

Regular Meeting of the Village Board of Trustees
December 9, 2024 – 7:00 - DRAFT

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Greenwich was held December 9, 2024, in the Board Room at 6 Academy St. Present were Mayor Hurley, Trustees: Vandewater, Grimmke, Robinson and Moore, as well as Attorney Kelly, President Mumby, and Superintendent Smith, Sergeant Gauthier and Chief Hopkins. Mayor Hurley opened the meeting at 7:02 pm.

Vouchers

General Fund Voucher numbers 249 – 306 totaling \$205,679.79

Water Fund Voucher numbers 51 – 60 totaling \$13,128.81

Sewer Fund Voucher numbers 33 - 40 totaling \$6,537.47

Water Improvement number 34 totaling \$1320.00

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

Approval of the draft Meeting Minutes from November 4, 2024, made on a motion by Trustee Vandewater, second by Trustee Moore and carried by all.

Department Reports

Fire: Chief Hopkins delivered the November report: Total in-district alarms: 19. EMS calls – 15. Rescue extrication 1, fire 1, hazards 0, service calls 0, and 2 alarm activations. Mutual aid received – 2. Thank you to Cossayuna, Middle Falls, Salem, Cambridge, Schuylerville, Victory Mills and Hartford Fire Departments for providing assistance with the 37 Academy St fire. Also, thanks to J & K contractors, Easton/Greenwich EMS and Cambridge/Greenwich Police Department. The new water system provided plenty of water which was flowing at 1000 gallons a minute at initial onset. Ken Charron turned on the third well pump, to ensure there would be enough. Shushan FD assisted with medical aid during the Tractor Parade. Aid provided to Easton, Cambridge, Middle Falls, and Cossayuna. Total alarms – 26. Fire and Emergency response hours – 134, training hours 81 and activity – 490 for a total of 705 hours. New Fire Officers for the 2025/2026 term as elected on December 2, 2024: Fire Chief – Cory Hopkins, Deputy Fire Chief – Mike Smith Jr., Assistant Fire Chief – Michael Genevick, 1st Response Coordinator – Christy Hopkins, Captain – Phil Spiezio, Captain – John Hogan, Lieutenant – Stephen Schukes, Lieutenant – Zack Hopkins. John Solan Jr has been reinstated as a full member and the department is happy to have him back. The Greenwich Chamber's Tractor Parade had 15,000 attendees and the general consensus is that it was a success. The route will be the same next year with some modifications to the Big Lots parking lot area.

Motion to approve new fire officers made by Trustee Robinson, seconded by Trustee Vandewater and carried by all.

Police: Sergeant Gauthier delivered the November report. There were 43 cases reported to the DCJS in October and November totaling 149 reported for the year. Arrests totaled 0 with 35 arrests for the year. There were 70 calls logged with County Dispatch for the month. Calls for service for the year 2024 - 1045. Plt Nussbaum has resigned and will be working for the Sheriff in Pinellas County, FL. We wish him well. Gathering quotes to replace the 2015 Explorer which was totaled in October.

DPW: Superintendent Smith delivered the November report: normal work occurred along with the Water Improvement Project, leaf pickup, ice rink installation, water leak on Main St, and Tractor Parade. A question was asked on the Wastewater Treatment Plant project progress. Attorney Kelly reported that DEC has not responded to his last email regarding violation payments. There are two meetings scheduled with Barton & Loguidice in the next two weeks to discuss moving forward. Resurfacing Gannon Park playground quotes are being gathered to make the ground safer if falls should happen. The Dunbarton property 6' chain link fence will be about \$10,000 for 800' for materials alone. Trustee Vandewater suggested laying directly over the sluice. The installation would be less costly. This option was discussed favorably. Better signage will be posted to keep skaters off unfrozen ice which can slice through the lining of the rink.

Youth: President Mumby delivered the November report: attendance was 188 youths with an average daily attendance of 11. Hannaford sold 129 bags which added \$129.00 to The GYC coffers. Letters for Santa box is still in front of the Info Booth which will be available until December 17.

Mayor: Mayor Hurley delivered the November report - **NY Forward/DRI** - I was invited to present our NY Forward application to the Empire State Development Special Committee on November 19th. It was a 30-minute presentation of projects and background on Greenwich followed by 20 minutes of questions. The presentation indicates we are a finalist, but they will not be announcing awards until the first quarter. **Parks and Recreation** We had our first Hayes Reservoir clean up with about 15 volunteers, we were able to clean up the trail around the reservoir and identify priority areas for when we can get back in to do more work. If people are interested in getting involved, or have ideas they are welcome to reach out to the following email: hayesreservoir@gmail.com Greenwich Gardener's have done a beautiful job making the planters festive, applying greens to the gazebo and bringing in a Christmas tree, gifts and a wreath to Dorr Park in time for the Tractor Parade. A question came up about painting the electrical box and doing some staining to make it blend into the park, however, that is on hold while Trustee Moore investigates commissioning a local artist to create something for the electrical panel.

I met with Caine Martin, who is interested in leading an initiative to enhance accessibility at Gannon Park, ensuring that children of all abilities can access and enjoy play. He has been reaching out to local businesses, which have shown enthusiasm for supporting this effort. Once his ideas are fully developed, he plans to present them to the board. I believe this would be a wonderful and inclusive addition to our Village Parks. **Tree Committee** The Tree Committee held its initial meeting with members Andrew Mollica, Donna Frank Moore, Lisa Perkins, Joe Panza, and Cal O'Connell in attendance. The committee reviewed the local ordinance and established its initial goals, which include creating a street tree inventory map, replacing the trees on Main Street that were removed due to the water project, and planting small trees on Thunder Mountain in areas identified as needing reforestation.

The committee is sharing an RFP with the board for review, aimed at securing quotes for completing the tree inventory. The plan is to request investment of a portion of the funds from the Thunder Mountain timber sale to bring more trees to the community and ensure proper care of the trees we currently have. We submitted our application to become a Tree City USA right before the Thanksgiving holiday and our application is currently under regional review. **Recycling Program** Recently, a resident raised a question about how unaccepted recycling is being handled during collection. After looking into the issue, I learned that the current practice has been for the DPW to place unaccepted recycling into the garbage truck. This approach was intended to avoid creating messes on our village streets. Our DPW team takes pride in keeping Greenwich clean, often going above and beyond by picking up brush and clippings outside of designated collection days to ensure our streets remain well-maintained. However, to stay true to the principles of effective recycling and ensure we are maximizing its environmental benefits, I am recommending a change. Moving forward, the DPW will leave unaccepted recycling behind. It will

then become the homeowner's responsibility to sort and remove items such as wet paper products, cardboard that hasn't been broken down, or unaccepted recyclables. To support this transition, I plan to work with the board to create a leave-behind notice that will clearly inform homeowners about what items need attention. This topic will also be discussed at the next board meeting. I appreciate the resident for bringing this issue to my attention and will continue working toward solutions that benefit both our village and the environment. **Greenwich Bike and Pedestrian Connectivity Improvements** The committee met last week to discuss connecting the Empire State Trail to the Town/Village, Main Street Intersection at Big Lots and the Academy/Church/Main/Cottage Intersection. Long term we are exploring a rail with trail or rail to trail option. The congestion at Church/Main Street was identified as a priority and we are exploring potential treatments like sidewalk additions, shorter crossings and a traffic study. **AGFTC – Make The Connection** We recently applied for AGFTC's *Make the Connection* grant. If awarded, it will allow us to develop detailed designs, making us fully shovel-ready for the next round of TAP funding. **Water Project** Contract 1B is progressing with the installation of new water mains and service connections. As part of the ongoing work, crews will restore sidewalks daily with a temporary hard surface, using asphalt in compliance with DOT guidelines. Final restoration, including permanent concrete work, seeding, and site finishing, is scheduled for completion in the spring. Similarly, the impacted village roads will be repaved curb to curb in the spring, following a full freeze-thaw cycle, in adherence to best practices for durability and quality.

Old Business:

- **Motion** to approve Snow and Ice Agreement 2025 with Washington County made by Trustee Grimmke, seconded by Trustee Vandewater and carried by all.
- **DPW** salary increases. Trustee Grimmke asked for more information when this was discussed at the November meeting. Treasurer Clothier distributed a tentative budget for 2025/2026 as well as requested budget modifications mid-year to the Board. This discussion was prompted by the need for another MEO to be fully staffed. The new wages would be tied to capped overtime. The need for less overtime is achievable with another worker on the team and a new water system in the ground. The wastewater system does require 24/7 monitoring, and the weather is unpredictable, so these overtime factors are out of our hands.

Motion to approve salary increases for DPW workers in all categories except for seasonal part time. Effective next pay period - new hourly rates; \$30 for DPW Superintendent, \$26 for wastewater treatment plant operator and working supervisor, \$25 for MEOs with \$24 paid during probationary period, \$22 for p/t laborers, made on a motion by Trustee Grimmke, seconded by Trustee Moore and carried by all. Seasonal part-time wages will be discussed during budget talks.

- **Personnel Policy** review. It's been a couple of years since this has been looked at. Trustee Robinson will make recommendations at our next meeting.
- **Timber Harvest** added \$283,000 into the general fund. Mayor Hurley would like to set up a reserve fund for Parks and Recreation. Attorney Kelly stated the two types of reserve funds are repair or capital improvement. Development, maintenance and improvement are all programs which the Parks and Recreation Committee wants to take on, the choice of reserve account bears more discussion with the comptroller.

Resolution No31 of 2024 Appropriation of \$21,000 from Timber Harvest monies in General Fund to Fire Department Capital Equipment Reserve made by Trustee Grimmke, seconded by Trustee Moore and carried by all.

New Business:

- **Tree Inventory Management** – The Tree Committee would like to put an RFP out seeking proposals from qualified professionals to inventory and map Village trees with information about species, condition and location.
Motion to release this RFP made by Trustee Moore, seconded by Trustee Vandewater and carried by all.
- **Regular Meeting schedule for 2025** will be the second Monday of each month with the exception of October which will be October 20. Year-end meeting will be May 29 at 6pm.
- **2025 Fire Protection Agreement with the Town of Greenwich.** The contract is for \$127,150.00 paid in two installments. Approved on a motion Trustee Grimmke, seconded by Trustee Vandewater and carried by all.
- **Hiring process** for non-competitive class. The general idea is posting the job in local media and post for a minimum of 10 days. At the end of that period interviews may be held. Applications will be reviewed; questions will be agreed on. Interviews will be held with the supervisor, trustee and mayor. References will be checked prior to hire. More detail will go into the Personnel Policy revisions. **Motion to approve this new process** made by Trustee Moore, seconded by Trustee Robinson and carried by all.

Permits

- **Kim Brown** addendum – Room use permit for Pilates 12/27 and 1/3 both at 9:00am. Approved.

Correspondence

- Cambridge resident MaryAnne Cherry's letter of November 21, 2024 regarding LED streetlights' impact on her health was addressed by the Board. The Mayor stated no change will be made regarding public lighting. This decision is consistent with the previous administration as advised by the village's insurance carrier and attorney. The Mayor did point out that the Village will have the ability to dim lights, especially during the quiet night hours.
- Deborah Anderson, leader in Growing Greenwich wrote to thank the Mayor and Trustees for positive efforts they have made and further commended the communication of these community endeavors on social media to share with those near and far.

Public Comment

- Mike Jaworski from Sloan Drive was wondering about use rules and guidelines for Hayes Reservoir. He wondered about the parks vs recreation designation. He spoke about the availability of grant monies for parks.

8:25 Motion to close the Regular Meeting and move into Executive Session to discuss potential litigation made by Trustee Grimmke, seconded by Trustee Moore and carried by all.

9:05pm Motion to close Executive Session by Trustee Vandewater, seconded by Trustee Grimmke and carried by all.

Respectfully submitted.

Jane Dowling – Village Clerk