

**VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**SEPT. 12, 2011**

**6 PM**

Deputy Mayor Molino opened the meeting at 6 pm.

Present were: Deputy Mayor Molino, Trustees Perkins, Conger and Morey, Electric Utility Supervisor Steve Teeter, Dept. of Public Works Supervisor Chad Shurtleff

Absent was: Mayor Evener

Trustee Perkins made a motion to move into executive session to discuss a personnel matter in the Fire and EMS Departments, seconded by Trustee Conger, carried.

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

Trustee Perkins made a motion that a separation agreement be offered to Lyle S. Robbins with a payment amount of \$5,000, due to the fact that it has been decided that a separate EMS Department will not be formed at this time, and the Mayor is authorized to sign such agreement as prepared by the Village Attorney, seconded by Trustee Conger, carried.

Audit of claims.

The regular meeting was called to order by Deputy Mayor Molino.

Pledge of allegiance.

Trustee Conger made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 15<sup>th</sup> meeting, seconded by Trustee Morey, carried.

Trustee Morey made a motion to approve the claims presented for review, seconded by Trustee Perkins, carried. The claims paid are covered by the following lists of abstracts of audited vouchers:

GENERAL (A5)	\$92,956.87	JOINT RECREATION (J5)	\$273.46
WATER (F5)	21,864.32	CAPITAL-SWR (HI5)	2,628, 115.50
SEWER (G5)	15,341.51	COM DEV (PI 11-9)	956.66
ELECTRIC (E5)	79,242.60		

Electric – Supervisor Teeter noted that the crew completed a pole top rescue class on August 25<sup>th</sup>. There were some limbs to clean up after Hurricane Irene. Dept. is performing a small rebuild on Pleasant St. Dept. pickup needed new transmission pan; the old one rusted out, but it is covered under

warranty. Dept. plans on replacing some other older poles. MEUA Conference is this week. The Village will have five persons attending.

Dept. of Public Works – Supervisor Shurtleff noted that new employee Rick Neville is doing well so far. Trying to clean up a bunch of half days jobs. There is a beaver dam issue at the Morton Works, it is starting to form some ponds. We need to get DEC permits to exterminate them, and we can take care of those ourselves. The dam, however, has to be dismantled by hand, no machinery. It was noted that the new Head Start building did experience a sewer infiltration during the recent storm. It came up through the storm drains. They will be installing a check valve to alleviate this problem in the future.

Streets – Trustee Conger reported Dept. has been sweeping and cleaning streets and worked on opening various storm drains and repaired grates where necessary. There was a major plug in the drain behind 308 Spring St. Ditching was performed on the east side of North Parkway.

Joint Recreation – Trustee Conger reported that 408 participated in swim lessons, with 192 unduplicated participants. 68 of those came from the summer day camp. Wendy Cummings and Tracy Cooper did a fine job with arts and crafts. The various rec programs broke even. There are 150 out for football/cheerleading, down about 20 from the year before. Halloween event at the Legion is scheduled for Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>.

Youth Commission – Trustee Conger reported that there were 52-67 in camp each week. Some of the staff was sponsored by Workforce NY program. Returning staff helped train the new staff. Fall programs will be starting soon in the Middle School. Farmer's Market will run to the end of Sept. Six kids ran the market this year. Six kids in the Helping Hands program worked in their garden over the summer. They also planted flowers at the "Welcome to Groton" signs. 14 volunteered at the carnival at Memorial Park during Olde Home Days. Monica Dykeman is getting ready for the Fall programs at the Elementary School.

Sewer – Admin. Rankin reported that the check for the grant funds arrived today. Supervisor Shurtleff noted that the parts arrived to fix the one tank. There were some overflow issues during the recent rain. The new sludge press is doing well; we are getting some real dry product from the press.

Pool – Trustee Molino noted that the Pool is shut down for the season and will be winterized soon.

Water – Trustee Molino noted 15 posts on the fence at the Smith Works were repaired. Dept. will be addressing the beaver dam issue due to the groundwater effects that the Health Dept. tends to be concerned about. Supervisor Shurtleff noted that he will be meeting with engineers on the possible pilot project for the water plant on Sept. 22.

Police – Trustee Perkins reported that officer Dawn Caulkins will begin regular shifts on Friday. Overall things are going well.

Trustee Perkins offered the following resolution:

***To Commemorate Our Hometown Electric Utility and Its Tradition of Service***

WHEREAS, we, the citizens of Village of Groton, place high value on local control over community services and therefore have chosen to operate a community-owned, locally controlled, not-for-profit electric utility and, as consumers and owners of our electric utility, have a direct say in utility operations and policies; and

WHEREAS, Groton Municipal Electric provides our homes, businesses, farms, social service, and local government agencies with reliable, efficient, and cost-effective electricity employing sound business practices designed to ensure the best possible service at not-for-profit rates; and

WHEREAS, Groton Municipal Electric is a valuable community asset that contributes substantially to the well-being of local citizens through energy efficiency, customer service, environmental protection, economic development, and safety awareness; and

WHEREAS, the electric utility industry is changing and will continue to change over the next few years, with the goal of allowing individual consumers to choose their power supplier while continuing service from their current electricity distributor, and

WHEREAS, deregulation of the electric utility industry has renewed public interest in and appreciation for the concept of locally controlled, community-owned public power systems;

WHEREAS, as this community's public power system, Groton Municipal Electric first and only purpose is to work in partnership with its customer-owners to furnish an essential public service and the best customer service to community citizens at lower-cost rates;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that Groton Municipal Electric will continue to work to bring lower-cost, safe, reliable electricity to community homes and businesses just as it has since 1933, the year when the utility was created to serve all the citizens of Village of Groton; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that the week of October 2-8, be designated the 25<sup>th</sup> annual Public Power Week in order to honor Groton Municipal Electric for its contributions to the community and to make its consumer-owners, policy makers, and employees more aware of its overall contributions to their well-being; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that our community joins hands with more than 2,000 other public power systems in the United States that through local, community-ownership ensure cost-cutting service for electricity customers.

Seconded by Trustee Morey, carried.

Trustee Conger offered the following resolution:

RESOLVED, THAT the Village Office, 143 Cortland St., be designated as the one polling place for the general village election to be held on Tuesday, March 20, 2012.

Seconded by Trustee Morey, carried.

Deputy Mayor Molino appointed Sheila Ossit as the Village rep on the Joint Recreation Committee, replacing Teri Evener, who has resigned. Trustee Conger made a motion to approve the appointment, seconded by Trustee Perkins, carried.

There was discussion in relation to the property maintenance law (Chapter 153 of the Code). The Village Administrator will meet with the Village Attorney to review the suggested changes and hopefully we can have a draft of the local law to review next month.

There was discussion on a new water meter reading system. DPW Supervisor Chad Shurtleff will submit a report to the Board on the meter that fits within the criteria of the standardization resolution. Hence, there will be another standardization resolution on this meter. The project will take time but there will be many advantages to having such a system.

There was discussion in relation to the tax cap.

The meeting was closed at 8:05 pm.

CHARLES V. RANKIN  
Village Clerk