

Groton Village Board of Trustees Meeting

Monday, August 18, 2025

Board Members

Mayor Neville
Trustee Conger
Trustee Morey
Trustee Walpole
Trustee Holl

Others in attendance:

Nancy Niswender - Clerk
Lt Troy Boice
Mike Perkins
Chad Shurtleff - DPW Suprv.
Ted Skibinski

Mike Albro - YAWS
Dave Coish- YAWS
Mundaka & Erika Lee 109 Lincoln
Nathan - 114 Lincoln

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

Trustee Conger made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 21, 2025 Board Meeting, seconded by Trustee Walpole, carried.

Audit of claims and approval thereof.

Trustee Walpole made a motion to approve the claims presented for review.

Seconded by Trustee Holl, all in favor, carried.

Monthly Department Reports:

Electric Department:

Mike Perkins report was submitted (attached to the minutes)

- Friday afternoon - Gateways for AMI now reading and we can begin install. Consumer notification to go out first.

Department of Public Works

Supervisor Shurtleff report submitted (attached to the minutes)

- CHIPS should cover the paving this year.
- Questions about when the State last paved 222 and the connection of side streets to State roads. Intersections can be tough to maintain.

Waste Water Treatment Plant

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

- DEC Inspection - received a satisfactory report.
- Discussions with Old Chatham on future expansion. - Still having some issues and continuing to need bugs.
- Putting together an O&M log & will send to DEC.

Police Department

Lt. Troy Boice Reported

- Still short staffed - have not found anyone yet to hire. All set for Groton Olde Home Days.
- Jared Aiken going to training this week for new firearms.
- New guns to be received in October.
- Older Police Vehicle is ready for auction.

Joint Recreation

Trustee Conger no meeting this month

Groton Youth Commission

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

Code Office

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

Public Comments

- Mundaka & Erika Lee, 109 Lincoln Ave, Neighbor - Nathan 114 Lincoln Ave - a couple years back - having irritated sinus & throat. A lot of smoke in air. As time went on a couple times a week a large amount of smoke in evening and continues late. He feels it is making him sick. A couple years ago contacted the police who then contacted the fire department. The fire department found a fire pit on Barrows St. Contacted the office but as he didn't hear back contacted again and spoke with Ted- code officer. Concerned that things are getting burnt that shouldn't be. Nathan also discussed concerns. After much research he was directed to the Village Code, that directs it to Tompkins County Code, which directs it to NYS DEC. Village recommended he contact DEC.

Presentation & Discussion Items

- Discussion - Town of Groton Solar Project: Letter received of notice of SEQR review for South Main St Special Permit Applications. The Town of Groton would like to know if the Village Board of Trustees would like to be co-agents in the SEQR review as the Village is within 500ft of the border of this project. The Town would like a response by September 13th. The Village Board thanks the Town for consideration, but will pass on being a co-agent.

Action Items

- Trustee Walpole made a motion to approve correction to the May 20, 2024 Minutes to reflect the correct tax warrant which was voted in as follows: authorizing the Mayor to sign the 2024 Tax Warrant for \$951,217.11 seconded by Trustee Conger, all in favor, carried.
- Trustee Holl made a motion to approve the Mayor to sign the procurement agreement with BDP as notice to proceed, seconded by Trustee Walpole, all in favor, carried.
- Trustee Conger made a motion to approve the Groton Old Home Days Parade Permit, Saturday, August 23, 2025 seconded by Trustee Walpole, all in favor, carried.
- Trustee Holl made a motion to approve the Groton Olde Home Days Festival Permit for August 21-23, 2025 seconded by Trustee Morey, all in favor, carried.
- Trustee Holl made a motion to approve the American Legion temporary waiver of the Village Noise Ordinance for August 21-23, 2025 seconded by Trustee Conger, all in favor, carried.
- Trustee Holl made a motion to approve Clerk Niswender to sign the contract for Moody's Bond rating for the New Building Bond application. Moody's cost is \$14,500.00 seconded by Trustee Conger, all in favor, carried.
- Mayor Neville appointed Michael Perkins as Provisional Electric Supervisor.
- Mayor Neville appointed Aaron Botsford as Electric Worker/Lineman at a rate of \$55/hr.
- Mayor Neville appointed Michael Shurtleff as Electric Helper at a rate of \$20/hr.

- Mayor Neville appointed Cayden Dryja as Laborer beginning 9/15/2025 at a rate of \$20/hr.
- NRG price contract discussion- Natural Gas - contract rate about the same as last year if we lock in the price now. Trustee Conger made a motion to approve Clerk Niswender to sign the NRG price contract at a rate of \$4.595, seconded by Trustee Holl, all in favor, carried.
- Draft Purchasing Policy Worksheet reviewed. Trustee Conger made a motion to approve the new worksheet, seconded by Trustee Walpole, all in favor, carried.
- Electric AMI Consumer notification discussion. Trustee Walpole made a motion upon PSC approval to charge \$25 per month for customers that do not adopt the AMI meters, and a reinstall fee of \$75 seconded by Trustee Holl, all in favor, carried.

8:23pm Trustee Conger made a motion to move into executive session to discuss a specific employee, Seconded by Trustee Holl, all in favor, carried.

9:03pm Trustee Conger made a motion to move out of executive session, seconded by Trustee Walpole, all in favor, carried.

9:08pm Trustee Conger made a motion to approve the sale price of 143 E Cortland St at \$200,000 and to have the Mayor sign the agreement, seconded by Trustee Holl all in favor, carried.

Trustee Conger made a motion to adjourn the meeting to the Public Hearing for CDBG grant and to review amended Bond Resolution for the Waste Water treatment plant upgrades on September 8th at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Niswender
Village Clerk-Treasurer/Administrator