

**Town of Greenville
Board of Selectmen
Minutes – January 22, 2020**

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

Meet with Heather Schoff Re: SVAS Budget & Youth Programs

The Selectmen met with Heather Schoff, who serves as the town-appointed representative to the Souhegan Valley Ambulance Board, to review the increase in the SVAS annual budget. Mrs. Schoff explained that there is roughly a \$5,000 increase in Greenville's portion, noting that there were some small increases and decreases throughout their budget line-items, but that the largest increase was in the equipment fund. She discussed aged ambulances, and the Ambulance Board's concern that the repair costs are becoming such that a new(er) vehicle may need to be purchased in the near future. She explained also that the projected Comstar revenue is down. Selectwoman Bickford asked her to explain what Comstar is, and Mrs. Schoff explained that Comstar is the service through which ambulance rides are billed to insurance companies and individuals. She discussed that the number of billable rides is variable, and collections are not always successful. Selectman Reardon questioned the staffing line-item. Mrs. Schoff discussed her understanding that coverage is achieved through a mix of full/part-time, per diem, and on-call hours, and that the service has struggled to meet its staffing needs. The SVAS Board is not paid for their service. There were no other questions.

Mrs. Schoff discussed that there was no requested increase in the Youth Programs budget, but that she did want to allocate existing funds to provide a stipend for Stephanie Bouley, who has become an integral part of all the annual programs/events. Chairperson Mary questioned the anticipated amount, and Mrs. Schoff and the Town Administrator answered that they had discussed an amount between \$200 and \$250. There were no objections to allocating a portion of the existing budget for this additional stipend. Mrs. Schoff asked about the previously discussed potential to establish a Parks & Rec revolving fund to allow for adult programming. The Town Administrator stated that an article would be included in the 2020 Warrant. Mrs. Schoff questioned if there was an anticipated date that the meeting room would be re-opened, and the Town Administrator answered that there was no prospective date. Mrs. Schoff indicated that she would try to arrange for use of Sacred Heart Church to plan an arts & crafts event.

Meet with James Creighton, Candidate for State Legislature District 38

James Creighton introduced himself, providing some of his background as a 30-year army veteran, and discussing his desire to make New Hampshire a better place for everyone. He acknowledged a weakness in his understanding and awareness of issues local governments see as critical, and explained that gaining that knowledge was his purpose in requesting to meet with the Selectmen. Chairperson Mary discussed the recent local citizen protest regarding the Governor's determination of Economic Opportunity Zones, and that Greenville could have benefited from such a designation. The Town Administrator discussed the Town's challenges providing municipal water and sewer in an environment of increases regulatory requirements and reduced State and Federal funding. Chairperson Mary

discussed the nearly unattainable permit limits for wastewater due to the plant's location next to a protected river. Mr. Creighton discussed the State's red-listed bridges as another example of this challenge of funding infrastructure, discussing a community where, in order to access State funding, the DOT bridge design was substantially more costly than what that community believed was needed. The Town Administrator discussed a red-listed bridge in Greenville, and the Board's efforts to get placement on the State's Bridge Program list, which was currently a 10+ year wait. Ashley Saari, reported for the Monadnock Ledger-Transcript, noted that Wilton opted to forgo State funding for a recent bridge project, because their cost to repair with 100% local funds was less than the Town's 20% match had they utilized the State Program. Mr. Creighton questioned the local impact of school funding. Chairperson Mary discussed the Mascenic School District's joining of Conval's lawsuit against the State. Mr. Creighton noted the \$1.5 billion increase in the State's biennial budget as a concern, but the town Administrator expressed that the municipal aid which was received by the Town and the School District was a positive for the community as funding for unfunded needs and a reduction in the local school tax rate. Mr. Creighton thanked the Selectmen for taking the time to meet with him, and the Selectmen expressed their thanks and best wishes.

Old Business:

Permanent and Total Service-Connected Disability Tax Credit

The Town Administrator discussed that she had, in their previous discussion on the determination of the warrant article proposal to increase the Permanent and Total Service-Connected Disability Tax Credit, mistakenly indicated the maximum amount as being \$3,000. She informed the Board that the new maximum allowed was \$4,000.

Motion by Chairperson Mary, 2nd by Selectman Reardon, to revise the 2020 warrant proposal for Permanent and Total Service-Connected Disability Tax Credit to the maximum \$4,000.

Motion carried with 3 in favor, none opposed.

Monthly Wastewater Report

The Selectmen reviewed the State-required monthly wastewater report, which was not available at their last meeting. The Town Administrator reported that the rehabbed filter at the Water Plant was back in service, though at limited capacity. Chairperson Mary asked how often it was backwashing. The Town Administrator did not have that information. The Town Administrator noted that a large water leak had been identified at a commercial building, and that the service had been shut-off until the leak could be addressed. Chairperson Mary questioned when the second filter rehab would be scheduled. The Town Administrator relayed that Utility Partners wanted to get filter #1 to full capacity first, but anticipated being able to complete Filter #2 by early spring.

Wilton Recycling Budget

The Selectmen reviewed the Wilton Recycling Budget, noting the substantial increase. The Town Administrator discussed hers and Selectwoman Bickford's attendance at Wilton's Budget Committee Hearing, and the presentation made by the new Director of the Recycling Center. She expressed that major investments were needed to address long-deferred issues. She also notified the Board of an issue with the calculation of the Town's portion, which did not reflect the latest population values as required by the inter-municipal agreement. She hoped to resolve that issue and reduce the Town's portion by approximately \$2,600. Ashley Saari asked about the status of the G. W. Shaw (transfer station) facility

being developed. The Town Administrator answered that the Town does not have any timeline as to when the facility will be open.

2020 Budget/Warrant

The Selectmen reviewed the 2020 Warrant and Budget. The presentation of the Police Department salaries was discussed. Selectwoman Bickford expressed her preference for separating the amounts in the way that they have been presented in the past. The Town Administrator discussed how holidays had been moved from the salary lines to the overtime line. The Selectmen agreed that a separate line for holidays would be the most transparent option for presentation. The Town Administrator reported that she had revised the Water Budget, to increase "Water Unanticipated" to \$10,000, which is the same amount as in the sewer budget. She explained that with the sludge removal project, there will not be the same amount of available funds in the Expendable Trust to deal with unplanned repairs as there has been in the past. There were no objections. Chairperson Mary questioned if the article to allocate the municipal aid to the lagoon sludge removal project needed to reflect the portion of the project which would be funded with the expendable trust. The Town Administrator expressed her intent to discuss the proper wording with DRA.

The Selectman discussed proposing an article to create an expendable trust for replacement of the Town Hall boiler, should it fail and need to be replaced. The Selectmen were in agreement to put forward an article in the amount of 30K, and to take those funds from unassigned fund balance. The Town Administrator noted that she would draft that article, as well as the Recreation Revolving Fund, and submit the warrant for DRA review. She stated that the Board would need to meet again before the budget hearing to approve the warrant and final budget. The Board set a meeting for Wednesday, February 5, 2020 at 3:30 p.m.

DRA Equalization Ratio

The Selectmen reviewed the Department of Revenue's equalization ratio, which was determined to 98.9%.

NHMBB (Bond Bank) News

The Town Administrator shared a letter and revised payment schedule received from the New Hampshire Municipal Bond Bank, which reflected a reduction of interest cost in the amount of \$11,389, which will be realized over the final 5 years of the 2012 C Bond, starting in 2025.

Signature Folder

The Selectmen:


- Reviewed, discussed, and approved the minutes of the January 8, 2020 meeting.
- Reviewed, discussed, and approved check manifests for accounts payable and payroll.
- Reviewed, discussed, and approved a Purchase Order: Highway

Motion by Chairperson Mary, 2nd by Selectwoman Bickford, to adjourn the meeting at 4:40 p.m.

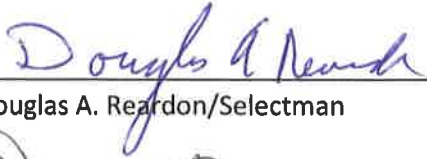
Motion carried with 3 in favor, none opposed.

Submitted by: Tara Sousa/Town Administrator

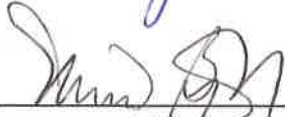
Approved by:



Carla C. Mary/Chairperson



Douglas A. Reardon/Selectman



Margaret Bickford/Selectwoman