

Regular Meeting of the Village Board of Trustees
February 12, 2024 - DRAFT
7:00 pm

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Greenwich was held February 12, 2024 in the Board Room at 6 Academy St. Present were Mayor Fuller, Trustees; Robinson, Grimmke, Brown, as well as Sergeant Danko, Chief Hopkins, Interim Superintendent Smith, President Jim Mumby and Attorney Kelly. Trustee Vandewater was absent. Mayor Fuller opened the meeting at 7:00 pm.

Vouchers

General Fund Voucher numbers 372 – 422 totaling \$119,948.70

Water Fund Voucher numbers 73 -- 80 totaling \$16,701.25

Sewer Fund Voucher numbers 56 -- 60 totaling \$5,242.19

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

Motion to approve January 17, 2024 Regular Meeting minutes was made by Trustee Brown, seconded by Trustee Robinson and carried by all.

Motion to approve February 5, 2024 Special Meeting minutes was made by Trustee Brown, seconded by Trustee Grimmke and carried by all.

Mayor Fuller deferred to MaryBeth Flynn to speak about her issue. Mrs. Flynn responded that she was just there to observe the meeting. Lindsey Sawtelle, using this opening, introduced herself as Leo's daughter. She spoke about how tough a month it has been and how dedicated her father was to the village in his 43 years of employment. She recounted the issue of his paycheck deposited into a scam account which she came into the office to address. She was told by the treasurer that she would receive a call when the check was ready. She was appalled that the check was then handed to her in the receiving line at his wake by a board member. The family is hurt, appalled and called the act "unclassy." Her family wanted everyone to know what happened and how they felt about it. Mayor Fuller responded, on behalf of Greenwich, with an apology for the mis-depositing of his check in the wrong account. She also apologized that we did something that offended the family, which was not the intention. She went on to say how much appreciated and loved Leo was, and hopes that the incidents are not taken as a reflection of him and what he did for the village. He is missed, and there is nothing but fond memories and respect for the job he did.

Department Reports

Fire: Chief Hopkins delivered the January report: He added a personal note on how much he owes to the Flynn family; Leo gave him his first real job opportunity at age 16 - riding in a garbage truck. Chief Hopkins also acknowledged the many (37) years of service he gave to the Fire Department. Total calls – 35 with 26 being inside our district. EMS calls – 19. Rescue extrication 0, fire 0, hazards 4, service calls 2, and 1 alarm activation. The rest were mutual aid to Cambridge, Middle Falls, Hudson Falls, Argyle, Cossayuna and Easton totaling 9. Fire and Emergency response hours – 77, training hours 91 and activity – 431.5 for a total of 599.5 hours. Rescue 328 is currently complete and back in service. The Fire Exhaust System is up and running. The FEMA down payment of \$14,933. Came out of A3410.2 (equipment), so we will be looking for that to be replaced when the check comes in. The NYS Training Stipend & Equipment Grant named V-FIRE which we would like to apply for is pending next steps. The Federal

SAFER Grant, on the recommendation of Julie Benzo, will be applied for by early March. It's about \$125,000. Ms. Benzo has had great success with about \$300,000 in grant monies awarded thus far. The Chief expressed his thanks to all who attended the banquet this year as well as thanks to the many dedicated people who helped with the heating system at the Fire House.

Police: Sergeant Danko delivered the January report also acknowledging Leo fondly and with humor: There were 15 cases reported to the DCJS in December totaling 15 reported for the year. Arrests totaled 7; 7 arrests for the year. There were 119 calls logged with County Dispatch for January. Calls for service for the year 2024 -119. Incidents handled: DMV arrest, assault 3rd, harassments, endangering the welfare of a child, larceny arrest and agency assists fire and EMS.

DPW: Working Supervisor Mike Smith delivered the January report: normal work occurred with some repairs to winter equipment. There was vandalism to a speed sign on Gray Ave which was replaced. Spring-Clean-Up Week was discussed with tentative date of school vacation week. Announcement forthcoming.

Youth: President Mumby delivered the January report: Number of youths attending – 392, with average daily attendance 21. Community collaborations included Greenwich Free Library, Comfort Foods and Cheryl Horning teaching art sculpture. A Taylor Swift Era's Party was held upstairs. North Country ATV donated \$3400 via the fundraising letter that went out earlier this year.

Mayor: February 12, 2024 TAP Grant for the Streetscape The grant application for the 2024 TAP grant was submitted in January. **Hayes Reservoir Timber Harvest** The timber harvest resulted in more revenue because of the fluctuating price of timber—the loggers followed the original plan for volume of trees harvested. **Restore New York** The owners of the Wilmarth property continue to explore resources to make up the budget gap. **Water Project** We will award Contract 1B at this meeting, Contract 2 has been awarded. We will see water main replacement work beginning this spring. **Sidewalks** The multi-modal sidewalk grant documents have been submitted to the Department of Transportation. We will combine these funds with the available CHIPS funds to upgrade as much sidewalk as possible. **New York Main Street Grant** The work on the 10 projects is close to complete. **Zoning and Infrastructure Grant** The water committee held its first public meeting at the Middle Falls Fire Department on Wednesday, February 7th, with good attendance. The Village wastewater system extension committee heard a preliminary engineering report about the findings; the work continues with feedback from attendees. The Zoning committee will meet later this month. **The Wastewater System** The results of the RFQs will be discussed this evening. Work continues on the design for the new plant. **Converting Streetlights to LED Fixtures** The lights are on line, and the closing for the loan with NYPA will be scheduled soon. **EPA Grant for Phase 2 Assessment of the Dunbarton Mill Site** The EPA has completed review of materials and given permission for LaBella to proceed with the Phase II assessment. **Parks and Recreation Areas Task Force** The Parks and Recreation Area Task Force met in January. At the next meeting we hope to have a preliminary budget for development of a dog park. We will tour the Hayes Reservoir property in order to plan the work on the trails and other signage for this spring. **AGFTC.** On February 21st the committee will interview the two top firms that emerged from the proposals we received, and we will award the work to one of these two firms. **WQIP Grant.** We are still waiting for awards to be announced to find out if our application for the grant to build a salt shed was successful. We hope the announcement will come in March. **Drinking Water Source Protection Program (DWSP2) Application.** We have been awarded designation as an enrollee in the Drinking Water Source Protection Program. This program will provide us with technical help and advice about our water system.

New Business:

- **Motion to Promote Michael Smith to DPW Superintendent** retroactive to January 19, 2024 so moved by Trustee Grimmke, seconded by Trustee Brown and carried by all.
- **Motion to Appoint Rachel Clothier to the position of Village Treasurer** effective March 4th for the remainder of the current term; moved by Trustee Robinson, seconded by Trustee Brown and carried by all.
- **Resolution No3 of 2024 Retire Superintendent Leo Flynn's Radio Identifier** - so moved on a motion by Trustee Grimmke, seconded by Trustee Robinson and carried by all.
- **Resolution No4 of 2024 – Budget Modification for Payment to Allen Forestry.** The amount of \$34,417.88 is hereby appropriated from surplus for the payment to Allen Forestry for services rendered. Passed on a motion by Trustee Grimmke, seconded by Trustee Brown and carried by all.
- **Resolution No5 of 2024 - Budget Modification – Planter Program.** The Board does hereby authorize the appropriation by transfer of \$8,944.00 from contingency to cover costs of 20 planters for Main St., moved by Trustee Brown, seconded by Trustee Robinson and carried by all.
- **Whipple City Festival Planning** – Rulyn Graves provided some background on this topic. The Greater Greenwich Chamber of Commerce is interested in a partnership to produce a re-imagined festival which honors and celebrates Greenwich and its history. The Town, Village and Chamber are in the process of sending out letters of interest to approximately 20 organizations to invite participation in this new endeavor. There will be a meeting in March at Gather on Main St in Greenwich. More information will be forthcoming as this event develops. Discussion later in the meeting added here for clarity; the Whipple City Parade has been tabled but is open to discussion and ideas.

Old Business

- **Resolution No6 of 2024 – Award of Contract 1B to J&K Trucking and Excavating for Water System Improvement Project.** The low bid among four total bids is awarded to J&K Trucking and Excavating for the amount of \$2,880,190 for bid items B-1- B-115 passed on a motion by Trustee Brown, seconded by Trustee Grimmke and carried by all.
- **Resolution No7 of 2024 - RFQ for Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements** has been received with a single submission. Motion to accept Barton & Loguidice as the qualified engineering firm to support the completion of the WWTP upgrades. Moved by Trustee Brown, seconded by Trustee Grimmke and carried by all.
- **Planter Project Update** – Rulyn Graves read a letter from Debbie Anderson which targets a May 15th start date. Contributions are being sought to offset the cost of the planters. The Greater Greenwich Chamber of Commerce has committed \$1000 towards the project so far. The town is being solicited as are other groups and individuals. Attorney Kelly added that any monies donated towards this specific project can be marked as a “conditional gift”. Sara Idleman is holding a meeting at the Greenwich Free Library on February 29 from 7-9 to review projects for this upcoming growing season. The official name of the endeavor is “Growing Greenwich.”
- **Front Door** replacement – Trustee Brown reported that Allerdice Lumber came out to take measurements for an estimate on a replacement for the current doors, which have been modified from the original doors over time.
- **Water Heater replacement** and electrical panel work – this still needs to be done as recommended by both an engineer and electrician. More information will be forthcoming.

- **Motion to Accept February 1, 2024 Water / Sewer Billing** so moved by Trustee Brown, seconded by Trustee Grimmke and carried by all.

Water	\$102,778.77
Water Reserve	\$12,290.26
Sewer	\$33,239.74
Sewer Reserve	\$3,372.49
Total	\$151,681.26
Arrears	\$24,006.73
Total	\$175,687.99 Bills total 896

- **Rock Street Dog Park** discussion. A survey has been done on this approximately 1-acre parcel. It will not be named “park”. Rules and regulations will be developed. Before a formal vote, Attorney Kelly will research state regulations regarding dog recreation areas.
- **Budget workshops** for February 22, March 7 and March 14 all at 6pm. The last one will be a Parks and Recreation Workshop also.
- **Resolution No8 of 2024 – Standard Workday Reporting for NYSLERS.** Trustee Grimmke attached his Record of Activities. Motion to accept made by Trustee Brown, seconded by Trustee Robinson and carried by all.

Permits

- **Parade Permit** has been submitted by Jeannie Pemrick on behalf of the VFW. May 24, 2024 from 5-7pm. Approved.

Public Comment:

Rulyn Graves – asked about a question asked by Liv Thygesen at the January meeting. “Was her question resolved? There was an awkward moment last month about the minutes from October?” Attorney Kelly answered that she was asked to submit it in writing which wasn’t done. But the answer is “no” to; “Does the Village deny Park or Parade Permits if they are political in nature?”

Jim Allen from Allen Forestry said thank you. May will be the final seeding and close-out. The total revenue for the Village was \$252,397.80.

Dean Watkins – resident from Eddy Street, spoke about the situation on 54 Eddy St, which he has complained about in the past. The situation has not improved, indeed may have worsened. Attorney Kelly will get in touch with Eric Becker to issue a violation. Mr. Watkins asked to be kept apprised of any developments.

8:30 Motion to close Regular Meeting and open Executive Session for a personnel issue made on a motion by Trustee Brown, seconded by Trustee Grimmke and carried by all.

8:42 Motion to close Executive Session and go into Regular Meeting and adjourn. Made on a motion by Trustee Brown, seconded by Trustee Grimmke and carried by all.

Respectfully submitted

Jane Dowling – Village Clerk