

## **TOWN OF GROTON – MINUTES OF TOWN BOARD MEETING**

**TUESDAY, JULY 9, 2013 AT 7:30 PM**

**THE TOWN HALL, 101 CONGER BOULEVARD**

**Those present:** Glenn E. Morey, Supervisor  
Ellard L. Sovocool, Councilman  
Donald F. Scheffler, Councilman  
Richard B. Gamel, Councilman  
Sheldon C. Clark, Councilman  
Fran Casullo, Attorney for the Town

**Also present:** Ed Neuhauser, Jen Schwade, Brian Robison, Kat Clement, Dewey Dawson, April Scheffler.

**MOVED** by Councilman Sovocool, seconded by Councilman Scheffler, to approve the minutes of the June 11, 2013 Town Board Meeting as presented.  
Ayes - Sovocool, Scheffler, Gamel, Clark, Morey.

**MOVED** by Councilman Gamel, seconded by Councilman Sovocool, to approve the minutes of the June 18, 2013 Special Town Board Meeting as presented.  
Ayes - Sovocool, Scheffler, Gamel, Clark, Morey.

Claim Numbers 100 - 111 of the **Highway Fund** in the amount of \$21,004.87 were presented for audit.

**MOVED** by Councilman Clark, seconded by Councilman Gamel, to approve the Highway Bills for payment.  
Ayes - Sovocool, Scheffler, Gamel, Clark, Morey.

Claim Numbers 182 - 208 of the **General Fund** in the amount of \$18,055.35 were presented for audit. (Note: Claim #209 added by resolution #13-049 for the Olde Home Days Celebration in the amount of \$1,000.00, making total amount of abstract \$19,055.35)

**MOVED** by Councilman Scheffler, seconded by Councilman Sovocool, to approve the General Bills for payment.  
Ayes - Sovocool, Scheffler, Gamel, Clark, Morey.

### **Monthly Reports:**

**Charles Rankin, Bookkeeper** - Was not present but had submitted monthly reports for the Board's review.

**Gary Coats, Code/Fire Enforcement Officer and Richard C. Case, Jr., Highway Superintendent**, were both on vacation.

**April L. Scheffler, Town Clerk/Tax Collector** - Submitted monthly reports for the Board's review.

**Fran Casullo, Attorney for the Town** - Had nothing to report.

**A. D. Dawson, Town Justice** - Submitted monthly report and semi-annual report for the Board's review. John Norman will be resuming his work schedule on the August 22<sup>nd</sup>. He was out a little longer than expected.

**Supervisor Morey** - Is everything going okay? I know Cindy is doing a wonderful job for you.

**Judge Dawson** - Yeah, it would have been really tough without her as a clerk.

**Councilman Donald Scheffler, as Representative to Joint Youth Program** - Free movie night at Ross Field is this Friday night; I believe it's *Jack the Giant Slayer*. It was well received last year and we're going to do it this year as much as we can. The summer concert series is also in full swing.

**Clerk Scheffler** said that they would be doing an advertisement for the Verne Morton Memorial Photo Show and Contest during the movie night.

**Brian Robison, County Legislator** - The County Clerk's Office received an award for their archiving efforts that you are participating in and that has worked out really well for everyone involved and I think they are getting ready to apply for more grants.

**Clerk Scheffler** said that there were two grants they were going to apply for soon. We are getting to the point where we will be able to go into the system and use the software and upload our own records. We have the by-laws written and a contract written, which will be forwarded to the Legislature for their final approval after the boards of the involved towns.

**Mr. Robison** - I know this program was the first in the State and it's worked out really well, and I'm sure eventually everybody will be doing it. In the next week or two they will be putting the final top coat on Old Peruville Road. Some of the neighbors are worried that it will be too nice and become a shortcut with people going to fast. If we have to we'll get some extra Sheriff's Department attention to it. The other thing is the Groton City Bridge, there has been nothing on that. I got a capital projects update today. Jeff Smith is getting absolutely no cooperation at all from NYSEG to move a pole that needs to be done before the temporary bridge is put in. They've been ready since January or February, so have lodged a complaint with the Public Service Commission just because they have gotten no action at all. NYSEG's excuse because of the hurricane last fall, that held water for awhile but I'm not so sure it does now. So, we'll see what happens. Once it is moved, the temporary bridge will go in quite quickly. Our concern is that project is still slated for design in 2014 and if it makes it through the design and approval phase, construction will be 2015. However, we wanted some time without the bridge and some time with a bridge back there again and then have another meeting with the folks in that area because it was kind of split as to what they wanted to do. Our highway guy, Jeff Smith, is not one to abandon bridges anywhere, so he would rather put it in there, but we made a promise to listen to the constituents in that area to see

what they want. So, I am hoping we can get the temporary in there soon so that we can have that other phase of the trial period and then have that local meeting.

**Councilman Clark** - I had a call from a neighbor up there that they got a letter from NYSEG for an application for eminent domain, that they are evidently going to take over some property to move that pole, so there must be something going on a little bit.

**Mr. Robison** - Yes, there is a quick-deed process that can be done in a day.

**Councilman Scheffler** - Is Clarity Connect still on board for this summer to cover all of Groton?

**Mr. Robison** - Yes, the whole broadband system. The money they got for it is amazing, and they are still trying to find money for the small percentage of the County that wasn't going to be covered. But it is on schedule.

### ***Privilege of the Floor:***

**Kat Clement** - The farmer's market open today and it went fairly well. We have about four volunteers and two youth employees. It goes from 3:30 to 6:30, Tuesdays, now until mid-September. That is over at the Village Court Center. We get produce from local farmers around the area. Usually the Cornell Cooperative Extension interns come over and bring the produce with them. The area Cooperative Extension offers coupons to the senior citizens worth about \$12.00, so they get to come out and get to see us and say hi and everything.

### **RESOLUTION #13-045 - APPROVE DOG ENUMERATION CONTRACT**

**MOVED** by Supervisor Morey, seconded by Councilman Gamel

Ayes - Sovocool, Scheffler, Gamel, Clark, Morey

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Board hereby approves the contract between the Town of Groton and Steve Sovocool providing the services of dog enumeration at the rate of \$2.50 per every dog counted, and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Board hereby authorizes Glenn Morey to sign said contract.

**Clerk Scheffler** had provided the Board with a copy of the proposed contract for the Tompkins Shared Services Electronic Records Repository (TSSERR) and the member bylaws. She had also asked the Board to support the County Clerk's efforts in applying for additional grants to continue to expand and support the program.

### **RESOLUTION #13-046 - AUTHORIZE TOWN CLERK TO SIGN AGREEMENT WITH TOMPKINS COUNTY FOR THE TOMPKINS SHARED SERVICES ELECTRONIC RECORDS REPOSITORY**

**MOVED** by Supervisor Morey, seconded by Councilman Gamel

Ayes - Sovocool, Scheffler, Gamel, Clark, Morey

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Board hereby authorizes the Town Clerk, April Scheffler, to sign the agreement with Tompkins County for the Tompkins Shared Services Electronic Records Repository (TSSERR).

**RESOLUTION #13-047 - AUTHORIZATION FOR THE TOWN CLERK TO ENTER INTO  
A 5-YEAR AGREEMENT WITH TOMPKINS COUNTY FOR  
THE TOMPKINS SHARED SERVICES ELECTRONIC RECORDS REPOSITORY (TSSERR)**

**MOVED** by Supervisor Morey, seconded by Councilman Sovocool  
Ayes - Sovocool, Scheffler, Gamel, Clark, Morey

**WHEREAS**, Tompkins County has initiated and secured grants for the Tompkins County Shared Services Electronic Records Repository (TSSERR) which is a shared service hosted by the County and made available to all municipalities within the County, and

**WHEREAS**, the Groton Town Board supported the grant application for TSSERR in 2013, and

**WHEREAS**, the participating members of the TSSERR have drafted a set of By-Laws and a Group Agreement which have been presented to its members and the Tompkins County Operations Committee, and

**WHEREAS**, the Groton Town Clerk has presented and discussed the TSSERR agreement and by-laws with the Groton Town Board, now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Groton Town Board does hereby authorize the Groton Town Clerk to enter into the Tompkins County Shared Services Electronic Records Repository Group Agreement on behalf of the Town of Groton subject.

**RESOLUTION #13-048 SUPPORT FOR THE TOMPKINS COUNTY CLERK'S APPLICATION FOR  
FUNDING FROM THE NEW YORK STATE CONSOLIDATED FUNDING APPLICATION FOR  
SHARED SERVICES UNDER  
THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY GRANT**

**MOVED** by Supervisor Morey, seconded by Councilman Clark  
Ayes - Sovocool, Scheffler, Gamel, Clark, Morey

**WHEREAS**, Tompkins County Clerk's Office intends to apply for funding through the New York State Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) for monies to continue its efforts to increase efficiencies in local services delivery of services and through shared services and support related to records management systems, and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board has supported the County Clerk's Office in previous funding applications and looks forward to future opportunities for shared services and intermunicipal cooperation which result in savings for its constituents, and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Groton anticipates cooperating with and joining in future shared services offered and/or supported by the County whenever feasible, now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Groton Town Board does hereby fully support the Tompkins County Clerk's Office in its pursuit and application for funding for shared services through a Local Government Efficiency Grant.

A request had been received to donate \$1,500.00 to the Olde Home Days Committee. After an extended discussion, it was decided to donate the amount that had been budgeted for Olde Home Days.

**RESOLUTION #13-049 - MAKE DONATION TO OLDE HOME DAYS COMMITTEE  
AND ADD TO ABSTRACT**

**MOVED** by Supervisor Morey, seconded by Councilman Sovocool  
Ayes - Sovocool, Scheffler, Gamel, Clark, Morey

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Board hereby approves a donation of \$1,000.00 to the 2013 Olde Home Days Committee, and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that said \$1,000.00 donation be added to the July abstract.

**PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED LOCAL LAW #1 FOR THE YEAR 2013  
ENTITLED A LOCAL LAW ESTABLISHING A CODE OF ETHICS  
AND ETHICS ADVISORY BOARD FOR THE TOWN OF GROTON**

**Supervisor Morey** asked the Town Clerk to read the public notice that was published in the Town's legal paper, the Groton Independent, on June 26, 2013. She said that no written comments had been received.

Supervisor Morey **MOVED** to open the Public Hearing, seconded by Councilman Sovocool.  
Ayes - Sovocool, Scheffler, Gamel, Clark, Morey

**Supervisor Morey** asked if there were any public comments.

**Ed Neuhauser** - Wondered if there should be a time period for which Ethics Board members should be a resident before being appointed and suggested perhaps 30 days.

**Supervisor Morey** said that the Town Board would be making the appointment and they would not appoint anyone who had not been a resident of the Town of Groton for a very short time.

**Jen Schwade** - Questioned having a member of the Town Board as a member of the Ethics Board and asked if this was usual for the Ethics Board that advises the Town Board to contain the Town Board.

**Supervisor Morey** said it might be a typo and should be officer or employee. There was some discussion that in some of the older drafts it had said employee or official of the Town. **Attorney Casullo** said that it could be changed but was not sure if this would require another public hearing or not. **Councilman Gamel** thought that it had been discussed and they had decided it should be a Town Board member. The County law has a County Legislator as a member of their Ethics Board and we had copied their law. Finally it was decided to keep the wording as is and if it causes problems at a later date, the law can be amended.

Supervisor Morey **MOVED** to close the Public Hearing, seconded by Councilman Sovocool, at 8:16 pm.

Ayes - Sovocool, Scheffler, Gamel, Clark, Morey

**RESOLUTION #13-050 - ADOPT LOCAL LAW #1 FOR THE YEAR 2013  
ENTITLED A LOCAL LAW ESTABLISHING A CODE OF ETHICS  
AND ETHICS ADVISORY BOARD FOR THE TOWN OF GROTON**

**MOVED** by Supervisor Morey, seconded by Councilman Sovocool

Ayes - Sovocool, Gamel, Morey

Nays - Scheffler, Clark

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Board hereby adopts Local Law #1 for the Year 2013 entitled A Local Law Establishing a Code of Ethics and Ethics Advisory Board for the Town of Groton.

There being no further business, Councilman Gamel moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Scheffler, at 8:17 pm. Unanimous.

April L. Scheffler, RMC  
Groton Town Clerk