

# Groton Village Board of Trustees Meeting

Monday, October 18, 2021

7:00pm

7:05pm Mayor Neville welcomed everyone to the meeting.

## **Board Members**

Trustee Conger  
Trustee Morey  
Trustee Walpole (7:12pm)  
Mayor Neville  
Trustee Holl

## **Others in attendance:**

Nancy Niswender - Clerk  
Chad Shurtleff - DPW Suprv.  
Steve Teeter - Elec Suprv.  
Mike Anderson - Code Officer  
Lt. Troy Boice  
Ben Nelson - Fire Chief  
Rick Neville - Fire Dept  
Charles Rankin  
Jennifer Jones - Rec Dir

Lela Bones  
James Morningstar  
Katherine Herleman  
Stephanie Agurkis  
Briggs Seekins  
Bridgette Heath

Mayor Neville requested a moment of silence to honor Ed Smith who passed away October 16th. Ed was a dedicated Village Employee for 42 years, and an active community member, and a member of the Groton Fire Department for over 60 years. Our thoughts go out to his wife Mary Ann and their family.

Trustee Conger made a motion to approve the August 16, 2021 amended minutes and September 20, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes, seconded by Trustee Walpole, carried.

## **Audit of claims and approval thereof.**

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

### **General Fund**

|                           |           |           |
|---------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| A260 Insurance Recoveries | 18,094.31 | -         |
| A1620.21 Buildings New    | 12,905.69 |           |
| A1620.2 Buildings         |           | 31,000.00 |
| A3120.4 Police Cont.      | 13,500.00 |           |
| A1620.47 Roof Repair      |           | 13,500.00 |

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

### **Abstract #**

|           |            |
|-----------|------------|
| GENERAL   | 244,554.30 |
| WATER     | 8,569.96   |
| SEWER     | 24,678.27  |
| ELECTRIC  | 53,529.38  |
| JOINT REC | 107.68     |

Seconded by Trustee Morey, all in favor, carried.

**Monthly Department Reports:**

**Electric Department:**

**Supervisor Teeter reviewed his report submitted (attached to the minutes)**

Additional Items discussed:

- Jack was scheduled to attend his final week of training, but it was rescheduled for Nov 2nd due to COVID
- Car pole accident on Saturday. They had to change out the pole.
- Helped dig holes for salt shed.

**Department of Public Works**

**Supervisor Shurtleff reviewed his report submitted (attached to the minutes)**

Additional Items discussed:

- Had help with the Towns of Groton & Dryden with paving.
- Annual Health Dept inspection of water plant. Have some new testing on lead & copper in 2024.

**Police Department**

**Lt. Troy Boice Reported**

- Department has been very busy.
- We have a purchase order for a new vehicle that has been budgeted for. \$30,074.00 from Joe Cecconi's Chrysler Complex (state bid)
- Getting ready for Trunk or Treat

**Fire Department**

**Chief Ben Nelson reported:**

- Air Packs annual inspection
- Hose inspection - all but 100' passed
- Ladder test scheduled for Tuesday morning
- New Tanker 821 in service.
- Kindergarten class came for a visit.
- The department has been responding to several accidents lately.

**Code Enforcement**

**Officer Andersen Reported:**

| Code Activity:   |    | Estimated Cost of Work to be done: |
|------------------|----|------------------------------------|
| Building Permits | 34 | \$ 600,000.00                      |
| Roofing Permits  | 39 | \$ 248,000.00                      |

**Joint Recreation**

**Trustee Conger reported:**

Trustee Conger reported the Joint Recreation Report from Jennifer Jones (attached to these minutes)

- Mago Martin was at the Joint Rec Meeting and reported on the proposed school and field upgrades.

**Groton Youth Commission**

**Trustee Conger reported:**

Trustee Conger reported the GYS April Report from Nick Wager (attached to these minutes)

### **Presentation & Discussion Items**

- Presentation from Lela Bones - Groton Off Leash Dog Park - have 34 signers on a petition. To benefit: Exercise dogs, Community enrichment, increases traffic safety and reduces off leash dogs as in a controlled area. Features - fenced in areas, separate for small/large dogs. Possible options, Sykes Park and area over across from park Lindeman Ave. Expenses - fencing, grass cutting, bags and cleanup supplies. Some willing to write grants. We will review areas. Presenters will need to research all aspects of maintenance and cost and get back to the Board.
- Jennifer Jones, Recreation Director - Presentation on Pool Repairs  
There are many layers of paint on the pool. We received an inspection and quotes. The project would require, grant funding, Town funding, Village Funding and plan ahead. Replastering would require approx. 6" of paint and Marsite and replacing. The damage is not yet into the marsite, but could get worse in the future. Not yet facing a major failure but need to plan. We will look into the 5-10 year budget. NYS Historical Parks & Rec EPF Grant would be a 50/50 cost.

### **Public Comments**

- Support of the dog park and keep business and activities here. Be able to commune more with other residents. Would be willing to help with Grant writing and non-profit ideas.
- Bridgette Heath - Also came in support of dog park and getting people out and together. This will make it easier for people to work around their schedules.
- Stephanie Agurkis - Also supports the Dog Park. This would be another good asset for the community.
- Discussion continued: We would need solutions for maintenance. Would be looking at collaboration with volunteers, organizations.

### **Action Items**

- Trustee Conger made a motion to adopt the Resolution to Adopt the Tompkins County Hazard Mitigation Plan , seconded by Trustee Walpole, all in favor, carried.
- Trustee Walpole made a motion to adopt the Resolution to approve the Municipal Cooperative Agreement for 2022 with the Greater Tompkins County Municipal Health Insurance Consortium, seconded by Trustee Morey, all in favor, carried.
- Trustee Conger made a motion to Nominate Rick Neville Sr. as TC Environment Management Council membership representation from the Village , seconded by Trustee Holl, all in favor, carried.
- Trustee Walpole made a motion to approve the Police Department 2021 Dodge Charger estimate of a state bid of \$30,0074.00 from Joe Cecconi's Chrysler Complex, seconded by Mayor Neville, all in favor, carried.
- Review of CT Male Cost Estimates of Sewer repair and upgrades, from recent grant process. Discussion of need to raise sewer costs to cover higher costs to operate and to do the upgrade the system. There is an EFC Grant that will cover 25% of costs the deadline is November 22nd. Trustee Conger made a motion to proceed with the grant application, seconded by Trustee Morey, all in favor, carried.
- Groton Ambulance Narcotics safe replacement discussion. Trustee Walpole made a motion to purchase the two safe replacements and to adjust the budget from the contingency account to cover the cost, seconded by trustee Morey, all in favor, carried.
- Trustee Holl discussed how people are abusing the use of the ambulance. Should we make this a paid service? Comments - they would not be able to remain a volunteer ambulance. Most that abuse wouldn't pay anyway. Another discussion was T-Cat service. As it is government funded they would lose funds if less mileage. We should explore this again to determine how many are actually using it.

8:24pm Mayor Neville made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss a specific personnel., seconded by Trustee Conger, carried.

Trustee Walpole made a motion to return from executive session, seconded by Trustee Holl , carried.

9:03pm Trustee Conger made a motion to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Niswender  
Village Clerk-Treasurer/Administrator

Draft

GROTON JOINT RECREATION COMMITTEE  
October 06, 2021 5:30 PM

Scott Weeks called the meeting to order at: 5:38pm.

Present were: Betty Conger, Scott Weeks, Crystal Young, Leon Brockway, Rec Dir. Jennifer Jones, Olivia Howarth, Jennifer Foote-Dean VIA Zoom, Margo Martin, Mark Triolo

The meeting minutes were reviewed from the previous meeting:

Motion made to approve the minutes by: Betty Conger

2<sup>nd</sup> by: Crystal Young  
carried.

Financial Reports will be sent as soon as Nancy is done with year end reporting.

Margo Martin updated that indoor sports are planning to go ahead and they will be following the same protocol as last year. Will need a sight manager to track tracing and a mask must be worn at all times.

Margo presented the 3 part capital project they have been working on-

1- Update electrical, pipes, paving and more at the school.

2- Academic- expand the STEAM LAB into elementary school to get them excited at a younger age. It would be located in the second grade wing at Elementary school.

3- Athletic fields- renovating Ross Field and replacing it with turf, and moving the baseball field up to Elementary school. The turf compared to grass would be a \$40,000 difference but the turf would allow more activities- soccer, softball, community space, host tournaments and would not be affected by weather.

Voting will be on December 7th and if this is passed then fall 2022 sports will be able to play on the new field. There would be a 0% tax increase due to the cash on hand, reserves, our poor district which causes state aid to cover about 89%.

Margo requested that when the committee begins to meet and see coaches and parents to share this information with them and to promote voting on December 7th regardless of their vote.

## Recreation Director Report

Director Jones provided the following report:

### **Groton Joint Recreation Committee Jennifer Jones- Director Report October 2021**

#### Fall Programming:

- Youth Football, Youth Cheerleading, and Youth Soccer are all moving smoothly. The weather has been the biggest headache. We have been able to secure some gym space for rainy nights.
- Yoga classes will be moving indoors- Schedule & location TBD
- Dance with Camille- Mondays at GES Gym. Open to ages 3-16, Ballet, Tap, and Interpretive classes are offered. Students are able to go right from class to the gym which is very convenient for parents.

#### Winter Programming:

- Youth Basketball- registration will open on Oct 13<sup>th</sup> for grades 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>. We will be participating in the John Tobin Travel League again this year. K-2<sup>nd</sup> programming will be in Jan/Feb.
- Youth Wrestling- TBD based on coaching availability. Normally Feb/March
- Sewing programming will be coming this winter by Flo Allen. Details TBD.
- Karate programming will be coming this winter by Cayuga Lake Seido Karate. Details TBD. Talked to PD about self defence day.- emailed Troy- *Crystal teaches self defence and for women.*
- Zumba/ Jazzercise Classes are also a possibility. I have reached out to local instructors about teaching in Groton.

#### Background Checks:

- Fee increasing by \$1.05 per background check. (\$8.95 to \$10.00)

#### Pool Updates:

- The Town Board is supportive of moving forward with the renovation plans
- I will present to the Village Board this month
- Would like to find another company to compare bids

#### Spring 2022 Planning

- Youth Baseball will be moving to Little League- field issues to work out
- Youth Softball will be staying with Cathy Stage League

## Summer 2022 Planning

- The Concert Committee is assembled. Jennifer, Crystal, and 4 Legion members Fred, Frank, Paul, and Gary. I have half of the concerts scheduled. We are also working on rotating different food trucks for each week. Really pleased with putting everyone's thoughts together- more food trucks and good bands to bring business.

### Grants & Professional Development:

- Summer Concerts Grant- Due in Dec
- Cabin Fever Grant- Submitted
- Legacy Grant for Tennis Courts- \$5,000 Award deferred to 2022

### **Discussion/Action Items**

Briefly talked about Trunk or Treat and if the committee would be able to take it over due to the loss of previous coordinators. Betty said to touch base with Connie Wilcox ([wilcoxc83@live.com](mailto:wilcoxc83@live.com)) regarding the American Legion plans for Halloween. Nick Wagner has also expressed his interest in helping.

### **Trail Committee:**

Scott mentioned they had a great day of clean up and repairs on the trails.

Sam Hughes has shown interest in adopting a part of the trail as well as the cross country team and cub scouts who have been helping on the trail maintenance.

Motion to adjourn at 7:00pm made by: Leon Brockway  
2nd: Betty Conger

Next meeting- November 2nd

Submitted by:

Olivia Howarth

Village of Groton

Deputy Treasurer