

Groton Village Board of Trustees Meeting

Monday, December 17, 2018

Present: Mayor Neville, Trustees Morey, Conger, Holl and Walpole, Nancy Niswender - Clerk/Treas, Chad Shurtleff - DPW Supv, Ben Nelson -Fire Chief, Mike Andersen - Code Enf, Steve Teeter- Elec Utl. Supv., Lt. Tim Williams, Police OIC, Admin Charles Rankin, Glenn Morey- Tompkins County, Phil Esparza, Kayla Esparza, Jen Hammond, Neil Hammond, Renee Mann, Mark Humphrey, Irene Gutches, Jeanne Petrella, Mike Petrella, Donald Moses, Jacques Cote, Carmen Munson, Linda Carlisle, Marcy Exton

Mayor Neville opened the meeting at 7:00 pm

Trustee Morey made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 19th board meeting, seconded by Trustee Conger.

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

General Fund

From: Contingent Fund-1990.4-\$500.00 To: Programs for Aging - \$500.00

Seconded by Trustee Holl, carried. The above adjustments and claims paid are covered by the following lists of abstracts of audited vouchers:

Abstract #

GENERAL	\$ 126,604.80	ELECTRIC	\$ 35,361.20
WATER	\$ 10,253.29	JOINT REC	\$ 1,183.66
SEWER	\$ 12,389.60	BUILDING	\$ 32,410.82

Trustee Walpole made a motion to accept a resolution to adopt the amendment to the SEQRA line #19 from “yes” to “no” for the new municipal building project. Seconded by Trustee Morey, passed.

Trustee Walpole made a motion to approve the Town Fire and Ambulance Contracts – Fire \$137,500 and Ambulance \$148,500. Seconded by Trustee Holl, carried.

Public Hearing scheduled for Local Law #1 to override the tax cap for the January 21, 2019 meeting at 7:30pm.

Mayor Neville appointed new Part-Time Police Officer Troy Boice at a rate of \$20.00 per hour.

Trustee Conger made a motion to approve travel and attendance to the GFOA Conference for Nancy Niswender, and Travel for Chuck Rankin, Seconded by Trustee Walpole, carried.

Irene Gutches, Groton Rotary presented: – Planning preparedness seminar is planned for March or April at the Groton High School and would like to have some of the department heads attend to discuss

emergencies. The department heads noted they would be able to help out. Irene will contact the Village Office when they are ready to meet to discuss the agenda.

Glenn Morey Tompkins County Representative reported:

He will be attending occasionally to bring in updates. Glenn sits on the Budget and Personnel, Facilities and Infrastructure and Transportation Committees

Tompkins County Tax Rate 2019 is \$6.39 (.18 lower than last year)– Median Range of a House today is \$185,000, 2019 tax would be \$1,183.00

Solid Waste will go up \$3 per year due to the loss of plastic contracts.

Proposed county improvements: Baker Miller Bridge, roads to be repaved in our area – Lick St, Cobb St, and Salt Rd.

2019 Benefit Towns and Villages – Grant program - \$5,000 Parks and trails Joint Recreation Committee has been notified.

The Government Operations Committee has made the decision that the Assessment Review Board has been cancelled this year and will operate on a direct contact basis.

Mayor Neville verified that Tompkins County was responsible for all bridges and what determines when bridges are repaired or replaced.

Glenn Morey replied that all bridges are inspected and tested each year. Conversation continued on other area bridges.

Trustee Walpole inquired on who the Assessment Review Board would operate. Glenn Morey mentioned that they will continue to operate on a request basis.

Monthly department reports.

Electric:

Supv Teeter reported:

Last Tuesday and Wednesday – the 3 Electric workers attended the MEUA Engineering workshop in Syracuse. They did many classes including National Electric Code changes in 2 years; FR clothing – ARC testing and they may need to redo all of the rating in the future.

In January the Annual Safety school to begin in Endicott – this will be the first of 8 classes including the OSHA qualified personnel.

Switching school training is scheduled February 14th in Johnson City. The protocol has completely changed and all will need to attend and take a test to be qualified.

Last week had 30 more LED lights for the parking lights and will begin changing them out.

The new Electric department pickup was delivered and was licensed today.

Chuck Rankin – Massena Electric withdrew from NYMPA and violated the agreement – and then demanded \$3,000,000. NYMPA is dealing with and Chuck will keep the board informed.

DPW:

Supv Shurtleff reported:

A lot of plowing and moving of snow in November. DPW Finished hauling in sand for the winter mix. We assisted the sewer lateral repair at 103 Williams St.

Working on a weatherization project in the garage including insulation

Some of the plumbing is laid into the concrete has gotten plugged up and need to get wash and bath area back working.

Filter plant requires a new electric - Electric Department helping.

The DPW and Electric departments helped with Tree lighting.

Leaf pick up delayed due to snow and will come back around as they are able.

Groton Fire Department:

Chief Ben Nelson reported:

There has been over 800 calls YTD. End of year reports are being compiled.

Elections for officers will be 01/02/2019

Six EMTs completed their practical exam and will be taking the written-on Thursday.

802 Engine is listed on Auctions International.

Code Enforcement

Code Officer Anderson reported:

46 - roofing permits - \$ 400,000, 30 - building permits \$700,000

53 building inspections. He gives them 60 days to get back to him. He wonders if a local law should be passed to double the charge if no response.

The Bakery – at this point no grease trap required due to no deep frying. The Main Street location – has not responded to grease trap requirement – possibly the village (DPW) could send a letter stating the water will be shut off if not in compliance.

Inspected the nursing home – which does have a grease trap, but no record of cleanings and will keep a record now.

Trustee Walpole mentioned he visited the sewer plan and noted a lot of grease coming through.

Mayor Neville inquired how the school handled it and further discussion continued.

The Dollar Store floor has been finished and they are now putting up shelving and stocking. The hope to open by the 1st of the year.

200 West South Street – permit ran out at the end of November and should have it completed in the next couple of months. It was delayed as some errors were found. The Village Board agreed to let them have an extension at no additional fee due to this.

Police Report

Lt. Williams reported:

1677 calls YTD – slightly behind last year (278).

Two new hires training period was extended and should be ready in the next month to be working on their own.

The new Tahoe ready and getting the equipment transferred between the vehicles. Stonewell Bodies did the work and did an excellent job.

The 2014 went in for warranty work on the oil pump. The 2014 will replace the 2010 Tahoe (which will be up for auction)

Radar units taken to Albany for an annual certification.

New hire will replace Dana Smith.

Joint Recreation:

Trustee Conger reported:

Joint Recreation 67 kids in grades 3-6 playing youth basketball, travel season to start after the first of the year.

Gym schedule has been difficult. They ordered reversible jerseys so they can be used for multiple purposes.

Girls K-3 program will start in February. They are still looking for coaches for Boys K-2.

Wrestling beginning in February

Cabin Fever planning has begun. March 2nd. We have received a grant for Cabin Fever.

Trail Committee has been working on a community trail and will be working on a grant.

Summer lifeguard classes in Dryden in Cortland.

Youth Commission

Elementary Holiday gift class to benefit Groton Nursing Home

Games and Crafts program – 12 Elementary Kids,

Holiday Gifts for Jr. High – 11 students – Also for Nursing Home.

Holiday addition of - Chef it up

Youth Employment – 3 teens working with Groton Harvest Program.

Girl Ventures – 5 went to Cornell and took classes to see what a real day on campus would look like.

Girl Ventures went on a tasting tour of female owned restaurants in Ithaca.

Youth of the Month – Worked on goals and accomplished them and is working as an assistant in the Groton Harvest Program.

Co-op Ext Report on Camp – acct in the black! Budget for next year \$54,484

Janice Johnson - Our rep for Rural Youth Services is being transferred Shannon Alvord will be our new rep from Moravia.

Wastewater

Terry Walpole reported:

Continue grease concerns and other items. A cloth has been coming through the system creating problems. Alvin reported the flow is unusually high, but flowing smoothly.

Public Comments:

Carmen Munson – Stated a concern that she was not added to the agenda. Mayor Neville stated that she mentioned to him after her initial request that she did not need to attend the meeting and was not added to the agenda.

A detailed discussion on her Blanchard Heights property drainage issues followed.

Carmen stated her concerns of communication and not progressing as quickly as she would like.

Mayor Neville and others mentioned that it took a lot of time to get through all of the details. Trying to contact the current owners, the survey of the adjoining property and legal requirement to acquire easements to even evaluate the property is very time consuming.

Carmen presented requests to the Village Board.

Trustee Walpole inquired to Carmen if hers was the only property being affected by the waters at this point. She replied that it was only her property and the retention pond area.

Marcy Exton commented on flood this past year and the damage done and how they attempted to help.

A question was raised about whether Brian Klump had to have permission to survey property. Mayor Neville replied yes, otherwise he could be charged with trespassing.

Other public attendees made comments and suggestions and concerns.

Mayor Neville asked Carmen what year she put in the gabion baskets. She replied it was 2015. Mayor Neville asked about the pipe that was put in. Carmen mentioned she also put this pipe in the same year.

Carmen mentioned she had some minor flooding about 6 -7 years after she moved in and had someone come in and clear it and told her she should expect this as she had a creek on her property. Then it

happened a few more times and she took care of it and then had a larger issue in 2015 and has had a large expense to take care of.

Trustee Holl – Questioned if she purchased from Barden Homes. Carmen mentioned that she was not sure – it was confusing who it was actually processed through. Did you contact Barden Homes? Carmen called and left message and had no response.

Discussion continued on the Retention Pond and who takes care of.

Trustee Holl mentioned that this case has been discussed and the Village has been working on this and is trying to find the right solution. This is a difficult issue and takes a lot of work from a lot of different areas and takes time.

Trustee Walpole mentioned that we have a fiduciary responsibility we have to adhere to. Any action must be for the good of the community.

Trustee Morey made a motion made to adjourn 8:50pm

Nancy Niswender
Clerk Treasurer