

**Town of Greenville
Board of Selectmen**

Minutes – September 28, 2022

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

Meet with Richard Goguen Re: Broadband Availability

The Selectmen met with Richard Goguen, of 417 Adams Hill Road, who inquired if the Town had applied for or considered seeking a grant under the federal BEAD program, which funded broadband expansion. The Town Administrator discussed the Town's communications with Comcast regarding the few known areas in town without broadband access, as well as her contact with 2 affected business owners who would connect if the service was available to them. Mr. Goguen discussed the importance of getting access at his residence, to facilitate working from home, and the estimated cost of \$25,000 quoted by Comcast to extend the line on Adams Hill Road. Mr. Goguen inquired about the term of the Town's franchise agreement, and if it required 100% connectivity. The Town Administrator indicated the Town was several years from renewal, and that there was not currently a requirement for 100% connectivity. Mr. Goguen provided further information about the BEAD program, which he believed the deadline to apply for had been extended. The Selectmen expressed support for pursuing a grant to facilitate broadband connection to those under-serviced areas, and Chairperson Mary asked Mr. Goguen to provide the information he had from Comcast and about BEAD to the Town Administrator. The Selectmen thanked Mr. Goguen for requesting the meeting, and bringing the BEAD grant to their attention.

Public Comment

Chairperson Mary invited Victor Sherburda, of 73 Livingston Road, to address the Board. Mr. Sherburda requested that the Board support a warrant article to increase the veteran's credit to \$750, which he indicated was in keeping with other surrounding towns' credits. Chairperson Mary expressed her support for increasing the credit, and asked the Town Administrator about the financial impact of increasing the credit. Referring to the Town Report, it was estimated the Town currently had 50 approved veteran's credits. The Town Administrator inquired if the Board wanted to differentiate between the standard war-time credit and the all-veteran's credit, as the Town's amount for both was the same. Selectman Reardon expressed that there should not be any differentiation. The Selectmen expressed their commitment to putting an article to increase the credit on the 2023 warrant.

Old Business

Affinity LED

The Town Administrator reported that she learned, through direct communication with the owner of Municipal Leasing Consultants, there would be a 1% prepayment penalty, and the Town would have to pay a full year's interest, because we would only be allowed to prepay on our annual payment date. She recommended against the lease option, and recommended either waiting to put the project on a warrant article, or funding it this year with under-expended line items. Selectwoman Bickford calculated

the rough interest and penalty cost of the lease versus the lost electric savings caused by a delay, and found they were roughly the same. The Selectmen questioned if Affinity's schedule would allow the project to be completed this year, resulting in electric savings. The Town Administrator indicated she would contact Affinity LED and report back.

New Business

H2O Innovation August 2022 Monthly Operating Report

The Selectmen reviewed the H2O Innovation August 2022 Monthly Operating Report, and reviewed quotes for planning purposes for replacement of the rag press/step. The Town Administrator discussed the previous work to get the existing mechanism refurbished, and the current bearing replacement in process. Chairperson Mary requested that the Town Administrator request a recommendation from Steve Clifton as to which unit was best suited to our facility, and Selectwoman Bickford requested information on install cost and time to delivery.

The Town Administrator reported that she was scheduled to meet the following day with Rob Lauricella and Jefferson Tolman (of H2O Innovations) regarding a contract extension, which she had requested in the spring.

2023 Budget Directives

The Selectmen discussed a cost-of-living adjustment recommendation to be provided to department heads as a guideline for their budget submissions. The anticipated Social Security increase was discussed, as well as feedback from a municipal managers group the Town Administrator participates in. Chairperson Mary expressed her preference for recommending a lower number until the other budget numbers were available, as she felt it would be easier to increase later rather than have to pull back, if the overall budget increase was too high. The Town Administrator discussed the impact of the revaluation on 2023. There was general consensus that the COLA should be between 3 & 4%. The Selectmen did not have any other specific directives regarding major projects/warrant articles at this time.

Audit Representation Letter

The Selectmen reviewed and signed the Audit Representation Letter requested by Roberts & Greene to finalize the 2021 Financial Statements.

Bid: Grant-Funded UTV

The Selectmen reviewed quotes for a 2023 Polaris side-by-side UTV (as the 2022 model is no longer available), to be purchased with the GOFERR Locality Equipment Grant. The Town Administrator noted the slight difference in the models, as the special edition would have air conditioning at a slightly higher cost. She recommended the Amherst Motorsports quote as the lowest, and as the preferred vendor for proximity for future service needs.

Motion by Chairperson Mary, 2nd by Selectwoman Bickford, to accept the bid of Amherst Motorsports at \$43,879.00 for the Polaris Ranger Crew XP Premium UTV.

Motion carried with 3 in favor, none opposed.

Miscellaneous

Th Selectmen reviewed an amendment to ESR #24 with Underwood Engineers for work associated with the Greater Waste water main extension.

Motion by Chairperson Mary, 2nd by Selectwoman Bickford, to accept the amended ESR #24 by Underwood Engineers, with an increase of \$3,200.

Motion carried with 3 in favor, none opposed.

The Town Administrator noted that the public hearing for the 79-e application received would be adjusted, as the application had been retracted and resubmitted.

Signature Folder

The Selectmen:

- Reviewed, discussed, and approved the minutes of the August 24, 2022.
- Reviewed, discussed, and approved check manifests for accounts payable and payroll.
- Reviewed, discussed, and approved Purchase Orders: Fire, Sewer.

Motion by Chairperson Mary, 2nd by Selectwoman Bickford, to adjourn at 4:23 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