

# **GREENWOOD SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES**

**Aug. 19, 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 - None.
- b. Participants present – Resident, Kevin Dunn, Resident, Joseph Sefchick, and Conservation Committee Chair, Betsey Foster

**Item 4:** Chair Statement (if needed)

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 # 06** - \$ 26,712.78 covering period Aug. 5 – Aug. 11, 2025

**Expenditure Warrant # 07** – \$ 162,475.74 covering period Aug. 12 – Aug. 18, 2025  
Includes Voucher 180 payable to Pine Tree Waste, \$ 20,281.50  
Includes Voucher 187 payable to MSAD 44, \$ 125,867.00

The Board reviewed Warrant # 06 and Warrant # 07.

Selectman Milliard motioned and Selectman Oickle seconded to approve Warrant # 06 and Warrant # 07 as presented. Vote: 3-0. Motion passes.

**Item 6:** Review and approve minutes of August 5, 2025

The Board reviewed the minutes of August 5, 2025

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

**Item 7:** Selectmen contacted outside of meeting.

Selectman Oickle stated that he was contacted by Brian Dunham who was concerned about how the County and School Budget have impacted our tax bills. Selectman Oickle stated that the Town of Woodstock just sent out tax bills which had increased due to the County and School. Selectman Oickle stated that Greenwood is still working on preparing their tax bills so we might see a major increase here.

**Item 8:** Comments from the Public – None

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

- A. Review bids for winter sand stockpile – 2000 cubic yards of  $\frac{3}{4}$  screened sand.  
Kim confirmed that both bids are for  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch sand per bid specification.

**2025 Bids:**

1. The Poland Corporation - \$ 18.00 per cy = \$ 36,000.00  
Delivered, salt and pile at 941 Greenwood Road
2. ECI Materials LLC - \$ 10.00 per cy = \$ 20,000.00  
No delivery – we would need to pick it up.

The Board asked Kim if she could determine what it would cost for our Highway Department to pick up the sand from ECI. Kim stated that she would do that and see if she could get some prices on what it would cost to hire out trucks from an area business to pick it up and deliver it to our Highway Garage. Chair Chapman asked if Kim could email the Board those answers. Selectman Oickle asked when the sand would need to be delivered by. Kim stated that they have always asked to have it done by October 1<sup>st</sup>. Kim stated that she would get the information to the Board as soon as she got it.

**B. Discussion with Betsey Foster regarding Town's Consumer Fireworks Ordinance**

Betsey Foster attended to discuss her concerns about the health impacts of Consumer Fireworks in Greenwood. Betsey asked the Board if they would consider banning all consumer fireworks in Greenwood. Betsey explained that on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July someone on the Knoll Road had fireworks going for about 45 minutes to an hour. She stated that the smell and smoke was terrible, she did some research and found out that there is several concerning health issues related to fireworks. She explained that there is particulate matter that will impact those with lung and cardiac issues. She stated that some fireworks contain lead, some people have PTSD like our veterans, cause stress on our pets, fireworks set off at homes can be more dangerous because the smoke lingers near the ground, they can cause fires, and there is always one death a year from some type of accident involving fireworks. Chair Chapman stated that her neighbors can't use their camp over the 4<sup>th</sup> of July because their dogs are so reactive. Betsey stated that all the health effects are airborne, and you can't escape them. Betsey asked that Greenwood revisit allowing fireworks as a lot of other Towns in the area have banned them. Betsey stated that when you enter the Town of Norway, they have large signs that say, "No Fireworks in Norway." Chair Chapman asked if Betsey knew when Norway banned fireworks. Betsey answered that it was after former Governor Lepage made them legal statewide. Chair Chapman explained that it was time that Greenwood adopted this ordinance. Selectman Milliard stated that our ordinance has a date of 2012 so was that when Lepage had the law changed to allow fireworks. Kim answered yes.

Chair Chapman asked what the procedure would be and asked if Betsey would need to collect signatures. Kim explained it would be up to the Board if they would like to ask the voters to repeal this ordinance and then vote on an ordinance to ban consumer fireworks townwide. Kim stated that the Board could ask Betsey to collect signatures from registered voters or the Board could simply add this to their Annual Town

Meeting Warrant in May. Selectman Milliard stated that he is not against reviewing this issue, that his concern is that we have no enforcement capability. Selectman Milliard stated that our ordinance has restrictions and if we have people going outside of those restrictions, we have no ability to enforce it. Selectman Milliard stated that even if the voters decide to ban these, we have no enforcement capabilities. Selectman Milliard stated that we have had complaints about fireworks in the past and Oxford County Sheriff Department said that they don't enforce Town Ordinances. Kim answered yes that Oxford County Sheriff will not enforce our Town Ordinances and have said that by the time they get here if a complaint comes in the fireworks show is over. Chair Chapman stated that they could do what Norway does and has signage that says that Fireworks are not permitted in Greenwood. Betsey asked if it had to be enforced. Chair Chapman stated that it would be the people who care about following the rules that would not use fireworks. Selectman Milliard asked how we would prevent, or stop, or penalize someone when we have no enforcement. Chair Chapman stated that she is fine with taking this to the voters in May. Selectman Oickle stated that the Town could be liable for putting forward an Ordinance that we can't enforce. Betsey stated if someone came to the Board and said that they have health effects from exposure to fireworks and they could bring a lawsuit against the Town. Selectman Oickle stated that he didn't follow that. Betsey stated that if the Town allows there to be fireworks and someone has a documented health issue because of those fireworks, she feels the Town would be liable. Selectman Oickle stated that he didn't think that would work. Betsey stated that the Town could have large legal bills working out this possible liability. Selectman Oickle stated that he doesn't have a problem with not having fireworks because of these issues but from the point of view of enforceability if we put something out there that we have no way to enforce it doesn't make a lot of sense, but it does make a statement. Chair Chapman stated that it does make a statement and an awareness thing. Chair Chapman stated that we have an ordinance now, and we have had no one suing the Town because someone is shooting off fireworks.

Selectman Milliard stated that our Ordinance was done in 2012 and if some of these medical issues came forward after that date and may have not been available at the time the Ordinance was created. Betsey stated that the medical information has been known for quite a long time – probably fifty to sixty years and just thinks that health issues were even thought about. Chair Chapman stated that she hadn't thought about that at the time. The Board agreed to bring this before the voters. Kim stated that she would add this to the Annual Town Meeting file.

#### C. Discussion with Kevin Dunn regarding starting a Firewood Bank in Greenwood

Kevin Dunn was present to explain that he was working to start a firewood bank for the MSAD 44 area and was looking for a location for it. He explained that he had asked all the area Town Offices if they knew of any land that would be available for them to use. Kevin stated that Greenwood had a few locations available but only one would work for their needs. Kevin stated that he looked at the Town's property on Rt. 219 near the Old County Road – the old Finnish Picnic Grounds. Kevin stated that he would prefer a site off Rt. 26 which would allow better access.

Kevin explained that he has several donations of firewood that he would need to accept in the next few weeks, or he could lose the donation. Chair Chapman asked if they would get donated wood from harvesters. Kevin stated that the donations come from individuals, landowners who have cut down a few of their trees, area Highway Departments and harvesters. Kevin explained that he will be looking for volunteers to help cut, split, and stack the firewood. He explained that he will need to let the wood sit and season for a year before he is able to start the donation process. Kevin explained that the property on Rt. 219 wouldn't be his first pick but would work temporarily until he finds a better solution.

Chair Chapman asked how much space would be needed. Kevin answered he would need a minimum of one acre, and he anticipates processing 100 cords of wood per year. Kevin stated that he had spoken with Hancock in Bethel and thought he had a site with them but that didn't work, and Mahoosuc Land Trust offered a site but that was only a half of an acre. Kevin stated that he was trying to work with the Chadbourne Family about a piece of land that they have on Rt. 26 in Bethel but that was still undecided. Kevin explained that the Maine Wood Banks would be their fiscal sponsor and provide them with insurance- both liability and personal injury.

Selectman Oickle asked if other groups had ever used Town owned property for events. Kim explained that the area snowmobile club has used the meeting room for years, the Lakes Association would hold their meetings at Town Hall, and the Farmers Markets currently uses Town Hall. Chair Chapman stated that the Historical Society also uses Town Hall. Selectman Milliard asked if we would have liability or insurance issues. Kim explained that she would ask the Town's insurance company to review what levels of insurance Kevin has to make sure it is adequate. Selectman Oickle asked if we would be the named insured. Kevin answered yes. Kevin stated that he would be glad to supply the Board with a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding that they could review. Selectman Milliard stated that if we had an issue or if Kevin had an issue with an injury could that liability impact the Town of Greenwood. Kevin stated that all of their volunteers have to read an instructional document, sign a waiver, complete safety training on all parts of the operation, be over the age of 18, and volunteers younger than that can do stacking and cleaning up the area. Selectman Milliard asked if whatever the level of the volunteer they would all have to sign a disclaimer and release of liability. Kevin answered that it was correct.

Conservation Committee Chair, Betsey Foster stated that their Committee was working to preserve the Finnish Picnic Grounds. She explained that they had reached out to Mahoosuc Land Trust to see if they were interested in the parcel and they were not and suggested that they contact the Western Foothills Land Trust. Betsey explained that she and Kim had recently met with Korey from Western Foothills to see if they were interested in helping us preserve the property. Betsey stated that Korey was interested in reaching out to his Board to see if there was any interest and would get back in contact with us. Betsey stated her concerns that having a wood bank at this location might jeopardize having Western Foothills help us preserve this parcel. Betsey asked if Kevin could find another parcel of land to have the wood bank on. Kevin stated that he has a few other locations that he is working in. Betsey stated that she would reach out to Western Foothills to ask them if they thought having the wood bank would interfere with preserving the property in the future.

Selectman Oickle stated that he doesn't want to abandon this idea, and this property may or may not be preserved in the future. Selectman Oickle stated that if you are looking for a temporary location to put some wood on now because the wood is available to you and he would hate to have Kevin miss that opportunity. Selectman Oickle stated that

Betsey stated that it was a long process. Betsey stated that it takes 2-3 years. Selectman Oickle stated that it might not be able to be conserved and become available long-term then it could be long-term, but he would at least like to allow it to be a short-term option. Selectman Oickle stated that if it works for the wood bank and gets them that harvest, and you have a truck load of wood waiting. Betsey stated that this property will be likely preserved, and we just don't know in what manner it will be conserved. Selectman Oickle stated that it isn't conserved right now. Kevin stated that there are a couple of wood banks presently operating on lands owned by Land Trusts. Chair Chapman stated it would be good to check with Western Foothills Land Trust, and she hates to put up roadblocks to something that will benefit so many. Selectman Oickle asked if this property is presently being used. Kim answered that it was not.

Kevin stated that he would leave this in the Boards hands and if they need any further information from him to please reach out. Kevin explained that he has 3-4 other folks that he is taking to at the same time and he really can't ring the volunteer bell until he has a firm location to set up this project on. Kevin stated he knows that once the word gets out, there will be a lot of folks wanting to volunteer. Kevin stated that he would love to work with us and the Western Hills Land Trust if it came to that. Selectman Milliard stated that we will wait to hear from Western Foothills Land Trust if there are any potential conflicts or negative impacts and then decide at another time. Kevin thanked the Board for their time.

D. Review bids for repair/crack sealing/paint lines for Town Office/Legion parking lot.

The Board reviewed the two bids/quotes that were submitted:

D.R. Fournier, \$ 10,000

Coastal Road Repair, \$ 14,400

The Board agreed to go with D.R. Fournier. Kim stated that she would let the Legion know of their decision.

E. Review and discuss request from Ring/Zaworski Family regarding gifting property to the Town of Greenwood

Kim explained that the Ring/Zaworski Family are requesting the following:

1. Property available to public in general.
2. Named: The Ring Pink Lily Farm, with signage on the island and on the point.
3. Prohibition on transfers can only be transferred to 501C3 entities.
4. Picnic tables on island.
5. Maintain memorial bench.

Selectman Milliard stated that he does not have an issue with some of these. Selectman Oickle stated that number three really limits the Town's ability to do anything with it and basically, they are saying to us they don't want us to sell it. Chair Chapman stated that it's not usable for anything. Kim agreed and stated that you can't build on it. Chair Chapman stated that basically they want to give us a park and want us to keep it a park. Selectman Milliard asked if we can't build on it because of the size. Kim stated that the lot wouldn't be able to meet the shoreland zoning ordinance set back requirements to build on it.

Selectman Oickle stated that he doesn't like being handcuffed as he doesn't know what the future will hold or what opportunities there will be. Selectman Oickle stated that he would like to eliminate number three from the list and everything else looks ok to him. Selectman Milliard stated that he would be ok with that. Chair Chapman asked how much the taxes on this property were. Kim stated that the property taxes for both pieces were around \$ 1100.00 per year. Chair Chapman stated that she was in favor of all 5 conditions. Selectman Milliard asked what the next steps would be. Kim stated that she would let the family know if the Board approved of these 5 items or which ones they didn't, wait to hear a response from the family, and then if the family wanted to move forward, get these changes to the Attorney to update the deed for the family's signature and recording. Selectman Milliard stated that he would support eliminating Item 3. Chair Chapman stated that it is not unusual for a property to have a restriction on future transfers of ownership.

The Board asked Kim to contact the family to see if they would be willing to remove item 3. *Prohibition on transfers can only be transferred to 501C3 entities*. Kim stated that she would reach out to the Ring/Zaworski Family.

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

**Item 11:** Town Manager update to the Board of Selectmen – see attached list.

**Item 12:** Executive Session per 1 MRSA § 405 (6) (A) – Personnel matters – Greenwood Highway Dept.

Selectman Milliard motioned and Selectman Oickle seconded to go into Executive Session at 6:00pm. Vote: 3-0.

Selectman Oickle motioned and Selectman Milliard seconded to come out of Executive Session at 6:25pm. Vote: 3-0.

No votes taken.

**Item 13:** Meetings and Events

- Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> – Labor Day, Town Office closed.
- Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup> – Selectmen's Meeting 5:00pm GTO
- Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup> – FOAA Webinar Zoom, 4:30pm – 6pm, GTO
- Sept. 7<sup>th</sup> – Planning Board Meeting 5:30pm, GTO  
Public Hearing on proposed 7 lot subdivision.
- Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> – Area Selectmen's Meeting, Newry
- Sept. 16<sup>th</sup> – Selectmen's Meeting, 5:00pm GTO
- Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup> – Planning Board Meeting 5:30pm GTO
- Oct. 6<sup>th</sup> – Planning Board Meeting 5:30pm GTO
- Oct. 7<sup>th</sup> – Selectmen's Meeting 5:00pm GTO
- Oct. 21<sup>st</sup> – Selectmen's Meeting 5:00pm GTO
- Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> – Planning Board Meeting, 5:30pm GTO
- Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> – Election Day, 8am to 8pm – Legion Hall
- Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> – Selectmen's Meeting, 5:00pm GTO
- Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> – Selectmen's Meeting, 5:00pm GTO

**Item 14:** Adjourn – having no further business, Selectman Milliard motioned and Selectman Oickle seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:38pm. Vote: 3-0. Meeting is adjourned.