

# **GREENWOOD SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES**

**April 22, 2025 – 5:00 pm**

**All Meetings are audio recorded.**

## **Item 1:** Roll call and determination of a quorum

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

## **Item 2:** Pledge of Allegiance

## **Item 3:** Introductions

- a. Zoom participants – No participants.
- b. Participants present: Peter Seames, Highway Employee and Ann Litchfield, resident on Sheepskin Bog Road

## **Item 4:** Chair Statement

If you wish to speak, please wait until the Chair has opened the floor to Public Comment or until we are at the agenda item you wish to speak on. Once the Chair has recognized you, please stand, state your name for the record, the agenda item, and the nature of your business. All comments and questions must be addressed to the Chair.

## **Item 5:** Approval of Warrants

**Expenditure Warrant # 42** – \$ 30,341.04 covering period April 9, - April 15, 2025

**Expenditure Warrant # 43** \$ 153,456.50 covering period April 16, - April 22, 2025  
Includes Voucher 1182 payable to SAD 44 for \$ 118,752.00

The Board reviewed Warrant # 42 and Warrant # 43.  
Selectman Milliard motioned and Selectman Oickle seconded to approve Warrant # 42 and Warrant # 43 as read. Vote: 3-0. Motion passes.

## **Item 6:** Review and approve minutes of April 8, 2025 – Item tabled until next meeting.

## **Item 7:** Selectmen contacted outside of meeting - No contact.

## **Item 8:** Comments from the Public

Ann Litchfield from Sheepskin Bog Road asked if the Codes Officer could come take a look at 4 places on Sheepskin Bog Road that have started collecting junk again. Kim stated that she would ask our Codes Office Anne Kwoka to come take a look. Ann stated that she didn't think any cleanup had occurred since Joelle started working on getting things cleaned up. Kim stated that she would get a copy of the file to Anne Kwoka and ask her to go take a look at these properties.

## **Item 9:** Agenda Items – (15-minute limit per item)

- a. Open & review Bids for Town Mowing and Cleanup  
2024 winning bid – Countryside Landscape, \$ 18,000.00

Chair Chapman opened the one bid that we received.

Bid from Countryside Landscape, \$ 16,310.00

Chair Chapman stated that Countryside Landscape was asking if they could lock in their bid for a 3- year contract. Selectman Oickle asked if we had ever had a three-year contract. Kim stated that they had for a different person several years ago. Kim explained that Countryside had asked for one last year, but they were new to working with us and we wanted to make sure it was a good fit for both before locking in a 3-year contract. Kim explained that they have a great working relationship with Countryside and have had zero complaints since they have been doing our mowing. Selectman Milliard stated that it would be a good idea to lock in a three-year contract for that price each year. Selectman Oickle stated that he thought that was a great idea as well.

Selectman Milliard motioned and Selectman Oickle seconded to accept the bid from Countryside Landscape for \$ 16,310.00 annually and to approve this bid for three years, 2025, 2026, and 2027. Vote: 3-0. Motion passes.

b. Discussion with Ann Litchfield regarding Noise Ordinance

Selectman Milliard thanked Ann for working this Ordinance and explained that our Codes Officer doesn't feel that it is enforceable as it would require the Codes Officer to be available 24/7. Kim explained that if the ordinance is enacted by the voters, the Town would need to purchase equipment and offer training to the Codes Officer. Selectman Oickle asked if we had an idea on what that would cost. Kim explained that the cost of the equipment and training was around \$ 5,000.00 and she had no idea how this would impact the payroll as we had no idea how many complaints there would be. Ann stated that she would attend the Town Meeting to support the Ordinance.

c. Discuss County Budget Increase with Commissioner Sawin Millett

Commissioner Millett introduced himself and stated that this is his first year as Commissioner representing Greenwood and 14 other Towns in western Oxford County. Commissioner Millett stated that this budget was adopted by his predecessors in December. He stated that there was an increase in spending of nearly 40% and a lot of that was in three areas; 1. Jail budget up 2 million, 2. Sheriff budget up 1 million, and 3. EMS program up \$ 300,000. Commissioner Millett stated that he wasn't going to defend this budget but wanted to leave us with the understanding that he has been working on budgets for over 40 years, and he believes this budget was too high. He stated that he understands that this is a huge impact to Greenwood, and it needs to be looked at as to what the Town can afford. He stated they need to go to other resources of revenue before going to the Towns to fund these increases. Commissioner Millett pledged to find other revenue sources to put towards the next budget. He stated that the Commissioners are in charge of the budget, to own it, and will work hard to make sure they do a better job to make it more affordable to the Town.

Commissioner Millett explained that they will start the next budget review process in July and that the budget review committee is made up of Selectmen from Oxford County. He asked if any of our Selectmen were interested in being on that committee to let him know.

Commissioner Millett stated that the correction budget is up quite a bit this year. He explained that we have limited jail space and need to find space and pay for on average 31 inmates per week to other facilities outside of Oxford County. He stated that we have to pay room and board for these folks mostly to Cumberland and York County.

Commissioner Millett stated that they do receive State funding at \$ 20,000,000.00 for the jail which was 20% of their budget but their current budget is \$ 130,000,000.00. Commissioner Millett stated that they submitted a request to the State Legislature that they increase the funding to the County to help cover all of the mandates. Commissioner Millett stated that they are not going to give up on this and will keep putting in requests to the State.

Commissioner Millett stated that he understands the problem and is embarrassed to tell the Board that the budget that was adopted is not one that he would have supported. Commissioner Millett stated that he pledges to do a much better job on the coming budget. Chair Chapman stated that it turns out to be a large chunk of our budget that we really don't have any say in.

Selectman Milliard stated that there is a lot of chaos coming out of Washington D.C. right now and we have seen enormous cuts across the board. Selectman Milliard stated that Commissioner Millet has provided us with information regarding the jail funding, the sheriff's office, and EMS increases. Selectman Milliard asked if there have been Federal cuts to those three areas. Commissioner Millett stated that there have been no cuts in this current budget. Selectman Milliard stated that we do not know what federal cuts could happen in the future and asked if Commissioner Millett knew how much federal funding, we receive for jail funding. Commissioner Millett stated that we receive very little federal funding and at present we only have a small federal grant that is less than \$ 100,000.00. Selectman Milliard asked if the sheriff's office or EMS receive any federal funding. Commissioner Millett stated that they do not. Selectman Milliard asked if at the County level do we get any other funding from the Federal Government. Commissioner Millett stated that they do not. Selectman Milliard asked if Federal Funds are sent to the State, and then the State divides up the funds to each County. Commissioner Millett stated that there is an occasional federal grant that might go to the State and then filtered down to the County but no regular federal funding. Commissioner Millett stated that we shouldn't worry about any federal funding for this year or next year's budget, but he couldn't say for any budgets beyond that.

Chair Chapman stated that there is nothing that they can do for this budget but Commissioner Millett will do his best to improve the next budget. Commissioner Millett stated that he would work hard to not put so much on the Towns. Selectman Milliard asked if this budget is on a calendar year. Commissioner Millett stated that was correct. Selectman Oickle stated that we have no choice but to pay it and pass it on to our taxpayers. Selectman Oickle asked if the County has the option to charge their own tax. Commissioner Millett stated that they do not. Selectman Oickle asked if the County invests the undesignated surplus funds. Commissioner Millett stated that they do and get a little bit of interest, but the interest rates haven't been that good.

Chair Chapman asked why they dropped the amount this year from what they were receiving from the Casino fund by 25%. Commissioner Millett stated that he would speculate that the Budget Committee reviewed activity over several years which

included time during COVID. He stated that they probably estimated what would be coming in from the revenue stream and decided on that number. Selectman Milliard stated that this was very informative. The Board thanked Commissioner Millett for attending. Commissioner Millett asked the Board to reach out to him anytime they have questions or concerns.

**Item 10:** Other business and communications - None

**Item 11:** Town Manager update to the Board of Selectmen - tabled until next meeting.

**Item 12:** Meetings and Events

April 30<sup>th</sup> – Swap Shop Opening  
May 3<sup>rd</sup> – Earth day, roadside cleanup – 9am GTO, rain date May 10<sup>th</sup> – 9am  
May 5<sup>th</sup> – Planning Board Meeting, 5:30pm GTO  
May 6<sup>th</sup> – Selectmen’s Meeting, 5:00pm GTO  
May 13<sup>th</sup> – Conservation Committee Mtg, 10:00am GTO  
May 17<sup>th</sup> – Annual Town Meeting, 9:00am Legion Hall  
May 19<sup>th</sup> – Planning Board Meeting, 5:30pm GTO  
May 20<sup>th</sup> – Selectmen’s Meeting, 5:00pm GTO  
June 3<sup>rd</sup> – Selectmen’s Meeting, 5:00pm  
June 10<sup>th</sup> – School Budget Vote, 8am to 8pm, GTO  
June 16<sup>th</sup> – Area Selectmen’s Workshop, 5pm to 7pm, Telstar Library  
June 17<sup>th</sup> – Selectmen’s Meeting, 5:00pm GTO

**Item 13:** Open Public Hearing

Selectman Oickle motioned and Selectman Milliard seconded to open the public hearing at 5:50pm. Vote: 3-0.

- a. Review proposed 2025/2026 Budget - Kim reviewed the proposed budget.
- b. Review proposed amendments to Greenwood Land Use Ordinance  
Amending Section A. Setbacks

*The minimum distance from side and rear lot lines to a new **residential** structure is ~~10~~ **25** feet. If, prior to acceptance of the **25**~~10~~ -foot rule, a structure was within the 10 feet of a lot line, a structure can be rebuilt in the exact same space. **The minimum distance from side and rear lot lines to a new commercial structure is 50 feet.** All lots shall be able to accommodate a circle having a diameter of 150 feet.*

Kim explained that this was a citizen initiative. She explained that several residents were concerned that the side and rear property setbacks were only 10 feet and would like them to put back to 25 feet and to also add a setback of 50 feet from any new commercial structure.

- c. Review proposed Noise Ordinance

Kim explained that this was a Citizen Initiative. Selectman Oickle stated that the Board would support the will of the voters on this.

**Item 14:** Close Public Hearing – Selectman Milliard motioned and Selectman Oickle seconded to close the public hearing at 6:05pm. Vote: 3-0.

**Item 15:** Review and sign Annual Town Meeting Warrant

The Board reviewed the draft Annual Town Meeting Warrant. Selectman Milliard asked if we could add some wording under the Noise Ordinance Article as to what the cost would be to implement the Ordinance. Kim stated that she could do that. Chair Chapman asked Kim to let them know when she has that added to the Warrant and the Board will stop by the office to sign it.

**Item 16:** Executive Session per 1 MRSA § 405 (6) (A) – Personnel Matters, Highway Dept.

Selectman Milliard motioned and Selectman Oickle seconded to go into Executive Session at 6:10pm. Vote: 3-0.

Selectman Oickle motioned and Selectman Milliard seconded to come out of Executive Session at 6:35 pm. Vote: 3-0.

No decisions were made and no votes needed.

**Item 17:** Adjourn - - Having no further business, Selectman Milliard motioned and Selectman Oickle seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:38 pm. Vote: 3-0. Meeting is adjourned.