

**Town of Greenville  
Board of Selectmen  
Minutes – January 12, 2022**

Call to order at 3:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Meeting Room, 46 Main Street, Greenville. Present at meeting location: Selectmen Douglas Reardon and Town Administrator Tara Sousa. Present via conference call: Chairperson Carla Mary and Selectwoman Margaret Bickford.

Chairperson Mary declared an emergency due to the high transmission rate of Covid-19, and the personal and/or family health situations of Board members which required their remote participation. The agenda was limited to items requiring imperative action.

**New Business:**

**Remaining 2022 General Fund Department Budgets**

The Selectmen reviewed the 2022 Budget proposal. The Town Administrator noted the Town Clerk and Tax Collector Department Budgets were the only budgets not yet submitted.

The Selectmen reviewed the Temple-Greenville Police budget. The Town Administrator noted that she had just received the salary/hourly rates that would allow her to break-out the Chief from full-time, and the Administrators from the Part-time line item, but had included the aggregate number for an accurate bottom-line. Members of the Joint Board, Selectman Reardon and Selectwoman Bickford, were not certain that the Joint Board had agreed to include a step increase from the previously adopted salary matrix. The Town Administrator relayed that she had received proposed increases for the Chief and full-time officers, with no increases for the department's administrators or part-time officers. Chairperson Mary expressed concern for the lack of increases for some employees, and questioned the proposed increase in other departments. The recommended 5.9% COLA was discussed. The Board requested the Town Administrator contact the Joint Board Chair to request a meeting to address the step increase issue.

The Selectmen reviewed the Building Inspection budget, questioning the increase in the salary line. The Town Administrator explained that the increase reflected both an hourly increase and an anticipation that there would be significant building activity in 2022, requiring additional inspection hours.

The impact of inflation on certain line-items, such as winter maintenance and fuel, was noted. Chairperson Mary questioned an omission in the Health Agencies budget, which the Town Administrator indicated she would correct.

The Selectmen reviewed the Parks & Recreation budget. Selectman Reardon questioned if the maintenance and repair line needed to be increased based on the 2021 expenses. The Town Administrator explained that that line included the painting supplies used just to be able to open this past year, as we were not able to get a contractor to do the full rehab in 2021. She discussed that those warrant article funds were still fully available to hopefully complete that work this year.

Chairperson Mary questioned why there wasn't a line-item proposed for the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration under Patriotic Purposes. The Town Administrator suggested that an amount be proposed as a separate warrant article funded with unassigned fund balance. Chairperson Mary suggested \$20,000 be proposed. The level of participation and volunteerism to support events requiring that level of funding was discussed. The Town Administrator relayed that Kathy Valliere had a meeting scheduled for the following Saturday, and she would inquire as to the requested funding level.

Chairperson Mary suggested a revision to the Selectmen's salary line. The prior year survey of the Selectmen's compensation in surrounding towns was discussed, and the proposal was not supported.

### **2022 Water & Sewer Budgets**

The Selectmen reviewed the proposed 2022 Water & Sewer Budgets. The Town Administrator noted the increases in chemical costs and the addition of the new NPDES testing requirements. She questioned if the Selectmen wished to include the water tower inspection costs, required only every 3 years, in the annual budget, or to utilize the Water Expendable Trust. Chairperson Mary advocated for including it in the proposed annual budget to accurately reflect this year's costs, and the other Selectmen agreed.

### **Draft 2022 Warrant**

The Selectmen reviewed a summary by the Town Administrator of the use of fund balance as proposed in the draft warrant as it compared to the prior year. The Town Administrator discussed the proposed warrant to declare Barrett Hill an emergency way and fund the necessary work to make it passable for emergency vehicles and maintenance vendors. She explained that the Road Agent estimated costs in excess of \$100,000, the scope of which would require removal of large boulders, installation of drainage, and substantial material cost, as well as ongoing maintenance costs. As an alternative, Emergency Management Ed White and Deputy EMD Helen Burke had proposed seeking a grant to obtain a vehicle capable of accessing the water towers and cell tower, as well as other remote off-road locations. She explained that there is a GOFERR grant for equipment that FEMA recommended as a possible funding source, which will cover 90% of the equipment cost. She inquired if the Selectmen wished to still pursue a warrant declaring a portion of Barrett Hill Road as an emergency way. Chairperson Mary advocated against doing so due to cost as well the expectations about the ongoing level of passability to be maintained. The Selectmen requested the Town Administrator get feedback from affected officials to confirm they would support the ATV option in lieu of the emergency way declaration. Chairperson Mary requested that "Water Department" be added to the list of approved Department uses in the warrant article.

The Town Administrator noted that she was awaiting language from Attorney Bedard regarding tax-deeded property disposals, but suggested the Board reconsider the issue of RSA 80:80 III, allowing disposals "as justice may require." She expressed her agreement with the previously-expressed sentiment that such a statute should not be used in instances where it could be viewed as showing favoritism to one potential buyer over another, but explained that there are circumstances where such authority would be advisable, such as being able to use a realtor, condition sales on obtaining development approvals, or conveying the property to a former owner to avoid creating a substantial welfare burden. The Selectmen expressed agreement, and will re-review when Town Counsel's recommended verbiage is received.

Chairperson Mary questioned the available water and sewer account balances for proposed articles 9 and 10. The Town Administrator discussed the estimated, unaudited year-end balances.

The proposed financing options of a bond versus lease-purchase for the Fire Department's requested Fire Truck purchase, were available for the Board's review, as well as 2 wording options for the article depending on the preferred financing option.

The Town Administrator discussed the challenges with determining the appropriate amount for the chemical feed building article, due to the still-pending congressional earmark for the project. Chairperson Mary questioned if it should be written for the full estimated cost of 1 million. Chairperson Mary asked if the rest of the Board would support using available ARPA funds for the engineering design work, which could be started before Town Meeting. The Town Administrator discussed that she would have to confirm whether such work would need to be competitively bid, or could be done by Underwood as the town's engineer of record for the project. She also discussed the ARPA Final Rule, which had just been issued, allowing communities with revenues under 10 million to treat their allocation as lost-revenue replacement, opening up the use of ARPA for any municipally-appropriate purpose. Selectwoman Bickford asked about broadband expansion, and the Town Administrator indicated that she had again requested information from Comcast regarding the unserved areas of Town. Selectman Reardon asked about the use of ARPA for the Main Street lot purchase. The Town Administrator discussed the current proposed article language which used fund balance, and pointed out that she had included an extra amount in the article for closing costs and perhaps some preliminary design work.

#### **Fire Ward Letter of Interest**

The Selectmen reviewed a letter of interest from Mark Winslow for the posted opening on the Board of Fire Wards. It was noted that there was still a need to finalize a decision by the Selectboard whether or not to include a warrant article proposing dissolution of the Firewards. The Town Administrator explained that even if proposed and approved, such a change would not be effective until the following year, and that with the resignation of Ed White (also included for the Selectmen's review), there was only one remaining Fire Ward, so a quorum could not be convened if any action was necessary.

**Motion by Chairperson Mary, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Selectwoman Bickford, to appoint Mark Winslow as a Fireward until the March 2022 election.**

**Motion carried by roll call vote: C. Mary, yes; D. Reardon, yes; M. Bickford, yes.**

#### **Signature Folder:**

##### **The Selectmen**

- Reviewed, discussed, and approved the minutes of the December 31, 2021 meeting.
- Reviewed, discussed, and approved check manifests for accounts payable and payroll.
- Reviewed, discussed, and approved Purchase Orders: Highway.
- Reviewed, discussed, and approved W&S Abatement: Turilli (Billed in error).

**Motion by Chairperson Mary, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Selectman Reardon, to adjourn the meeting at 4:49 p.m.**

**Motion carried with 3 in favor, none opposed.**

Submitted by: Tara Sousa/Town Administrator

Approved by:

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Carla C. Mary/Chairperson



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Douglas A. Reardon/Selectman



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Margaret Bickford/Selectwoman