Town of Greenville Board of Selectmen Minutes – October 23, 2019

Call to order at the SAU 87 Mascenic Education Center, 16 School Street, Greenville at 3:30 p.m. Present: Chairperson Carla Mary, Selectmen Doug Reardon and Margaret Bickford, and Town Administrator Tara Sousa.

Meet with Yvette Bigelow Re: Wilton Asphalt Plant

The Selectmen met with Yvette Bigelow, who expressed her concerns about the proposed asphalt plant in Wilton. She discussed that the project had recently been determined to have potential regional impact, notice of which the Selectmen had reviewed at a previous meeting. She discussed the distance to Greenville from the proposed site, putting it outside the evacuation zone and the area anticipated to be impacted by dust, but that Greenville is on the outer edge of potential groundwater impacts. She noted that this, if approved, would be Wilton's only business to meet the threshold for federal toxic reporting. The Selectmen reviewed letters Ms. Bigelow had provided from various towns and organizations that were submitted to the Wilton Zoning Board. These addressed potential environmental impacts, including groundwater and air pollution, as well as impacts to the rural character of the area and potential traffic issues. The Town Administrator indicated that she could attend the Zoning hearing regarding the requested variance for the project to be held later that evening in Wilton. Selectwoman Bickford asked what Ms. Bigelow's goal was in requesting to meet with the Board. She answered that she wanted the Board to take a stance that more information is needed to determine the environmental and other effects of this project. The Board agreed to have the Town Administrator attend the meeting and report back to the Board.

Old Business:

Stairs, Basement

The Town Administrator reported that Graham Pendlebury was concerned about the changing weather, and did not think the work on the stairs could be done this year. The Town Administrator suggested the funds could be encumbered to complete the work in the spring. She also reported that she had asked Ben Johnson about the fiber mesh and stamping for the basement floor. He indicated that the fiber mesh could be added at minimal cost, but that stamping would increase the floor cost \$8 to \$10 per square foot. The Selectmen agreed to move forward with smooth colored concrete. The Town Administrator discussed that she had met with Will Brooks of A+ Painting, and was awaiting his quote for the other needed work.

Highway Budget

The Town Administrator relayed Tom Plourde's response that the Highway Admin line-item, which had been questioned at the prior meeting, was where the Department's clothing allowance was budgeted. The Town Administrator indicated that the allowance had not yet been paid this year, hence the low year-to-date expenditure.

New Business:

Timing of Annual Fire Stipends

The Town Administrator discussed that the timing of the payment of Fire Department stipends had been questioned by a Fire Ward, as the Fire Wards had submitted the annual authorization (which specifies the amount each volunteer will be paid) in early October, but her office had not yet cut the checks. She explained that she and the Fire Chief had discussed delaying the payment until the tax rate had been set, for cash management purposes. She also noted that though last year's stipends were paid in October, the two prior years they had not been paid until November. She asked if the Selectmen wanted to clarify the issue by specifying a date, or some other standard procedure. The Selectmen discussed different dates or benchmarks, such as the tax rate being set, or after property tax bills are due.

Motion by Selectman Reardon, 2nd by Selectwoman Bickford, to pay the annual fire stipends the week

Motion by Selectman Reardon, 2nd by Selectwoman Bickford, to pay the annual fire stipends the week of December 1st.

Motion carried with 3 in favor, none opposed.

Selectwoman Bickford questioned if there was a policy that defines the stipends earned. The Town Administrator answered that the amounts are determined by the Fire Wards, who divvy the annual salary budget as they see fit. She explained her understanding that attendance at trainings, meetings, and calls are tracked to inform those decisions. The Selectmen discussed wanting to learn more about and discuss that process with the Chief when the Fire Department budget is presented.

Unanticipated State Budget Funding

The Town Administrator reported that the Town had received unanticipated municipal aid in the amount of \$39,335.92. The Selectmen reviewed an NHMA document that addressed the options for utilizing said aid. The Town Administrator discussed that if the Selectmen wished to apply the funds to the 2019 tax rate, they should vote to do so at this meeting. Chairperson Mary expressed her opinion that the amount should not be applied to the tax rate, due to the unknowns surrounding the unexpected cost of the water sludge removal. The Town Administrator discussed the need to hold a public hearing regarding the use of the funds, suggesting that previously discussed projects such as the Town Hall stairs, security cameras, and walkway repairs could be funded with this aid. The Selectmen agreed to table the matter until more was known about the water sludge removal costs.

Budgets: Building Inspector, Planning Board, Emergency Management, Library

The Selectmen reviewed submitted budgets by the Building Inspector, Planning Board, Emergency Management, and Library. Selectwoman Bickford noted the year-to-date for the Building Inspector salary was low. She asked if the Building Inspector could provide some information on the number of permits issued this year. The Town Administrator noted the yearly reports are in the Town Report. She will request information for the current year from Scott Tenney. The Town Administrator noted her recommendation for an increase in the Zoning budget, as there has continued to be more cases before that Board than was historically common. Chairperson Mary question the need to maintain the same funding for Planning Board training, as there has been no expenditure from that line-item this year. The Town Administrator will inquire if there are any anticipated expenditures for this year. There were no questions about Emergency Management or the Library budget (which was submitted as preliminary).

Insurance Increases

The Selectmen reviewed notices from Health Trust and Primex. The Town's rates for health insurance will increase 7.1% on average, and property/liability and worker's compensation through Primex will increase 7% and 8% respectively.

18/20 Main Street Parking Inquiry

The Town Administrator relayed an inquiry from a gentleman considering purchasing 18/20 Main Street, who questioned if the Town would be willing to create permit parking spaces if he could acquire 28 Main Street and donate the property to the Town. The gentleman suggested he would pay \$1,000 annually for permitted parking spaces. The Selectmen expressed their openness to such if the Town were to obtain that parcel. The Town Administrator expressed that she would need to look into how permit parking works in other communities.

Miscellaneous

The Town Administrator noted the next meeting, November 13th, would be held at 6:00 p.m., due to the Purple Heart Town proclamation.

Chairperson Mary brought up that the long-range weather forecast for Halloween was not good, and questioned if a rain date should be set. The other Selectmen did not wish to take any action at this time.

Signature Folder

The Selectmen:

- Reviewed, discussed, and approved the minutes of the October 9, 2019 meeting.
- Reviewed, discussed, and approved check manifests for accounts payable and payroll.
- Reviewed, discussed, and approved Purchase Orders: Water, Wastewater, Emergency Management.
- Reviewed, discussed, and approved a Pay Rate Form: D. Morrison
- Reviewed, discussed, and approved an Eversource Pole License.
- Reviewed, discussed, and approved water/sewer abatements: Gauvin, Martin, LeRoy

Motion by Chairperson Mary, 2nd by Selectwoman Bickford, to adjourn the meeting at 5:03 p.m. Motion carried with 3 in favor, none opposed.

Submitted by: Tara Sousa/Town Administrator
Approved by:
Coll CM7
Carla C. Mary/Chairperson

Margaret Bickford/Selectwoman

Douglas A. Reardon/Selectman