

Minutes - Regular Board Meeting Village of Greenwich
September 12, 2022

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Greenwich was held September 12, 2022 in the Board Room at 6 Academy St. Present were Mayor Fuller, Trustees Brown, Panza, Robinson, as well as Attorney Kelly, Chief White, Sargent Danko, President James Mumby and Treasurer Prime. John Hogan attended in place of Superintendent Leo Flynn. Trustee Vandewater attended remotely but did not participate in voting.

Mayor Fuller opened the meeting at 7:00 pm.

Vouchers

General Fund Voucher numbers 107 - 151 totaling \$47,162.60

Water Fund Voucher numbers 19 - 24 totaling \$3,994.21

Sewer Fund Voucher numbers 11 - 16 totaling \$2,694.52

Motion to approve paying the vouchers was made by Trustee Brown, seconded by Trustee Robinson and carried by all.

Thunder Mountain Forestry Project

Mayor Fuller introduced Jim Allen from Allen Forestry. She explained to the audience that the exploration of managing Thunder Mountain timber has been a topic at public meetings for over two years. This has been precipitated by a few factors. The forest is overgrown, dark and in general need of management. This parcel was successfully logged in the past, the last time was approximately two decades ago. Lastly, the Village sees this as a way to add funds to be used for projects without raising taxes. Several foresters have looked at the property, presented reports and recommendations. The Board determined that an independent forester should manage the process and oversee the scope of work. This brought us to Allen Forestry. The meeting next Monday will be devoted entirely to this subject, at which time, Mr. Allen will present his plan and the reasoning behind it.

Jim Allen stated his goal was to promote a healthy forest, one with long-term growth potential. Currently, this parcel is struggling due to lack of nutrients and/or sunlight filtering through the understory. There are invasives present which thrive in a shaded forest, and these must be managed as well. The invasives are; but not limited to; barberry, burning bush, Norway Maples, which are considered invasive as they are non-native and take over without letting other species grow. The Norway Spruce stand is a non-native planted plantation stand. This stand is 50-70 years overdue for management. These trees promote invasive growth because they block sunlight effectively. Each tree is evaluated on an individual basis. The trees chosen to leave and thrive, are quality, more vigorous trees to promote growth and create space for regeneration. There is not a lot of regeneration in the entire property. Added to this, 75% of the trees have deer browse issues. The plan submitted to the Village is in draft form, which may have a few revisions after analysis is complete. Marking is about 45%-50% done. There is no monetary estimate at this time. The mayor added that depending on the outcome, there could be funds budgeted for Thunder Mountain. Right now, there is no Thunder Mountain budget.

7:30pm Truck Bids

Three bids received. They were \$9027, \$12,000 and \$6125. The Kelly Blue Book value is \$26,000. Dealers offered \$12,000. The hope was to sell the truck for more than the \$12,000. Since the Village has the option to decline bids, these three shall be declined. An exploration of selling the vehicle on one of the online buying/selling services.

Department Reports

Fire: Chief White delivered the August report: No new members. Calls - 18, 7 EMS, 3 alarm activations are some of the issues handled. Total member hours 415.09. A 2022 Chevy pick-up was purchased out of Department funds to replace the 2008. West signs decaled the truck for a total of \$1102. They were the vendor of choice as they already had the graphics set up. NYS has mandated 10-year-old tires be replaced; this is being implemented. A FEMA grant has been awarded in the amount of \$94,796.19 for a cancer prevention program. There is a match of \$4739.81 which is in our building fund. This will be used for the exhaust system in the firehouse. Four members completed the NYS Fire Officer one class.

Police: Sargent Danko delivered the August report: 4 cases were handled with 73 reported to the DCJS for the year. Four arrests, 27 for the year. There were 31 calls for service. Incidents handled; Mental health, driving while intoxicated and DMV. The lack of Crossing Guards is causing a lot of talk and complaints. Two crosswalk systems have been explored; Wayland and Hawk. Wayland system is a push-button light system. They each are in the neighborhood of \$21,000. The Mayor asked if little children would be able to operate the systems. The question of a higher rate of pay might inspire more applicants. The state will install a system at the red-light next year. Trustee Brown will look at both systems.

Resolution No25 of 2022: Raise hourly pay for crossing guards to \$15.00 effective 9/14/22. Made on a motion by Trustee Brwon, seconded by Trustee Robinson and carried by all.

DPW: John Hogan delivered the August report. Discussion to advertise and hire a Machine Equipment Operator. The team is down one body which makes the current work load challenging without the additional plowing that the winter will bring. Milling and paving Church St will begin next week. Van Ness Ave will be paved but milling is not necessary.

Youth: President Mumby delivered the August report. There were 236 attendances in August even with the closing during fair week. A new Director has been hired; Chey Blackmer. Thanks to Maria Robinson for another deep clean. September 28th will be a get-together at Gather for some networking and potential connections. School bus drop-off from school is again being broached.

Mayor: Mayor Fuller delivered the August report - **Mayor Report – New York Main Street Grant** Work on all the participating properties on Main Street is either in progress or planned; 4 or 5 projects will be complete this year, and the remaining will be complete in 2023. **Brownfields Opportunity Area Grant** The Town and Village got the good news that we received the status of BOA Designation. This will put us in a priority position to win further grants. We submitted the Greenwich BOA Pre-Development grant application in August, with the Town of Greenwich taking their turn as lead agency. We are planning to submit 2 large grant applications in September and October, and this status will help us. **NY Forward Grant.** This grant was announced in July and applications are due September 23rd. Our

committee has met, and we are planning a public meeting for Tuesday, Sept. 13th at 6 pm at Gather. Meanwhile, we are putting the materials together for the application, which will be a presentation of up to 20 pages. **Restore New York** The Village submitted two letters of intent for Restore NY. We had a site visit from 2 Restore NY officials, and they had positive reactions to both of our proposed projects. We are working to get the information needed for both of them, and we intend to submit one in October and a second in December. **Water Project** No change on this one in the last month. The availability of pipe materials has affected our schedule for the water mains. We are moving forward with the idea of purchasing the materials separately from the overall contracts, so that as we secure pipes we can contract with installers. **Wastewater System** We submitted a WIIA Grant application for the full cost of a new wastewater plant. **Converting Streetlights to LED** Our next step is schedule a closing with National Grid. We are working to make this happen. **Dunbarton Mill Site** We received a query about the plan for the assessment, and while I was on vacation last week our Treasurer and Clerk worked to submit the requested information to the EPA representative. We should be receiving our contract soon. **Thunder Mountain Property** We will get an update from our forester Jim Allen tonight. We are planning a public meeting for next week to present our plan and will present the plan to the public for comment. **Comprehensive Plan** We will have a meeting next week to continue the work on the Town/Village Comprehensive Plan. We are finalizing an application for the Greenway Grant to apply to the work. The Village has an active Greenway grant, so the Town will be the lead agency for this application.

Old Business:

- **Health Insurance** policy revisions. Clarification still ongoing on COBRA. NYCOM and Insurance representative still pending opinions.

New Business

- **Restore NY** – October 11 deadline is first and a decision needs to be made on which property will be first. November 11 is the next deadline. The two choices are; the former Wilmarth building with the adjacent neighbors and the second option is Eddy Plow Works. The Board decided the Main Street properties and should be first. Both projects have high chances of succeeding.
Motion to approve the LaBella Contract on the Restore NY Wilmarth Proposal made by Trustee Brown, seconded by Trustee Panza and carried by all.
Resolution No26 of 2022: Schedule a Public Hearing for the Round 6 Restore NY Communities Initiative Municipal Grant Program: made on a motion by Trustee Brown, seconded by Trustee Panza and carried by all.
- **Resolution No27 of 2022, that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Greenwich does hereby ratify the appointment of Maria Robinson as Deputy Mayor** in the Event of Current Deputy Mayor, Mary Cathy Brown's Absence Effective September 1, 2022 made by the Mayor and all Trustees (except Maria Robinson) via electronic communication on September 8, 2022 made on a motion by Trustee Brown, seconded by Trustee Panza and carried by all.
- Vehicle insurance coverage for non-Village owned vehicles. The Fire Department Inc. will sign any vehicle over to the Village that has been purchased with department raised funds.
- Mahoney Alarm proposal. The Board would like a competitive bid. Chief White will reach out to NY Fire and Signal to provide an estimate.

Public Comment:

- Dan Petteys of Eddy St advocated for sidewalks on Eddy St. He made the point that many people walk for business and pleasure into the Village. Postal carriers walk the route as well. Most other Village streets have sidewalks, while the taxpayers on Eddy St do not. The County would need involvement, as Eddy Street is a county road. There are unkempt and un-mowed properties running along Eddy Street. This often forces the walker to choose between the danger of a curved road and tick settings. The County provides ownership in feet from the center of the road in an accessible document. Attorney Kelly will write a letter to the County to assess the possibility of a sidewalk from 372 down Eddy St to the Village line. Trustee Vandewater will be consulted on his work on this. Tabled for further study.

Permits

- Third floor use. Lili Loveday Creative Dance Classes Mondays 3rd Fl 9/26/22-6/26/23 from 4:30-5:45 and 12/5/22 – 3/26/23 from 2:45 -4:30. The Youth Center has approved. Approved.
- Third floor use. Warren Schultz Play Rehearsal 7-10:00pm Weekdays October 3 - November 11. Approved
- GGCC Tractor Parade Permit app 11/19/22 6:00-8:00pm. Approved
- GGCC Tractor Parade Park Permit app Mowry Park 11/19/22 6:00-8:00pm. Approved. Village Information Building use for meeting Santa. Approved.

Public Comment:

8:49 Motion to close meeting made by Trustee Brown, seconded by Trustee Robinson and carried by all.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jane Dowling