

Youth Services – Trustee Conger reported that a group at the Groton Elementary School called “Groton Helpers” have been working on good deeds for the month of December. They also have been making Holiday crafts. 15 kids participate in a group called “Build It”, where they attempt to build things through trial and error. There is a group going to the *Nutcracker* on December 12. Another group with parents went to the Sceincenter in Ithaca. At the Middle School, Helping Hands planted bulbs in front of the school. Ironchef Groton is a program where kids can create their own recipes. John Gaines addressed the Commission on forming coalition for healthy youth. Looking for things for youth to do to reduce substance abuse in the community.

Sewer – Trustee Neville noted that several sections of main had to be unplugged by the crew.

Water – Trustee Molino reported that the crew cleaned the weirs at the Morton Works. Chad, Mike, and Alvin also attended training that is necessary to gain their contact hours for their licenses.

Web – Trustee Molino noted that he posted information in relation to Neighborhood Watch.

Police – Lt. Williams noted that the SUV unit (158) has not run well, some small things. Hope to be able to get it through the winter. Lt. Williams thanked the Fire Police for assisting when the tree came down on Cortland Street. The Dept. is struggling to fill shifts. James Landon is ready to start and James Rolfe is back from Afghanistan and should be ready to take some shifts in mid-January.

Fire – Chief Coit reported that the Dept. has answered 813 calls year to date, 20 over last year. The new truck will be delivered in February.

Robin Cargian came before the Board and read a letter in regards to ambulance service within the Village and Town of Groton. She suggests that the contracts for ambulance service be revised and brought up to date, ensuring that the community is provided the best possible service.

Code Enf. Officer Senter noted that he has only issue two building permits less than he did last year.

Trustee Conger made a motion that the contract with the Groton Fire Dept. and the Town of Groton for fire and ambulance service, in the amounts of \$100,000 and \$96,000, respectfully, be approved, and authorize the Mayor to sign such contracts, seconded by Trustee Neville, carried.

Mayor Evener appointed Jeremy Vann to the position of Police Officer (full-time) from the list of eligibles off the Civil Service list. Trustee Perkins made a motion to approve the appointment and be paid at the full-time rate of \$17.51 per hour, with 52 weeks of probation, seconded by Trustee Conger, carried.

A letter of resignation was received from Harold Howell, full-time Clerk for the purpose of retirement as of December 24, 2009. Mayor Evener appointed Harold Howell to the position of Clerk, part-time, effective December 26, 2009 at his present rate of \$13.90 per hours. Trustee Molino made a motion to accept the resignation and related appointment by Mayor Evener of Mr. Howell, seconded by Trustee Neville, carried.

Trustee Neville offered the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that Elizabeth Conger, Village Trustee, be designated as the official delegate of the Village of Groton on the Tompkins County Council of Governments for the 2010 calendar year, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Charles V. Rankin, Village Administrator, be the alternate delegate of the Village of Groton on the Tompkins County Council of Governments for the same period.

Seconded by Trustee Molino, all present voted "aye" and the resolution was carried.

Trustee Neville made a motion that \$22,858 be withdrawn from the Capital Reserve Fund-Motor Vehicle Reserve Fund to be used toward the purchase of a new tractor, subject to permissive referendum, seconded by Trustee Perkins, carried.

The regular meeting was temporarily suspended and Mayor Evener opened the Public Hearing on Local Law No. 2 of 2009, a law to raise the income limits to qualify for the senior citizen tax exemption.

Clerk read the Notice of Public Hearing.

Being no public comments, the hearing was closed.

Trustee Neville made a motion that Local Law No. 2 of 2009 (A local law to amend Chapter 181 of the Code of the Village of Groton by Amending Article II "Senior Citizen Tax Exemption," Section 181-17 of such Chapter, to increase the income Limitation for the Exemption and to Adjust the Amount of the Sliding Scale for the amount of the Exemption Based Upon the Income of the Senior Citizen Taxpayer) be adopted, seconded by Trustee Molino, and upon roll call: Trustee Conger voted "aye", Trustee Molino voted "aye", Trustee Neville voted "aye", Trustee Perkins voted "aye" and Mayor Evener vote "aye". The local law was duly declared adopted.

The public hearing to consider the adoption of a local law to increase the sewer rents was scheduled for Monday, January 25, 2010 at 7 pm.

Administrator Rankin reported on the activities of the Sesquicentennial Committee. There have been four meeting since September. The main celebration weekend will be June 11-13, that weekend being chosen since the Village was incorporated on June 11, 1860. On that weekend, there will be an opening event followed by entertainment. On Saturday, there will be Village tours, open houses of Village facilities and businesses, a parade that features local organizations, groups and neighborhoods, and entertainment later. A possible community picnic would be held on Sunday. On August 7, a reunion of former Memorial park employees is planned. Tentatively, an opening event is scheduled for Tuesday, January 12, with numbers "150" being lighted each day, that will count down the days to June 11. There will be fund raising with direct donations being sought; a special event at the Benn Conger Inn on March 28th, and a community celebration grant to the County has been applied for. There are also plans to produce a commemorative brochure to be distributed on the June 11th weekend. Any excess funds will be given back to the Village for possible a clock or digital sign. Envelope stickers have also been purchased.

Admin. Rankin reported that startup date of the Greater Tompkins County Health Insurance Consortium has been postponed to March 1, 2010 due some minor issues that need to be cleared

up for the conversion. We have notified Excellus that we will continue with them on a month-to-month basis until the consortium is ready to proceed.

Recorded application for liquor license: White Pheasant, Inc. d/b/a/ Farrell's Bar & Grill.

Trustee Molino made a motion to move into executive session to discuss personnel matters in relation to Code Enforcement and the Fire Dept., seconded by Trustee Conger, carried.

Trustee Neville made a motion to move out of executive session, seconded by Trustee Molino, carried. The only resolution adopted during the session was the following:

Trustee Molino made a motion to adjust Schedule 5 of the budget to reflect a change in the rate for Code Enforcement Officer to \$14,300 per year (or \$100 per month for the remainder of the fiscal year), seconded by Trustee Neville, carried.

The meeting was closed at 8:45 pm.

CHARLES V. RANKIN
Village Clerk