

Minutes - Regular Board Meeting Village of Greenwich

February 8, 2021

<https://zoom.us/j/93473776046?pwd=R0d0cUZJOS9CNUJEV0E3bXIHSFhFdz09>

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Greenwich met February 8, 2021 on a virtual platform due to Covid concerns. Present were Mayor Fuller, Trustees Brown, Vandewater, Robinson, Tefft, as well as Sargent Danko, Attorney Kelly, Deputy-Chief Buell, Superintendent Flynn, Treasurer Prime and CCGY President Mumby. Chief White was absent.

Mayor Fuller opened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

Vouchers

General Fund Voucher numbers 327 - 369 totaling \$ 37,931.06

Water Fund Voucher numbers 64 - 70 totaling \$3,199.54

Sewer Fund Voucher numbers 45 - 55 totaling \$ 58,986.37

Water Supply Improvements Voucher numbers 18 -19 totaling 26,980.00

H Fund Voucher numbers 16 -17 totaling \$461, 837.00

Mayor Fuller asked for a motion to pay these vouchers, which she signed earlier in day. Trustee Brown made this motion, seconded by Trustee Robinson and carried by all.

Kevin Luteran from Smart Street Lighting New York – attending on the Streetlight Conversion Project. Mr. Luteran explained that the New York Power Authority has been tasked with the conversion of 500,000 streetlights across the state. A turnkey service has been developed to assist municipalities with this conversion which includes acquisition, evaluation; to customize the needs of the customer and construction management. This makes NYPA a one-stop shop for the entire project. The procurement process has been streamlined to eliminate the need for RFPs which ordinarily apply to municipal projects. The goals are both to conserve energy and reduce greenhouse gases and to save the municipality money. National Grid bills are made up of energy charges and facilities charges which typically make up 60-70% of the bill. By purchasing the streetlights, this is saved. The process to purchase the streetlights is about 8 months. The Village of Greenwich has 159 streetlights, which would cost \$168,000 for the total project. The energy savings for the project is about \$8600/year. Total net savings would be \$14,491 which includes facilities savings, which calculates to an 11-year payback. The Village would be responsible for maintenance costs. NYPA has a maintenance service. To qualify for this service, an asset controller is installed to the top of the fixture. This transmits data back to the control center which monitors functionality and performance. Light levels can be controlled and performance can be tweaked. If a streetlight goes out, a notification is generated and repair is managed by NYPA. The old fixtures are purchased and the entire luminaire head is replaced. Allowances have been set aside to upgrade some systems like brittle old wiring, when required. The maintenance cost is about \$20 per fixture per year to cover “routine maintenance.” The utility company still owns the wooden pole which is infrastructure for the light. If the pole needs to be switched out, it is the Village’s responsibility to remove and replace the fixture to the new pole. The cost to rent the space on the pole is \$.60 per month per location. That price is fixed for a three-year term. The project cost is borrowed from NYPA.

Attorney Kelly pointed out that section 3.3 states the contract can be terminated with 30-day notice is unacceptable and **approval of Resolutions 4 and 5 of 2021 are conditioned** on NYPA revising section 3.3 of the Master Cost Recovery Agreement ("MCRA") to eliminate NYPA's right to terminate the project on 30 days' notice for any reason or no reason. Basically, the first sentence of 3.3. should be deleted. Once a revised MCRA is satisfactorily sent back to Attorney Kelly, the Mayor can sign all agreements with NYPA and National Grid.

RESOLUTION No 4 of 2021 - AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF ALL STREETLIGHTS IN THE VILLAGE FROM NATIONAL GRID AND CONVERTING TO LED FIXTURES – Passed on a motion by Trustee Brown, seconded by Trustee Vandewater - conditioned by removal of section 3.3; see above.

RESOLUTION No5 of 2021 - AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE TO JOIN THE NEW YORK POWER AUTHORITY (“NYPA”) SMART STREET LIGHTING NY PROGRAM – Passed on a motion by Trustee Vandewater, seconded by Trustee Robinson – conditioned by removal of section 3.3; see above.

Department Reports

Fire: Deputy Chief Buell delivered the January report. No new members – 19 calls. EMS 10, good intent 3, MVA 1, building fire 1. New engine rescue is on site and training is ongoing. Asking permission to declare 2000 KME engine rescue surplus and the proceeds to go into the Capital Equipment Fund. The estimate selling price is \$60,000-\$70,000. The funds would go towards another used engine in 3-5 years. Mayor Fuller would like to see what the truck sells for and what the new budget allows before making any decisions.

Resolution No.6 of 2021 - Declaration of Surplus – 2000 KME Engine Rescue from the Village of Greenwich Fire Department Effective March 1, 2021 – Passed on a motion by Trustee Brown, seconded by Trustee Tefft and carried by all.

Police: Sargent Danko delivered the January report. There were 11 criminal cases for the month, 11 for the year, total of 6 arrested for the month. The total arrested for 2021 was 6. Domestic violence, drug possession, trespass, criminal mischief, mental health incidents, MVA related, and EMS aid were the incidents handled in December. Traffic tickets – 30. Police reform has taken up quite a bit of time. The meetings and input from the public have been informative and a good collaborative experience. Thank you to all who have participated. Mayor Fuller asked whether the extra Officer has made a difference in traffic control. Sargent Danko responded that they have generated about 20-25 extra tickets a month. January 31 ended the three-month trial period. No extra patrolling has been approved going forward. Continuing this program was discussed relative to revenue, court closure due to covid and the budget. Sargent Danko pointed out poor winter driving conditions have their own impact on traffic and restarting the program later in the year may be a better option. Vocal agreement.

DPW: Superintendent Flynn delivered the January report. He mentioned the challenge of dealing with weekly snowfalls of 3-4" and the two pieces of aging equipment used for clearing. One is a 1993 plow. The department is making due and getting the job done. Water and sewer are running well. A well-deserved thank-you goes to Deputy Chief Buell for spending time and effort on this endeavor. Gannon Park has been flooded and should be usable next week. To do the rink properly for next year, there should be some planning and resources to do it properly. Mayor Fuller agreed that a skating rink was a worthwhile project and worth planning over the summer.

Youth: President Mumby delivered the January report. Attendees are down to about a third of those served last year due to closures, Covid restrictions, etc. The Board is exploring ideas to increase visibility. The idea of an electronic sign outside has been talked about by the Board. The cost is \$5,000-\$10,000. The Board felt nature of an electronic sign was in conflict with the historic nature of the Village Office. Trustee Robinson suggested that the GCS electronic sign might be a productive place to put Youth Center information. This was met with approval all around. Garson Smith will be stepping down from the CCGY Board at the end of the month. We would like to acknowledge his service and contribution. The Mayor and President Mumby will meet to discuss this further .

Mayor: Police Department Public Process Over the last month we held two meetings to discuss the needs for updating our police policies and procedures. The group consisted of Trustee Brown and myself, Sgt Danko, and a group of about 8 community members. During the first meeting we discussed the results of the public survey, which resulted in 86 responses tabulated. We will be issuing our local report on the committee findings and recommendations, which we will present to the corresponding group in Cambridge. The next step will be two joint meetings of the combined committees between Greenwich and Cambridge, on February 11 and February 25th. The two communities will create a combined document recommending a plan to move forward, which will be presented to the public in March and presented to the Board for approval by the end of March. **New Website** Trustee Tefft has assumed responsibility for our FaceBook page, and she has developed a plan with Village Clerk Jane Dowling for sharing information and posting it. We continue to work to improve our website. **AGFTC Grant** We have engaged a consultant to manage this grant, and the committee has formed. We will have our first meeting on Monday the 8th to plan how to move forward. Our Board representation will be Trustee Vandewater and myself. This grant will focus on updating zoning regulations in our business district. **Brownfields Opportunity Area Grant** The advisory committee for this grant has been named, and the kickoff meeting will be scheduled for later in February. This committee will consist of representatives from the Village and the Town, and we will work together to identify key locations to address. Trustee Tefft will serve on this committee. **Preserve NY Grant** This work is in progress; we will have an updated building condition report later this year. **Water Project** The water meter work is scheduled to get underway later this spring. The water main work will begin in 2021. **Main Street Anchor Grant and ESD** The grant for Wallie's is complete, and we are waiting for a definite opening date. Work on 73 Main Street proceeds, and we expect that grant to be complete later this year. **Converting**

Streetlights to LED and Natural Gas for the Village A discussion of this project and approvals by the Board will happen at this meeting. We have had two meetings with NYPA to discuss the process and plan. **E/V Charging Stations** The grant application for the funds from NYSERDA has been submitted, and we will hear results in a month or so.

New Business:

- **Dog Park-** Mayor Fuller advocates for the need of a dog park in the Village and would like to see Mill Hollow utilized for this purpose. She believes there is enough room for a fenced area with the addition of benches which would be an asset to the Village. Lorraine Ballard spoke on the Town of Greenwich's interest in the development of a dog park at Riverside Park which is on the agenda for the following evening. Question regarding if the Mill Hollow site is large enough, cleanup, fees, and more. These questions and answers are part of the research involved with the development. Trustee Brown thinks that when the Dunbarton site is developed, it will accommodate a larger dog park.
- **Water Improvement Loan Discussion –** Exploring the option of a tax levy to cover the cost of this project. The school, churches, out-of-village, pilot programs and non-profits would be exempt from this tax. More research is needed. Trustee Vandewater suggested a multi-pronged approach. Treasurer Prime pointed out that the data we need will only be available with the new meter installation and billing.
- **Resolution No7 of 2021 – Resolution No.7 of 2021 -Examination of Court Dockets** Trustee Brown explained this is a yearly review of Court financial records as required by the State of New York Uniform Court System. Trustees Brown and Robinson were the examiners. Passed on a motion by Trustee Brown, seconded by Trustee Robinson and carried by all.
- **Resolution No.8 of 2021 - Budget Modification - Fire Department -** the Board of Trustees of the Village of Greenwich does hereby authorize the transfer of funds from the sale of surplus SCBA Bottles to Middle Falls Fire Department in the amount of \$3600.00 to the Fire Department Equipment Appropriation Fund, A3410.2 for the purchase of three new SCBA Bottles. Passed on a motion by Trustee Brown, seconded by Trustee Tefft and carried by all.
- **Accept 9/1/2020 – 12/31/2020 water & sewer billing;** Water \$94,083.29, Water reserve \$11,517.12, Sewer \$30,571.46, Sewer reserve \$3,345.83, Arrears \$7098.45, Total \$146,616.15. Adjustments - post billing -\$2,440.36. Various reasons: late closing, closed account and data error. Motion to accept the above billing by Trustee Brown, seconded by Trustee Tefft and carried by all.
- **Eddy Street sidewalk discussion –** another petition from a resident. Mayor Fuller asked Trustee Vandewater to revisit. Agreed.
- **Suspension of Water / Sewer penalties –** Suspend penalties for the current billing cycle passed on a motion by Trustee Brown, seconded by Trustee Vandewater and carried by all.

Permits:

- Tour of the Battenkill – Parade Permit – Saturday, September 18, 2021 – Approved pending insurance certificate

9:15 – Motion to adjourn by Trustee Brown, seconded by Trustee Vandewater and carried by all.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jane Dowling