

Regular Meeting of the Village Board of Trustees

April 15, 2024 – DRAFT

Public Hearing 2024/2025 Budget

7:00 pm

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Greenwich was held April 15, 2024, in the Board Room at 6 Academy St. Present were Mayor Hurley, Trustees; Robinson, Grimmke, Vandewater and Moore, as well as Sergeant Danko, Superintendent Smith, Attorney Kelly and President Mumby. Chief Hopkins was absent. Mayor Hurley opened the meeting at 7:00 pm.

7:00 pm Public Hearing on the Tentative 2024/2025 Budget

Mayor Hurley asked for comments. Karen Prime, resident of Church St. asked why the NYMIR insurance premium was 30% higher. She pointed out that a way to save money would not have contingency this year and let fund balance take care of extraneous items. Her other suggestion would be to reduce grants. She pointed out that is room in the tentative budget to make further reductions. Treasurer Clothier responded to the insurance question by stating that our broker estimated the increase to be more in the line of 12%, so that 30% increase will be revised.

Motion to close the Public Hearing was offered by Trustee Grimmke, seconded by Trustee Robinson, and carried by all.

Vouchers

General Fund Voucher numbers 469 – 509 \$47,436.07

Water Fund Voucher numbers 87 – 91 \$2,423.59

Sewer Fund Voucher numbers 65 – 71 \$4,977.07

Transfers

A FUND: Transfer from A1990.4 (Contingency) to A1210.4 (Mayor expense) \$499.06
Transfer from A1990.4 (Contingency) to A1362.4 (Tax expense) \$473.47

Transfer from A1990.4 (Contingency) to A1410.4 (Clerk expense) \$1264.23.

Transfer from A1990.4 (Contingency) to A1420.4 (Village Atty) \$565.00

Transfer from A1990.4 (Contingency) to A1450.4 (Election expense) \$47.77.

Transfer from A1990.4 (Contingency) to A1490.4 (PW expense) \$83.11.

Transfer from A1990.4 (Contingency) to A3410.2 (FD equipment) \$2703.28.

Transfer from A1990.4 (Contingency) to A9790.7 (loan interest) \$4.06.

Transfer from A3120.42 (Police telephone) to A3120.4 (Police exp) \$15.11.

F FUND: Transfer from F8310.4 (Water Admin Exp) to F8310.2 (Equip) \$798.45

Transfer from F8320.2 (Supply-Equip) to F9010.8 (Retirement) \$1051.70

Vouchers and Transfers were ordered paid by the Board on several motions by Trustee Grimmke, seconded by Trustee Robinson and carried by all.

Motion to approve draft meeting minutes from March 27, 2024, and April 1, 2024 was made by Trustee Grimmke, seconded by Trustee Robinson and carried by all.

Department Reports

Fire: Deputy Chief Smith delivered the March report: Total calls – 27 with 20 being inside our district. EMS calls – 22. Rescue extrication 0, fire 1, hazards 0, service calls 3, and 1 alarm activation. The rest were mutual aid to Middle Falls, Shushan and Schuylerville totaling 7. Fire and Emergency response hours – 225.5, training hours 144 and activity – 248.5 for a total of 618 hours. Lt. Stephen Schukes completed Fire Officer 1 class and will be reimbursed \$1,000 under the NYS Office of Fire Prevention and Control training stipend. Greenwich Lion's Club is hosting a fundraising event for an "emergency plug" which will purchase a safety device to be used when responding to an emergency on an electric vehicle. The event is on May 4th.

Police: Sergeant Danko delivered the February / March: There were 24 cases reported to the DCJS in December totaling 39 reported for the year. Arrests totaled 11; 18 arrests for the year. There were 211 calls logged with County Dispatch for Feb/March. Calls for service for the year 2024 -330. Incidents handled: V&T law, animal cruelty, domestic disputes, mental health, criminal possession of a controlled substance and custodial interference. 1 motor vehicle accident.

DPW: Superintendent Smith delivered the March report: normal work occurred with the extra work required for the water project. Talks with Debbie Anderson about planter coordination planning has an early mid-May target date. Looking for Board approval for the purchase of the multi-use tractor from reserve funds. All funds could contribute; streets, water and sewer.

Youth: Trustee Robinson delivered the March report: Number of youths attending – 332, with an average daily attendance of 21. Community collaborations included an art show at the Greenwich Free Library.

Mayor: Mayor Hurley delivered the April 1-15 report - As part of the onboarding process, I took a tour of the fire department to familiarize myself with the operations and meet with Chief Hopkins to discuss their operation. I also had a productive lunch meeting with the Department of Public Works (DPW) to discuss infrastructure projects and their involvement in community initiatives like Whipple City Festival and the Tractor Parade. I also attended a NYCOM Budget training and plan to attend the new officials training in May. There are still more onboarding meetings to happen with the police, GYC, animal control, etc.

Hayes Reservoir- Will be walking the area with Jim Allen, Maria, and Mike Smith tomorrow to review what the scope will include for cleanup. I will also reconvene the Parks and Recreation Committee to get moving on what trails need to be cleared, marked, etc. so we can get it back open to the public to enjoy. Water Project- We have been delivering letters to residents in advance of any impact on their access to their roads or water. We have also been updating the website and social media on a regular basis so residents can see what roads will be impacted in the following two weeks.

Dunbarton Mill EPA Project- Phase I ESA was completed, incorporating EPA comments, and was shared back with the EPA. The Phase II work plan is nearing completion. The most recent monthly meeting was held on 3/29. Greenwich BOA Pre-Development - A zoning subcommittee meeting was held to review the updated scope of the zoning updates, incorporating stakeholder feedback. On the infrastructure side, a water subcommittee meeting was also held, and the next step will be circulating a letter to residents in the potential Town water district to increase project awareness and solicit feedback.

Bike/Ped Connectivity Plan. A kickoff meeting was held with AGFTC, the consultant team, the Town, the Village, and the next meeting is scheduled for April 25th. This project is a direct result of the comprehensive plan and will result in a long-term vision and priority project concept development so

those projects can then be converted into action. Public engagement will kick-off after the next meeting and will be focused on issues and priority identification. Wastewater Treatment Plant Work continues on the new plant. Last week we met to discuss funding options. We have a meeting coming up to discuss the project implementation with EFC, Barton & Loguidice and the Department of Environmental Conservation. Eddy Street Zoning officer has been actively working with the homeowner, Northshore animal league to get the house cleaned up. Dumpster is coming at the end of the week. We are making progress. Vultures on Cottage Street - A resident complained of the mess they are making and the potential for damage. Spoke to ECO and our Animal Control Officer. Since they are migratory birds, they are protected. You can often see them flying around Church and Cottage Streets. The effort we can make to have them move on is removing their food source which the ECO feels it's either trash, and if it's not trash it could be people who are leaving food out for stray cats. I have asked the resident to take photos of any damage and we can escalate to a USDA office in Schodack that could potentially work with us on removal of the vultures. The ECO officer also reminded me that it's bear season and they often go for bird feeders and trash cans. If it does end up happening, similar to the birds, removing their food source is important. Putting garbage away and removing bird feeders if there is an incident. They are on a three-day cycle, so it would need to be put away for more than just a day. Planter Project Planters are set to go out in May. Sandra Herbst has taken over the coordination of volunteers.

New Business:

- **Director Sarah Murphy and Board member Patrice Abate** provided background on the single source proposed funding for the library. The town's contribution is \$30,000 and the village funding is \$14,000. The library is proposing to roll that into a single school tax which will appear as a proposition of \$44,000 on the upcoming school ballot. The library asks the village to continue to include the library contribution in the 2024/25 budget, but if the May vote is successful, the funding would be unnecessary next year. The total increase this year, running over the tax cap is a onetime amount of about \$3,000, very much appreciated by the library community. Mayor Hurley asked what programs does the library budget support? Director Murphy responded that the library has 15,000 items in their collection and served over 36,000 visitors in 2023, which is a 29% increase from the prior year. Item borrowed jumped 13% over the year before. The library hosted 403 individual programs and events attended by over 7700 people which is a 227% increase. There were 427 events hosted by individuals in other community groups which used the library space at no cost.
- **Restore NY Round 8** grant application which would be included in this year's budget. The former mayor submitted an LOI which was approved to submit an application for this round. The board is asked to approve the proposal from LaBella for \$5,000 for this grant. There is no match for the village. Mark Samu's project at 83-85-87 Main St was selected and he elaborated on the project. Idleknot will be staying with upgrades to the space. The retail space formerly Wicked Wicks will be a photo gallery with some classes available. Two upstairs apartments need a small amount of renovation on one and major reno on the other. There are roof issues and exterior upgrades are planned. A new HVAC system is needed.
- **Motion to approve the application to apply for Restore Round 8** made by Trustee Vandewater, seconded by Trustee Moore and carried by all.
- **Motion to approve the LaBella Proposal for Professional Services Agreement at the cost of \$5,000 for Restore NY Round 8** made by Trustee Vandewater, seconded by Trustee Robinson and carried by all. Public Hearing will be scheduled at the next regular meeting on May 13th at 7pm.
- Budget Workshop Special Meeting will occur on April 23 at 7pm made on a motion by Trustee Vandewater, seconded by Trustee Grimmke and carried by all.

- Leo Flynn tribute. Two suggestions were offered: naming the DPW Garage and naming the new wastewater treatment plant. **Motion to approve naming** the wastewater treatment plant for Mr. Leo Flynn so moved by Trustee Grimmke, seconded by Trustee Robinson, and carried by all.

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Old Business

- **Parks and Recreation Task Force.** Mayor Hurley asked to name Pam Fuller to join that group. **Motion to appoint Pam Fuller** to that group by Trustee Grimmke, seconded by Trustee Moore and carried by all.

Permits

- **Park Permit** – Library Mowry Park April 20, 2024, 1:00-2:30pm Earth Day Celebration – **approved.**
- **Park Permit** – Union Village Festival – Mowry Park Friday and Saturday, June 14 and 15 – **approved.**
- **Parade Permit** – Union Village Festival – Church St to close Saturday from 9am to 10 pm – **approved.**
- Carol Hopper upstairs permit addendum for Thursday mornings from 9-10:15am **approved.**
- Comfort Food Coin Drop June 1, 2024 - 8:00-2:30 exact street address unknown. Tabled.
- **Parks Permit Alzheimer's Walk Mowry Park June 9, 9 – 1:00pm** – participants will walk on sidewalks only. **Approved.**
- **Parade Permit** – on sidewalk Alzheimer's June 9, 9-1:00pm – **Approved.**

Correspondence

- **Holly Harris** provided some background on her request of a letter of support for her application from NYS for a Cannabis Dispensary. Her permit is currently numbered 70 out of 3500 applicants. Her attorney suggested that proof of village support may help her cause. Holly described her store as an over 21 wellness boutique which is secure, understated and service oriented. She was asked if she expected parking to be an issue, and she answered in the affirmative. Attorney Kelly asked if she had any specific language to be used with the Cannabis Control Board, and she passed a letter to the Board for guidance.
- **Motion to write a letter of support** so moved by Trustee Moore, seconded by Trustee Vandewater and carried by all.

Public Comment:

- Ken Facin commented that he was in full support of Holly's endeavor, especially as she is a woman-owned business that will enhance the village. He also expressed support for the vultures. He commented that they provide an essential service, and they are a natural part of our ecosystem.
- Karen Prime also commented in favor of the vultures, seen roosting on Cottage St for the better part of at least 30 years and a natural and welcome addition to the neighborhood.
- Liv Thygesen commented in support of Holly adding that if Holly promises something, she will deliver in a thorough mindful way. She also reported that the vultures live on her property in the backyard, and they are not a nuisance, in fact they are regarded as a pleasant addition.
- Holly Harris commented that the Restore NY funds would be useful in helping her install a sprinkler system on her third floor, which she cannot rent until these safety measures are in place. She did state that she was 51% vacant which was a stipulation of the grant. She was unaware of the grant opportunity until tonight. She had one more comment; she is dismayed at the cost of septic and hopes that the burden can be spread over more households. Trustee

Grimmke responded that the new wastewater treatment facility will be able to accommodate more users.

- Rulyn Graves commented that the Chamber of Commerce is looking for a new Executive Director. It's a part-time position and to pass this information on.

8:07 Motion to close Regular Meeting and open Executive Session for a personnel issue made on a motion by Trustee Grimmke, seconded by Trustee Robinson and carried by all.

8:50 Close Executive Session and go into Regular Meeting on a motion by Trustee Grimmke, seconded by Trustee Vandewater and carried by all.

Motion to hire Levi Gage as DPW Machine Equipment Operator so moved by Trustee Grimmke, so moved by Trustee Grimmke, seconded by Trustee Vandewater and passed by all.

Respectfully submitted
Jane Dowling – Village Clerk