

Regular Meeting of the Village Board of Trustees
January 13 – 7:00 - DRAFT

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Greenwich was held January 13, 2025, in the Board Room at 6 Academy St. Present were Mayor Hurley, Trustees: Vandewater, Robinson and Moore, as well as Attorney Kelly, President Mumby, and Superintendent Smith, Sergeant Gauthier and Chief Hopkins. Trustee Grimmke was absent. Mayor Hurley opened the meeting at 6.59 pm.

Vouchers

General Fund Voucher numbers 279, 297, 307 – 348 totaling \$102,831.25

Water Fund Voucher numbers 61 – 71 totaling \$13,485.31

Sewer Fund Voucher numbers 41 - 48 totaling \$11,006.43

H-H3 numbers 35 – 43 totaling \$1,080,280.88

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

Approval of the draft Meeting Minutes from December 9, 2024, made on a motion by Trustee Robinson, second by Trustee Vandewater and carried by all.

Department Reports

Fire: Chief Hopkins delivered the December report: Total in-district alarms: 18. EMS calls – 7. Rescue extrication 0, fire 7, hazards 0, service calls 0, Motor vehicle accidents 1, and 0 alarm activations. Mutual aid received – 3. Thank you to Cossayuna, Easton, Middle Falls, Cambridge, Schuylerville and Victory Mills Fire Departments for responding on 3 different dates. Aid provided 8 times to Easton, Cambridge, Middle Falls. Total alarms – 34. Fire and Emergency response hours – 139.5, training hours 129 and activity – 335.5 for a total of 604 hours. Total 2024-year end incidents 376. Total 2024 hours 7,499. As a public service announcement, over 80% of fire calls had no working smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. These should be on every level of the home, especially this time of year. Check that chimneys are working and clean. Do not leave candles burning unsupervised.

Police: Sergeant Gauthier delivered the December report. There were 18 cases reported to the DCJS in December totaling 167 reported for the year. Arrests totaled 1 with 36 arrests for the year. There were 70 calls logged with County Dispatch for the month. Calls for service for the year 2024 – 1115. 25 tickets were issued for snow related street parking. A license plate reader is being installed on Unit 114, paid for by a LETTECH grant through NYS.

DPW: Superintendent Smith delivered the December report: 88 hours of overtime was due to early morning or weekend snowstorms. A homemade Zamboni has been rigged to clean the skating rink, which works surprisingly well. A new fence for Gannon Park is being priced.

Youth: President Mumby delivered the December report: attendance was 166 youths with an average daily attendance of 10. 30 families attended Sundaes with Santa event. A field trip to the Nutcracker took place on the 22nd, the Santa mailbox received 43 letters with responses sent to all, GYC made Christmas cards for the residents at Fort Hudson Nursing Home, Carol Hopper is leading yoga and Carolyn from Comfort Foods was in on the 9th.

Mayor: Mayor Hurley delivered the November report **AGFTC – Bike/Pedestrian Connectivity Plan** LaBella will be conducting data on Thursday January 16th from the Church/Academy/Main Street intersection. There will be people and a portable camera observing traffic for 24 hours so they can collect pedestrian-related information. **AGFTC – Make the Connection** We were awarded the Make the Connection grant to complete design plans for approximately 2,000 feet of pedestrian improvements in the Village's core business district to enhance non-motorized travel and address deficiencies in existing sidewalks and intersections. We will kick this project off this month and plan to have the designs ready when the next round of TAP funding becomes available. The award is \$180,000 with a local match of \$45,000. **Drinking Water Source Protection (DWSP2)** During our monthly committee meeting we reviewed protection and management methods for contaminant sources. The Superintendent of Highways for Easton joined, and we plan to share our work to date with the Town of Easton Planning board since the source of our drinking water is in the Town of Easton. The long-term goal is to develop a plan to submit to DEC in April or May. **Tree Committee** The tree committee met with Don Dulmer and Superintendent Mike Smith to review trees that need to be pruned and a few that need to be removed.

- 17 Bleeker Street - red maple with a root buttress, needs a trim, does not need to come down
- 24 Hill Street - has a girdle root as well, trim for now and keep an eye on it
- 20 Hill Street - Norway Maple - this tree should come down and the stump should be ground.
- 18 Hill Street - Honey Locust - wait until Spring growing season starts to make a call on this one
- 45/47 Bleeker - Needs to be pruned
- 55 Bleeker - the large branch hanging over the road should be trimmed.
- Bleeker/Hill Corner (on side of Catholic Church) - big branch needs to be cut

The board has also put out a request for proposals for a comprehensive street tree mapping and inventory. The response deadline is February 5, 2025, at 12 p.m. EST. **Personnel Policy** - Trustee Robinson has reviewed and come up with various areas to be updated. She and I will meet next week to discuss and will have updated recommendations for the February board meeting. **Village Zoning** - On 12/20 the Greenwich Zoning Advisory Committee had their monthly meeting. Considerations for the village that were discussed included taking a similar approach to cannabis and only allow indoor operations for the new RA zone on the Easton side. Reviewing signage, neon, temporary etc. Recognized we need consistency when addressing accessory uses in front yards – consider putting a size limit to what's allowed without a permit. Review whether density is too restrictive in MDR, modifications need to be made to setbacks to be more consistent with reality. It was also identified that large scale solar projects and rooftop arrays should be addressed in the Village zoning too. **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)** We were not successful in our application for the CDBG grant for resident's home improvements. Residents who have applied, we will hold their application and per our agreement with Flatley Read they will reapply for the grant again at no cost to the Village. When the grant becomes available again, we will once again reach out to residents to alert them to the opportunity to apply. This grant will allow for things like new lateral connections to municipality utilities, ADA ramps, heating upgrades, roofs, etc.

Old Business:

Garbage and Recycling discussion – there has been a huge uptick in cardboard recycling. This extra volume has caused a space problem fitting other recycling into the trailer. Condition and contamination have been addressed by the village in recent weeks. Residents have been notified to keep cardboard clean, dry and broken down. Cardboard, which is wet, dirty or filled with other debris or packing material is not accepted at the recycling facility and is classified as garbage. This is not an exclusive problem to Greenwich, 15-25% of cardboard is rejected nationally due to condition. One solution for the high volume of cardboard, is to rent a dedicated 8 yard dumpster for \$100/month to be picked up twice

a month. Trustee Vandewater suggested securing the dumpster to prevent unwanted additions. The Garbage and recycling program has been losing money over the past few years. In fact, recycling costs more than garbage per ton. Up until 2021, we didn't pay anything for recycling. Superintendent Smith will shop around for less expensive facility options. Right now, the loads are going to Gansevoort. Added to this is the rental of the garbage truck from Schuylerville which costs \$10,000 year. We will see if Schuylerville is willing to negotiate this price. Raising the sticker price is another option. Village users of our garbage service ranges from 200-250 customers a week. This is only 20% of the Village population. Schuylerville considering moving to a subscription-based service. We can explore that as well. A discussion of continuing the sticker model even if the subscription service is added. The cardboard only dumpster will be tested for a few months to see how it works. Trustee Moore and Mayor Hurley will work on promotion and marketing to increase the customer base.

Resolution No1 of 2025 HRA Reimbursement for Part B Premium for Medicare Eligible Employees and Retirees indexed by Medicare and Medicaid Services moved on a motion by Trustee Vandewater, seconded by Trustee Robinson and carried by all.

New Business:

Resolution No2 of 2025 Creation of Parks and Recreation Repair Reserve, and Parks and Recreation Capital Reserve from the Proceeds of the Hayes Reservoir Forestry Project so moved on a motion by Trustee Vandewater, seconded by Trustee Robinson and carried by all.

Permits

Correspondence

Public Comment

7:25 Motion to close the Regular Meeting and move into Executive Session to discuss an employment situation made by Trustee Vandewater, seconded by Trustee Moore and carried by all.

7:55pm Motion to close Executive Session by Trustee Moore, seconded by Trustee Robinson and carried by all.

Respectfully submitted.

Jane Dowling – Village Clerk