

**Town of Greenville
Board of Selectmen**

Minutes – December 13, 2023

Call to order at 5:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Meeting Room, 46 Main Street, Greenville. Present: Chairperson Carla Mary, Selectman Douglas Reardon, and Town Administrator Tara Sousa.

Old Business

Underwood Engineers Chemical Feed Project Cost Estimate

The Selectmen reviewed an email and cost breakdown from Terry Desmarais in response to the Selectmen's questions about the chemical feed building cost estimate. Selectman Reardon noted that he now understood the reason for the high HVAC estimate, as 2 different systems are needed. He questioned the use of cast iron rather than PVC as a potential cost savings. The Town Administrator thought the only other potential cost savings could be found in eliminating the proposed brick façade, but only if its purpose was purely aesthetic.

New Business

Resignation, M. Bickford

Chairperson Mary read a letter of resignation from Selectwoman Maggie Bickford dated December 13, 2023.

Motion by Chairperson Mary, 2nd by Selectman Reardon, to accept Selectwoman Bickford's resignation, effective immediate, with regret.

Motion carried with 2 in favor, none opposed.

The Town Administrator confirmed that the remainder of Mrs. Bickford's term would be able to appear on the ballot, as the post for Declaration of Candidacy is done in January. The Selectmen discussed a desire to appoint a Selectman until Town Meeting to ensure a quorum is available for Selectmen's meetings. Selectman Reardon suggested former candidates Michael Lamarre or Trevor Josti. Chairperson Mary suggested resident Kathleen McNamara. The Selectmen requested that the Town Administrator contact Mrs. McNamara to determine if she was willing to accept an appointment. It was noted that a new Ex-officio would need to be appointed to the Planning Board.

Contracts – IT, Audit Services

The Selectmen reviewed the 2024 IT services contract from Certified Computer Solutions (CCS) and a three-year contract for audit services from Roberts and Greene. Selectman Reardon asked about the availability of CCS in an emergency. The Town Administrator answered that she had not had occasion to contact them outside of office hours, but believed that there was an answering service for emergencies, noting that Primex is also on-call for cyber incidences. She discussed that the server lease agreement entered years-prior ties the Town to using CCS for the next couple years.

Motion by Chairperson Mary, 2nd by Selectman Reardon, to accept the contract from Certified Computer Solutions at a cost of \$8,640 for 2024.

Motion carried with 2 in favor, none opposed.

The Selectmen reviewed the proposed 3-year contract for auditing services from Roberts & Greene. The Town Administrator noted that the price would remain the same as prior years, and would not increase over the 3-year term. She pointed out the additional cost of \$2,000 quoted for any years in which a single audit is required, which would occur in the year that the chemical building is built, due to the amount of federal funding.

Motion by Chairperson Mary, 2nd by Selectman Reardon, to accept the contract for auditing services from Roberts and Greene at a cost of \$13,000 annually for the years 2023, 2024, and 2025.

Motion carried with 2 in favor, none opposed.

Notice of Project Selection – Granite State Clean Fleets Proposal

The Selectmen reviewed the Notice of Project Selection from the Granite State Clean Fleets Proposal for the grant proposal written by Road Agent Scott Leard for the replacement of the 2001 salt truck. The Town Administrator noted that the 20% match for the truck itself would come from the Highway Maintenance Expendable Trust, but that the plow and wing would be funded with another source, such as Highway Block Grant or unassigned fund balance.

Water/Sewer Abatements

The Town Administrator recommended abatement of water and sewer charges for Map 5 Lot 24, down to an average of their historic usage, as Whitewater staff had observed the meter malfunctioning when the customer requested that it be changed.

Motion by Chairperson Mary, 2nd by Selectman Reardon, to abate Map 5 Lot 24 \$101.25 on 2023 water and \$258.75 on 2023 sewer.

Motion carried with 2 in favor, none opposed.

The Town Administrator recommended abatement of water and sewer charges for Map 6 Lot 3, due to the account being billed in error after the home was demolished.

Motion by Chairperson Mary, 2nd by Selectman Reardon, to abate Map 6 Lot 3 \$90.00 on 2023 water and \$230.00 on 2023 sewer.

Motion carried with 2 in favor, none opposed.

Signature Folder

The Selectmen:

- Reviewed, discussed, and approved minutes of the November 29, 2023 meeting.
- Reviewed, discussed, and approved check manifests for accounts payable and payroll.
- Reviewed, discussed, and approved Purchase Orders: Highway.
- Reviewed, discussed, and approved a Veteran's Credit: Morrill.

The Selectmen recessed at 5:35 p.m. to await the 6:00 p.m. start time for the noticed public hearings.

6:00 p.m. – Public Hearings

Chairperson announced the opening of the first public hearing by reading the following notice: "The Greenville Board of Selectmen will hold concurrent public hearings on Wednesday, December 13, 2023 beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Meeting Room, 46 Main Street (Chamberlin St. entrance), Greenville, for the following purposes:

Pursuant to RSA 41:14-a, for the purpose of receiving public comment regarding the proposed transfer of Map 3 Lot 1-2, a land-locked parcel off Old Wilton Road, to the surrounding land owner, in conformance with a reversionary clause in the Town's deed recorded March 23, 1950. This will be the second of two public hearings required by the statute."

The Chairperson asked if there were any comments from the public. There were one. The Town Administrator discussed the required timeline under the statute for decision on the matter, and noted that the Selectmen anticipated calling a meeting Wednesday, December 20, 2023, to take action on the proposed property transfer.

Chairperson Mary announce the closure of that hearing at 6:01 p.m., and read the second notice. "Pursuant to RSA 53-C:3-a, for the purpose of receiving public comment regarding the proposed renewal of the Town's cable franchise agreement with Comcast of Connecticut/Georgia/Massachusetts/New Hampshire/New York/North Carolina/Virginia/Vermont, LLC for a period of 10 years." She invited comments and questions from the public.

Marshall Buttrick, of 240 Adams Hill Road, asked what if any changes there were from the prior contract to this proposed franchise agreement. Monica Thibault, Manager of Government Relations for Comcast, discussed that there were many wording changes, due to the former agreement having been an automatic renewal of an agreement with a former company which held the franchise, and this being the standard language used by Comcast. Mr. Buttrick asked specifically about density. Bryan Christiansen, Director of Government Affairs for Comcast, answered that the proposed agreement did not change the density requirements. Mr. Buttrick noted the statute 53C:3-a VIII, and expressed that the former company "cherry-picked" the densest and most financially beneficial areas, and given the small area of the town, he felt all areas should have service. Mr. Christiansen acknowledged the numerous residents from Adams Hill Road on the sign-in sheet, and discussed the Town's support of an application for a BMGI grant submitted by Comcast, which would fund extending service to the remaining unserved addresses in town, including Adams Hill Road.

Chairperson Mary asked when a decision on the BMGI Grant was anticipated, and Mr. Christiansen answered that final rulings were anticipated this winter. Selectman Reardon asked how long Comcast had been in town, and Mr. Christiansen answered that Comcast acquired the franchise from Adelphia in 2006. He explained that they had reduced the density requirement in some other communities from 25 to 15 residences per mile. The Town Administrator asked if that would impact any of the currently unserved addresses. Mr. Christiansen answered that it would not change the circumstance of those addresses, but could affect future new construction. Selectmen Reardon asked what the chances were that Greenville would be selected to receive the (BMGI) grant. Mr. Christiansen explained that Comcast had put these addresses together with a number of other communities, and that Comcast had requested less than the maximum 75% funding, so he felt it was a strong application.

Charles Buttrick, of 365 Adams Hill Road, discussed that the original cable company had promised cable service to all Greenville parcels on roads contiguous to the center and not separated by another town. He expressed that Comcast, in acquiring the franchise, should be bound to fulfill the commitments of the former company. He expressed that, regardless of the density requirements, he should receive service. He recommended the Selectmen not agree to a contract of more than 5 years.

Richard Goguen, of 417 Adams Hill Road, which he noted was the last house on Adams Hill, discussed that he had done his due diligence before purchasing the home, by contacting Comcast to verify that service was available, as the former homeowners had satellite, and was told he could get service. Unfortunately, it was found when the installer arrived, that service was not available, but was 17 telephone poles away, and he was quoted \$25,000 to have it installed. He expressed that the lack of broadband service is a "quality of life" issue for those who are without service, and that their quality of life is not the same as other taxpayers. He expressed that the Selectmen should not renew until a decision on the grant is received.

Chairperson Mary discussed that the Town did not have to rush, given the August 2024 expiration date, and questioned if the Town could get pricing to support the extension of services. Mr. Christiansen discussed the difference of BMGI, which is leftover State ARPA money, and BEAD, which is another federal broadband program, for which the funding is still 12-18 months out.

Marshall Buttrick asked what the franchise fee percentage was, and it was answered that the proposed amount is the same 3% as the former agreement. Mr. Buttrick recommended that the Selectmen check with neighboring communities to determine the percentage they are receiving.

Mr. Goguen asked if the proposed and former agreement was available for comparison. The Town Administrator answered that she would scan and upload then to the public hearing notice on the Town's website.

Sam Goguen, also of 417 Adams Hill Road, expressed that with changing technology, it was not a good idea for the Town to enter a 10-year agreement, and recommended no more than a five-year contract.

Hearing no further comments, Chairperson Mary announce the closure of the hearing at 6:35 p.m., and read the final notice: "Pursuant to RSA 31:95-b, to accept unanticipated revenue from the State of New Hampshire (House Bill 2), in the form of additional Highway Block Grant funds totaling \$11,780.39 and Municipally-Owned Bridge Aid of \$18,789 (estimated)." She asked if there were any questions or comments.

Richard Goguen asked if the unanticipated funds could be used for cable (broadband) extension. The Town Administrator explained that the funding was derived from a house bill, and that it could only be used for highway maintenance purposes, such as paving, equipment, staff, etc., and bridge expenses, respectively.

Charles Buttrick asked why the funding required separate authorization from the Highway Block Grant to accept the funds. The Town Administrator explained that the Town's Highway Block Grant warrant article authorizes acceptance and expenditure of an estimated amount, but that this was a separate house bill, which was not the annual highway block grant payment, though it does utilize the same formula to determine each town's allocation.

Hearing no further comments, Chairperson Mary announced the closure of the public hearing.

Motion by Chairperson Mary, 2nd by Selectman Reardon, to adjourn at 6:39 p.m.
Motion carried with 2 in favor, none opposed.

Submitted by: Tara Sousa/Town Administrator

Approved by:



Carla C. Mary/Chairperson

Douglas A. Reardon/Selectman

Margaret Bickford/Selectwoman