

GREENWOOD SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES

October 19, 2021

5:00pm

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 # 15 (\$ 111,700.15) covering period Oct. 5- Oct. 12, 2021
Includes voucher 431 for \$ 97,088.00 payable to SAD # 44.

Expenditure Warrant # 16 (\$ 25,364.41) covering period Oct. 13, - Oct. 19, 2021

The Board reviewed Expenditure Warrants # 15 & # 16.
Selectman Milliard motioned and Selectman Jordan seconded to approved Expenditure Warrants # 15 & # 16 as read. Vote: 3-0. Warrants are approved.

Item 4: Review and approve minutes of October 5, 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 - None

A. Selectmen contacted outside of meeting - No one contacted.

Item 6: Discussion with David Newcomb, resident from Beech Road, who would like to become a Planning Board Member.

Mr. Newcomb explained that he has owned a second home in Greenwood for 29 years and he and his wife just remodeled their home so they could now live here full-time. He explained that he is retired and has time to give back to Greenwood. He explained he saw an add on the Town website for Planning Board members so he contacted Kim. Kim explained that David would like to be appointed as a regular member for one-year to see how things work out. Mr. Newcomb explained that he has a lot of personal construction work experience, has been a general contractor, and would like to help out. Chair Chapman stated that this sounds great. Selectman Milliard stated that he thought this was a wonderful thing and it is always a good thing to have people step up to the plate and give back.

The Board thanked Mr. Newcomb for his interest and completed the appointment paperwork for a one-year term. Kim Sparks administered the oath to Mr. Newcomb. Kim explained that she would contact Mr. Newcomb once she has a packet of ordinances and Planning Board information ready for him.

Item 7: Review and Discuss Maine EMS Operational Bulletin, dated 10/08/2021

Kim explained that the Bulletin states that medical personnel need to be vaccinated for COVID-19 by October 15th. Kim explained that two of our EMS personnel have submitted proof of their vaccination – Ken Cole and Brian Letourneau. Kim explained that Ken has been trying to reach Ben Hodgkins for a copy of his vaccination record but hasn't heard back from him. Kim stated that Ben is at the EMT service level and if he meets the State vaccine requirements, Ken would like to see if he has the time and interest to help oversee our EMS program. Selectman Milliard asked if this puts our EMS program potentially up in the air. Kim stated that it does unless Mr. Hodgkins is willing to step in if he is vaccinated. Selectman Milliard stated that until we know that he has submitted proof of being vaccinated we don't know if he can oversee our EMS program. Chair Chapman stated that we don't even know if he is interested in helping and stated that they might be left with no choice but to suspend our EMS program. Selectman Milliard asked how suspending our EMS program would impact the Station Manning. Kim explained that the Station Manning would respond to fire calls and vehicle accidents but would not respond to medical calls if we were no longer licensed first responders. Selectman Milliard asked what would happen when someone had a medical emergency. Kim explained that they would dial 911 and dispatch would tone PACE Ambulance just like they do now but there just wouldn't be a tone for Greenwood First Responders. Kim explained that this is happening to EMS departments all across the State. Selectman Jordan stated that in the past, they have responded to automobile accidents. Kim stated that they would respond has firefighters to the automobile accident not as First Responders. Kim stated that PACE Ambulance would respond to all automobile accidents. Chair Chapman stated that for us to continue our EMS/First Responder program we would need someone vaccinated and at the EMT license level. Chair Chapman stated that is truly sad that this is happening but the Town must follow the State mandate and would like to inform the public as soon as they can if we end up suspending our First Responder Program. Selectman Jordan stated that at some point in the future we may have to suspend our Station Manning program. Chair Chapman stated that one of the reasons we wanted Station Manning was for medical calls. Selectman Milliard asked if we set a time period to schedule a workshop to talk about it or do we set a deadline. Chair Chapman stated that if it is around budget time, we know the Budget Committee will ask. Selectman Milliard stated that the Budget Committee is going to push the issue as they should. Selectman Jordan stated that they need to look at the past history with the number of calls, type of calls, and going forward keep track of the calls they go on and calls that they don't go on. Selectman Milliard asked Kim how difficult it would be to get the call information on a year or two. Kim explained it isn't difficult at all and would start working on pulling it together. Kim stated that Chief Cole would attempt to contact Mr. Hodgkins to see of his interest and vaccination status. Kim stated that she would ask Chief Cole to attend their next Selectmen's Meeting for an update.

Item 8: Discuss Health Insurance rebate from Anthem

Kim explained that the Town received a refund check from Anthem in the amount of \$ 3,396.23. Kim explained that Anthem had sent all of the employees a notice that we received the refund and that the funds were to be refunded to the employees or used to pay future premiums for the employees. Kim stated that the employees wondered if the funds could be used to pay for their 5 % payroll deduction. Selectman Milliard stated that he was confused with the last statement of the paperwork from Anthem stating that

it states that policy holders must issue rebates within three months of receiving them. Chair Chapman stated that would be if we were going to reimburse the employees. Selectman Milliard stated that if the consensus was that we were rebating the individual employees that would be simple enough but it gets more complicated if we use it to lower the premiums. Selectman Milliard stated that premium changes don't occur until our renewal time in May which is more than 3 months away. Chair Chapman stated that the rebate is for the year 2020 and if we were to give the employees back their 5% it wouldn't use all of the rebate. Selectman Milliard stated that the employee 5% just started in July of 2021. Selectman Milliard asked if we ever had a rebate like this before. Chair Chapman explained that it had to do with the Affordable Care Act and if the employees didn't spend what was estimated they issue a refund as they are limited to how much profit they can make. Chair Chapman stated that they are rebating individuals as well. Selectman Milliard stated that the last couple of years the rates have been increasing but giving some back to employees who pay part of their dependent's plan isn't a bad idea either. Selectman Jordan stated if we refund the money, it would be for last year. Chair Chapman asked how long the employees had been paying 5%. Selectman Milliard stated that it just started in July. Chair Chapman stated that the employees would not be getting much back if calculated to July. Selectman Milliard asked if it was anticipated that we might have another rebate next year. Chair Chapman stated that we could never anticipate another rebate as it happened mostly because Dr. visits were down during the pandemic. Selectman Milliard stated that since the whole 5% for dependent care is a brand-new program and if we were to utilize that refund to lower the premiums for next year, it might also bring down the individual costs. Chair Chapman stated that it is a pretty small amount to spread out as our total premiums for the year is \$ 90,000.00 so if we get \$ 3,000 to apply towards the \$ 90,000 it would reduce it by 4%. Chair Chapman stated that she understands that some of the employees don't like the 5% and they could decide to apply 95% towards the premium and 5% towards the employee payment. Selectman Milliard asked when would they need to decide this. Chair Chapman stated within 3 months. Selectman Jordan stated that it would be cumbersome to split it up. Chair Chapman asked what the employees were asking for. Kim explained they would like to be credited for what they have paid since July and to use the rest towards their future 5% payments. Kim stated that she is concerned to rebate employees for past payments as those were all done pre-tax. Selectman Milliard agreed that it would have to be used to cover future payments. Selectman Milliard stated if we only think about the 5% @ \$187.00 it would last 18 months for dependent care at no cost. Selectman Jordan stated we would then have a problem with Alan who is going to get done next summer. Selectman Milliard suggested looking at it from a different perspective and say the \$ 3,400.00 could be used to reduce the premium for the employees paid for by the Town and would benefit all of the taxpayers in the Town. Chair Chapman stated that seems fairer as using it towards the premiums will benefit every tax payer in Town. Selectman Milliard stated that if the Town pays \$ 7,500 a month premium for the employee's health insurance and if we have a rebate of \$ 3,400, we would be reducing the yearly cost by 3.7%. Selectman Milliard stated it might make a minimal impact on the mil rate but at least that conversation has happened and we can make the case that we received a rebate from our health insurer and we made an effort to try to reduce the burden onto the Town by applying the \$ 3,400 to the overall cost of health coverage. Chair Chapman stated that basically it is a chunk of money given back to the Town because 95% of the premium was paid by the Town with 5% being paid by the employee. Chair Chapman stated it should be used towards a future premium. Selectman Milliard reminded us that the Town provides 100% health insurance

coverage to the employee. Chair Chapman suggested that the board apply the rebate towards a future premium and asked if the other Selectmen agreed. Selectman Milliard stated that he was fine with that. Selectman Jordan stated that he agreed to apply the rebate towards the Town's expenses towards Health Insurance for employees. Kim stated she would leave the rebate in the Health Insurance account and apply it towards the next bill.

Item 9: Review and Discuss ARPA Funding Questionnaire from Oxford County

Kim explained that Oxford County had mailed each of the Selectman a questionnaire and they also sent us a link if the Selectmen would prefer to complete it online. Kim explained that she had a Broadband meeting this afternoon and the Broadband Committee asked if the area Selectmen would consider signing a Resolution that the Town's ARPA funds would be used towards Broadband in Greenwood if the voters approved. Kim explained that the ARPA funds would be used as grant matches for grants applied to Connect Maine. Chair Chapman explained that if the Board agrees to the Resolution, then the answer to question 2 on the questionnaire would be yes, we have dedicated ARPA funds to a specified project. Selectman Milliard asked if we know how much our ARPA funds will be. Kim explained that we just received half of the funds in September and will receive the 2nd half in a year. Kim stated the full amount of the ARPA funding to Greenwood is \$ 87,938.00. Selectman Milliard asked if we would have to commit all of the ARPA funding to broadband. Kim stated that they don't have to but the list of items that we can spend it on is quite limited. Selectman Milliard stated that he wanted to be clear that if we are to move forward with this resolution, do we have the option to say we will commit x amount of dollars from our ARPA funds for broadband. Kim stated that the Board could do this. Selectman Milliard stated it could be used for Covid expenses, Revenue Loss, Pay Options, and Broadband. Selectman Milliard asked as a Town if we have to indicate where we have decided to spend this ARPA funding. Kim explained that after Town Meeting we have to inform the Federal Government as to how the funding was spent. Chair Chapman stated that the Resolution is asking us to commit the ARPA funds to Broadband. Kim explained that we are working with 7 area towns to improve and expand broadband throughout our communities and we have been told that our chances of receiving a grant are greater if we apply with other communities. Chair Chapman stated that is the only category that we have considered so far and the other options would have required other discussions and research. Kim explained that we lost some State revenue but made that up in our excise tax collections as we had so many out of state folks registering their cars here. Chair Chapman stated that the resolution states the Selectmen would go to Town Meeting recommending the funds be used towards Broadbands. Chair Chapman stated that the Broadband Committee is needing all of the 7 Towns ARPA funding to make the program work. Chair Chapman asked the Board if they would be willing to sign the Resolution. Kim explained that she could fill in the blanks and have it ready for your signature at their next meeting. Chair Chapman thinks they have agreed with the other Towns to commit our ARPA funds to Broadband. Chair Chapman asked Kim to prepare the Resolution for their next meeting on Nov. 9th.

Item 10: Comments from the Public - None

Item 11: Meetings and Events

Mon., Nov. 1st – Planning Board Meeting, 5:30pm GTO

Tue., Nov. 2nd – Election Day 8am to 8pm, GTO

Tue., Nov. 9th – Selectmen’s Meeting, 5:00pm GTO

Tue., Nov. 23rd – Selectmen’s Meeting, 5:00pm GTO

Item 12: Adjourn - Having no further business, Selectman Milliard motioned and Selectman Jordan seconded to adjourn the meeting at 5:45pm. Vote: 3-0. Motion passes and meeting is adjourned.