

Town of Groton, Vermont – Select Board Minutes of January 3, 2019 (draft)

Select Board Members in Attendance: Wade Johnson, Sr., Deborah Jurist and Aaron Smith

Attendance for the meeting included: Debra Johnson, Lisa Hart, Mark Shallberg, Brent Abare, Brent Smith, Mary Grant, Dorothy Knott, Wade Johnson, Jr., Sarah Despins and Brian Wohlleb.

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

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

### **Adjustments to Agenda**

A letter to the Select Board was received and will be opened after Maintenance/Mark.

### **Highway/Brent – Infrastructures Reserve Fund**

The Select Board agreed on the changes that Brent made to the wording in the Infrastructure Reserve Fund.

### **Financials/Lisa – Budget, PACIF/audit**

The budget for 2017/2018/proposed 2019 was handed out to the Select Board to review before the meeting on January 9<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 am – 10:00 am.

Lisa discussed the VLCT PACIF Insurance issues were for all the town buildings of which some have already been taken care of.

The cleaning contract with Frigon was reviewed and signed by the Select Board.

The animal contract was reviewed by the Select Board and signed.

The Local Emergency Operations Plan was discussed. Deborah moved to accept the local Emergency Operations Plan with a few minor changes made, Aaron seconded, the motion was defeated. The Select Board will look this plan over and discuss at the Select Board Budget meeting on 1/9/19.

### **Maintenance/Mark – new position**

The new Town Property Maintenance position will be supervised by Mark Shallberg. Deborah moved to accept the Groton Town Property Maintenance as described with additional language referring to the addition of 2019-2020 winter sidewalk plowing, Aaron will speak with Donald Bliss, Aaron seconded, motion passed.

This job will be posted by the Select Board Secretary, Debra Johnson. She will work with Linda Nunn about the process with the details so Linda will be informed in preparation for inquiries.

### **Letter to Select Board**

The letter was opened by Deborah. Deborah made a motion to accept Wade Johnson, Sr. for the Groton Fire Chief for next year on the recommendation of the Groton Volunteer Fire Department, Aaron seconded, motion passed. Wade Johnson, Sr. recused himself from this motion.

### **Mary Grant – plans for Community Building**

Mary brought the USDA Agriculture Grant information to the Select Board. There needs to be a letter of intent submitted saying Groton wants to apply for the grant sent by tomorrow (Friday, Jan 4, 2019). This grant will be covered at 100% with no matching. The application will need to be put in by April 1<sup>st</sup>. The

Grant application will be coordinated with mark Shallberg in order to plan and manage the building and construction.

Aaron made a motion to approve the letter of intent as submitted by the Town of Groton with the contact person being Lisa Hart, Deborah seconded, motion passed.

**Deborah Turner – application for the ROW for convex mirror**

The application was reviewed and signed by the Select Board.

**Sarah Despins – approval form SB to have bonfire to burn**

Sarah proposed to have an event which will be under the Recreation Committee to bring your own old Christmas trees to burn at the Puffer Ballfield.

Deborah made a motion for the Recreation Committee to have a Christmas tree bonfire to go forward on Sunday, Jan. 6, 2019 at 2:00 PM with the approval and consent of the Fire Warden and knowledge of the Buckaroos at the Puffer Ballfield, Aaron seconded, motion passed.

**David Boyce – Statute Railroad Rights-of-way**

David Boyce was not in attendance at the meeting.

The memo received from the town lawyer concerning Statute 3431 was reviewed. Brian Wollheb suggested that a Schedule F could be submitted to authenticate a bona fide Agricultural farm operation.

**Article for Listers in town report**

The Select Board decided that if an assessor needs to be hired during the year, there can be a special town meeting to have a vote.

**Local Emergency Operations Plan**

Done under the Financials.

**Town Report 2018**

Nothing new to discuss. Still many reports need to be turned in.

**Act 46 update**

Brent Abare spoke as a resident of Groton. Brent said that two people will be moving to the OESU Office and that there will be between \$100,000 and \$300,000 cut from the school budget, depending on how many students are determined to be attending BMU. The budget proposal will be determined by the School Board on January 16.

**Open to Public & Other Business**

Carrie asked the Select Board permission to start the process of having a Delinquent Property Tax sale. Wade made a motion to approve the Delinquent tax sale to begin, Deborah seconded, motion passed.

Carrie did some research on the voting tabulator machine. The Board of Civil Authority can have a meeting to use the voting tabulator machines. This meeting needs to be done 60 days before the need of the voting machines. Carrie will reach out to Wayne Dyer to discuss this possibility.

Brent Abare brought up that Groton is misrepresented on the School Board with 4 from Ryegate, 3 from Groton and 2 from Wells River. Groton and Ryegate's population are about the same and Wells River only has 399 people.

**Sign Orders**

The orders were signed.

**Set Agenda for next Select board meeting on Jan. 17, 2019**

Meeting called to order

Review/Approve Minutes of Jan. 3, and 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Adjustments to Agenda

Department Updates:

Highway/Brent

Financials/Lisa – PACIF/audit

Maintenance

Town Report 2018

Articles

Budget

Open to Public & Other Business

Sign Orders

Set Agenda for next Select Board meeting on Feb. 7, 2019

Adjourn

To Do List: Cilley Property, Railings, Conflict of Interest Policy, Local Emergency Operations Plan (after Town Meeting), Listers/Assessor, VLCT/PACIF

Deborah made a motion at 9:20 PM to adjourn, 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