

# 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**

A2680 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