

**Town of Greenville
Board of Selectmen
Minutes – February 26, 2020**

Call to order at the SAU 87 Mascenic Education Center, 16 School Street, Greenville at 6:01 p.m. Present: Chairperson Carla Mary, Selectmen Douglas Reardon and Margaret Bickford, and Town Administrator Tara Sousa.

Old Business:

Basement Restoration

The Selectmen reviewed a revised quote from A+ Painting, which included upgraded materials for the walls in the basement meeting room. The Town Administrator noted that the amount was within the expanded budget she had requested approval for previously, so no action is needed. She noted that Selectwoman Bickford had been in contact with the epoxy flooring contractor, and he has committed to returning next week to correct the defects.

New Business:

Rate Hearing Documents

The Selectmen reviewed a Water Fund Financials document created by the Town Administrator which summarized the budget, expenses, fund balance, and ETF since 2015, as well as an estimate of annual gallons sold and the resulting revenue from a \$1.00/gallon rate increase. Selectman Reardon questioned if the Board should consider a larger increase, given the length of time since the last increase (over 10 years) and the impending costs related to the sludge removal. He expressed that he did not want to implement an increase, and then have to do another increase next year or the following. Increases between \$1.00 and \$1.50 were debated. The Town Administrator discussed the impact on the Town's largest water user, and her belief that the fund could manage at the \$1.00 increase for now, as the resolution of the sludge removal (either best case or worst case) will have a major effect on the needed revenue in the future. The Selectmen agreed to present a \$1.00 increase at the Public Hearing.

Abatement Application: Pelletier, Map 3 Lot 38-F

The Selectmen reviewed Evan Roberge's (of Avitar Associates) response to an abatement application by Mr. Raymond Pelletier for Map 3 Lot 38-F. Chairperson Mary indicated that she wished to recuse herself from the discussion of the requested abatement. Selectwoman Bickford questioned the wording of Evan Roberge's response, and the Town Administrator explained she believed it was meant to address comments in an appraiser's letter included with the abatement application.

Motion by Selectman Reardon, 2nd by Selectwoman Bickford, to accept the recommendation of Avitar Associates and deny the requested abatement for Pelletier, Map 3 Lot 38-F.

Motion carried with 2 in favor, 1 recusal, and none opposed.

Abatement Correction: Anderson, Map 5 Lot 116-A

The Town Administrator explained that a previously approved abatement needed to be voided, as it improperly included amounts that had been abated in an earlier request, and a corrected abatement was needed to resolve an amount that went to lien.

Motion by Chairperson Mary, 2nd by Selectwoman Bickford, to void Abatement #0673 for Anderson, Map 5 Lot 116-A.

Motion carried with 3 in favor none opposed.

Motion by Chairperson Mary, 2nd by Selectwoman Bickford, to approve an abatement (#0680) against a 2018 lien for Anderson, Map 5 Lot 116-A.

Motion carried with 3 in favor none opposed.

Authorize Fire Chief to Sign Title Application

The Town Administrator explained that the transfer of registration for the Forest Fire vehicle, from the Highway Department to the Fire Department, required the Fire Chief to be authorized to sign the title application.

Motion by Chairperson Mary, 2nd by Selectwoman Bickford, to authorize the Fire Chief Charles Buttrick to sign the title application for the Forest Fire vehicle.

Motion carried with 3 in favor, none opposed.

Service Acknowledgement

The Town Administrator discussed a suggestion by Chairperson Mary to present a commemorative item to Jim Lambert in honor of his retirement from the position of Moderator. She explained that she had looked into his tenure in the position and that he was elected in 2007, though he may have taken over sometime in 2006. The Selectmen agreed they wanted to do such presentation at Town Meeting, and recommended an expenditure of roughly \$100.

Boston Post Cane

The Town Administrator relayed that she had put in a notice in the Town Report that the Town was seeking to (ceremoniously) award the Boston Post Cane, and that we would also be advertising such.

Miscellaneous

Selectwoman Bickford asked if the electronics stored on the 2nd floor, such as computers and monitors, could be disposed of. The Town Administrator answered that some are from Town Hall departments, and others belong to the library. For any computers, she stated she would want to have the hard drives removed or wiped clean by our IT contractor. Selectwoman Bickford discussed the options for recycling and wanted the Town to use the lowest cost option, or perhaps identify a service which would pay for the electronics. Selectman Reardon requested that a new flag and stand be purchased for the meeting room when complete. The meeting was recessed at 6:42 p.m.

7:00 p.m. - Public Hearings

Selectwoman Bickford read the notice for the 1st of 3 concurrent hearings as follows: "Pursuant to RSA 466:30-b, on the question of Article 11 of the 2020 Town Meeting Warrant, which reads "To see if the Town will vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 466:30-a which make it unlawful for any dog to run at large, except when accompanied by the owner or custodian, and when used for hunting, herding, supervised competition and exhibition or training for such." Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (Majority ballot vote required.)" There were no questions.

Selectman Reardon read the 2nd of the notices as follows: "Pursuant to RSA 31:95-b, for receiving public testimony regarding accepting and expending, as unanticipated funds, insurance claim proceeds in the amount of \$30,866.07. This hearing is a corrective action, to correct a defect in procedure for funds received in December of 2019." There were no questions.

Chairperson Mary read the 3rd of the notices as follows: "The Greenville, NH Board of Selectmen, who also serve as Water and Sewer Commissioners, will hold a public hearing to discuss:

- 2020 Town water rate
- 2020 Contract sewer rate for Greenville Estates Village District

(Rates to become effective thirty days from adoption, with the first billing at the new rate to be 6 months following, in the fall of 2020.)"

Chairperson Mary discussed the need to increase the rate to address the rising contract operations costs and the large projects that have been completed, such as the pump project, for which the loan is now being paid back, upcoming costly projects needed, such as the lagoon sludge removal. She stated that the Board was recommending a \$1.00 per 1,000 gallons increase.

Charles Buttrick asked if the rate would be the same throughout Town, and Chairperson Mary answered that it would. Michael Patterson, of Pilgrim Foods, questioned the anticipated revenue increase from the \$1.00 added to the rate, and Chairperson Mary answered that it would yield roughly \$45,000 annually. Mr. Patterson questioned if the Town was doing anything to reduce expenses or increase revenue streams. He referenced the decline of Main Street as a commercial center. Selectman Reardon expressed that that was "a different time", and that the Town has done well to increase commercial use of Route 31. Mr. Patterson suggested alternative revenue streams, such as burning waste as biofuel. He questioned the need for the increase to be permanent, given the portion of the increase that seemed to be related to the sludge removal project. The Town Administrator discussed the historic additions to the Expendable Trust Fund, which have reduced as the revenue and expense gap has gotten much smaller, and the need to maintain that fund for other capital expenditures. She noted replacement of the filter room ceiling as an additional impending project. Mr. Patterson expressed that an increase in utility costs as well as the high tax rate will inhibit businesses from growing or locating here. Selectman Reardon expressed that the proposed increase was reasonable considering that it had been more than 10 years since the rate was increased. He discussed that the Board had debated implementing a larger increase, and that the implications for a large user such as Pilgrim Foods was part of the decision to limit the increase to \$1.00.

Chairperson Mary announced that the contract rate for Greenville Estates Village District would be \$8.89, effective for the 2nd issue billing. The Town Administrator commented that this rate was subject to the proposed sewer budget being approved at Town Meeting, as the budget is one of the figures in the rate calculation. She also noted that the contract calls for the rate to be set jointly by the Selectboard and GEVD Commissioners, and that GEVD was notified of the hearing and she did not receive any objections to the rate being set at this meeting.

The Chair announced the closure of the Public Hearing at 7:19.

Motion by Chairperson Mary, 2nd by Selectwoman Bickford, to set the 2020 sewer rate for GEVD (Greenville Estates Village District) at \$8.89/1,000 gallons (effective 2nd issue billing).
Motion carried with 3 in favor, none opposed.

Motion by Chairperson Mary, 2nd by Selectwoman Bickford, to increase the Town water rate from \$6.50 to \$7.50, effective 30 days from today, with the first billing at the new rate in fall of 2020.
Motion carried with 3 in favor, none opposed.

Fire Chief Charles Buttrick was in attendance, and the Selectmen discussed meeting with him to discuss succession planning for the Fire Department. They requested that Chief Buttrick attend the next Selectmen's meeting.

Signature Folder

The Selectmen:

- Reviewed, discussed, and approved the minutes of the February 12, 2020 meeting.
- Reviewed, discussed, and approved check manifests for accounts payable and payroll.
- Reviewed, discussed, and approved a Raffle Permit: Sacred Heart K of C.
- Reviewed, discussed, and approved Purchase Orders: Highway, Fire.

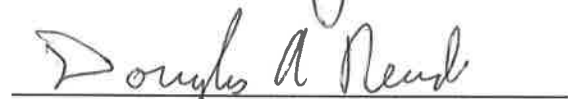
Motion by Chairperson Mary, 2nd by Selectwoman Bickford, to adjourn the meeting at 7:24 p.m.
Motion carried with 3 in favor, none opposed.

Submitted by: Tara Sousa/Town Administrator

Approved by:



Carla C. Mary/Chairperson



Douglas A. Reardon/Selectman



Margaret Bickford/Selectwoman