

# GREENWOOD SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES

## September 7, 2021

**Item 1:** Call Meeting to Order - Chair Chapman called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.  
Roll Call: Amy Chapman, Arnold Jordan, Norman A. Milliard, and Kim Sparks

**Item 2:** Pledge of Allegiance

**Item 3:** Review and approve:

**Expenditure Warrant # 8** (\$ 11,551.42) covering period Aug. 17, – Aug. 22, 2021

**Expenditure Warrant # 9** (\$ 166,227.74) covering period Aug. 23, - Aug. 31, 2021  
Includes voucher # 257 for \$ 151,132.50 payable to the US Bond bank – our last Road Bond Payment.

**Expenditure Warrant # 10** (\$ 24,688.57) covering period Sep. 1, -Sept 7, 2021

The Board reviewed Expenditure Warrants #8, #9 & #10.  
Selectman Milliard motioned and Selectman Jordan seconded to approved Expenditure Warrants #8, #9, & #10 as read. Vote: 3-0. Warrants are approved.

**Item 4:** Review and approve minutes of August 17, 2021

The Board reviewed the minutes. Selectman Jordan motioned and Selectman Milliard seconded to approve the minutes as presented. Vote: 3-0. Motion passes. Minutes are approved.

**Item 5:** Comments from the Public

A. Bill Bickford stated that he had three items to discuss with the Board. He explained his concerns with the recent Planning Board review of the Twitchell Pond Overlook subdivision. Bill stated that the Chair, Dennis Doyon told everyone at the public hearing on the subdivision to put their concerns in writing to the Planning Board. Bill stated that he submitted his letter to the Planning Board a few days before the last Planning Board meeting and was told at the meeting that his letter didn't meet the Board submission deadline. Bill stated that the Planning Board didn't acknowledge or discuss the concerns that he mentioned in his letter to the Board. He explained that he just wants answers to his questions and concerns and doesn't understand why the Planning Board didn't respond to any of the letters or why the Chair didn't inform everyone on the deadline for submissions. Bill stated that the Planning Board never responded to any of the letters submitted- even those that were turned in by the deadline. Bill explained at the last meeting the Planning Board had an opportunity to scheduled another public hearing and the all voted that down. Bill explained that he had questions as a direct abutting owner that seemed to be dismissed. Bill explained that one of his questions was his concerns with Rowe Hill Road and the existing run outs being filled in. Kim explained that one of the conditions on the final plan is the existing run outs are to be maintained. Bill stated that he heard that the Planning Board never did a site visit. Bill stated that he was concerned that the Planning Board was relying on the engineer who works for the person who is developing the lot. Bill stated that lady from AVCOG did more of a site review than anyone on the Planning Board did. Bill stated his concerns

with all of the trees being cut, more water will shed towards Twitchell Pond. Bill explained that the Planning Board did add some conditions that were really good but in other places the Board didn't act. Bill stated that the Planning Board never took any comments from us at their meeting and he hasn't heard that anyone who submitted a letter had any type of response from the Planning Board. Bill stated that he understands that the Selectmen really can't do much about this but just doesn't understand why the Planning couldn't respond to the letters. Bill stated that he still has a few days to submit an appeal and was surprised that an appeal would go to the Superior Court. Bill stated he was surprised that he couldn't submit his appeal to the Greenwood Appeals Board. Chair Chapman asked how did the appeals process work in this case. Kim explained that it is written in the Subdivision Ordinance that all appeals go to Superior Court. Bill stated that is quite an expense to do and he was in hopes that it would at least get the developer to talk with him. Bill stated his concern if the ditches are full on Rowe Hill and then the water will head down hill right into the Pond. Bill stated that his concerns with the phosphorus can be handled with the Lakes Association as they do the annual phosphorous count. Chair Chapman asked if Bill had talked with someone from the Lakes Association about his concerns. Bill answered yes, that his wife Kelly is on the Lakes Association. Chair Chapman stated that the Planning Board was asking that Shelley Norton of AVCOG coordinate their findings by August 6<sup>th</sup>. Bill stated that he was just asking for the Board to respond to the letters that were submitted. Chair Chapman stated that the Selectmen do not study what the Planning Board works on so the Selectmen are not versed in this area. Bill stated that some of his concerns might have been dealt with by the Planning Board but they never said anything at the meetings. Bill stated that his biggest point is that the Planning Board didn't want to talk with them. Chair Chapman stated that they understood. Bill thanked the Selectmen and stated that he had taken up enough of their time.

B. Chet Herrick was present to comment about the condition of the Irish Neighborhood Road and to let the Board know how displeased he was with our Road Foreman, Alan Seames. Mr. Herrick explained that the Greenwood Highway Dept. had been on the Irish Neighborhood Road ditching a few weeks ago and he approached Foreman Seames to discuss a few things that he was concerned with. Mr. Herrick stated that the Town installed a culvert for a neighbor and his other neighbor should have had a culvert but because Mr. Seames doesn't get along with that neighbor it wasn't installed. Mr. Herrick stated that is wrong and everyone should be treated fairly. Mr. Herrick stated that the school bus has turned around in his driveway for some 25 years and he keeps the road smooth for the bus. Mr. Herrick was upset that the Highway Dept. came in and ditched in that area making it harder for the bus driver. Mr. Herrick stated that it is on flat ground and doesn't understand the need for the Town to dig that all up. Mr. Herrick stated that he asked Mr. Seames to flatten that all back out and Mr. Seames said no in not a polite way. Mr. Herrick stated that Mr. Seames is wasting his tax dollars by not doing this properly and if we are going to fix this road let's fix it right. Mr. Herrick stated that this was not proper behavior of our Road Foreman. Chair Chapman stated that they were not going to talk about personnel issues. Mr. Herrick asked that he put the fill back in so he can plow it out for the school bus or you can find someplace else for the school bus to turnaround. Selectman Milliard stated that it was his understanding that the school bus would be turning around somewhere else. Chair Chapman stated that she didn't think there was anything they could do on this tonight. Mr. Herrick asked about the culvert. Chair Chapman stated that the Selectmen do not tell Alan what to do on the roads, that he tells us what he has planned and brings that to the budget committee

for discussion. Mr. Herrick stated that it shouldn't be up to the Road Foreman what is done but up to the Road Commissioner. Kim stated that if Mr. Merrill needs a driveway permit he should come in and apply or she would mail him the form. Kim explained that the driveway that Mr. Herrick thinks should have a culvert installed isn't really a driveway but more of a parking area as it doesn't pull up to any house. Kim stated that Mr. Merrill does have a driveway on the other side towards Mr. Herrick's home. Mr. Herrick insisted that the water will flow back into the road if a culvert is not installed in that location. Mr. Herrick stated that Kim should have drove up to look after the rain and she would have seen the dirt in the road. Kim explained to Mr. Herrick that Road Foreman, Seames has had 30 plus years of experience and attends MDOT training several times a year. Kim explained that she and the Selectmen value the amount of training and education that Alan has and look to his expertise on the subject. Mr. Herrick stated that the culvert at the end of his driveway is in the Town limits and that Mr. Seames told him that it wasn't. Mr. Herrick stated that he went to the State to look up the road width of his road and it was 32 feet on a four-rod road not the 25 feet that Mr. Seames claims. Mr. Herrick stated that we need to get this done now and not after we spend \$ 250,000 on the road. Kim stated that there is no plan to spend \$ 250,000 on the road. Selectman Jordan stated that it probably isn't a four-rod road as the main road out here is only a three- rod road. Mr. Herrick stated that he is only passing on what he was told and it will be up to this Board to make sure our tax dollars are not wasted. Chair Chapman thanked Mr. Herrick.

C. Selectmen contacted outside of meeting

Selectman Milliard stated that he was not contacted.

Chair Chapman stated that someone contacted her about concerns about phosphorus running into Twitchell Pond.

Selectman Jordan stated that he was not contacted.

**Item 6:** Discussion on Broadband for Greenwood

Review survey questions from Mia Purcell and the Broadband Committee

Mia Purcell asked the Board the following questions with the Board's answers:

A. Is your goal universal service? Yes, Universal "available" service. Anyone who lives in a remote location they should pay to be connected.

B. What technology do you want? No strong preference.

C. Do you want to own the infrastructure? No.

D. Strategy A – expansion of FirstLight and Spectrum - First choice.

E. Strategy B – expansion of FirstLight – Second choice.

F. Strategy D – all new town-owned FTTH -Third choice

G. Strategy C – town-owned FTTH excluding existing FTTH – Fourth choice.

H. How do you feel about collaborating on broadband with other towns? Yes, especially with the towns in the Mahoosuc region. They are open to the possibility of collaborating, especially if it reduced the overall cost of a project.

Mia thanked the Board for their time and input. She explained that she will be attending the other Selectmen's meetings in the Mahoosuc region and asking them the same questions.

**Item 7:** Discussion on offering a Retirement Program to Eligible Employees

Selectman Milliard stated that he had suggested that we get this done by the October 1<sup>st</sup> deadline but questions if we would have time enough to make that happen. Kim stated that Anrea still says she can make the October 1<sup>st</sup> deadline. Selectman Milliard stated that our options were to do a dollar for dollar match component or an across the board 2%. Selectman Milliard stated that he was for the dollar for dollar as it would include a commitment from the employee and the across the board wouldn't have a commitment from the employee. Selectman Milliard stated that they needed to discuss how often the deposits were made weekly and worries this could be burdensome and suggests that we do every two weeks or monthly. Selectman Milliard stated we could go once a year but wouldn't suggest that route. Selectman Jordan stated that he would like more information, that he is ok with setting up a retirement plan, but he would like to see more figures. Selectman Jordan stated that he would like to know how many of our employees would qualify, who they are, and if they all join how much would it cost the Town. Selectman Jordan asked if Kim could pull these numbers together and they have a workshop to go over the figures. Selectman Milliard stated that he would be in favor of that and they could work towards the January 1<sup>st</sup> deadline. Chair Chapman stated if they scheduled a workshop that would mean no deposits for 2021. Kim stated that was correct and that she would be glad to pull together a workshop. Chair Chapman stated that they hoped that everyone would participate that could.

**Item 8:** Update from MDOT regarding Sanborn River Bridge

Kim updated the Board that MDOT will be posting the Sanborn River Bridge on the Patch Mountain Road. Kim explained that the State came and inspected the Bridge and has posted it for 12 tons in order to protect the safety of the traveling public. Kim explained that the State will provide the Town with the signage. Selectman Milliard asked what was the estimated time for signs to arrive. Kim stated that they thought they would have the signs to us by the first of October. Kim stated that she informed all of the large land owners on the other side of the bridge.

**Item 9:** Request from several residents that Board invites Oxford County Sheriff to future meeting to discuss concerns with vehicles exceeding speed limits in Greenwood

Resident Steven Cole explained that he has noticed a lot more traffic going at excessive speeds all over Town. He explained that he is shocked that there have not been any accidents. He stated that he has spoken to Oxford County and they tell him that they are short staffed. Fire Chief, Ken Cole stated that he has also witnessed an increase in speeding traffic in Town. Ken stated that there is also more foot traffic – people walking or walking their dogs. Ken stated that he has noticed that there is a lot of local talent speeding and that it is not just people from away. Ken asked if the speed limit for the Greenwood Road could be reviewed again. Kim suggested that the Board invite our Oxford County Sheriff to a meeting to have a discussion with him about this problem. The Board agreed. Kim will reach out to Sheriff Wainwright.

**Item 10:** Marlene Susienka is requesting that her road be named Lucky Dog Lane

Kim explained that Marlene has a long driveway to her Barn and is plans on building in the future. The Board agreed to allow the road being named Lucky Dog Lane.

**Item 11:** Review and Sign Tax Abatements and Supplements

The Board reviewed and signed the two abatements and two supplements.

- A. Jake Kerchner, R16-001, Abatement for \$ 12,500 in value  
Initially taxed on 27.80 acres should be 14.4 acres
- B. Charles & Kathy Mason, R20-5-2, Abatement for \$ 25,000 in value.  
Chuck is requesting Homestead Exemption be applied to this account.
- C. Charles & Kathy Mason, U02-048, Supplement for \$ 25,000 in value  
Chuck is requesting that we move the Homestead Exemption to their other account.
- D. Robert & Christine Reid, U10-047, Supplement for \$ 25,000 in value  
The Reid's are requesting that the Homestead Exemption be removed as they claim it in Florida.

**Item 12:** Comments from the Public - None

**Item 13:** Meetings and Events

Sat., Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> – Hazardous Waste Collection Day, 9am – Noon Bethel Bus Garage

Mon., Sept. 13<sup>th</sup> – Planning Board Meeting, 5:30pm GTO

Mon., Sept. 20<sup>th</sup> – Planning Board Meeting, 5:30pm GTO

Tue., Sept. 21<sup>st</sup> – Selectmen's Meeting, 5:00pm GTO

Public Hearing on General Assistance Ordinance and General Assistance Maximums

Mon., Oct. 4<sup>th</sup> – Planning Board Meeting

Tue., Oct. 5<sup>th</sup> – Selectmen’s Meeting, 5:00pm GTO

**Item 14:** Adjourn - Having no further business, Selectman