

Regular Meeting of the Village Board of Trustees
June 10, 2024 – DRAFT
7:00 pm

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Greenwich was held June 10, 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 6:59 pm.

Vouchers

General Fund Vouchers

Water Fund Vouchers

Vouchers were ordered paid by the Board on a motion by Trustee Grimmke, seconded by Trustee Moore and carried by all.

Motion to approve draft meeting minutes from May 13, 2024, and May 30, 2024 was made by Trustee Moore, seconded by Trustee Vandewater and carried by all.

Department Reports

Fire: Deputy Chief Smith delivered the May report: Total calls 16 with EMS calls – 13. Rescue extrication 1, fire 0, hazards 0, service calls 1, and 1 alarm activations. Mutual aid received and given to Middle Falls and given to Easton. Fire and Emergency response hours – 69.5, training hours 118 and activity – 394 for a total of 631.5 hours. The Firefighters Association of New York State recognized Jim Alheim, who was honored as Educator of the Year. He has been with the department for 36 active years, dedicating much of that time to the Summer Youth Program and National Fire Prevention Programs. FF John Hogan initiated the proposal to dedicate the Eddy St Bridge in Deputy Chief Brian Buell's name and that ceremony will be held on June 23 at 11:00 am at the bridge. Assemblywoman Carrie Woerner worked toward this effort and will be on hand for the ceremony. SAFER and National Wildland Fire Grants are in progress.

Police: Sergeant Danko delivered the May report: There were 10 cases reported to the DCJS in December totaling 58 reported for the year. Arrests totaled 3; 21 arrests for the year. There were 93 calls logged with County Dispatch for the month. Calls for service for the year 2024 - 547. Incidents handled: criminal mischief of town picnic tables, trespass, assault, forcible touching/endangering welfare of a child, animal complaints, domestic disputes, mental health, unattended death, and custodial interference. 1 motor vehicle accident. Lt Gauthier and Officer Nussbaum worked on a Tech Grant which awarded the department \$260,000, so a shout-out to them. The size of the Tractor Parade has triggered Homeland Security involvement. They have issued a route change to simplify and make for easier egress and access to address safety concerns.

DPW: Superintendent Smith delivered the May report: normal work occurred along with the Water Improvement Project which is keeping us more than busy. Quotes are being gathered for estimates to repair the fountain in Dorr Park. The Splash Pad was turned back on today after being off for conservation efforts. The water tank has recovered back to three-quarters full. The paperwork for the new tractor is being processed and it should be ready by week's end.

Mayor: Mayor Hurley delivered the May report – **Gazebo** Thank you to Lisa Perkins for bringing the new vision for the gazebo to life. Also, a special thank you to Aaron and Aubuchon Hardware for graciously

donating the white stain that was used to breathe new life back into the gazebo. And it was done in time for the upcoming events in Mowry Park. **Pro-Housing Community** We received pro-housing community certification which is now required for municipalities that want to apply for certain discretionary funding programs. We applied for certification based on the fact that we are promoting housing growth within our community like NY Forward or DRI. **Water Leaks** Thank you to the DPW for their hard work last weekend – they are the best of the best. Leaks were identified, fixed and serve as an important reminder as to why we are upgrading our water infrastructure. **CDBG Homeowner Rehabilitation** (Community Development Block Grant) Recognizing the age of our housing inventory, I'm recommending we apply for a CDBG to support property owners by upgrading their lateral connections. If we move forward, we would develop a waitlist over the next 6 weeks for low-income homes that opt in and if approved, they would have the cost of upgrading their lateral connections (3.5K - 5K) covered as they are considered art of housing rehabilitation. I am recommending we use Flatley Reed which specializes in housing programs and development. If we aren't awarded the grant this year, they will resubmit at no cost next year. The deadline for this year is July 31st. **Zoning Updates** On June 17th at the Greenwich Free Library from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. we will hold the first public workshop to discuss potential town and village zoning updates. The meeting will include a brief presentation of process and scope and is an opportunity for residents to share feedback on potential zoning updates. As a reminder, as part of the 2023 comprehensive plan to help preserve historic character, promote economic growth and development and protect agricultural land. **Sewer extension study (BOA Pre-Development funded)** Engineering report being finalized. Geotech/borings will need to be completed this summer/fall and coordinated with the Dunbarton EPA project **Bike/Ped Connectivity Plan (A/GFTC funded)** Plan launch/public outreach materials were finalized and are ready for posting on Town & Village websites. Timing being coordinated with Town & Village (want to avoid confusion with zoning project/other projects) **Restore Round 8** Application submitted for Mark's project. SHPO provided follow-up questions, which Mark is addressing. We are waiting on grant announcements later this summer **Restore Round 7 (Witches Wash)** Grant close-out documents submitted to ESD. Waiting for reimbursement \$ to be provided to developer/owner. **DRI Application** Attended DRI/NYF information session organized by the State. LaBella will be preparing a proposal to prepare the grant application, which is expected to be due in September. There will be an open process to solicit project ideas for funding. **Wastewater Treatment Plant** Thank you to Jane for acquiring enough (103) income surveys to submit them within the deadline so that we may be considered for 0% interest loan through EFC. It was no easy effort and is evidence of the relationships she has built within the community. **Hayes Reservoir/Parks and Recreation** Attended a meeting with Parks and Recreation to discuss their upcoming priorities. They are working on a plan and budget recommendations to enhance the recreation experience at Hayes Reservoir. They will likely present this in July. They are also working on scheduling a trail clean-up day – which is tentatively scheduled for June 23rd from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. The DPW is working on putting up concrete blocks and gates so people can't drive in and tear up the ground. They have covered the 12 ft. well and plan to clear the large trees before June 22nd. **Franchise Agreement** Our contract with Charter Communications expired a few years back and we are currently negotiating a franchise agreement renewal and are hopeful that we can get the fee they pay up from 3% to 5%.

Youth: President Mumby delivered the May report: Number of youths attending – 158 with an average daily attendance of 8. Upcoming events will include Safe Sitter Course, Council for Prevention, Stories Under the Stars, Open House, Smore Making and Constellation Stories around a campfire and Local Adventure Stories.

New Business:

Resolution No19 of 2024 Authorizing Application for a Housing Improvement Program Grant to assist with lateral water connections and other improvements based on income made on a motion by Trustee Robinson, seconded by Trustee Grimmke and carried by all.

Resolution No20 of 2024 Authorizing Mayor Hurley to be Certifying Officer for GDBG Program's Environmental Review on a motion by Trustee Grimmke, seconded by Trustee Vandewater and carried by all.

Resolution No21 2024 Authorizing Mayor Hurley as Fair Housing Officer for CDBG Program on a motion by Trustee Grimmke, seconded by Trustee Vandewater and carried by all.

Franchise Agreement – Attorney Kelly is in the early stages of investigation into the contract renewal for Charter Communications agreement which expired in 2017. Under this agreement, added Treasurer Clothier the Village gets a 3%, about \$3700 every quarter which is a calculation Washington County makes based on the value of property Charter uses through the Village. This amount is currently \$947,000, which equates to approximately \$9,000. There is no tax being paid because it is claimed as an “offset”. Attorney Kelly and Trustees agreed that the contract should be renewed to maximize revenue for the Village. Charter has agreed to go up to a maximum of 5%. The tax piece still needs to be figured out.

Motion to accept June 1, 2024 water/sewer billing as seen below made by Trustee Grimmke, seconded by Trustee Vandewater and carried by all.

Water	\$88,671.79
Water Reserve	\$14,656.96
Sewer	\$31,557.62
Sewer Reserve	\$3,305.84
Total	\$137,461.25
Arrears	\$730.96
Total	\$138,192.21 Bills total 888

Old Business:

Motion to authorize Mayor Hurley to sign Timber Sale Closeout letter which allows Jim Allan to return Sweeney Land Management's performance deposit and acknowledges that promised work was completed as specified in the contract. Motion made by Trustee Vandewater, seconded by Trustee Robinson and carried by all.

Animal Control Law Revisions

Mayor Hurley prefaced this discussion by stating that a Public Hearing will be scheduled prior to any changes. Some suggestions were discussed. Animal Control Officer Celeste offered the information that no other municipality in the county offers a specific list of prohibited household pets. Her authority does not extend to entering a home without a warrant. She is more concerned with prohibiting farm animals; cloven and split hooved. She agrees that stating a maximum number of dogs per household is smart and widely used. The Board does not want breeding operations within Village boundaries, so a maximum number of litters of dogs and cats can and should be included. The Board agreed that laying hens should also have a maximum number, since chickens can have an odor and have the potential of attracting rodents. The yard and square footage or lot size and proximity to neighbors will be taken into

consideration as well. The Special Permit allows for a non-approval of a neighbor. Property size regarding types of, and amounts of animals was discussed, especially when referring to larger properties on the Village perimeter. Attorney Kelly summed up the discussion with the statement that the list of prohibited animals is still an open question. The ACO brought up a “safekeeping law” which in essence allows taking an animal into custody, or simply getting it to safety, legally, when the owner is unable to. This law protects the Village and its residents.

Permits

Park Permit - Splash Pad – GYC Tuesdays 7.19.2024 - 8.30.2024 11:30-3:30. Approved

Park Permit - Splash Pad – 1st Grade Bluman 6.17.2024 9:30 -11:30. Approved

Carol Hopper – 3rd Floor Yoga request for random Saturday usage if available. Approved

Public Comment: none

8:02 Motion to close Regular Meeting and go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue made on a motion by Trustee Grimmke, seconded by Trustee Moore and carried by all.

8:05 Motion to close Executive Session and return to Regular Session made on a motion by Trustee Robinson and seconded by Trustee Grimmke and carried by all

Motion to approve Nick Casey Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator with appropriate salary change and monthly telephone stipend effective June 19, 2024.

8:13pm Motion to close Regular Meeting made by Trustee Moore, seconded by Trustee Vandewater and carried by all.

Respectfully submitted.

Jane Dowling – Village Clerk