

# Groton Village Board of Trustees

Monday October 19, 2020 - 7:00pm

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

## Board Members

Trustee Conger  
Trustee Morey  
Trustee Walpole - arrived at 7:06  
Trustee Holl  
Mayor Neville

## Others in attendance:

Nancy Niswender - Clerk  
Charles Rankin - Admin  
Lt. Troy Boice  
Alvin Howell - WWTP  
Steve Teeter - Elec Suprv  
Chad Shurtleff - DPW Suprv.  
Ben Nelson - GFD

Rick Neville  
Kellie Lamoren  
Patricia Rodriquez

Trustee Conger made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 21, 2020 Board Meeting, seconded by Trustee Holl, carried.

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

Trustee Morey made a motion to approve the claims presented for review, Seconded by Trustee Holl , all in favor, carried.

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

### Abstract #5

GENERAL	\$	89,438.85
WATER	\$	6,305.24
SEWER	\$	22,315.69
ELECTRIC	\$	87,217.59
CAPITAL	\$	2,475.00

## Monthly Department Reports:

### Electric Supervisor Teeter

- Our side of the transformer of the Library is done. Once their electrician gets the wires completed it will be ready for inspection and then we will energize.
- ICF on Spring Street - Pole set. Their electrician is just getting started.
- A number of services throughout the Village being done. Four in the past couple of weeks. Two - three more coming up.
- Tree Trimming
- Changed bad transformer on South Main Street on Wednesday.
- NYMPA Semi annual meeting next week & IEEP Annual meeting is tomorrow.

**DPW Supervisor Shurtleff Report Submitted:**

**Department of Public Works**

**September 21 – October 19, 2020**

**Completed Work/Projects:**

- Finished paving Spring St.
- Match driveway approaches on Spring St.
- Brakes and service on the Hybrid truck
- Begin hauling in sand for winter
- Repair several pothole areas
- Repair tank telemetry at Elm St. tank
- Repair a fuel problem on truck #41
- Complete annual OSHA training
- Repair catch basins on Gerald Moses Dr.
- Remove fallen dead trees on the trail
- Service the leaf picker
- Begin picking up leaves
- Haul out spoils' pile behind the garage

**Schedule of Work**

- Flush hydrants
- Close the park
- Grade side hill at the park
- Haul in sand
- Install a new catch basin on Clark St.

**Additional Comments:**

Paving done - once payments are made we will submit for CHIPS - some areas received full amount - possible 20% loss.

Leaf Pickup from now to December 1st.

On water side of things - State health officials requiring test in emerging contaminants - will now be sampling for new ones annually beginning in January.

**Lt. Boice - Police Department Report:**

- Monthly report for September 2020
- 1/1/19 - 9/30/19
- 1/1/20 - 9/30/20

# of Complaints
216
2139
3080
<hr/> 941 difference
<hr/> 44% increase

- October has been really busy. Many thefts.

**Waste Water Treatment Plant**

**Trustee Walpole Reported:**

- Alvin has been winterizing and has had some piping replacing. He is verifying the hours used.
- The stock pile of the solids has been reduced and is back to a normal amount.

## **Trustee Conger Reported on Recreation and Youth Committees:**

### **Joint Recreation -**

#### **Fall Programming:**

- Science Center Partnership- Community nights will be on Thursday, Oct 22nd 4pm and Sunday, Oct 25th 10am at Sykes Memorial Park. Family friendly activities open to all ages and free to the community.
- Youth Cross Country- Cancelled for the fall.
- Youth Soccer program with Nick Wagner - working with the boys' varsity soccer coach to create some programming options for grades 3-6th similar to football camps.
- Youth Football- Four week youth football camp Saturday mornings at the park from October 17th - November 7th. One hour for 3rd/4th graders, one hour 5th/6th graders, 30 minute break between. Registration should be open by the end of the week and will be FREE! Following covid guidelines and will be communicating in detail with coaches and parents
- Yoga in the Park- Summer session came to an end on Sept 30th. Winter sessions will continue in a few weeks at the American Legion.
- Pick up Craft Series- possibly do a fall / winter series. Would be easy and low budget- pick-up on Saturday's.

#### **Winter Programming:**

- Art Programming- Currently in discussion with local art entities and the Community Arts Partnership about offering virtual or in person art classes this winter or fall.
- Cabin Fever most likely will not happen.
- Grants & Professional Development funds postponed until next year.

### **Youth Committee**

- Report: Nick Wagner: Welcome Nick. Nick has been working with Shelley to get acquainted with the Cornell system. Also, he has set up social media pages on Face Book and Instagram Page name is Groton Youth Services. He has been shadowing with program managers from other municipalities. He plans on meeting with Groton School Administrator Margo Martin. He has been working with the Groton Recreation Director Jennifer Jones on a small Youth Soccer Program at the Memorial Park. Sign-ups soon through the Groton Recreation website. Vote taken to go ahead with the Soccer program: all present were in favor. Vote taken to go ahead with the Soccer program: all present were in favor.
- Report: Rural Youth Services Director Kate Shanks-Booth Budget to Legislature: 12% reduction, as expected, but will be hiring a 4th full-time staff person. A staff retreat is planned to discuss future services and tech services needed by the municipalities. Recreation Partnership will remain intact, with a flat budget.
- Report: Groton Library Director Sara Knobel: Library is open with curbside service. Desk service is available by appointment. The addition is coming along. The furniture that is original to the building of 100 years ago is being refinished by B&B Vintage on South Main Street.

### **Report from Fire Chief Ben Nelson submitted:**

- 640 Fire and Rescue Calls listen
- 130 Ambulance Calls
- 770 Total Calls YTD
  
- Halloween plan, drive through/ walk through with social distancing. They will also have a chicken BBQ dinner- drive through.
- The Cornell Student mentioned last month has completed her paperwork.
- Hannah Rosenthal -Hook - application filed

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

- 43 building permits - \$1,168,000 worth of work.  
29 Roofing and window Permits - \$160,000 worth of work.
- Just starting to business safety checks, still holding off on approx. 400 residential due to COVID.
- Rackers Center on Spring Street - Windows in and roof done. Wiring and sheet rock to start.
- The Dollar General had a different Electrical inspector sticker and were notified that they would need to contact the village inspector Ferris. They contacted him and all ok.
- Called Norfe Pirro about trash at 166 that wasn't picked up on Friday.
- Peru Rd - Marks property barn has been taken down and looks good.
- Received letter from Department of State to request pool permits from 2016 to present from a complaint- He sent in copies of permits.
- Library coming along good
- Sheet rocking started in Dollar General - no systems in yet.

### **Action Items:**

- Trustee Morey made a motion to adopt a resolution designating the Village Office as the one polling place for the Village Elections on Tuesday, March 16, 2021, with polling hours from 12noon- 9pm, seconded by Trustee Holl, carried.
- Health Insurance Discussion including Insurance Holiday, Blue 365 and Fitness Memberships - Resolution to approve the Mayor to sign the Municipal Cooperative Agreements for 2020 (revised) & 2021 with the Greater Tompkins County Municipal Health Insurance Consortium.  
Trustee Conger made a motion to adopt a resolution to approve the Mayor to sign the Municipal Cooperative Agreements for 2020 (revised) & 2021 with the Greater Tompkins County Municipal Health Insurance Consortium, seconded by Trustee Holl, carried.  
Trustee Holl made a motion to change the fitness membership in handbook to include other fitness locations including online memberships at rate less than or equal to the Groton fitness center, seconded by Trustee Conger, carried.
- A discussion of the new records retention policy including digitally maintained documents.  
Trustee Conger made a motion to adopt the Retention and Disposition Schedule for New York Local Government Records, issued pursuant to Article 57-A of the Arts and Cultural Affairs Law, and containing legal minimum retention periods for local government records, seconded by Trustee Morey, carried.

- Review and discussion of updated Chapter 177, Subdivision of Land.  
Trustee Walpole made a motion to adopt a resolution to approve updated Chapter 177, Subdivision of Land and to have our attorney prepare a new local law, seconded by Trustee Morey, carried.
- Discussion of the Village Comprehensive Plan and the Tompkins County program to help with the update.  
Trustee Holl made a motion to adopt a resolution to proceed with the Village Comprehensive Plan and look into Tompkins County program to help with the update, seconded by Trustee Walpole, carried.
- Discussion of the Zoning Board/Planning Board - The Village Board will see if they can come up with a few names to be on the board.
- Discussion of Owasco Lake Management Council Documents and requests for resolutions: OLWMC's Lake Friendly Pledge and Sediment Control Ordinance The board will further review.
- Discussion to Increase Mike Perkins pay by \$1 to \$21 per hour for completing year 2 of Apprentice Training as of October 19, 2020  
Trustee Morey made a motion to increase Mike Perkins pay by \$1 per hour to \$21 for completing year 2 of Apprentice Training as of October 19, 2020, seconded by Trustee Holl, carried.
- Discussion of the Shared Services Agreement with NYSDOT.  
Trustee Walpole made a motion to approve Suprv Shurtleff to sign the Shared Services Agreement with NYSDOT, seconded by Trustee Morey, carried.

### **Public Comments:**

- Kelly Lamoren - resident of Town of Groton - Dryden /Groton Plus Human Dignity Coalition. Kelly state her concerns of confederate flag being sold. They organized a peaceful presence on Main Street. A lot of chatter was happening on of local sites. Upset that they are being sold and two business had confederate flags hanging. She handed out some cards on the group.  
Patricia Rodriguez - lives in town of Groton. Also concerned and know a lot of people in town that are immigrants and people of color. Would like to know what the Village Boards position is on this.

The Board has not yet had a discussion - and cannot give a comment from the Village Board. Trustee Walpole mentioned personally he feels the flag should be in a museum of a part of history, but he would not fly one. But as it is a first amendment right we are unable to stop what items people post or sell. He shared some of the events that happened during the time of the protest. Trustee Holl agrees with Trustee Walpole. There was discussion on if the Board would be having any additional discussion on the topic and what they could do.

### **Old Business**

- Building Project update discussion. Jared McCormick would like to attend the Board meeting next month and share his thoughts. Trustee Holl will contact him and we will add him to the agenda.
- Clerk Niswender gave an update on Social Media possibilities including Facebook. A Social Media policy was presented.  
Trustee Conger made a motion to adopt the Social Media Policy, seconded by Trustee Holl, carried.

8:37pm Trustee Conger made a motion to adjourn to executive session to discuss specific personnel concerns , seconded by Trustee Morey, carried.

8:56pm Trustee Conger made a motion to return from exec session, seconded by Trustee Walpole, carried.

- Trustee Conger made a motion to allow Groton Fire Department to use unleaded gasoline pumps for the ambulance, seconded by Trustee Morey, carried.
- Discussion of a Village LED Lighting Contest approved by the Board of Light Commissioners to help brighten up the season.

Next Monthly Meeting - Monday November 16, 2020

Trustee Conger made a motion to adjourn at 9:00pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Nancy Niswender  
Clerk-Treasurer/Administrator