

# Groton Village Board of Trustees Meeting

Monday, May 17, 2021

7:00pm

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

## Board Members

Trustee Conger  
Trustee Morey  
Trustee Walpole  
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  
Alvin Howell - WWTP Operator

Trustee Walpole made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 19th & May 4th Board Meeting Minutes, seconded by Trustee Morey , carried.

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

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

### General Fund

A8010.41	ZONING-ZBA	150.00	
A8010.4	ZONING		150.00

### Water Fund

F8340.1	TRANSMISSION - PS	630.00	
F8330.1	TREATMENT - PS		630.00

### Community Development

CD2401	INTEREST	4.34	
CD2170	CD INCOME	8,750.00	
CD9901.9	INTERFUND TFR		8,754.34

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

### Abstract #12

GENERAL	145,128.07
WATER	8,002.11
SEWER	8,149.06
ELECTRIC	79,939.58
JOINT REC	2,144.90

Seconded by Trustee Holl, all in favor, carried.

## **Presentation & Discussion Items**

- Groton Olde Home Days - Flo Allen, Groton Olde Home Days Organizer, inquired if the Village Board is in favor of the Groton Olde Home Days taking place this year. She stated that all entertainment will be in compliance with the COVID guidelines that are in place at the time. The Carnival will be fenced in to control #'s. She also mentioned that they are keeping the amount of activities smaller this year to help with overcrowding. There will be the craft & collectibles at the Town barn, pony rides and petting zoo, a BMX show and the parade is being planned. Fundraising will soon begin. The Village Board was in agreement to have the event take place this year.
- Jennifer Jones- Recreation Director gave a report on the summer camp programs and current numbers. The concerts are set, although the Old Timers band may not be able to perform. She also reviewed the operation of the pool this summer. The pool will be open to Groton Residents and guests. We will be using a registration system called Pool Pass. 10am-12noon will be for summer camp, 12noon-1pm for lap swim & preschool lessons in the kiddie pool. Remaining swim lessons will be determined on availability of guards. The goal is to open the pool on June 21st. There is a pool inspection planned for May 24th, to examine the condition of the pool before it is filled. There are 7 programs planned for summer camp. Fire camp is already up to a count of 60. Camps are almost full at this point. The Board agreed that this is a good plan for this year.

## **Monthly Department Reports:**

### **Electric: Supervisor Teeter**

- Began brush cleanup around the village.
- New Employee Jack Breed started work on May 3rd and begin safety training. Then was sent to the apprentice school.
- Spent the next few days getting him ready for the school. He will continue on with the remaining classes scheduled for the year.
- Transformer for C&D arrived and will be installed.
- New pole scheduled to be set up on Spring Street.
- Transformer on Cayuga Street to be set.
- Most brush is done, a little more to finish up on.

### **Department of Public Works**

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

- Will need to change out one fire hydrant.
- Pool paint on backorder to June.
- Discussion of Chlorine availability.
- Part time seasonal workers on list to be approved.
- New Hire applications for the full time laborer position are being reviewed.

### **Alvin Howell - Waste Water Treatment Plant Operator**

- Had the panel for the inflow pump rebuilt. They also provided a backup pump.
- The whole system is being looked at as many items are hard to find. This will give them a chance to find parts.
- Other pumps quit pumping. Tubing that goes in pumps are obsolete. \$8,000 for kit. A new company was able to get a new pump at the cost of the kit. They are going to look at the SCADA system which controls the plant
- Still catching up on the sludge. Hoping to begin hauling liquid sludge beginning in June to help move it quicker, and reduce the use of the press and cut back on chemicals.

### **Police Department**

### **Lt. Troy Boice Reported**

- Will be updating the computers, still comparing. The County upgraded their software, so our computers are out of date.
- Groton Olde Home Days - After some complaints, it was decided to not allow the side-by-sides at the event. Only allowable will be the Fire Department and used for emergency use only.
- Discussion on email received from Mr. Walraven, Plastisol concerning the truck bodies that were left behind 22 months ago. Lt. Boice responded that due to the length of time this would be up to the new owner.

### **Public Hearing**

7:36pm The regular meeting was temporarily suspended and Mayor Neville opened the Public Hearing on Local Law #2 Amending Chapter 5 of the Code of the Village of Groton " Accounting Procedures".

Clerk Niswender read the Notice of Public Hearing.

Clerk Niswender reviewed the changes in the policy.

No Public Comments

7:40pm Trustee Holl made a motion to close the Public Hearing, seconded by Trustee Morey, carried.

Trustee Morey made a motion to adopt Local Law #2 Amending Chapter 5 of the Code of the Village of Groton " Accounting Procedures", and upon roll call:

#### All Those in Favor:

"aye"	Trustee Conger
"aye"	Trustee Morey
"aye"	Trustee Walpole
"aye"	Trustee Holl
"aye"	Mayor Neville

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

### **Fire Dept Chief Ben Nelson reported:**

- Burn ban is over.
- New ambulance should arrive by the end of the month.
- Fireworks will be held in the Town, no Village permit required. More advertising will be done. They will be held July 2nd - no rain date.
- Fire Camp will be held for 3 days this year. The camp will be held July 12-14 6pm - 8pm. Come lend a hand, bring your crocks. Lots of water!
- Groton Olde Home Days = the Fire Department will be offering food at the Legion and planning the parade. August 26-28.
- Jennifer Jones recommended an ariel map for Fireworks. Ben will look into it.

### **Code Officer Andersen Reported:**

- Sent out several letters on lawn mowing. Many are not mowing the patch between the sidewalk and the street, which is the homeowner responsibility as well.
- Rich Uhl's property sold off Elm St. Complaints of the bees from Beekeeping hives. We need to look at what we want to do with this as there is no current local law. This will also be brought up at the Planning Board meeting.
- C&D industries - They have a buyer for their old place, they were checking on if they can continue the same type of use. The Board agreed that if it was a similar type business that it would be allowed.

- Jeff Toolan called and wants a walk-through of the Hotel as he wants to open it up as an Airbnb. Mike contacted the State and as long as he is living there it can be classified as an Airbnb. Mike will do a walk through.
- 123 Hillcrest - Taking them to court as it has been several years and they are not responding to any of the several letters sent.
- 302 West Cortland St - have been dealing with for over 11 years. Mike will be setting up a court time if not complied by Friday.
- A concern on S. Main Street about landscaping business and whether he is doing business out of his home. Mike has asked him to clean it up.
- The renters in the trailer next door will be moving, an order of remedy was sent.
- Trustee Holl asked about chickens, no problem, just curious. Mike responded, Chickens ok, - no free range, no roosters, must be kept clean and sanitary, no odor.
- Mayor Neville inquired on the status of the court appearance for the trash problem. Officer Pinnette and the attorneys were there as well. The Judge will be making his decision at a later date. Clerk Niswender mentioned that there was a FOIL request done concerning this today.

### **Groton Youth Commission**

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

### **Action Items**

- Trustee Walpole made a motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the Mayor to sign the 2021 Tax Warrant for \$885,524,87 with water relievis of -0- (due to bill signed) sewer relievis of \$21,374.72 and unpaid charges of \$40.00, seconded by Trustee Morey, all in favor, carried.
- Trustee Conger made a motion for approval of Groton Fire (\$137,500) and Ambulance (\$137,500) Service Contracts, seconded by Trustee Holl, all in favor, carried.
- Discussion on Groton Fire Department Fireworks Permit. As the Fire department will be hosting the Fireworks outside the Village this year, no permit will be issued from the Village.
- A discussion followed on Groton School Prom Fireworks Permit request. Trustee Holl made a motion to approve Groton School Prom Fireworks Permit, seconded by Trustee Morey, all in favor, carried.
- A list of summer, seasonal and temporary staff was reviewed . (the list is attached to the minutes) Mayor Neville appointed all positions on the list.
- Trustee Conger made a motion to have the Board authorize the Mayor sign the 2021 Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins Youth Commission contract of \$52,332.00, seconded by Trustee Morey, all in favor, carried.
- Trustee Conger made a motion to have the Board authorize the Mayor to sign CDBG Project #487PR49-15 closeout, seconded by Trustee Walpole, all in favor, carried.
- Trustee Conger made a motion to approve registration for GFOA Virtual Conference, seconded by Trustee Morey, all in favor, carried.

8:28pm Trustee Conger made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss a specific personnel item., seconded by Trustee Walpole, carried.

8:50pm Trustee Morey made a motion to return from executive session, seconded by Trustee Conger, carried.

- Trustee Conger made a motion to declare the Gerald Moses Drive property tax map # 308.-1-1.5 a surplus property, seconded by Trustee Morey, all in favor, carried.
- Trustee Conger made a motion to accept the Purchase offer of \$37,000 (full market value) from American Storage for purchase of the Gerald Moses Drive Property tax map # 308.-1-5, seconded by Trustee Morey, all in favor, carried.
- Property was offered to the Village on Holliday Street. The Village Board declined the offer at this time.
- Remaining Vacation hours were reviewed. Employees either were at or under the maximum limit allowed or did not request to be paid out if they were over. Employees will be paid out as described in the Employee handbook.

8:57pm Trustee Walpole made a motion to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Niswender  
Village Clerk-Treasurer/Administrator