict of Interest Policy, Civil Ordinance, VLCT/PACIF, Local Emergency Operations Plan after town meeting, Listers/Assessor

Deborah made a motion to adjourn at 9:07 PM, Aaron seconded, motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Debra Johnson  
SB Secretary

---

Wade Johnson, Sr., Chair

---

Deborah Jurist

---

Aaron Smith