

VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

JUNE 19, 2017 7 PM

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Mayor Neville opened the meeting at 7 pm.

Present were: Mayor Neville, Trustees Conger, Evener, Morey and Holl, Nancy Niswender-Deputy Treas., Lance Coit-Fire Chief, Steve Teeter-Electric Utility Supervisor, Chad Shurtleff-DPW Supervisor, Mike Andersen-Code Enf. Officer, Peter Grossman and Bill Troy-Attorneys for the Village, Lee Shurtleff, Liz Richey, Jason Cartell, Linda Tallman, Chris Tallman and Vaughn Golden-Groton Independent

Pledge of allegiance.

Trustee Conger made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 15<sup>th</sup> meeting and two bid openings, seconded by Trustee Morey, carried.

Trustee Evener made a motion to approve the claims presented for review, and to adjust the budget as follows:

GENERAL FUND

From: Employees Benefits-Fireman's Compensation-9040.81-\$2,100

To: Employees Benefits-Workman's Compensation-9040.8-\$2,100

Seconded by Trustee Holl, carried. The above adjustments and claims paid are covered by the following lists of abstracts of audited vouchers:

GENERAL (A13)	\$30,155.42	SEWER (G1)	\$8,181.28
WATER (F13)	5,335.98	ELECTRIC (E1)	79,254.55
SEWER (G13)	6,680.09	JOINT REC (J1)	700.00
JOINT REC (J13)	504.39	CAPITAL-Strm Swr Proj(HSS1)	3,969.97
GENERAL (A1)	150,502.07	CAPITAL-Park Proh (HP1)	531.34
WATER (F1)	24,342.25	COM DEV (PI 17-6)	801.19
		COM DEV (Strmwtr Imp Proj)	2,286.36

Fire/Ambulance – Chief Coit noted that the call volume for the past month has been about normal. Three people in the Dept. have completed the EMT course: Corey Toolan, Logan Wannell and Lance Coit. The Wardens have reviewed the vacation policy for the full-time paramedics and have no problems with it. Chief Coit has been contacting the part-time paramedics who have not been active. Received resignations from Carrie Mosher and Alex Shehu, and it is noted that they are in good standing. Fireworks are scheduled for July 1. The Dept. will be manning donation buckets and selling

novelties. The Dept. will be conducting normal training at the end of June at the training center. Junior Firefighter camp will be held the week of July 17<sup>th</sup>. The Dept. participated in the Elementary School field days last week. The Dept. will be running the food stand at Olde Home Days again this year at the Legion.

Electric – Supervisor Teeter reported that the Dept. responded to a car-pole accident on June 10<sup>th</sup>. It took until 3 am to fix. Dept. put a guy on a pole on Spring St. and installed a service pole on North Parkway. Ten LED Lights for the Main Street fixtures have been ordered. Lights on Hillcrest Drive have been replaced; they were old mercury vapor lights. HMT will be here on July 20<sup>th</sup> to conduct the annual substation maintenance. Transformers will be switched will the crews work on them. The Dept. will attend annual safety training tomorrow.

Dept. of Public Works – Supervisor Shurtleff reported that most of the Department's efforts have been preparing the swimming pool for opening. A new chlorine feed pump has been installed. A new curb has been installed on Linderman Ave which will hopefully help with the runoff. Dept. has worked on various cleanup jobs. The Annual Water Quality report has been distributed to residents. The new utility truck is working out well.

Code Enforcement – Code Enf. Officer Andersen reported that 25 building permits have been issued with a value of \$209,000. No new home starts. Also 17 roofing, pool, and window permits have been issued totaling about \$100,000. 24 letters concerning abandoned vehicles have been sent. Two-thirds of them have responded back. Lots of lawn letters have been sent.

Joint Recreation – Trustee Conger noted that baseball and softball are now into their travel seasons, which is a competitive league. 13 have signed for track. The spring track end of the year meets were cancelled due to rain. The new firefighter academy is extremely popular. Basketball is down somewhat. August 4<sup>th</sup> summer concert band cancelled, "New Cross Country" band has been lined up to replace them. Fall programming is starting to be planned, Jeff Crank will again coach. Trustee Conger read the numbers that have signed up for the various programs as of this date. Both archery sessions are full.

Youth Commission – Trustee Conger reported that two youth reps to the Commission have been selected by the Board of Education – Maggie Ossit and Mackenzie Perkins. They will alternate meetings. With the exception of the first week, the numbers are good for the summer day camp. The staff is set. We are not eligible for the free lunch program. Angela Conger will pick up lunches daily. Commission is in the process of reviewing the by-laws.

Sewer – Trustee Morey reported that Plant Operator Howell has been cleaning tanks.

Admin. Rankin reported that the New York Municipal Power Agency lowered the floor on what the charge to the municipal systems to 30 mils. The current rates are 37 mils for the summer and 42 mils for the winter, which should bring some relief to our customers. Admin. Rankin will be the President of NYMPA for the next year.

Public comments:

Linda Tallman came before the Board to complain about a hole in East South Street than ruined one of her tires. It was explained to her that NYSEG had made this cut retiring a gas service. Chad Shurtleff will contact them and ask them to do a better job repairing the streets and/or mark them out better. It was suggested that they seek relief from NYSEG for the damaged tire.

Lee Shurtleff stated that he personally takes offense to the insinuation that the Village of Groton does not care about the urban poor. He cited many endeavors that have been undertaken that benefits lower income persons and that our community has done a lot for poorer persons.

Mayor Neville appointed the following to the park staff: Recreation Assistant – Angela Conger, Lifeguards – Matthew Krebs, Lane Ostrander, Griffin Scarlata, and Thomas Towner. Trustee Conger made a motion to approve these appointments, seconded by Trustee Evener, carried.

Mayor Neville appointed the following summer youth workers: Jacob Howell, RJ Shurtleff and Dylan Cooper. Trustee Evener made a motion to approve these appointments, seconded by Trustee Holl, carried.

Trustee Holl made a motion that the following amendment be added to the Employees' Handbook in relation to holiday pay for the part time paramedics:

HOLIDAYS - VILLAGE OF GROTON FIRE DEPT.

All full – time employees of the Village of Groton Fire Dept., who may work as paramedics or other positions that may be determined in the future, whether on salary or hourly basis, will receive twelve (12) floating holidays per year, "IN LIEU OF HOLIDAYS".

This provision is due to the fact that full-time employees of the Fire Department are required to work scheduled shifts, including Holidays when other Village employees are not working.

Payment "IN LIEU OF HOLIDAYS" will be paid to the full-time employees during the month of December as one lump sum for the preceding calendar year. This will be paid at straight time at the employee's current pay rate. In the event a full-time employee leaves Village service during the year, such payment "IN LIEU OF HOLIDAYS" shall accrue at a rate of one (1) day per completed month, with payment being made on the employee's final pay check from full-time Village service.

The employee may choose to take this benefit as time off, in lieu of payment, with the approval of the Fire Chief.

Seconded by Trustee Morey, carried.

Admin. Rankin reviewed the budget for the upcoming stormwater project. It is estimated that \$275,000 more in funds will be required to fund the project. After discussion, it was the consensus of the Board

to proceed with this borrowing and the Treasurer can proceed to contact the bonding attorney to prepare the paperwork for a bond resolution to effectuate this.

A lengthy discussion and review of the latest draft of the sidewalk policy. Most of the discussion centered on if the Village will pay for concrete only or concrete and delivery. Further action on the policy was tabled.

Mayor Neville reported that he has spoken with the Boy Scouts and they have three boys that will be taking on the Elm Street bank as Eagle Scout project.

Admin. Rankin noted that the Village was received an award for "Timely Filing of Claims" at the annual conference of our workman's comp carrier, PERMA.

Mayor Neville made a motion to move into executive session to discuss a personnel matter in regards to the Village Administrator, a Village loan, and a matter of litigation, seconded by Trustee Conger carried.

Trustee Evener made a motion to come out of executive session, seconded by Trustee Conger, carried. There were no resolutions adopted during the session.

Trustee Evener made a motion that the Village will accept a \$300 per month payment from Kristopher Buchan in payment on this Village loan for a period of twelve months and it will be reviewed at the end of twelve months, seconded by Trustee Holl, carried.

The meeting was closed at 8:55 pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles V. Rankin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Charles" being the most prominent.

CHARLES V. RANKIN  
Village Clerk