

Regular Meeting of the Village Board of Trustees
August 12, 2024 – DRAFT
Public hearing 7:30pm – Animal Control Law Revisions
7:00 pm

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Greenwich was held August 12, 2024, in the Board Room at 6 Academy St. Present were Mayor Hurley, Trustees: Robinson, Vandewater, Grimmke and Moore, as well as Sergeant Gauthier, Chief Hopkins, Attorney Morelli and President Mumby, and Superintendent Smith. Mayor Hurley opened the meeting at 7:01 pm.

7:01pm – Mayor Hurley announced that there were no sealed bids submitted on the Community Center doors.

Vouchers

General Fund Voucher numbers 62 – 114 totaling \$283,250.16

Water Fund Voucher numbers 12 – 19 totaling \$8866.42

Sewer Fund Voucher numbers 9 - 17 totaling \$10,305.19.

Water Improvement numbers 9-18 totaling \$1,302,774.51

Capital Projects WWTP number 7-8 totaling \$766.60.

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

Motion to approve draft meeting minutes from July 8, 2024, was made by Trustee Vandewater, seconded by Trustee Grimmke and carried by all.

Department Reports

Fire: Chief Hopkins delivered the July report: Total in-district alarms: 24. EMS calls – 22. Rescue extrication 0, fire 0, hazards 0, service calls 0, and 2 alarm activations. Mutual aid received and given to Easton, Ft Edward and Cambridge. Total alarms – 30. Fire and Emergency response hours – 49.5, training hours 93 and activity – 230.5 for a total of 373 hours. July's meeting saw a new member; Timi Jo TJ Weller voted in. The Annual Youth Fire Camp is in session with all junior firefighters having been sworn in. Jim Alheim was honored as NYS Educator of the Year in Niagara Falls. Town/ Village emergency action planning is in early discussions. Tractor Parade planning is ongoing with a new route being fine-tuned.

Police: Sergeant Gauthier delivered the July report: There were 32 cases reported to the DCJS in June totaling 95 reported for the year. Arrests totaled 3; 28 arrests for the year. There were 102 calls logged with County Dispatch for the month. Calls for service for the year 2024 - 737. Incidents handled: harassment, animal complaints, domestic disputes, missing persons, aggravated unlicensed operation, and unauthorized use of a vehicle. There were 5 motor vehicle accidents. A busy month for a still short-staffed department. Special thanks to PTL Davis-Flynn and PTL Mosso for work in finding at-risk village resident with help en-route from multiple agencies when the young man returned home. Award notice for tech funding has been received and the procurement process will begin shortly.

DPW: Superintendent Smith delivered the July report: normal work occurred along with the Water Improvement Project which is still keeping the department more than busy. There have been numerous water issues, all of which need to be addressed immediately. The splash pad will have to be repaired this fall because of pipe and pressure problems. The electrical work at the Dorr Park and the new salt shed are also slated for work this fall. The water tower road washed out again on Friday.

Youth: President Mumby delivered the July report: attendance was 72 youths with an average daily attendance of 5. Community collaborations included Salem Arts Music Workshop, Greenwich Free Library, and Planetarium Adventures among others. The Halloween Parade will be hosted by GYC from the Chamber of Commerce. New Instagram gyc_ny.

Mayor: Mayor Hurley delivered the July report – **Water Project** - In advance of J&K's work on Main Street I have proactively reached out to residents who will be impacted by the work that will be done in front of their house. Despite our efforts, the Department of Transportation is not allowing us to work on the state road where our water improvement project is to be installed under the state road. As a result, we will need to perform necessary work on in the state Right-of-Way under the sidewalk in front of some homes on Main Street in mid to late August. Some trees will have to be removed outright; remaining trees may be impacted by pruning to provide access for the equipment and/or damage to the root structure while installing the water main. Trustee Moore and I are working on Tree City USA certification to develop a long-term plan of reintroducing trees to keep our village green and beautiful. **WWTP – Upgrade** - Working to get our workplans, insurance documents, EEO information etc. into SFS. We did receive an order on Consent from the DEC – and we have received a 30-day extension to respond. We need to work on developing a new schedule with realistic timeframes based on EFC and DEC review periods. **Emergency Services Management-** On August 5th I met with Chief Hopkins, Superintendent Smith and Trustee Robinson to start sketching an outline of a more detailed plan for Greenwich, building upon the Washington County template. On August 9th I attended a two-hour Emergency Management training with Tim Hardy's team. **DWSP2 Project** - The Drinking Water Source Protection Program kicks off in September. Thank you, Trustee Vandewater, for taking the lead on getting the paperwork and stakeholder group organized. **Restore Round 8** - The state announced the projects that were selected for Restore Round 8 and unfortunately, our Greenwich project was not selected. In reviewing the projects that were selected in the Capital Region, they were much larger building projects (\$550,000 to \$10M). The \$10M project was to demolish the Albany warehouse and that detracted from the number of other awards made in our region. **Bike/Ped Connectivity Plan (A/GFTC funded)** The boards and surveys that were sent to the village, library and town halls have been collected. The online map remains open and has about 70 points on it. Our next step is to reconvene to discuss public feedback we have received to date. The committee will be meeting in the first few weeks of September to discuss the next steps for the project. **CDBG Homeowner Rehabilitation** We ended with a total of 15 applications and the application was submitted on July 30th. We will hear if we are awarded towards the end of the year. **Fire** - It's fitting that I dropped my son off for Jr. Firefighter Camp this morning, as we received some exciting news —our very own James Alheim has been recognized by the Firefighters Association of the State of New York as their Fire Safety Educator of the Year. With over three decades of experience, we are incredibly fortunate to have him in our community!

New Business:

Motion to approve Shared Services Agreement Town/Village which enables the municipalities to use equipment and materials for mutual benefit. This document was drafted because the Village is giving the Town the balance of our sand, which our highway department will need access to. Motion made by Trustee Grimmke, seconded by Trustee Robinson and carried by all.

Motion to approve the Fuel bid awards for the 2024/2025 season. Four fuel types were solicited for the lowest price and four companies responded. The bids are awarded to GA Bove for gasoline and propane

and Braymer Fuels for diesel and fuel oil. Motion to accept these bids made by Trustee Grimmke, seconded by Trustee Moore and carried by all.

Water Rate Increase discussion. Treasurer Clothier stated the 4.8 million loan for the Water Improvement Project will cost \$160,000 per year in debt service for 30 years. The total loan amount is projected to be \$11 million which includes the Abeel Avenue portion, not yet started. If the first payment on the debt service is due in December, we have a budgetary shortfall of up to \$84,000. Trustee Grimmke commented that the review of water rates with may include increasing rents on larger users and commercial accounts. Trustee Grimmke and Treasurer Clothier will come back with a proposal but stated that it was probably a given that the base rate will be increased approximately \$50 annually. A mailer will be developed to explain to residents why the rents are being increased with an emphasis on conservation. Mayor Hurley will work on this. The Board talked about an increase starting with January 2025 usage.

7:30 pm - Mayor Hurley opened the Public Hearing Animal Control Law Revisions

Cats - The Mayor opened the discussion with an inquiry from a resident about the possibility of a spay/neuter/ release program paid and administered by the Village for feral cats. ACO Celeste responded that this would make the Village a destination for abandoned cats. She further commented there is a low-cost spay/neuter option for cat owners in Hudson Falls.

Dogs – 5 dog limit with a 500-ft setback or 1 litter a year is agreed to.

500-foot setback within each property boundary is agreed to for animals.

Hens - Animal Control Officer Celeste believes a number limit on chickens is the way to go. Peter Gionet from Main St commented that his past permit for chickens was followed up with a visit from the ACO to look at his containment situation. He followed up later in the discussion with a NYS minimum hen purchase is 6 which may be a problem for a limit of 6 chickens, if part of a flock needs to be replaced. The Board likes the special permit for hens and agreed that property size is pertinent to amount of chickens which may be housed with respect to space, odor, etc. The Board agreed on a Special Hen Permit of 10. No roosters unless the 500 foot setback is met.

Wildlife Rehabilitator notification – ACO Celeste suggested to the Board that certified NYS rehabilitators notify the Village of their status. This would enable emergency personnel to enter homes safely and with foreknowledge of what may be inside.

8:06 pm – close Public Hearing

Motion to name the DPW Garage in the name of Superintendent Leo Flynn. Made on a motion by Trustee Grimmke, seconded by Trustee Vanderwater and carried by all. Mayor Hurley is drafting a press release and the DPW crew is buffing up the building for an official dedication ceremony around September 23rd.

Resolution No22 of 2024 Approve LaBella Professional Services Proposal for Draft and Submission of DRI Grant Application. This grant is funded by NYS Regional Economic Development Council for the Downtown Revitalization Initiative Grant. The village is applying jointly with the town and will split the \$10,000 LaBella Professional Services fee. The grant area is from Mill Hollow to the one-story retail building across from Hannaford. The regional award is \$10 million. Both public and private projects will be considered. There is a 25% match for private projects. Approval is contingent on the Town's approval, changes to the contract and adherence to state policies on using LaBella for grant writing. Motion to approve this Resolution with contingencies made by Trustee Vandewater, seconded by Trustee Moore and carried by all.

Old Business:

Franchise Agreement with Charter Communications – A Public Hearing will need to be held at the September meeting prior to signing the contract.

Permits

- Building Use Permit – Yoga Saturdays 9:00am-10:30am George Green beginning in September – approved.
- Tractor Parade Permit GGCC – November 23, 2024 - 4:00-8:00pm – approved.
- Parade /Parks Permit Application – October 19, 2024 – 1pm -3pm – Walk for Freedom – approved.

Correspondence

- LEAP Head Start - Thank you sent for use of the Splash Pad on 7/12/2024

Public Comment

- Douglas Kelly from 7 Rock St commented on a couple of items. He was following up on a patrolman parking at the library entrance and wondered if anything was on record or action regarding this incident. Additionally, Mr. Kelly commented on the orientation of the grates on Main St which present a danger to cyclists. He further explained that a tire could catch in the parallel bars and the rider would be tipped into traffic. The issue would be resolved if the grates were reoriented 90 degrees. Mayor Hurley will follow up.
- Shannon Celeste is going to collect pet food donations to benefit the Pet Food Pantry in Granville. The Village Hall will have a collection box. She has also organized a motorcycle ride on September 7 to benefit the endeavor.

8:30pm Motion to close meeting made by Trustee Grimmke, seconded by Trustee Vandewater and carried by all.

Respectfully submitted.

Jane Dowling – Village Clerk