

Regular Meeting of the Village Board of Trustees  
February 10 – 7:00 – DRAFT

**Public Hearing 7:00 pm – Expenditures from Sewer Repair Reserve and Water Repair Reserve**

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Greenwich was held February 10, 2025, in the Board Room at 6 Academy St. Present were Mayor Hurley, Trustees: Vandewater, Grimmke and Moore, as well as Attorney Kelly, President Mumby, Sergeant Gauthier and Chief Hopkins. Trustee Robinson and Superintendent Smith were absent. Mayor Hurley opened the meeting at 7:02 pm.

**Public Hearing** - Mayor Hurley opened the Public Hearing with a motion by Trustee Grimmke, seconded by Trustee Moore and carried by all. This Public Hearing is needed to authorize the purchase of a pump for the sewer plant to replace the current failing pump and the same for the water plant. These reserve funds were established for purposes such as these. No comment from the public. Public Hearing closed on a motion by Trustee Grimmke, seconded by Trustee Vandewater and carried by all.

**Resolution No3 of 2025** Approving Sewer Pump Repair Reserve Expenditure up to \$9,000 so moved by Trustee Grimmke, seconded by Trustee Vandewater and carried by all.

**Resolution No4 of 2025** Approving Water Pump Repair Reserve Expenditure up to \$9,000 so moved by Trustee Vandewater, seconded by Trustee Grimmke and carried by all.

**Vouchers**

General Fund Voucher numbers 349 – 386 totaling \$127,272.71

Water Fund Voucher numbers 72 – 83 totaling \$5,847.30

Sewer Fund Voucher numbers 53 - 58 totaling \$7,211.47

H-H3 numbers 44 – 46 totaling \$350,809.09

**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 January 13, 2025, made on a motion by Trustee Vandewater, second by Trustee Moore and carried by all.

**Department Reports**

**Fire:** Chief Hopkins delivered the January report: Total in-district alarms: 30. EMS calls – 21. Rescue extrication 0, fire 4, hazards 0, service calls 3, Motor vehicle accidents 2, and 0 alarm activations. Mutual aid received – 0. Aid was provided 11 times to Argyle, Arlington VT, Easton, Cambridge, Hartford, Shushan and Middle Falls. Total alarms – 41. Fire and Emergency response hours – 121.5, training hours 249 and activity – 394.5 for a total of 765 hours. The digital version of the 2024 report was distributed to officials. The FD will be focused on enrollment and retention this year. Smoke and CO2 detectors are available from the Department for those in need of them as evidenced again by the recent fire fatalities in Arlington, VT. These warning devices are made possible through donations to the department.

**Police:** Sergeant Gauthier delivered the January report. There were 19 cases reported to the DCJS in December totaling 19 reported for the year. Arrests totaled 2 with 2 arrests for the year. There were 66 calls logged with County Dispatch for the month. Incidents handled: endangering the welfare of a child, larceny/fraud and mental health. Reminder that there is no on-street parking during and after snowstorms. Tickets have and will continue to be issued. Total snow parking violation tickets to date – 76.

**DPW:** Mayor Hurley delivered the January report: 116 hours of overtime was due to early morning or weekend snowstorms. A statewide rock salt shortage is noted. So far ordering ability and maintaining the Village's supply has been unaffected. The County Highway Association is exploring options going forward. Exploring refreshing signage into the village for pricing etc.

**Youth:** President Mumby delivered the January report: attendance was 169 youths with an average daily attendance of 9. New purchases include 8 new Idea Pad Chromebooks with monies from the Carrie Woerner Grant. A new AED defibrillator, LifeVac (for choking) and new first-aid kit were purchased with funds from the Mary McClellan grant. The AED unit will be installed in the hallway upstairs to be accessed by everyone in the building. Metal containers have been purchased to replace plastic storage containers, which mice can chew through. The purchase of a 8' x10' storage shed is being explored to house extraneous material.

**Mayor:** Mayor Hurley delivered the January **Dunbarton Mill** - I've *skimmed* the 890-page report on the environmental assessment of the Dunbarton site, and here's the very boiled down cliff notes: of what they tested, the experts tell me "*it's not that bad.*" That said, some soil will need to be removed, and I'm told it's a relatively straight forward procedure. We are currently working on an estimate for that cost. The report also notes that due to asbestos piles around the main mill building, a portion of the site remains relatively unknown and will require further testing. Given where we are in the process, the recommendation is that we proactively reach out to developers who showed interest in the site a few years ago. The goal is to update them on what we now know and determine whether there's enough information for them to take serious interest—or if further assessments are needed before they'd be willing to engage. This outreach will help us gauge where we stand in terms of potential redevelopment and what next steps might be necessary to move the project forward. **AGFTC – Make the Connection** Posted the project details and advertisement on contract reporter and it will be posted on the website and in the Eagle in their upcoming edition. Submissions are due on March 6<sup>th</sup>. A review committee of myself, Kyle Vandewater and Aaron Kendall was established to review on March 7<sup>th</sup>. I am going to follow up with Jack Mance to move along with the state and local agreement in hopes this project can be completed in advance of TAP funding. **Safe Harbor Law** - ACO Celeste and Sgt. Gauthier and I have been discussing the need for a Safe Harbor Law. And while we are in agreement that it's missing from our local laws it involves contracting with local kennels or shelters to house these animals. However, recent changes in state regulations have increased the standards for these facilities, making compliance more challenging. As a result, many kennels find the requirements costly and intensive, leading to a decline in their willingness to enter into contracts with municipalities. This situation has created a gap in our ability to provide safe harbor for animals in need. To address this, we are exploring alternative solutions, including engaging with local organizations and neighboring municipalities to develop collaborative approaches that ensure the welfare of these animals while meeting state requirements. We will continue to keep the community informed as we work towards a viable solution that upholds our commitment to animal welfare and complies with state mandates. **Parks and Recreation** The committee met this past month to kick off the year and discuss priorities for 2025. The main topic for this meeting was Hayes Reservoir, and I will not dive into those details as we have a representative, Joe Panza, who will speak to the vision alignment they had and their recommended plan. One item that was recognized and still requires some coordination is the volume of nonprofits that are popping up and finding a way for everyone to work together – which could be as simple as we have a representative for each group on the overarching Parks and Recreation committee. We have Friends of the Parks of the Village of Greenwich, Greenwich Gardeners, and Friends of Hayes Reservoir. **AGFTC – Bike/Pedestrian Connectivity Plan** We are preparing a recorded presentation as well as an online and paper survey to

get feedback on the various recommended improvements that have been developed from this committee to date. **Tree Committee** - We put out an RFP for tree inventory management. Fortunately, a previous clerk informed us that this was done about ten years ago. With help from Chris Kelly at the high school we were able to get our hands on that plan and we have since cancelled the RFP. **NYCOM – Winter Legislative Meeting** The sessions I attended were understanding the risks of Intermunicipal Agreements (IMA), Addressing Lead and PFAS, Resources and Strategies for Successful Housing Development and Navigating New State Laws: Understanding the Impacts on Cities and Villages (Focused on the new municipal website requirement and short-term rental registration). **Tree City USA** - We are proud to announce that the Village of Greenwich has officially been recognized as a Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation. A huge shoutout to Trustee Donna Frank Moore, whose dedication and research helped push this initiative forward. Her efforts, combined with the year-round hard work of our Department of Public Works (DPW)—who keep our village beautiful and well-maintained—were instrumental in helping us qualify for this recognition. This is a win for our village and a testament to the value we place on sustainability, green spaces, and community pride. Stay tuned for more updates as we continue to enhance our tree program and celebrate this achievement! **Wastewater** - The contract with Charlie Sherman is up for renewal. Since two operators are needed, the contract will be renewed under the current terms until the point where another operator can be hired or trained.

**Motion authorizing the Mayor** to sign an extension of the Charlie Sherman contract made by Trustee Grimmke, pending approval by Village Attorney, seconded by Trustee Vandewater and carried by all.

#### **Old Business:**

**Garbage and Recycling** discussion – Trustee Grimmke summed up the options of using stickers for those minimal users and offering a subscription service for those looking for convenience. As discussed before, recycling used to be cost-free, not so now. The returned surveys so far have been in favor of a subscription service. Trustee Vandewater suspects that building the cost of barrels into the service would bring the cost up, especially not having a garbage truck that loads automatically. Mayor Hurley offered that Schuylerville was going to a subscription service starting next January. Trustee Moore suggested the Village go into contract with a hauler to service the whole village, as they are experts and we are not. Trustee Grimmke cautioned that once we retire the service and expertise, we would be at the mercy of a potential monopoly. Mayor Hurley added that there are discussions at the county regarding private haulers vs a public solution. The costs of village garbage services are being monitored, a proposal will be drafted, and the public will have opportunities to weigh in.

**Friends of Hayes Reservoir – Joe Panza** offered a check-in outlining the goals and activities thus far: an informal volunteer group has been formed, and some restoration of yellow trail has been accomplished. The group is looking for approval of continued restoration, approval to dispose of invasives, approval to plant 100 Riparian seedlings near the waterfront from DEC nursery. Next steps will be continued maintenance of trails and invasives, formalizing 501(c)(3) and defining property for future proposals. The vision for opportunities falls into three categories: ecological, recreational and educational. A proposal or proposals for approval will be forthcoming. The goal for today is to make sure that our goals are aligned. The overlook up on top is owned by an adjoining property owner. The group was wondering if an easement would be possible. To be discussed more fully at a later date.

#### **New Business:**

**Budget Workshops** – Public meetings will be held February 19 at 1:00pm with DPW, March 19 at 6:00 for the Fire Department and March 24 at 6:00pm with Police in the Boardroom. Motion to approve those dates made by Trustee Moore, seconded by Trustee Vandewater and carried by all.

**New Hire: Motion** to hire Kevin Casey as Machine Equipment Operator effective today made by Trustee Grimmke, seconded by Trustee Vandewater and carried by all.

**Accept Water and Sewer Billing –**

• Accept 2.1.2025 Water/Sewer billing	
Water	\$111,815.43
Water Reserve	\$11,004.00
Sewer	\$33,048.00
Sewer Reserve	\$3,012.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$158,879.43</b>
Arrears	\$34,396.10
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$193,275.53</b> Bills total 891

**Motion to approve the February 1, 2025** billing made by Trustee Grimmke, seconded by Trustee Vandewater and carried by all.

**Permits**

- Peddlers Permit - Rolling Radish yearly permit for food truck. Approved
- Park Permit – Union Village Fest - June 13, 14 and 15 – Fri 3:30pm – 9:30pm, Saturday 8am-9:30pm, Sun cleanup 8:00am – noon – Liv Thygesen. Approved
- Building Use Permit – GYC – Cabin Fever Party – Saturday, March 1<sup>st</sup>. Access from 2pm to 8pm for set-up, event and clean-up. Approved

**Correspondence**

**Public Comment - Michelle Morris** from 86 Main St came in to talk about parking during snow. She'd like a designated area for those residents and their guests. Mayer Hurley sympathized and reiterated the problem of plowing, narrow streets, parked cars and potential damage or cars plowed in, only to have to be dug out later creating a further obstacle. The village and town office lots may be available. St. Joe's was discussed. All these lots need plowing as well, so coordination is needed.

**8:21 Motion to close the Regular Meeting** and move into Executive Session to discuss an employment situation made by Trustee Grimmke, 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