

Groton Village Board of Trustees Meeting

Monday, November 18, 2019

Present: Mayor Neville, Trustees Morey, Conger, Walpole and Holl, Nancy Niswender - Clerk/Treas, Chad Shurtleff - DPW Supv, Steve Teeter – Elec Supv, Ben Nelson -Fire Chief, Lt. Troy Boice, Police OIC, Admin Charles Rankin, GFD Rick Neville

Mayor Neville opened the meeting at 7:00 pm

Trustee Conger made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 21, 2019 board meeting, seconded by Trustee Walpole, carried.

Trustee Holl made a motion to approve the claims and adjustments presented for review, seconded by Trustee Morey, carried.

Budget Adjustment:

A1620.21 New Building \$36,095.33	A9730.6 Principal BAN \$10,000.00
	HB1620.2 Building \$26,095.33
A511 Approp. Reserves \$35,087.80	A9950.9 Tfr to HM Fund \$35,087.80
A1990.4 Contingency \$ 500.00	A7140.4 Parks & Rec \$ 500.00

The above adjustments and claims paid are covered by the following lists of abstracts of audited vouchers:

Abstract #6

GENERAL	\$155,474.80	ELECTRIC	\$101,146.10
WATER	\$ 15,638.19	JOINT REC	\$ 3,387.00
SEWER	\$ 25,610.55		

Monthly department reports

DPW:

Supv Shurtleff report submitted:

**Department of Public Works
October 21 – November 18, 2019**

Completed Work/Projects:

- Completed fire hydrant flushing
- Continue hauling in sand for winter road treatment
- Clean up of erosion project in Blanchard Heights
- Remove erosion sediment from the retention pond
- Sweep and clean up Main St. before Halloween
- Clean up several minor flooding issues after heavy rain on 10/31/19
- Repair several potholes on Sprint St.
- Begin picking up leaves
- Plow and salt streets as needed

Schedule of Work

- Finish picking up leaves
- Install some drainage pipe on Cayuga St.
- Complete office projects (misc.)
- Repair several fire hydrants

They have begun plowing and salting already, hopefully salt will last.

Concerning pot holes on Spring St – received a call from the police – Supv Shurtleff went down and filled in that night and then patched the next day.

Blanchard Height project looks good.

Groton Fire Department:

Chief Ben Nelson reported:

Calls YTD: 750 ambulance calls - 150 fire calls

Structure Fire on Old Stage Rd

Halloween very wet but we still were able to pass out donuts and cider.

Then had an ambulance call and flooding issues later that evening.

Groton Ambulance certificate updated for another 2 years

Santa Claus will be at the tree lighting on December 12th at 6:30.

New Member - Hook and Ladder – Carly Potter looking to join the EMS side.

Police Report

Lt. Boice reported:

The evidence room is getting really small at the police station. We would like to consider utilizing some other space in the Village buildings.

Would like to consider an impound lot for towed vehicles. This will monitor the access of those paying and getting vehicles back before they should be driving. This will also increase revenues on storage. The lot will need to be lighted and have a surveillance camera.

We looked into the parking ticket issue, but we would have to pay for the Village Attorney to prosecute, so it may not be cost effective.

Code Enforcement

Code Officer Andersen submitted:

Code Activity:

34 Roofing and window permits Est. Value \$227,000 - Permit fees= **\$1,053.00**

35 Building permits - Est. Value= \$200,000 - Permit fees= **\$1,152.00**

26 Fire Safety inspections = **\$830.00** in Inspection

Casper's had their grease trap installed to cut down on the grease at the treatment plant.

Still can't get Main St. Pizza to install their grease trap. Mike will have to do an Order of Remedy to get him to comply.

Found out that the Groton Nursing Home has not had their Grease trap serviced in two years. Wrote them up and now they are going to be on a regular service to have it cleaned. They were

not aware they had to have it serviced.

I told the people running the Tow service out of 700 S. Main St. that they had to discontinue the business or be fined as it is in a residential district. The owner of the property called and stated that they would comply.

Trustee Conger reported:

Joint Recreation:

Winter Programs:

Youth Basketball has started. Schedules are tight in the gyms. Games will begin Mid December in a league in Cortland (John Tobin Youth Basketball League). There will be teams from Cortland, Homer, Tully, Dryden, McGraw, Marathon and Groton. They will have certified Refs. and therefore the kids will not need to deal with angry parents.

Youth Wrestling will start in January or February.

Cabin Fever – February 29th

Grants:

Cabin Fever – We were awarded \$1,000

Summer Concert – Done and submitted

Trails Grant – working on final reports and submitting documents for reimbursement.

Youth Commission

Monica's report centered on **Fall Programming**. 11 Elementary Students are participating in **Fall Fun** outdoor activities, thanks to good weather. **Groton Pride** for 10 Junior High students participated in the Trunk or Treat event on Halloween. **Ag Adventure** with assistance from Alpha Zeta (Cornell) includes 10 students in 3rd, 4th & 5th Graders. **Our Side of the Mountain** is the Junior High Program, 5 students involved in the trip to the Catskills on October 11-13, along with students from Trumansburg and Lansing. The 2-night event included a visit to the Delhi Library to learn about the author of the book "Our Side of the Mountain" – Jean Craighead George. **Groton Harvest** hired Angela Conger as web coordinator through the Village. Youth will be hired to begin helping the Groton Fresh Program which will allow 25 families fresh produce, spices and recipes to go along with the traditional backpack program, over weekends and school breaks. FFA Club will also assist. (This is like food plans you can order online - such as Blue Apron.)

There were approx. 400 kids at truck or treat. 20 trunks were decorated and the rain held off until cleanup time

Wastewater

Walpole – said Alvin said things are running smooth. A few issues with paperwork with Dairy & DEC

Electric

They installed new basketball hoops and poles at the park.

Completed the annual inspection on bucket truck

Setting a pole on Church St. 800 amp for 6 apartments and managers office

Monday is last safety class in Endicott

December 2nd or 3rd - the Christmas tree will be in and set for wiring.

Chuck Rankin – NYMPA lowered rate from 3.50 to 3.00 for Demand.

Trustee Walpole

No hunting signs put on trailheads and will look for others that say just no hunting.

Action Items

Trustee Conger made a motion to adopt a Resolution to return unpaid taxes of \$48,242.96 with interest and penalties to of \$3,943.41 – total of \$52,186.37 to Tompkins County, Seconded by Trustee Walpole carried.

Trustee Conger made a motion to approve the Mayor to sign the letter of no changes for the Municipal Co-operative Agreement with Greater Tompkins County Municipal Health Insurance Consortium, seconded by Trustee Holl, carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Niswender discussed the issue with Verizon (landline) concerning the problem with their billing & how the cost had nearly doubled and the multiple phone calls that had to be made. Verizon finally issued a \$3,367.85 credit; bringing the bill back to its normal amount. As we were already in the process of looking a VOIP system to have a better phone system, we have been working with Verizon Wireless to come up with a proposal to replace the regular phone lines with a VOIP system that will give us better service at a lower cost.

Trustee Conger made a motion to accept the Verizon Wireless Contract for new VOIP phone service, seconded by Trustee Walpole carried.

7:48pm Trustee Conger made a motion to adjourn to executive session, seconded by Trustee Walpole carried.

Trustee Walpole made a motion to return from executive session at 8:18pm, seconded by Trustee Holl, carried.

Trustee Conger made a motion to give Mike Perkins a 50 cent raise due to completing of training and probation period, seconded by Trustee Walpole, carried.

Trustee Conger made a motion to adjourn 8:15 pm

Nancy Niswender
Clerk Treasurer