

Groton Village Board of Trustees Meeting

Tuesday, January 20, 2026

Board Members

Mayor Neville

Trustee Holl

Trustee Morey

Trustee Walpole-absent

Trustee Conger-absent

Others in attendance:

Nancy Niswender - Clerk

Mike Perkins - Elec Supervisor

Chad Shurtleff - DPW Suprv.

Eric DeForrest - GFD Fire Chief

Mike Albro - YAWS

Ted Skibinski-Code Officer

Lt Troy Boice

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

Trustee Morey made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 15, 2025 Board Meeting, seconded by Trustee Holl, 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:

A0-7140-04	3,000.00	
A0-1950-04	343.51	
A0-1620-04	2,000.00	
A0-1990-00		5,343.51
J0-7145-41	192.78	
J0-7145-45	353.00	
J0-1990-04		545.78

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

	<u>Abstract #8</u>
GENERAL	57,276.31
ELECTRIC	250,087.72
WATER	19,751.50
SEWER	50,251.17
JOINT REC	5,380.97
CAPITAL	51,350.00

Seconded by Trustee Morey, all in favor, carried.

Monthly Department Reports:

Electric Department:

Supervisor Perkins report was submitted (attached to the minutes):

- Meters were read this month, some social media complaints. D Slocum replied that this month covered 5 weeks and was a colder month.
- AMI coming along. Working with communication between Edmunds and AMI software.
- Scheduled to change switching with NYSEG next week.
- Digger is complete and scheduled to be delivered by the end of the month.

Department of Public Works

Supervisor Shurtleff report submitted (attached to the minutes):

- Starting Cayden in the water plant training classes.
- Eagle Scout looking to do a sand volleyball at the park. More details to come.

Waste Water Treatment Plant

Mike Albro - Yaws Report was submitted and reviewed (attached to the minutes):

- Operator moved on - Mike is now down their full time. Working with other employees in getting their certifications.
- Working with Old Chatham working on pretreating and upgrading their process.
- WQIP Grant 1.4 million was awarded. This will be a big help.

Police Department

Lt. Troy Boice Reported

- Working on new Police building design.
- A couple thefts of mufflers.

Fire Department

reported the following:

	<u>2026 YTD</u>	<u>2025 Total</u>
Ambulance Calls	46	1042
Fire Calls	9	166
	55	1208

This years officers:

Eric DeForrest - Chief - 861
 Michael Lockwood - Deputy Chief - 862
 Josh Barron - 1st Assistant Chief - 863
 Alex Nemeth - 2nd Assistant Chief - 864
 Jillian Morales - 3rd Assistant Chief - 865

- Estimated fire losses for 2025 - \$64,350. Low compared to previous years.
- Working on dates for Pancake Breakfast.
- Chicken BBQ Feb 7th - 200 halves. Mac & Cheese & Beans.
- Review of 2025 report given.

Joint Recreation

Becky Koenig submitted the Joint Recreation report (attached to the minutes):

Groton Youth Commission

Trustee Conger submitted the Youth Commission report (attached to the minutes):

Code Office

Ted Skibinski - Code Officer submitted his report attached to the minutes:

- Old Chatham put in a permit for Milk Storage tanks.
- Provided off street parking requirements for review.
- 176 Cayuga Street - believing someone is taking things from home. She needs to contact the police. Lt Boice will talk with neighbor. Encourage homeowner to get house in better shape.

7:30 PM Public Hearing - Local Law #1 2026

- The regular meeting was temporarily suspended and Mayor Neville opened the Public Hearing on Local Law #1 - A LOCAL LAW TO OVERRIDE THE TAX LEVY LIMIT ESTABLISHED IN GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW §3-c .

Clerk Niswender read the Notice of Public Hearing (attached).

No Public Comments

Trustee Holl made a motion to close the public hearing at 7:33pm, seconded by Trustee Morey, carried.

Mayor Neville made a motion that the Local Law No. 1 of 2026, TO OVERRIDE THE TAX LEVY LIMIT ESTABLISHED IN GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW §3-c be adopted, and upon roll call:

Trustee Morey voted "aye",

Trustee Holl voted "aye",

Mayor Neville voted "aye"

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

7:35 PM Public Hearing on CDBG Grant

- The regular meeting was temporarily suspended and Mayor Neville opened the Public Hearing on FY 2024 Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program.

Clerk Niswender read the notice of the meeting and reviewed the details of the CDBG Grant program, (attached) and noted the copies of Program accomplishments handout and Housing Survey report handout which is also on the Village of Groton website.

Trustee Holl made a motion to close the public hearing at 7:40pm, seconded by Trustee Morey, carried.

No comments or questions on the grant at this time, but noted to contact Clerk Niswender if any future questions.

Discussion Items

- WQIP Grant and WWTP Project - It was posted that the Village of Groton has been awarded \$1.4 million toward the WWTP Belt filter press project. This will reduce the Bond necessary for WWTP upgrades from \$3.7 Million down to \$2.3 Million. In order to proceed with the project it is recommended we issue a \$600,000 BAN in March 2026 to initiate the project.

Trustee Holl made a motion to proceed with the BAN issuance amount TBD after review with Municipal Solutions, seconded by Trustee Morey, all in favor, carried.

Action Items

- The Village of Groton has been notified of a CDBG Housing Grant award of \$675,000. An RFP for Program Delivery and Administration was presented for review. Trustee Morey made a motion to approve the RFP to be submitted, seconded by Trustee Holl, all in favor, carried.
- The Village of Groton has received the contracts from Cornell Cooperative Extension \$61,002 for services and Tompkins County Youth Services \$34,394 for funding of the program. The Town of Groton is a partner in this program for youth programming and services. The Town of Groton is in discussion of continuing the services. The Village is contingent upon Town approval of the contracts.
- Trustee Holl made a motion to approve the Cornell Cooperative Extension Contract for \$61,002 for services contingent upon Town approval, seconded by Trustee Morey, all in favor, carried.
- Trustee Holl made a motion to approve the Tompkins County Youth Services contract \$34,394 for funding contingent upon Town approval, seconded by Trustee Morey, all in favor, carried.
- Trustee Holl made a motion to approve the CDBG Grant projects for R. Caldwell, S. Saam, K. Likel, D&B Barillaro, seconded by Trustee Morey, all in favor, carried.
- Trustee Holl made a motion to approve the revised employee training contract, seconded by Trustee Morey, all in favor, carried.

Village budget workshop scheduled for March 7, 2026.

7:53pm Trustee Holl made a motion to move into executive session to discuss Village Property, seconded by Trustee Morey, all in favor.

7:58pm Trustee Holl made a motion to move out of executive session, seconded by Trustee Morey, all in favor, carried.

No Action taken

7:59pm Trustee Holl made a motion to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Niswender
Village Clerk-Treasurer/Administrator