

Groton Village Board of Trustees Meeting

Tuesday, February 18, 2025

Board Members

Trustee Conger
Mayor Neville
Trustee Holl
Trustee Morey

Others in attendance:

Nancy Niswender - Clerk
Chad Shurtleff - DPW Suprv.
Eric DeForrest - GFD Fire Chief

Mike Albro - YAWS

7:00pm Mayor Neville welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Trustee Morey made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 21, 2025 Board Meeting, seconded by Trustee Holl, carried.

Audit of claims and approval thereof.

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

A0-4540-12	40,000.00	
A0-1641-0		40,000.00
A0-9089-08	1,200.00	
A0-1990-04		1,200.00
A0-9950-09	1,468.52	
A0-5031-0		1,468.52
F0-8330-02	2,994.81	
F0-8330-01		2,994.81
G0-8130-04	24,900.00	
G0-3990-0		24,900.00

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

	<u>Abstract # 9</u>
GENERAL	227,973.95
WATER	6,491.17
SEWER	34,643.75
ELECTRIC	240,182.99
JOINT REC	2,941.71
CAPITAL	1,468.52

Seconded by Trustee Morey, all in favor, carried.

Monthly Department Reports:

Electric Department:

Supervisor Teeter report was submitted (attached to the minutes)

- NYPA proposal to raise rates (over double) to municipalities over the next 4 years stopped by Governor Hochul

Department of Public Works

Supervisor Shurtleff report submitted (attached to the minutes)

- Ordered an extra load of salt.
- Tractor still in Dryden, waiting for a tech to come in. Supposed to be in the next 2 weeks.

Waste Water Treatment Plant

Mike Albro - Yaws Report was submitted and reviewed (attached to the minutes)

Joint Recreation

Trustee Conger reviewed the Joint Recreation report (attached to the minutes):

Groton Youth Commission

Trustee Conger reviewed the Youth Commission report (attached to the minutes):

7:40 PM Public Hearing on Local Law #3 of 2025

- The regular meeting was temporarily suspended and Mayor Neville opened the Public Hearing on Local Law #3 - A Local Law to change the Property tax exemption rates (attached)

Clerk Niswender read the Notice of Public Hearing (attached).

No Public Comments

Trustee Conger made a motion to close the public hearing at 7:45 pm, seconded by Trustee Holl carried.

Trustee Holl made a motion that the Local Law No. 3 of 2025, A Local Law to change the Property tax exemption rates, be adopted, and upon roll call:

Trustee Conger voted "aye",

Trustee Holl voted "aye",

Trustee Morey voted "aye",

Mayor Neville voted "aye"

The resolution was duly declared adopted. (Type II Action under SEQR.)

Presentation & Discussion Items

- Cyber Security & Safety Meetings - Trustee Conger and Clerk Niswender attended an online discussion with New York State's Chief Cyber Officer, Colin Ahern as part of a NYCOM request. They discussed the concerns of cyber attacks on water and wastewater treatments locations and how the State is looking at funding some items in the State Budget. There was also discussion on municipalities getting a .gov website/emails. Clerk Niswender will look into that.

Action Items

- Review and discussion of proposed code amendment to Property Maintenance to include specifics for trees. Board approves to bring the updated Local Law to next months meeting.
- Trustee Morey made a motion to approve Brian Klumpp to survey property on Elmwood Ave to determine Village property lines for removal of dead trees. seconded by Trustee Holl, all in favor, carried.
- Review of Floodplain Local Law Draft - Trustee Conger made a motion seconded by Trustee Holl, all in favor, carried.
- Mayor Neville appointed Daniel Johnson as a part-time police officer at 26.72/hr. Anthony Sciarra has resigned.
- Trustee Conger made a motion to approve the 5/31/2024 Draft financials, seconded by Trustee Morey, all in favor, carried.
- Copier purchase discussion for the police- We can save approx. \$2,000 by purchase over leasing on a 5 year period. Trustee Conger made a motion seconded by Trustee Morey, all in favor, carried.
- Trustee Holl made a motion to approve the 3 year service contract with Penn Power Systems, seconded by Trustee Conger, all in favor, carried.

8:02pm Trustee Conger made a motion to adjourn to the Bid Opening on February 19, 2025 at 12noon.

Groton Village Board of Trustees Meeting
RFP Bid Opening

Wednesday, February 19, 2025

Trustee Conger	Nancy Niswender - Clerk
Mayor Neville	Angela Conger - Deputy Treasurer
Trustee Morey	

12noon Mayor Neville resumed the meeting for the RFP Bid opening.

Bid for the CDBG Planning project were opened and read aloud as follows:

- **CDBG Planning 487CP144-24**

Thoma Development Consultants	\$42,000
CT Male	\$42,000
MNS	\$36,824
- Bids were reviewed and recorded on a scoring sheet.
- Trustee Conger made a motion to accept the Thoma Development Consultants Bid, seconded by Trustee Morey, all in favor, carried.
- **CDBG Planning 487HR312-24**

Thoma Development Consultants	
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- Trustee Conger made a motion to accept the Thoma Development Consultants Bid, seconded by Trustee Morey, all in favor, carried.

12:30pm Trustee Conger made a motion to adjourn to the budget meeting on March 8, 2025 9am

Groton Village Board of Trustees Meeting
Budget Workshop

Saturday, March 8, 2025

Trustee Conger
Mayor Neville
Trustee Morey

Trustee Holl
Nancy Niswender - Budget Officer

9:10am Mayor Neville resumed the meeting for the budget workshop

- Budget Officer Niswender provided items for discussion for budget review.
- After reviewing the board asked to have a meeting with Lt. Boice of the Police department to discuss some items.
- Budget Officer Niswender will contact Lt. Boice once he returns to work and set up a meeting to continue the budget process.

11:55am Trustee Conger made a motion to adjourn to the budget meeting to be determined after speaking with Lt. Boice

Groton Village Board of Trustees Meeting
Budget Workshop - continued

Wednesday, March 12, 2025

Trustee Conger	Trustee Holl
Mayor Neville	Lt. Boice
Trustee Morey	Nancy Niswender - Budget Officer

Mayor Neville resumed the meeting at 4pm.

- Police budget items were reviewed and explained.
- The Board asked Budget Officer Niswender to prepare the tentative budget for review at a future meeting.

5:30pm Trustee Conger made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Niswender
Village Clerk-Treasurer/Administrator

Village of Groton

Electric Department Report

February 10, 2025

Work Completed

- Safety School in Endicott
- Plowed snow
- Took down decorations in Freeville and Dryden
- Picked up Christmas trees
- Changed faucet at the Village office
- Changed pressure relief valve on boiler at the Police Dept.
- Replaced box and rear springs on old blue truck
- Picked up snow
- Helped DPW with 2 water leaks
- Changed breaker in panel box in substation
- Cleaned bucket and digger for yearly inspection
- Cleaned garage
- Replaced streetlight
- Repaired security light
- Reattached house service on Carpenter Ave.
- Read meters
- Non-pay shut offs
- Put up 2 streetlights on Railroad Ave.
- Had hot sticks, blankets, jumpers and grounds tested



Village of Groton

308 Main Street, PO Box 100 ♦ Groton, NY 13073

Phone: 607-898-3966 ♦ Fax No. 607-898-4177

TDD: New York State Relay 1-800-662-1220

e-mail: customerservice@grotonny.org

Mayor.....	Christopher J. Neville
Trustees.....	Elizabeth T. Conger
	Michael G. Holl
	Jean E. Morey
	Terrance E. Walpole
Clerk-Treasurer/Administrator	Nancy Niswender
Dept. of Public Works Supv.	Chad M. Shurtleff
Electric Utility Supv.	Stephen E. Teeter
Police OIC.....	Lt. Troy Boice
Code Enforcement Officer	Ted Skibinski
Director of Recreation.....	Becky Koenig

Department of Public Works

Jan 21 – Feb 18 2024

Completed Work/Projects:

- Plowing Snow and salting on a regular basis
- Install a new flat bed on a service truck
- Continue work on the street sweeper
- Repair and service plan for waste water generator
- Repair 3 frozen and broken water meters
- Repair a broken water main joint on S. Main St.
- Clean and organize inventory in the storage building
- Dig and repair a curb box at 303 Barrows St.
- Meet with a contractor repairing a sewer lateral at 211 Main St.
- Remove ice build up on driveways from water leak
- Clean and haul away snow and ice pack on Main and 222
- Repair broken drum filter at sewer plant
- Water samples – monthly

Schedule of Work

- Take street sweeper to Cyncon in Rochester
- Sample sewer manholes for ammonia
- Water withdrawal report
- Install new check valve at the sewer plant
- Install new valves and plumbing at the pool
- Fire hydrant repairs

Village of Groton

Fuel Usage Report in Gallons

Dates: 02/18/2025

	Unleaded	Diesel
DPW	56	329
Electric	66	0
Fire	90	60
Police	128	



**Groton Joint Recreation Committee
Becky Koenig- Director Report
February 2025**

Winter Programming

- Youth Programming
 - Wrestling Season- Running well, no issues reported
 - Youth Travel Basketball
 - Jennifer Turner banned from all games for the season due to behavior at Jan 18th girls game. Banned per Cortland Youth Bureau.
 - K-2 basketball skills & drills. Running well, 34 participants-**Boys and Girls**
 - Next year we will offer 3rd grade skills & drills vs travel. This will help with development and participation.
 - Youth Open Rec Soccer- 1 day per week working on skills/fun games. Free & no registration.
 - Solid attendance- extending it into February.
 - Youth Volleyball
 - Will start in March 3rd- April 15th. Expanding the age to 4th-8th grade this year. Program will be free.- **Boys and Girls**
 - Red Cross Babysitting Course **Keith Davenport will be teaching.**
 - February 22nd-Registration fee covered by 21st Century Grant.
- Adult Programming.
 - New Program: Chair yoga. Good response from the community. Instructor currently doing it for free. Tues/Thurs 11:15am-12:45pm.
 - Yoga- running Tues/Thurs 10-11am in community room.
 - Group Hike event 10 with The Good Neighbor.
 - Running well. We will run it again February 8th.
 - Co-Rec Volleyball- Mondays 7-8:30pm @ HS gym
 - Well attended. We've had enough participants to run two courts.
 - Running another sewing class in February/March. 7 participants currently. **Feb 23rd and March 8th- Free but Flo asked participants to bring their own fabric.**

Other Items

- Cabin Fever- March 1st
 - Booked Cornell Raptors for the entire event plus 1 hour presentation
 - Booked bounce house, Sciencenter, Crossroad the clown, photo booth
 - Evening activity. 6-7pm field day games run by me for 1st-6th grade. 7-8:30 open gym with basketball & volleyball grades 7th-12th. **Asked Girl Scouts and Honor society to volunteer.**
- Adopt-A-Trail
 - 3 new volunteers: Jane Chauncey (Upper Sovocool), Bryan Gorges (Upper Loop), Fouts Farm (Sykes Trail). Current volunteers Varsity Track (Track Trail and School Trail), Scouts (Spring St. Trail, Lower Loop, Scout's Way). Sovocool Trail is without an assigned volunteer.
 - **Scheduling a Community Wide Trail Clean up day and asked for volunteers.**
- Cross Country Skis are available to check out at the library. We've had multiple requests for equipment!
- Baseball Skills & Drills- 3year old-Kindergarten. **Run 5 weeks for 45 minutes**
 - Meet 1x per week, 5 weeks. Dates TBD. Cover basics of the game.
- Summer camp planning has started. I've confirmed camps with most instructors.

- Adding adult photography “camp”. Meeting weekly in the evenings. Will run for 6 weeks.
- Beginning monthly meetings with Kate Shanks-Booth, Director of Youth Services Dept, Tompkins county. All rec directors present for the county. The goal is to establish connections and find ways the YSD can support our programs. Starts next week.

Professional Development

- Water Safety Instructor Certification-April 17th-20th
- Lifeguard Management-Online Required every two years.

Program Manager
Keith Davenport

Cornell Cooperative Extension Coordinator
Shelley Lester
Athena Steinkraus, Asst. Coordinator

Tompkins County Youth Services
Kate Shanks-Booth
Rick Alvord

Youth Representative

Groton Youth Commission

143 Cortland St, Groton, NY 13073

Chair
Glenn E. Morey

Vice Chair
Elizabeth T. Conger

Board Members
Josh Dwyer
Linda Koenig
Brian Klumpp
Kristin Prugh

Meeting Minutes February 5, 2025

The February 5, 2025 meeting of the Groton Youth Commission was called to order by Chairman Glenn Morey at 7:00PM. Members present were Vice Chairman Betty Conger, Assistant Coordinator Athena Steinkraus, Kristin Prugh, Josh Dwyer, Program Manager Keith Davenport, Rural Youth Services Rep Rick Alvord, CCEC Coordinator Shelley Lester and Brian Klumpp were excused. Sara Knobel has resigned. Thank you Sara, for your years of serving on this Commission.

Email received from the Youth Representatives, apologizing for missing the meeting.

Secretary's Minutes:

Minutes for January 8 were accepted on a motion by Josh, seconded by Glenn, and carried.

Report: Keith Davenport: Keith's full report was distributed to those present. (attached) Discussion regarding Field Trips for the Summer Camp. Looking for other possible destinations than the Syracuse Zoo.

Report: Athena Steinkraus: Final Camp budget will be presented next month. Newsletter has been sent. Camp registration opens February 10.

Report: Rick Alvord: The Send A Kid to Camp Flyer was presented for a final look. Flyer was distributed about the Annual Tompkins County 4-H Duck Race to be held on April 27. Rick also presented a flyer concerning the Community Health Survey conducted by Tompkins County Whole Health. Also, a QR code for Youth Opportunity Map for Youth Services in the County.

New Business: Accepted Sara Knobel's resignation from the Commission.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40PM

Next meeting is March 5, 2025 @ 7:00PM

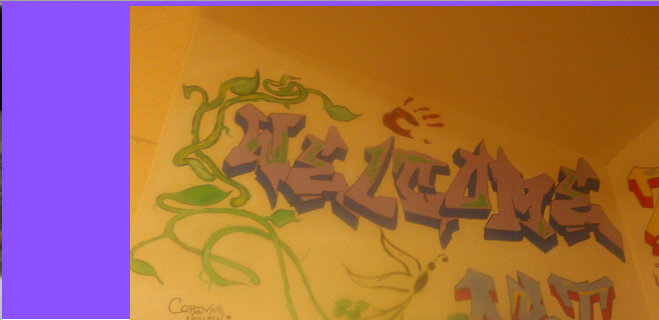
Submitted by
Elizabeth Conger
Vice Chair



Groton Youth Services



JANUARY 2025



TAKEN BY JONATHAN

YOUTH HIGHLIGHT

Anthony



TAKEN BY JONATHAN

Anthony is awesome, We have watched him grow his leadership skills, He has become a leader amongst his peers. He loves any game that keeps him active and has a great sense of humor. He is engaged and he also comes up with really cool games. Anthony has displayed great teamwork, helping come with skits in pixel passions, listening to others ideas and incorporating them in the skit.




GROTON YOUTH SERVICE
FACEBOOK PAGE



Keith E. Davenport
Groton Program Manager

For inquiries or to learn more about our programs, please contact us

 <https://bit.ly/GrotonRYS>

 (315) 283-5476

 kd528@cornell.edu

BROOMSTICK BRIGADE

3pm -5:30pm, Mondays:
January 13, 20, 27 February 3, 10, 24

Grades: 3rd - 8th

At Groton Library

Males: 8, Females: 1, ADA: 7

Life Skills: Teamwork, Critical Thinking,

"Mr. Keith the Spell is pronounced Leviosa not Leviosaaa"- Adelin



In Broomstick Brigade the youth are having fun discovering the world of wizards. The first day they had a mini party watching the first Harry Potter Movie and they had fun snacks from the Harry Potter Train Trolley. The second day the participants learned how to whittle their own wand and played the game Harry Potter Clue.

The following week the students played a virtual online Harry Potter escape room and built a Harry Potter Lego set. The escape room was really fun but difficult to figure out it took all the youth's skills to get through it.

PIXEL PASSIONS

3pm -5:30pm, Tuesdays:
January 21, 28 February 4, 11, 25

Canceled Jan 14, 2025

Grades: 6th - 8th

At Groton Middle School

Males: 3, Females: 1, ADA: 4

Life Skills: Communication, Marketable Skills



On the first day the students learned how the camera worked, how to zoom in and out, and how to record. Then they went around the school taking pictures of any murals they could find. The students took a Lego shoot one of our students' creations.

In the last session they made a video skit where everyone pretended to be a tv news anchor.



GLOBAL GOURMET GROUP

3pm -5:30pm Wednesdays:
Jan 22 February 5, 12, 26: 2025

Canceled Jan 15, 2025

Grades: 6th - 8th

At Groton Middle School

Males: 2, Females: 4, ADA: 5

Life Skills: Personal Safety, Cooperation



As most of the students are new the program began by reviewing cooking and baking safety rules.

Youth had a great time learning how to make Baw Kwa which is a traditional recipe for the Lunar New Year, They also made Longevity Noodles; interesting fact the are cut long to show you will have a long life.



FLASH FOCUS

3pm -5:30pm, Thursdays:
Jan 23, 30 February 6, 13, 27: 2025

Canceled Jan 16, 2025

Grades: 2nd -5th

At Groton Elementary School

Males: 4, Females: 5, ADA:9

Life Skills: Social Skills, Learning to Learn



TAKEN BY NIICHOLAS

The Flash Focus Program has included an awesome Lego and dinosaur shoot. The students had to come up with their own designs and take pictures. Most of the students choose to also create videos and a story line which was extremely creative.

Youth in the program are learning about cameras and what all the buttons do, day one we went over what a flash is how to zoom. Their favorite thing they have learned so far is how to record. They have asked me to go over the parts of the camera in more detail wanting printouts to make it easier for them to know what the cameras can do, which we will go over the next program.

4-H Duck Race 2025



CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION TOMPKINS COUNTY IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THAT THE 4-H DUCK RACE WILL TAKE PLACE ON SUNDAY, APRIL 27TH, 2025 FROM 11AM-4PM. JOIN US TO WATCH 3000 BRIGHT YELLOW RUBBER DUCKS TUMBLE OVER THE CASCADILLA CREEK FALLS AT THE CORNELL BOTANIC GARDENS' CASCADILLA GORGE TRAIL THEN BOB DOWN THE CREEK IN A FRANTIC AND FABULOUS RACE TO CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION ON WILLOW AVENUE.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Feb 18, 2025: Winter Olympics
- Feb 19, 2025: RYS Board Games
- Feb 20, 2025: Winter Olympics (Backup Day)
- April 27, 2025: Tompkins County 4-H Duck Race
- April 28 -May 1, 2025: Spring Camp Director Inservice
- June 30 -July 3, 2025: Groton Camp Training Week
- July 7 -August 15, 2025: Groton Camp



TAKEN BY JONATHAN

TRAININGS & MEETINGS

- Jan 7, 2025: 12pm -1:30pm, PYD Training Circles with 30 Mins prework
- Jan 10, 2025: 10:30am -12pm Winter Olympics Planning Meeting
- Jan 21, 2025: 1pm -2pm, 4-H Monthly Camp Director Meeting
- Jan 24, 2025: 10:45am -12:15pm Winter Olympics Planning Meeting
- Jan 28, 2025: 12pm -1:30pm, PYD Training Circles with 30 Mins prework
- New Director Orientation, Leadership and Supervision Section Completed



Cornell Cooperative Extension
Tompkins County

