

Regular Meeting of the Village Board of Trustees
July 8, 2024 – DRAFT
7:00 pm

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Greenwich was held July 8, 2024, in the Board Room at 6 Academy St. Present were Mayor Hurley, Trustees: Robinson, Vandewater and Moore, as well as Sergeant Danko, Chief Hopkins, Attorney Kelly and President Mumby. Trustee Grimmke and Superintendent Smith were absent. Mayor Hurley opened the meeting at 7:01 pm.

7:01 pm – Mayor Hurley opened the Public Hearing on Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) applications for the 2024 program year. The CDBG program is administered by the New York State Office of Community Renewal (OCR) and will make available to eligible local governments approximately \$15 million for the 2024 program year for housing, economic development, public facilities, public infrastructure, and planning activities, with the principal purpose of benefitting low/moderate income persons. The Village of Greenwich is applying for up to \$750,000 in CDBG funds to provide village-wide housing rehabilitation. Pre-application deadline is July 17. The greater number of applications the Village has, the better our chances of being awarded the grant. There are 8 applications thus far. We are looking for a threshold of at least 15.

No public comments.

The Village advertised for Request for Qualifications for grant writing for the CDBG and received one proposal from Flatley-Read.

Motion to accept Flatley-Read as administrator for CDBG made by Trustee Moore, seconded by Trustee Vandewater and carried by all.

7:07pm – Close Public Hearing on a motion by Trustee Moore, seconded by Trustee Robinson and carried by all.

Vouchers

General Fund Voucher numbers 15 – 61 totaling \$163,785.84

Water Fund Voucher numbers 2 – 11 totaling \$10,491.35

Sewer Fund Voucher numbers 1 - 8 totaling \$9,731.96

Trust and Agency Fund Voucher numbers 0-12 totaling \$3,211.94

Motion to pay the above bills so moved by Trustee Robinson, seconded by Trustee Vandewater and carried by all.

Last month's Vouchers – for recording purposes

General Fund Voucher numbers 1 -14 totaling \$13,284.03

Water Fund Voucher number - 1 totaling \$183.42

Motion to approve draft meeting minutes from June 10, 2024, was made by Trustee Vandewater, seconded by Trustee Robinson and carried by all.

Department Reports

Fire: Chief Hopkins delivered the June report: Total calls 25 with EMS calls – 19. Rescue extrication 1, fire 3, hazards 0, service calls 2, and 0 alarm activations. Mutual aid received and given to Middle Falls, Cossayuna, Easton, Middle Falls, Schuylerville, Victory Mills and Cambridge. Fire and Emergency response hours – 69.5, training hours 99 and activity – 229 for a total of 397.5 hours. June's meeting saw

3 new members voted in: Luke and Jack Pemrick are probationary Firefighters and Liam Curley, entry level junior firefighter. Thanks to all who attended the dedication ceremony at the bridge honoring Deputy Chief Brian Buell on June 23. A meeting is being scheduled with Mayor Hurley and Trustee Robinson to start establishing emergency action plans for heating, cooling and more for Village and possibly town residents.

Police: Sergeant Danko delivered the June report: There were 5 cases reported to the DCJS in June totaling 63 reported for the year. Arrests totaled 0; 25 arrests for the year. There were 88 calls logged with County Dispatch for the month. Calls for service for the year 2024 - 635. Incidents handled: larcenies, animal complaints, domestic disputes, missing persons, unattended death, and unauthorized use of a vehicle. 1 motor vehicle accident. A busy month for a short-staffed department. The Balloon Festival in Cambridge and Union Village Festival in Greenwich added to the busy summer weekend schedule.

DPW: Fire Chief Hopkins delivered the June report: normal work occurred along with the Water Improvement Project which is keeping the department more than busy. The splash pad has been challenging to maintain this summer because of deferred maintenance, which will be addressed this fall. Seth Kelly, our new MEO started today.

Youth: President Mumby delivered the June report: attendance was 140 youths with an average daily attendance of 8. Community collaborations included Safe Sitter course, Comfort Food Healthy Snacks, Council for Prevention MEGA Brain, Cornell Cooperative Extension Container Garden and GYC all member Summer Kick-Off party.

Mayor: Mayor Hurley delivered the June report – **CDBG Homeowner Rehabilitation** (Community Development Block Grant) So far we only have 5 pre-applications, the pre-application deadline is July 17th. We hosted a public workshop on June 26th. We have posted information online, the project was featured in local newspapers, at various physical locations in the Village and on social media. We will continue to promote to increase total pre-apps. **TAP Grant** The Village was not selected for funding. We are in the process of setting up a debrief with DOT to get feedback on why the project was not selected. **Sewer extension study (BOA Pre-Development funded)** The draft MOA is in process and once it is final, we will contact DEC and ask for an agreement releasing the village from liability for the site. **Bike/Ped Connectivity Plan (A/GFTC funded)** Plan launch/public outreach materials have been distributed on our website, in the local newspaper and social media. Residents are encouraged to leave feedback on what they would like to see in terms of increasing connectivity and safety in both the Town and The Village. **Restore Round 7 (Witches Wash)**

More paperwork has been requested from ESD on which we are working. ESD is holding a public hearing on July 22nd at 2 p.m. and if no negative comments, the project will be reviewed by the Public Authorities Control Board (PACB) on July 24th. After PACB approval, the Contract Administration Department will provide the final out of pocket expenses associated with the project for final signature.

Emergency Management Working with Tim Hardy's office on setting up a training session on Emergency Management for Local Officials (referred to as Tier 3 Emergency Management). It will review what is available at the county and state level and highlights the legal roles and responsibilities for a mayor.

Norma A. Gannon Scholarship Scholarship for community service was presented on June 26, 2024, by Trustee Maria Robinson to Aaron Stuzman. **James "Kim" Gannon Scholarship** for Performing Arts was also presented by Trustee Robinson on the same evening to Jackson Fortier. **Trees** In anticipation of the upcoming removal of trees on Main Street, due to the water project, Donna and I met with Amy MacKenzie, Urban Forester with NYSDEC. Main items in that pipeline include a grant for Inventory and

Management Plan - which is what we would need before we could qualify for other grants that will plant trees in our Village. Also, applying for Tree City USA designation which is similar approach as “pro-housing community” but for trees. If we did this, we'd be the only one in Washington County. Those standards are noted below: These are the 4 standards to meet to gain designation: Standard 1: Form A Tree Board or Department Delegating responsibility for city- or town-owned trees is the first official step to becoming a Tree City. By forming a tree board or department, cities can create a more organized and effective urban forestry plan. Standard 2: Establish A Tree Care Ordinance A public tree care ordinance assigns clear authority over public trees and provides clear guidance for planting, maintaining, and/or removing trees from streets, parks, and other public spaces. Standard 3: Maintain A Community Forestry Program with An Annual Budget Of At Least \$2 Per Capita on the planting, care, and removal of trees. This is intended to demonstrate an ongoing investment in our public trees. Our Treasurer has already run initial numbers and we meet this threshold with what we are currently doing. Standard 4: Proclaim and Observe Arbor Day Celebrating Arbor Day and passing an official holiday proclamation helps create pride for your city's entire urban forestry program.

New Business:

Recognizing Juneteenth as an official Village Holiday – Mayor Hurley recommends officially recognizing this Federal Holiday to honor the historical significance of the day and to enable alignment with other local, state and federal offices which are closed on that day.

Motion to recognize Juneteenth as an official Village Holiday made by Trustee Moore, seconded by Trustee Vandewater and carried by all.

Water Rate Increase discussion. Treasurer Clothier recommends increasing water rates 30% effective January 1 based on the anticipated increase in the debt service to \$366,667 if the water improvements are completed with zero percent loans vs grants. Trustee Vandewater pointed out that B&L distributed and endorsed an incremental multi-year rate increase schedule which we should look at. Merits of incremental rate increases was discussed. Trustee Vandewater further pointed out that the cost of our water historically has been lower than many other surrounding areas. Mayor Hurley would like the Board to agree on an increase/schedule by September to enable proper notice to customers. This discussion is tabled pending more documentation and will be on the August agenda.

Dorr Park electrical quotes- Three quotes have been procured: Mark Rogers, Jason Nolan Electric and William Linendoll Electric. Superintendent Smith recommends the least costly, which is Jason Nolan. References have been checked.

Motion to approve Jason Nolan to perform electrical repairs on the Dorr Park fountain made by Trustee Moore, seconded by Trustee Vandewater and carried by all.

Old Business:

Animal Control Law Revisions

Attorney Kelly opened the discussion of prohibited animals vs setback limitations. This discussion was caused by the agricultural nature of some village properties, especially on the perimeter or down on Eddy St. Other properties have a small footprint which couldn't accommodate certain animals. Special Permits will still be required for chickens. There will be a Public Hearing in August. Shannon Celeste will be on hand.

Permits

Park Permit - Splash Pad – LEAP Head Start 7/12/2024, rain date 7/15/2024 11-12:30. Approved

Peddlers - Six Month Permit Case Reyes Food Truck. Approved

Peddlers – Six Month Permit Kaspar Suvorg selling educational books door-to-door. Approved

Public Comment: none

Trustee Vandewater had a follow-up on the poison ivy down by the Brian Buell Bridge. He is waiting for proposals for removal. His intention is to reach back out to interested parties for a price and a plan.

8:02pm Motion to close Regular Meeting made by Trustee Vandewater, seconded by Trustee Moore and carried by all.

Respectfully submitted.

Jane Dowling – Village Clerk