

Special Meeting of the Village Board of Trustees
October 23, 2023
6:00pm

A Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Greenwich was held October 23, 2023 in the Board Room at 6 Academy St. Present were Mayor Fuller, Trustees Brown and Grimmke as well as Superintendent Leo Flynn, Attorney Kelly, Don Fletcher, Roy Richardson and Esrom Philogene from Barton & Loguidice. Trustee Vandewater arrived at 7:10 via videoconference. Mayor Fuller opened the meeting at 6:04 pm.

Topic – Water Improvement Project

Mayor Fuller acknowledged that the project has been ongoing for a number of years, resulting in higher costs across the board. She addressed the watermain replacement on Main St as an added \$2,170,000 cost to the project not included in the original estimate. Roy Richardson explained the process behind the calculation of leaving this piece last. Back when the project started, the streetscape project was a vague outline, left for last on purpose, with the plan that the streets and sidewalks would be excavated once, not twice. Those pipe, fittings and hydrants have not been purchased as part of Contract 1A. Mayor Fuller believes that now is the time to include this part of the project. Planning and grant opportunities are presenting themselves and the Village will most likely be applying for these this coming year. There was agreement among all, that the problem of old pipe being in the ground too long, and the inability of getting enough water through it was the basis of this project. There is no ability using current infrastructure, of expanding the water customer base. The amended Village Water Law states that new outside water customers must be on a water main. This is the issue with the proposed development on Forest St. The Abeel Ave accounts are running from pipe going across lots from village streets and backyards.

Roy Richardson summarized the two current projects yet to be awarded; Contract 1B construction goes from the well field to the bridge (Eddy St) including Barber Ave which gets more water into the village. Contract 2 includes the side streets mandated by DOH. All 4" pipe had to be replaced. Pipe for both of these projects was purchased under Contract 1A.

Wells: all pumps will be replaced when we go to bigger pipe. These costs are covered in Contract 3. The two new wells that were drilled must be connected to the pipe into the building. New pumps need to be installed into the two new wells. Well 3, even as a backup will need a new pump also. A new VFD, new meter for more accuracy and a mandate from DOH, to tie the chlorine to the meter. Superintendent Flynn commented that the size of the pipe – 6" from well to building was insufficient for the larger pipe. Roy answered that B&L ran models showing the existing pipe is sufficient.

To cover all costs, EFC has stated the Village is approved for 0% loan to \$14,000,000. The grant stays at \$3,000,000. Abeel is not included because it is a change of scope, although there seemed to be mixed messaging from EFC on this. Roy explained the anatomy of funding. The DOH is the in charge of the technical, the scope and approves the project, and EFC is the cash register and provides funding. Clean Water projects through the State Revolving Fund are different in that EFC handles everything including approvals and funding

Respectfully submitted 6:35pm
Jane Dowling – Village Clerk

Joanne McDowell continues minutes below.

We will need to add to the loan for the two contracts. EFC can increase financing up to \$14 million. Attorney Kelly explained that as far as Abeel and Wilson are concerned it is the Department of Health's call and EFC just provides funding. A water project for Abeel and Wilson may not score enough points as a stand-alone project to be eligible for funding. There is nothing to give points such as leaks.

On Main Street the current six-inch pipe would remain in the ground, but it would be capped and filled.

Mayor Fuller questioned the \$5 million increase in the cost of the project. A number of issues running concurrently are at play, including general inflation, supply chain issues and economic shock. An example of the problems can be seen with brass. Brass components can take up to a year to receive. It is difficult to estimate how long it will take to get materials and how much the materials will cost in the future. Greenwich had more bidders because materials are already on hand. It was noted that costs have not increased like this since the 70s and usually annual increases in materials are about 3%. Contractors are bidding high because of these problems.

Don Fletcher said that there would not be further increases in April if the Village agrees to the contract now. An exception would be if they had to add more pipe, more valves or another hydrant then that cost would be added to the cost of the work.

Further actions would include a change order/amendment, and obtaining a road opening permit from the Town of Greenwich. The bond resolution would need to be increased. Greenwich will need to ask for an increase in the loan amount. The board will need to decide on the scope of the project.

Two options were costed out 1) Abeel or 2) Abeel and Wilson. Abeel would be \$683 thousand and Wilson would be \$110 thousand more.

The mayor asked for a motion for a resolution to borrow up to \$14 million. Trustee Grimmke motioned, Trustee Brown seconded and all voted in favor. The motion was passed.

Next steps are a resolution and a permissive referendum. SEQR will have to be amended.

Attorney Kelly noted that the village really cannot back out because the Department of Health is involved. Letters will go out to the contractors to ask if they will hold to their bids.

Superintendent Flynn asked if Barton and Lodgidge had or knew of waste water operators. They replied that they do.

Political rallies in the park. The board discussed previous conversations regarding political rallies in public parks. It was agreed that no permits are to be issued for political gatherings in the park. All agreed that walking on the sidewalk was not an issue.

Mayor Fuller asked for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Brown motioned and Trustee Grimmke seconded. All voted in favor. The meeting was closed at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by
Joanne McDowell