

Minutes Special Meeting

November 12, 2019

Police and the Village Court:

A special meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Greenwich was held on November 12, 2019 in the Board Room of the Community Center at 6 Academy Street in the Village of Greenwich. Present were Mayor Fuller, Attorney Kelly and Trustees Brown, Robinson, Edsforth, Sargent Danko, Treasurer Prime and Judge Roberts. Trustee Vandewater arrived at 6:52pm. Mayor Fuller opened the meeting at 6:34 PM.

Judge Roberts spoke on the important role the Village Court plays. Having said this, Judge Roberts does not want to over burden taxpayers should revenues fall. She touched on the understaffed police force which results in less revenue in speeding tickets.

Discussion was had about the impact of the 2020 legislation's effect on the court and revenues. Sargent Danko foresees costs going up due to increased travel for the department. The proximity of an in-house court is not only a convenience, but saves money as well.

Treasurer Prime recapped a conversation that took place earlier in the day with the NYCOM Attorney Rebecca Ruscito. She advised to publish open seats by the November 17 deadline and make the decision whether to close the court at the January meeting subject to permissive referendum. A vote could be held on election day, March 18th for a candidate and the question of closing the court.

Judge Roberts stated the need for time and budget to close the court, if that is the decision. Trustee Brown pointed out the court was budgeted until the end of the fiscal year.

Attorney Kelly summed up the discussion with the statement that the disclosure rules will increase Police costs whether there is a Village Court or not. The only fines that would come to the Village are parking tickets. Trustee Robinson further clarified that these fines were not reduced moving violations, but dedicated parking tickets.

Animal Control:

Mayor Fuller was asked by a Washington County Public Safety Official who was our Animal Control Officer. Attorney Kelly looked further into the matter and discovered that the Village cannot force the Town to enforce our Animal Control Laws as the Town has no jurisdiction in the Village. One solution is an agreement for a shared service. Attorney Kelly explained the duties of an Animal Control Officer would include Special Permits, dealing with animals other than dogs and the safe containment of dogs.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:07pm on a motion by Trustee Robinson, seconded by Trustee Edsforth and carried by all.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jane Dowling