

GREENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL  
Special Meeting Minutes  
April 30, 2008

Greenfield Community Television

6:30 p.m.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Maloney.

**ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:** Roll Call was taken. Councilors McLellan and Siano were absent.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Mayor Christine Forgey; Town Clerk Maureen Winseck; Director of Municipal Finance and Administration Marjorie L. Kelly; Police Chief David Guilbault; Department of Public Works Superintendent Sandra Shields; School Committee members Dalton Athey and Maria Burge; Thomas Bevacqua, Greenfield Education Association (GEA) President; Anita Fritz, the *Recorder*; members of the media; GCTV-15 staff; and several members of the public.

**MOTION:** On a motion by Councilor Farrell, second by Councilor Allis, it was unanimously

**VOTED:** THAT IT BE ORDERED, THAT THE GREENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL SUSPENDS THE RULES OF PROCEDURE, RULE 8, IN ORDER TO DISPOSE OF BUSINESS AS WRITTEN ON THE ATTACHED AGENDA DATED APRIL 30, 2008.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:** President Maloney opened the Public Hearing at 6:36 pm. He stated there were two (2) Public Hearings this evening. Councilor Joseph read the first Public Hearing notice:

**PUBLIC HEARING**

In accordance with the Home Rule Charter, the Greenfield Town Council will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, April 30, 2008, beginning at 6:30 p.m. at GCTV-15, 393 Main Street, to consider the following:

- Appropriate \$180,758.00 for Negotiated Wage & Salary Increases for 2007 & 2008.
- Appropriate \$107,000.000 to purchase a multipurpose dump truck for the DPW.
- Transfer \$25,000.00 to the Middle School Building repair expenses.

President Maloney stated this was an opportunity for the public to voice their opinion regarding these appropriations and transfer. He asked if anyone from the public wished to speak. Pam Kinsmith, member of "Change Greenfield," requested an explanation for the appropriation for the Negotiated Wage and Salary increases. Ms. Kelly reviewed positions within the Salary Schedule Employees Association (SSEA) and Dispatch unions. She noted this sum was for retroactive pay for Fiscal Years 2007 and 2008, which had been agreed upon in contract settlements. President Maloney explained the appropriation for the DPW dump truck, which was to replace a truck that had burned earlier this year. He noted the Middle School Building appropriation was for repair expenses. He asked if any other members of the public wished to speak. Seeing none, President Maloney closed the Public Hearing at 6:40 pm.

Councilor Joseph held a second reading on the following:

- Appropriate \$180,758.00 for Negotiated Wage & Salary Increases for 2007 & 2008.
- Appropriate \$107,000.000 to purchase a multipurpose dump truck for the DPW.
- Transfer \$25,000.00 to the Middle School Building repair expenses.

**MOTIONS, ORDERS, AND RESOLUTIONS**

**MOTION:** On a motion by Councilor Joseph, second by Councilor Farrell, it was

**MOVED:** THE SUM OF \$180,758.00 TO BE APPROPRIATED FROM FREE CASH FOR NEGOTIATED WAGE & SALARY INCREASES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007 & 2008.

**DISCUSSION:** Ways and Means Committee Chairman Joseph noted the Committee had not made a formal recommendation. However, he polled members and received a unanimous positive recommendation for this order. Ms. Kelly provided an overview for the Town Council and the public. She noted the SSEA Union had "given back" the same concessions as the other unions and was receiving 3% less retroactive pay than the rest of the unions.

It was unanimously,

**VOTED:** THAT IT BE ORDERED, THE SUM OF \$180,758.00 TO BE APPROPRIATED FROM FREE CASH FOR NEGOTIATED WAGE & SALARY INCREASES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007 & 2008.

**MOTION:** On a motion by Councilor Joseph, second by Councilor Farrell, it was

**MOVED:** THE SUM OF \$107,00000 TO BE APPROPRIATED TO PURCHASE A MULTIPURPOSE DUMP TRUCK WITH ALL SEASON BODY FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, AND TO MEET SAID

APPROPRIATION, THE TREASURER WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE MAYOR, IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO BORROW SAID SUM OF \$107,000 00, PURSUANT TO MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL LAWS, CHAPTER 44, SECTION 7 (9) OR ANY OTHER ENABLING STATUTE, AND THE MAYOR IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO APPLY FOR, CONTRACT FOR, ACCEPT AND EXPEND ANY FEDERAL AND/OR STATE GRANTS AVAILABLE FOR THIS PROJECT TO BE USED TO REDUCE THE APPROPRIATION, AND FURTHER, THE MAYOR IS AUTHORIZED TO TAKE ANY ACTION NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THE INTENT AND PURPOSE OF THIS PROJECT

**DISCUSSION:** Ways and Means Committee Chairman Joseph stated this was for a vehicle which had burned during the winter due to an electrical issue. Ms. Shields spoke regarding the fire and noted the vehicle which burned was a 1987 vehicle. The town received \$2,000.00, after deductible, from insurance for the burned vehicle. President Maloney noted the Capital and Planning Committee recommended the approval of this appropriation.

It was unanimously

**VOTED:** THAT IT BE ORDERED, THE SUM OF \$107,00000 TO BE APPROPRIATED TO PURCHASE A MULTI-PURPOSE DUMP TRUCK WITH ALL SEASON BODY FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, AND TO MEET SAID APPROPRIATION, THE TREASURER WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE MAYOR, IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO BORROW SAID SUM OF \$107,000 00, PURSUANT TO MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL LAWS, CHAPTER 44, SECTION 7 (9) OR ANY OTHER ENABLING STATUTE, AND THE MAYOR IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO APPLY FOR, CONTRACT FOR, ACCEPT AND EXPEND ANY FEDERAL AND/OR STATE GRANTS AVAILABLE FOR THIS PROJECT TO BE USED TO REDUCE THE APPROPRIATION, AND FURTHER, THE MAYOR IS AUTHORIZED TO TAKE ANY ACTION NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THE INTENT AND PURPOSE OF THIS PROJECT.

**MOTION:** On a motion by Councilor Joseph, second by Councilor Farrell, it was

**MOVED:** THE SUM OF \$25,000.00 TO BE TRANSFERRED FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL FEASIBILITY STUDY ORDER TO THE MIDDLE SCHOOL BUILDING REPAIR EXPENSES.

**DISCUSSION:** Ways and Means Committee Chairman Joseph stated the Town Council agreed to reimburse the School Department for repair expenses. The Town Accountant and Mayor used \$33,000.00 from existing funds to pay a portion of the repair expenses. The requested \$25,000.00 would pay for the remainder of repairs. Ms. Kelly noted the majority of funds were for the Middle School Cafeteria floor repairs. Some funds would be used to cover repairs at the Middle School regarding Building Codes.

It was unanimously (Councilor Martin abstained)

**VOTED:** THAT IT BE ORDERED, THE SUM OF \$25,000.00 TO BE TRANSFERRED FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL FEASIBILITY STUDY ORDER TO THE MIDDLE SCHOOL BUILDING REPAIR EXPENSES.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** President Maloney opened the Public Hearing at 6:57 pm. He explained this was the public's opportunity to comment on the Mayor's Proposed Fiscal Year 2009 Budget. The public could submit questions for the Ways and Means Committee through the Town Clerk's office. It was noted this was not a question and answer session. President Maloney requested the public keep their comments to five (5) minutes. The Ways and Means Committee met with the School Department last night to discuss their portion of the budget. The Ways and Means Committee would hold an additional Public Hearing prior to the Town Council's vote on the Fiscal Year 2009 Mayor's Proposed Budget. Councilor Joseph read the second Public Hearing notice:

**PUBLIC HEARING**

In accordance with the Home Rule Charter, the Greenfield Town Council will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, April 30, 2008, beginning at 6:45 p.m. at GCTV-15, 393 Main Street to consider the following:

<b>MAYOR'S PROPOSED FY 09 BUDGET</b>	
<b>CATEGORY</b>	
LEGISLATIVE	\$ 34,600
EXECUTIVE	\$ 228,500
FINANCIAL ADMIN	\$ 840,900
OPERATIONS SUPPORT	\$ 248,000
LICENSING & REGISTRATION	\$ 239,700
LAND USE & DEVELOPMENT	\$ 122,100
OTHER GEN'L GOVERNMENT	\$ 134,600
PUBLIC SAFETY	\$ 5,500,500
EDUCATION	\$ 15,959,700
PUBLIC WORKS	\$ 2,690,500
HUMAN SERVICES	\$ 556,200

CULTURE & RECREATION	\$	698,500
DEBT SERVICE	\$	3,602,400
MISCELLANEOUS	\$	10,592,700
<b>TOTAL OPERATING BUDGET</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>41,448,900</b>
SEWER ENTERPRISE FUND	\$	2,225,200
WATER ENTERPROSE FUND	\$	1,655,300

The following people spoke:

Pam Kinsmith, Greenfield Resident, had submitted a list of questions to the Town Council. She asked when these questions would be clarified. She inquired about the following:

- o Regarding the Franklin Regional Council of Governments; how would consolidation of services impact the budget? What conversations had been held regarding this?
- o Members of the community had contacted her to ask the Town Council to review the budget as a whole and not separately as the town budget and school budget.

Ms. Kelly suggested the list of questions be emailed to her and she would respond to them.

Jen Bresciano suggested level funding the School Department budget did not make sense and was unrealistic. Thomas Bevacqua, GEA President, emphasized the School system was the showcase of the community. This was what people look at when relocating. He was in favor of conciliation and consolidation. Maryelen Calderwood questioned why the Fire, Police, and DPW Departments were increased and the School Department was not getting an increase? How diligent has the Town been with all departments on reducing costs, staff reductions etc? She would like to see the "same amount of pain in the other departments." There has to be some amount of fairness within the town. Beth Adams spoke in favor of consolidation of services. She urged the Town Council to be practical and to fund the schools to prevent the loss of more teachers all for the good of the children. Sue Gunsalus, Co-Chairperson of the Newton School PTO, expressed frustration with the proposed level funded budget for the School Department. This has created unstable environment in the school community. She questioned why the Schools have to pay for trash bags and mulch for the playground when the DPW creates mulch. Jen Self advocated for the preschool program. It would be horrible for the children of Greenfield to not have the opportunity to attend preschool. Greenfield has exceptional teachers. Greg Aubin, School Committee Chairman, pointed out the Charter put the Town Council as the check and balance for the Mayor's budget. He noted the Town Council could increase the School Department budget if they chose. He submitted the following recommendations to the Town Council:

- o Assistance for the Police force by the State Police.
- o Look at the use of the Fire Departments in surrounding towns. He suggested the concept of a volunteer force has its merits.
- o Increase use of the Franklin Regional Council of Governments for Planning, Health, and Building Inspection services.
- o Cut trash pick-up and have citizens bring trash to the Transfer Station but keep curbside recycling.
- o The Town Council should use their authority to reduce budgets.
- o Invited the Town Council to take part in planning for the future.

Pam Kinsmith stated the problem of open communication can be solved. Thomas Bevacqua emphasized Greenfield needed to project the good we do in this community. Gail Healey, Citizen, Parent, and Principal at Four Corners School, stated we are a community. There was no town side and school side. We are all proud of what we do here. Jason Schneider, Greenfield School Teacher, expressed his pride in the Greenfield School system and love of teaching. He spoke of varying positive aspects of the Greenfield Schools. Kelly Fulsome, resident and 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, spoke from the perspective of a new teacher in the Town. She loved the community and would like to stay and retire from this school system. Mary Lou DiBella, Principal at Newton Street School, spoke of the After School Learning Program (ASL). She invited the Town Council to come and see first hand how enriching this program was for the children. Sue Gunsalus spoke of the positive aspects of the ASL and hoped this would continue in future years. Elizabeth Blumgarten, Program Director of Poet Seat, noted Poet Seat had to turn away three (3) out of district students this year because of the lack of space. It is difficult to explain to children that they cannot have Physical Education because there was no money for gas to drive to the High School. This program could be bringing in funds. However, the town would need to spend money first. Mark Leonard, Greenfield High School Shop Teacher and resident, noted GHS was the only school in Massachusetts to have College Credit courses through GCC.

President Maloney closed the Public Hearing at 8:05 pm. He reiterated the Ways and Means Committee would hold a Public Hearing on a date yet to be determined. There would be plenty of opportunity for the public to weigh in on the budget. The Ways and Means Committee Budget Schedule would be posted on the Town of Greenfield Website.

Councilor Joseph held first readings on the following:

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>MAYOR'S PROPOSED FY 09 BUDGET</b>
LEGISLATIVE	\$ 34,600
EXECUTIVE	\$ 228,500
FINANCIAL ADMIN	\$ 840,900
OPERATIONS SUPPORT	\$ 248,000
LICENSING & REGISTRATION	\$ 239,700
LAND USE & DEVELOPMENT	\$ 122,100
OTHER GEN'L GOVERNMENT	\$ 134,600
PUBLIC SAFETY	\$ 5,500,500
EDUCATION	\$ 15,959,700
PUBLIC WORKS	\$ 2,690,500
HUMAN SERVICES	\$ 556,200
CULTURE & RECREATION	\$ 698,500
DEBT SERVICE	\$ 3,602,400
MISCELLANEOUS	\$ 10,592,700
<b>TOTAL OPERATING BUDGET</b>	<b>\$ 41,448,900</b>
SEWER ENTERPRISE FUND	\$ 2,225,200
WATER ENTERPROSE FUND	\$ 1,655,300

- o Appropriate \$1,100.00 from the Griswold Conservation Area Reserve for Maintenance work at the Griswold/GTD Conservation Area.

**ADJOURNMENT:** On a motion by Councilor Joseph, second by Councilor Farrell, it was unanimously  
**VOTED:** TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:07 P.M.

A true copy,

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Maureen T. Winseck, Town Clerk

GREENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS

GCTV-15  
 Special Meeting  
 April 30, 2008

\$107,000.00  
 MULTIPURPOSE  
 DUMP TRUCK

1.	Lashier, Dennis	P	Y					
2.	McLellan, Thomas	A	---					
3.	Allis, Brickett	P	Y					
4.	Maloney, Mark	P	Y					
5.	Wisnewski, Mark	P	Y					
6.	Letourneau, Danielle	P	Y					
7.	Martin, William	P	Y					
8.	Joseph, Christopher	P	Y					
9.	Vacant	---	---					
10.	Farrell, Timothy	P	Y					
11.	Guin, Daniel	P	Y					
12.	Siano, Alfred	A	---					
13.	Mason, John	P	Y					

10 yes  
 0 no