

GREENWOOD SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES

March 12, 2024 – 5:00 pm

Item 1: Call Meeting to Order - Chair Chapman called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

Roll Call: Chair Amy Chapman, Selectman Norman A. Milliard, Selectman Robert Oickle, and Kim Sparks, Town Manager.

Item 2: Pledge of Allegiance

Item 3: Review and approve:

Expenditure Warrant # 36 - \$ 21,147.71, Covering period Feb. 19, – Feb. 26, 2024

Expenditure Warrant # 37 - \$ 48,157.31, Covering period Feb 27 - Mar. 4, 2024

Expenditure Warrant # 38 - \$ 130,060.76, Covering period Mar. 4 – Mar. 11, 2024
Includes Voucher # 1030, \$ 104,976.00 payable to MSAD 44.

The Board reviewed Warrant # 36, Warrant 37, and Warrant # 38.

Selectman Milliard motioned and Selectman Oickle seconded to approve Warrant # 36, Warrant # 37, and Warrant # 38 as read. Vote: 3-0. Warrants are approved.

Item 4: Review and approve minutes of February 20, 2024

The Board reviewed the minutes of February 20, 2024.

Selectman Oickle motioned and Selectman Milliard seconded to approve the minutes as read. Vote: 3-0. Minutes are approved.

Item 5: Comments from the Public - No Comment

A. Selectmen contacted outside of meeting – No contact

Item 6: Discussion with James Tasse, Assistant Director, Bicycle Coalition of Maine regarding bicycle and pedestrian safety in Greenwood and on the Greenwood Road.

Jim Tasse thanked the Board for inviting him to a meeting and for reaching out to find ways to work together in making Greenwood safer for pedestrians and bicyclists. Jim gave copies to everyone of his 15-page presentation. (Copy attached).

Jim explained that there are several things that the Town can do to educate drivers, pedestrians, and bicyclists and he was glad to help us accomplish this. Selectman Oickle stated that the biggest concern is that people are walking or riding on the wrong direction and asked what we could do about that. Chair Chapman stated that there are also concerns that people don't go the speed limit on the Greenwood Road. Chair Chapman stated that we are stuck with the width of the road because of the lake and there is not a lot of places to get out of the way. Jim explained having people going the wrong way is a bit of a problem and is seen more in the rural areas. Jim explained that they are required by law to ride with traffic and to obey all traffic control devices. Selectman Oickle asked if it was also required for those walking. Jim explained that

walking is against traffic. Selectman Oickle asked if that was a law. Jim stated that it is but it's not – Title 29A, section 4 does say that you are supposed to walk against traffic if a side walk is not available and if it is partible. Chair Chapman stated that on the Greenwood Road there are places that would be safer to actually walk with traffic. Jim explained that this all depends on visibility. Selectman Oickle stated that one of the suggestions from a resident was that we use signage to educate people on which direction they should be going when riding or walking. Selectman Oickle asked Jim if it's been his experience that this signage is effective. Jim answered yes and that it is important to educate people at the point of use. Jim stated that there are several highway approved signs that we could install to help educate drivers, walkers, and riders. Jim stated that he would gladly send further information to Kim on other possible signs that would help us out. Selectman Oickle stated that he was concerned the most when he sees someone riding on the wrong side of the road as he fears they are inexperienced. Chair Chapman stated that there are drivers who feel that bikes shouldn't be allowed on our roads. Jim stated that is a common comment and that Maine State law says that riders are entitled to be out there. Jim stated that he has seen that stencils are used on the roads that say bike with traffic and walk against traffic. Jim stated that there are a couple places on the Greenwood Road to let people make their own decision especially with those blind turns.

Jim explained that there is an uptick in rider/pedestrian vs. driver fatalities. Jim stated that he appreciated the Board's concern for safety. The Board reviewed the Greenwood Road Traffic Calming packet with Jim. Jim stated that signage is a good place for us to begin. Jim asked who would install the signage. Kim stated that the Greenwood Highway Department would install the signs. Jim stated that he would send some further information to Kim and work with her to get a signage plan for the Greenwood Road. Selectman Milliard thanked Jim for attending and for all of the information.

Item 6A. Mahoosuc Kids Association

Representatives from Mahoosuc Kids Association attended the meeting:
Amy Connell, Executive Director, Jen Evans, Assistant Director, and Barbara Russell, President.

Amy Connell stated that they were in attendance tonight to ask the Board to reconsider a decision about their program using the Town Beach during their summer program. Chair Chapman stated that she recalls that they were using the beach in the early afternoon from 1:30pm to 3:00pm. Chair Chapman stated that they started to have complaints from residents, not complaints about the kids, but complaints that there were a lot of people at the beach during prime times. Chair Chapman explained that the Board discussed this last year and decided to offer them to use the beach from 9am to Noon one day a week this coming year. Chair Chapman stated that the Board is still offering that scenario. Amy Connell stated that she had only heard about one complaint and maybe there are more that she hasn't heard about this. Amy Connell stated that the date that she received the complaint, it was Monday, July 3rd and there were 31 kids and 7 counselors and 4 lifeguards. Amy Connell stated that the complaint referenced 90 kids. Chair Chapman stated that the Board established last year that part of the complaint was an exaggeration. Amy Connell explained that they always have counselors and lifeguards when they are at the beach and if a situation should arise with anyone who is at the beach the certified life guards will help them.

Amy Connell stated that they unload the bus at 1:30pm and load the bus at 3:00pm once per week. Amy stated that they hosted 12 children from Greenwood in their summer program. Jen Evans stated that with all of their certified life guards at the beach, she

feels that the beach is a safer place when they are there. She explained that their duty as life guards is that they have to respond to any victim not just the ones in their summer camp program. She stated that they make the beach a safer place on those 8 Monday afternoons that they are there during the summer. She explained that Mondays are really difficult for them to change the activity schedule on. She explained that they are faced with a busing shortage this summer. She explained that they utilize MSAD 44's bussing and their bus drivers. She explained that they have a collaboration with Mt. Abram Mt. Biking program that runs on Monday mornings so finding another bus to run kids to the Greenwood Beach at that same time would be difficult. She stated they would like to discuss the possibility of the program still coming to the beach on Monday afternoons. She stated that Kim asked if they could look at their schedule to see if there were any other times that would work for the program. She stated that on Tuesday and Thursday mornings they offer MKA swim lessons and Wednesdays are field trip days. She stated that they are also concerned that it is cold in the morning sometimes and wouldn't be the best for the kids. She stated that one of their golden rules is to leave the place as good as they found it and thought that they have always treated Greenwood in the best way. She stated that they have received many really great comments from parents about using the Greenwood Beach and comments from our beach users at how well behaved our group is.

Barbara Russell stated that the date that the complaint was filed was on a holiday weekend and that might have contributed to the larger number of people using the beach. She stated that the fact that they are only there eight days out of the summer, that the community appreciates this program, she would hope that they could continue to use the same time slot that they have used for twenty years.

Selectman Oickle stated for full disclosure he used to be the Chair of the Bethel Recreation Commission and is in full support of these programs. Selectman Oickle stated that he used to serve on the Conservation Commission that was in charge of the Greenwood Beach and he personally swims at the beach. He stated that the problem is at 12 o'clock on a hot day the beach is packed. He explained that he went there to swim on one of the days, it was raining like crazy, the Mahoosus Kids group was there, and the kids were wet and cold. He stated that it appears that the beach is full, people would come and then leave, and in their minds, there was no room. He stated at one time he ran a swimming program there at 10am and no one was there at 10am. He stated that the sun hits the beach that early and it is warm and they had the beach to themselves. He explained that he wasn't concerned about the complaint, he was concerned about what he saw when he went there. He stated that he thinks that 10am in the morning is a great time to go, so if your group can do it at that time, they would have the whole beach. He asked if the group could change their time to the morning it would work well for the beach. He stated that he understands their scheduling issues and he thinks the beach is getting more use as there are not a lot of beaches around.

Amy Connell asked if Greenwood renters are allowed to use the beach or is it just for year round residents. Selectman Oickle stated that there is no policing of the beach and everybody uses it. Chairman Chapman stated that the sign says that the beach is for Greenwood taxpayers. Selectman Oickle stated if the program can change their schedule, it would be ideal. Chair Chapman stated that she feels differently, that they are serving Greenwood children for an hour and a half for eight times per year. Chair Chapman stated that she understands that someone goes to the beach on a hot Monday afternoon to find a bus with several children and would understand that they would be upset.

Selectman Milliard asked if last year was the only time we had a complaint. Kim stated that there have been a few complaints over the years but last summer the complaints increased. He stated that he doesn't necessarily think it is a bad thing for them to try a different time and see if we get complaints dealing with a different time frame. He stated that people have this perception that the beach is being invaded and there are times in the morning that it is pretty nice there.

Selectman Oickle asked if they are not able to change their schedule. Amy Connell stated that she didn't mention meals, that they serve breakfast and lunch, and everything is down to the minute as far as scheduling. She stated that Monday mornings would be really tough as there are other enrichment programs happening and then there is bussing. Selectman Milliard asked how would Mr. Kenney's ability to schedule busses be different in the morning vs. the afternoon. Selectman Milliard asked if his ability to have drivers in the morning more complicated than having drivers in the afternoon. Amy Connell stated that all bussing in general is going to be difficult to get. Selectman Milliard stated that he isn't clear on how is the complexity of bussing different in the morning than in the afternoon. Amy Connell explained that they have Mt. biking at Mt. Abrams on Monday mornings and the bus would be taking children there and they wouldn't have a bus to take children to the beach during that same time slot. Chair Chapman asked if all of the kids do the mt. biking. Amy Connell answered no, just the older kids do the mt. biking and wouldn't be able to go to the Greenwood Beach to swim if the time slot was changed to mornings.

Barbara Russell asked what needs to be done, does the Board need to take another vote or do they need to go back and see what we can do with their schedule. Selectman Oickle stated that they have heard the Town's concerns, and asked if they would go back and look at their schedules. Selectman Oickle stated that he loves the program but he doesn't like the schedule. He asked if they could take a look at their schedule and come back to the Board with a recommendation. Amy Connell stated that their request would be for the Board to adhere to what the group has done in the past at the 1:30pm to 3pm timeframe. She stated that their concern is that the water will be too cold in the morning. Selectman Oickle stated that there are several swimming programs out there that are run in the morning as that is when there is space available. Selectman Milliard stated that he thinks it is worth trying a one-year program that we change to a morning schedule. Amy Connell asked what was the ideal time in the morning. Chair Chapman stated that they allowed 9am to Noon. Jen asked if it would be possible to do a Tuesday morning and a Thursday morning from 10am to 11:30am. Selectman Oickle stated that would be perfect. Jen explained that she was thinking maybe two different groups. Amy Connell stated that they have a weekly planning meeting this Thursday so they will discuss this and see what they can do with their schedule. Selectman Oickle asked if they could come back and update the Board on what their proposal will be. Amy Connell stated that she would be glad to come back once they figure it out.

Item 7: Discussion with Mia Purcel regarding CCFC's partnership with the Bethel Library in offering free tech help to area residents, including Greenwood residents, and other digital services that are available to Oxford County residents.

Mia explained that Community Concepts Finance Corp has received a grant to partner with area Libraries and offer free tech help to area residents. Mia asked that we help get the word out to our residents that there is tech help at the Bethel Library on Thursday afternoons from 2:45pm to 4:45pm. Kim stated that she would get the notice posted here at the Town Office and on our Facebook page.

Mia also updated the Board on our Broadband agreement with Firstlight. Mia stated that Firstlight is researching if they can accept the ARPA funds from the towns and once that is answered Firstlight will have contracts for the Towns to sign. Mia stated that they will schedule a meeting for the area Selectmen and Town Managers when the documents are ready to review.

Item 8: Review and sign Tax Abatement for Zoe Pringle, Map R12-001, \$ 401.12

The Board reviewed and signed the tax abatement for Zoe Pringle.

Item 9: Review and sign Supplemental Assessment for Paul Mitchell, Map R12-1-3, \$ 291.23

The Board reviewed and signed the Supplemental Assessment for Paul Mitchell.

Item 10: Discuss and Appoint Eric Giroux as Animal Control Officer

Kim explained that Eric Giroux had accepted the offer to be Greenwood's Animal Control Officer. Selectman Oickle stated that this was a good thing and that Eric had his own equipment. Selectman Oickle asked what other Towns did Eric work for. Kim explained that he was the ACO in the towns of Newry, Bethel, West Paris and Rumford.

The Board reviewed and signed the appointment certificated for Eric Giroux as Animal Control Officer.

Item 11: Discuss request from Irish Neighborhood Residents requesting additional dumpster

Kim explained that on Election Day, resident Doug Wilson stated that they were having a difficult time with having too much trash in the town dumpster and having to regularly clean up trash in the area. Kim stated that Doug said that he actually tried to compact the trash down but that didn't work as it ended up freezing in and Casella wasn't able to dump it all out. Kim stated that Doug asked if there was any way that the Town could get them a second dumpster. Kim stated that she told Doug that she would bring it to the Board of Selectmen. Kim stated that this has always been a concern as the dumpster is right on the Greenwood Albany town line and there is no way to keep watch to make sure only Greenwood residents are using it. Chair Amy stated that she remembers this discussion with the G & W several years ago. Kim stated that the Town has always paid for this as a courtesy to the Irish Neighborhood due to the fact that our Transfer Station is many miles from them.

Item 12: Discuss Horseshoe Trail discontinuance with public right of way

Chair Chapman stated as she understands it, it was discontinued by a vote of the Town in 1946 but never filed with Oxford County. Kim answered that it was sent to Oxford County and Oxford County never took action. Chair Chapman stated that it wasn't officially discontinued by the County. Kim explained that the Town took a second vote to discontinue with public right of way and that vote didn't require any action from the County. Kim explained that this procedure is to notify the abutters of this section of Horseshoe Trail that it is discontinued with a public right of way. Selectman Oickle asked if this was going to be an issue for the abutters. Kim stated that she didn't expect any issues. Chair Chapman stated that they all know that this isn't a Town road. Kim stated that she believes the abutters are of the understanding that this stretch of road has been discontinued with a public right of way. Chair Chapman asked when Kim contacts the abutters to make sure we tell them why. Kim stated that the letters to the abutters have been written with an explanation. The Board all stated that they were fine with the letters to be sent to the abutters. Kim thanked the Board and will send out the abutter notices.

Item 13: Review and discuss Local Hub on-premise liquor license renewal

Kim explained that this is a renewal application and hasn't had any complaints filed with the Town Office. The Board reviewed and signed the renewal application.

Item 14: Comments from the Public - No comment.

Item 15: Meetings and Events

Mar. 12th – Conservation Committee Meeting, 1:00 pm GTO

Mar. 26th – Selectmen Meeting, 5:00 pm GTO

Mar. 26th – Budget Meeting, 5:30 pm GTO (If needed)

Mar. 28th – Town Managers meeting with Superintendent, Mark Kenney to discuss proposed school budget

Apr. 1st – Planning Board, 5:30 pm. Meeting with Erica from AVCOG to discuss implanting LD2003

Apr. 2nd – Selectmen Meeting, 5:00 pm GTO

Apr. 16th – Selectmen Meeting & Public Hearing, 5:00 pm GTO

Item 16: Adjourn - having no further business, Selectman Oickle motioned and Selectman Milliard seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 pm. Vote: 3-0. Meeting is adjourned.