

GREENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
January 19, 2011

GCTV-15

7:10 pm

**CALL TO ORDER:** Meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by President Farrell.

President Farrell stated this meeting was being recorded. If any other person present was doing the same, they must notify the chairperson at this time. It was noted the Town Council was audio recording and GCTV-15 was video recording the meeting for future broadcast.

**ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:** Roll Call was taken. Councilor McLellan was absent.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Mayor William Martin; Director of Municipal Finance and Administration Marjorie L. Kelly; Town Clerk Maureen Winseck; Town Accountant Michael Kociela; School Superintendent Dr. Susan Hollins; Department of Public Works Superintendent Sandra Shields; Assistant Assessor Lester Reed; Management Assistant of the Mayor's Office Audrey LaBonte; Health Director Nicole Zabko; Board of Health member William Doyle; Greening of Greenfield and Greenfield Planning and Construction Committee member Nancy Hazard; GCTV-15 staff; Anita Phillips, *the Recorder*; and members of the public.

**ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:** On a motion by Councilor Maloney, second by Councilor Allis, it was unanimously, (Councilor Letourneau abstained),

**VOTED:** TO ACCEPT THE TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 15, 2010.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:** Councilor Maloney read the Public Hearing notice as follows: In accordance with Home Rule Charter the Greenfield Town Council will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, January 19, 2011, beginning at 7:00 p.m. at GCTV-15, 393 Main Street to consider the following:

- ✧ Appropriate \$15,000 for the 200th Anniversary of Greenfield as the County Seat
- ✧ Appropriate \$196,500 Fiscal Year 2011 Supplemental Budget
- ✧ Appropriate \$1,900,000 for repairs to Four Corners School
- ✧ Appropriate \$340,000 from Free Cash to Stabilization

Materials in alternative format can be obtained from the Town Clerk's Office with advance notice. Copies are available in the Greenfield Town Clerk's Office, from 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Mon. - Fri.

Councilor Maloney held the second reading:

- ✧ Appropriate \$15,000 for the 200th Anniversary of Greenfield as the County Seat
- ✧ Appropriate \$196,500 Fiscal Year 2011 Supplemental Budget
- ✧ Appropriate \$1,900,000 for repairs to Four Corners School
- ✧ Appropriate \$340,000 from Free Cash to Stabilization

President Farrell opened the Public Hearing at 7:31 pm. He asked if anyone from the public wanted to speak. Seeing none, the hearing would remain open.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

**MAYOR:** Mayor Martin read the attached document titled "City Report for the Town of Greenfield," dated January 2011. He noted his priorities for the upcoming year were:

- Revenue.
- Continue with the positive work being recognized from the State.
- Quality of life for residents.
- Stabilize the Tax base.

Councilor Allis emphasized the importance of the revenues generated by the Town Council implementation of the Hotel/Motel additional Sales Tax. It appeared that people who eat out were not going outside of Greenfield just because of the additional tax.

In response to Councilor Letourneau, Mayor Martin stated the new parking kiosks would be installed in the beginning of February 2011. A Part-time parking position would be hired within the next few weeks.

**SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT:** Dr. Hollins spoke of the following:

- Articles from Newspapers which highlighted Student Activities, School Buildings, and enrollment.
- School Union Contracts were in the final stages of being approved.
- Virtual School.
- Academy of Math and Science were growing and may need additional space in the near future.
- Elective program updates.
- Greenfield High School Renovation.

- o Budgets, grants, and loss of ERA funding for Fiscal Year 2012.

TOWN OFFICERS: None.

President Farrell closed the Public Hearing at 8:06 pm.

### **MOTIONS, ORDERS, AND RESOLUTIONS**

#### **Order no. FY 11-049**

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

**MOVED:** THAT IT BE ORDERED THAT “CHAPTER 142 RIGHT TO FARM ORDINANCE” PREVIOUSLY VOTED ON BY THE TOWN COUNCIL ON DECEMBER 15, 2010 AND VETOED BY THE MAYOR ON DECEMBER 27, 2010 IS HEREBY APPROVED.

President Farrell read the following statement into the record: I hereby enter into the record as required per Charter Section 3-7, the Mayor’s Veto of Order No. F.Y. 11-039, Chapter 142, “Right to Farm Ordinance” approved by the Town Council on December 15, 2010.

**DISCUSSION:** President Farrell stated this was a “friendly veto” which would allow the Appointments and Ordinance Committee to work with the Mayor to incorporate his recommendations into the ordinance. He noted a “yes” vote would override the veto and a “no” vote would send it back to committee. Councilor Allis would vote “no.”

It was unanimously,

**DEFEATED:** MOTION ORDER NO. FY 11 -049.

#### **Order no. FY 11-050**

##### ***Financial Order***

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

**MOVED:** THAT IT BE ORDERED THAT THE GREENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL, UPON RECOMMENDATION OF THE MAYOR AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH MGL CH.44 §33B, THAT THE SUM OF \$15,000 BE APPROPRIATED FROM FREE CASH FOR THE 2011 CELEBRATION OF THE 200<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF GREENFIELD AS THE COUNTY SEAT OF FRANKLIN COUNTY.

**DISCUSSION:** Councilor Maloney noted the Ways and Means Committee tabled the issue for lack of information. The Committee believed fundraising within the community may be a more fiscally responsible route to take. Councilors Guin and Sutphin suggested the project be funded with private donations rather than Municipal funds. Councilor Allis requested additional information showing what community events these funds would enhance as part of the 200<sup>th</sup> Celebration. Mayor Martin explained his efforts to bring people and organizations together for this purpose. These funds would be used to secure dates and locations for events in June and July. He estimated the final cost for the celebrations would be between \$50,000 and \$60,000. The Town of Greenfield would not be involved for more than \$15,000. Mayor Martin stated no other towns in the County had been asked to contribute to the celebration. President Farrell was in favor of the celebration however, would not support the funding request.

**MOTION:** On a motion by Councilor Letourneau, second by Councilor Sluter, it was,

**MOVED:** AMEND THE MOTION BY STRIKING \$15,000 AND INSERTING \$5,500.

**DISCUSSION:** Councilor Sluter requested more concise information as to where the funds would be spent. She would be in favor of the amended amount. Councilor Letourneau stated approval of the amendment showed “good faith” on the town’s part.

It was by majority (3 no),

**VOTED:** AMEND THE MOTION BY STRIKING \$15,000 AND INSERTING \$5,500.

**DISCUSSION:** Councilor Allis would vote for the amended motion. Councilor Singer suggested the Mayor bring specific information to the Town Council. He suggested tabling the issue for further information. Councilors Maloney and Hirschfeld would support a motion to table this issue. Mayor Martin requested his proposal be withdrawn.

**MOTION:** On a motion by Councilor Singer, second by Councilor Bitters, it was by majority,

**TABLED:** THAT IT BE ORDERED THAT THE GREENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL, UPON RECOMMENDATION OF THE MAYOR AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH MGL CH.44 §33B, THAT THE SUM OF \$5,500 BE APPROPRIATED FROM FREE

CASH FOR THE 2011 CELEBRATION OF THE 200<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF GREENFIELD AS THE COUNTY SEAT OF FRANKLIN COUNTY.

**Order no. FY 11-051**

***Financial Order***

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

**MOVED:** THAT IT BE ORDERED THAT THE GREENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL, UPON RECOMMENDATION OF THE MAYOR AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH MGL CH.44 §33B, THAT THE SUM OF \$196,500 BE APPROPRIATED FROM FREE CASH AND TRANSFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING DEPARTMENTAL BUDGETS:

- \$39,000 TO BE TRANSFERRED TO DPW PARKS SALARY & WAGES
- \$25,000 TO ASSISTANT TO THE MAYOR FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SALARY & WAGES
- \$25,000 TO HEALTH DEPARTMENT SALARY & WAGES FOR THE PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE
- \$7,500 TO RECREATION SALARY & WAGES FOR TEMPORARY PART-TIME HELP.
- \$50,000 TO THE POLICE DEPARTMENT BUDGET
- \$50,000 TO THE FIRE DEPARTMENT BUDGET

**DISCUSSION:** Councilor Maloney stated the Ways and Means Committee forwarded a unanimous positive recommendation. He reviewed the supplemental budget request.

It was unanimously,

**VOTED:** TO APPROVE MOTION ORDER NO. FY 11-051.

**Order no. FY 11-043**

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

**MOVED:** THAT IT BE ORDERED THAT THE TOWN OF GREENFIELD APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF UP TO ONE MILLION NINE HUNDRED (\$1,900,000) DOLLARS FOR BUILDING REPAIRS AT THE FOUR CORNERS SCHOOL, LOCATED AT 21 FERRANTE AVE., WHICH PROPOSED REPAIR PROJECT WOULD MATERIALLY EXTEND THE USEFUL LIFE OF THE SCHOOL AND PRESERVE AN ASSET THAT OTHERWISE IS CAPABLE OF SUPPORTING THE REQUIRED EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM, SAID SUM TO BE EXPENDED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE, AND TO MEET SAID APPROPRIATION THE TREASURER, WITH APPROVAL OF THE MAYOR, IS AUTHORIZED TO BORROW SAID SUM UNDER M.G.L. CHAPTER 44, OR ANY OTHER ENABLING AUTHORITY; THAT THE TOWN OF GREENFIELD ACKNOWLEDGES THAT THE MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL BUILDING AUTHORITY'S ("MSBA") GRANT PROGRAM IS A NON-ENTITLEMENT, DISCRETIONARY PROGRAM BASED ON NEED, AS DETERMINED BY THE MSBA, AND ANY PROJECT COSTS THE TOWN OF GREENFIELD INCURS IN EXCESS OF ANY GRANT APPROVED BY AND RECEIVED FROM THE MSBA SHALL BE THE SOLE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE TOWN OF GREENFIELD; PROVIDED FURTHER THAT ANY GRANT THAT TOWN OF GREENFIELD MAY RECEIVE FROM THE MSBA FOR THE PROJECT SHALL NOT EXCEED THE LESSER OF (1) 78.9 PERCENT ( %) OF ELIGIBLE, APPROVED PROJECT COSTS, AS DETERMINED BY THE MSBA, OR (2) THE TOTAL MAXIMUM GRANT AMOUNT DETERMINED BY THE MSBA; AND THAT THE AMOUNT OF BORROWING AUTHORIZED PURSUANT TO THIS VOTE SHALL BE REDUCED BY ANY GRANT AMOUNT SET FORTH IN THE PROJECT FUNDING AGREEMENT THAT MAY BE EXECUTED BETWEEN THE TOWN OF GREENFIELD AND THE MSBA.

Councilor Maloney requested a friendly amendment to insert the word "thousand" to read as follows "that it be ordered that the town of Greenfield appropriate the sum of up to one million nine hundred thousand (\$1,900,000)..."

**DISCUSSION:** Councilor Maloney reported the Ways and Means Committee forwarded a unanimous positive recommendation. He reviewed a memo to the Town Council from Lane Kelly dated January 5, 2011 (see attached). A portion of this, between \$750,000 and \$900,000, was subject to reimbursement at a rate of 78.9% from the state.

It was unanimously, 12 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain,

**VOTED:** TO APPROVE MOTION ORDER NO. FY 11 -043.

**Order no. FY 11-052**

***Financial Order***

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

**MOVED:** THAT IT BE ORDERED THAT THE GREENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL, UPON RECOMMENDATION OF THE MAYOR AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH MGL CH.44 §33B, THAT THE SUM OF \$340,000 BE APPROPRIATED FROM FREE CASH TO STABILIZATION.

**DISCUSSION:** Councilor Maloney stated the Ways and Means Committee forwarded a unanimous positive recommendation. He noted this was a portion of the Fiscal Year 2011 budget process.

It was unanimously,

**VOTED:** TO APPROVE MOTION ORDER NO. FY 11 -052.

**Order no. FY 11-053**

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

**MOVED:** THAT IT BE ORDERED THAT THE GREENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL AMENDS THE CODE OF THE TOWN OF GREENFIELD BY ADDING CHAPTER 151, SMOKING IN PUBLIC BUILDINGS OR ON PUBLIC LANDS, AS ATTACHED HERETO AND FURTHER AMENDS THE TABLE OF CONTENTS AND INDEX OF THE CODE.

Chapter 151

**SMOKING IN PUBLIC BUILDINGS OR ON PUBLIC LANDS**

**§ 151-1. Purpose**

**§ 151-2. Definitions**

**§ 151-5. Penalties**

**§ 151-3. Violations**

**§ 151-4. Posting of Signs**

GENERAL REFERENCES

**§ 151-1. Purpose**

The Purpose of this ordinance is to protect the health and safety of the residents of Greenfield from second-hand smoke, particularly minor children and adults within certain areas designated for their use by said minor children, and public events and gatherings of the cities inhabitants.

**§ 151-2. Definitions**

SMOKING - The lighting of any cigar, cigarette, pipe or tobacco product, hookah, marijuana, or any other substance inhaled into the body, or having possession of any lighted cigar, cigarette, pipe or other tobacco product, hookah, marijuana, or any other substance.

MUNICIPAL BUILDING – Any building owned, leased, rented, or otherwise occupied for the purpose of housing any employee or office of the City of Greenfield.

MUNICIPAL LANDS – Any land or open space owned, leased, rented or otherwise under the control of the City of Greenfield.

MINOR CHILD – Any person not having attained the age of majority (18)

BARRIER DEVICE – A fence, mulched bed, landscape timber or any other device used to delineate a playground from surrounding land.

PLAY STRUCTURE – Any structure made for use by a minor child

PLAYGROUND – The area on which is located any play structure or device made for the sole use of any minor child out to, and including any barrier device.

SPORTS FIELD – Any field, owned, leases, rented, or otherwise in use by the municipality, delineated for use for a particular sports game, out to, and including any barrier device.

GREENFIELD SWIMMING POOL – The recreation area owned by the city of Greenfield located on Nash’s Mills Road.

BEACH – The sand bank located on the south side of the green river from the foot bridge going to the west up river located at the swimming pool.

PAVILION – The post and beam pavilion located at the Greenfield Swimming pool.

**§ 151-3. Violations**

No Person or persons shall smoke in any of the following areas:

- a) Within any Municipal building.
- b) Within 25 feet of any entrance to a municipal building.
- c) On or within 100 feet of any playground located on any public lands.
- d) On or within 100 feet of any sports field while in use by any person or persons.
- e) On or within 25 feet of the Beach located at the Greenfield Swimming Pool.
- f) Under or within 25 feet of the Greenfield Swimming Pool Pavilion.
- g) Within the confines of any public lands while such public lands are being used for either;
  - a. Any public event, or;
  - b. Within 100 feet of any gathering of people within the confines of any municipal land.
- h) Within the boundaries of the area known as “Shattuck Park”.

**§ 151-4. Posting of Signs**

The City of Greenfield, through its parks maintenance department will post signs conspicuously at each entrance of each Public Building and Public lands to alert any person or persons using said building or land of the smoking restrictions there on.

**§ 151-5. Penalties**

A. Any person who violates this section by smoking where smoking is prohibited shall be subject to a written warning for a first offense. Any person who violates this section in a second or subsequent offense shall be subject to a civil fine of \$150. Each day during which a violation of this section occurs shall be considered a separate violation.

A. Fines assessed pursuant to this section shall be payable to the City of Greenfield. The Police Department and/or Board of Health through its inspectors shall enforce this section through non-criminal disposition.

**MOTION:** On a motion by Councilor Allis, second by Councilor Singer, it was,  
**MOVED:** TO AMEND THE ORDINANCE IN THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS AS NOTED:

**§ 151-2. Definitions**

SPORTS FIELD – Delete the word “leases” and insert the word “leased.”

**§ 151-3. Violations**

- c) Delete the word “public” and insert the word “municipal.”
- g) Delete the words “public” and insert the words “municipal.”

**§ 151-4. Posting of Signs**

Delete the words “public” and insert the words “municipal.”

**DISCUSSION:** Councilor Allis stated these amendments would insure the body of the ordinance fit with the definitions in the ordinance.

It was unanimously,

**VOTED:** TO APPROVE THE AMENDMENTS.

**DISCUSSION:** Councilor Allis stated the Appointments and Ordinance Committee forwarded a unanimous positive recommendation. Councilor Sluter noted the public who attended the Public Hearing supported the ordinance. Councilors Guin, Vicencio-Rasku, Devlin, Sutphin, and Letourneau spoke of the positive efforts by all who worked on the creation of this ordinance. Councilor Letourneau noted there may be grants available to obtain signage as noted in the ordinance.

It was unanimously,

**VOTED:** TO APPROVE MOTION ORDER NO. FY 11 -053 AS AMENDED.

Chapter 151

**SMOKING IN PUBLIC BUILDINGS OR ON PUBLIC LANDS**

**§ 151-1. Purpose**

**§ 151-2. Definitions**

**§ 151-5. Penalties**

**§ 151-3. Violations**

**§ 151-4. Posting of Signs**

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- e) On or within 25 feet of the Beach located at the Greenfield Swimming Pool.
- f) Under or within 25 feet of the Greenfield Swimming Pool Pavilion.
- g) Within the confines of any municipal lands while such municipal lands are being used for either;
  - a. Any public event, or;
  - b. Within 100 feet of any gathering of people within the confines of any municipal land.
- h) Within the boundaries of the area known as “Shattuck Park”.

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- A. Any person who violates this section by smoking where smoking is prohibited shall be subject to a written warning for a first offense. Any person who violates this section in a second or subsequent offense shall be subject to a civil fine of \$150. Each day during which a violation of this section occurs shall be considered a separate violation.
- B. Fines assessed pursuant to this section shall be payable to the City of Greenfield. The Police Department and/or Board of Health through its inspectors shall enforce this section through non-criminal disposition.

**Order no. FY 11-045**

**MOTION:** On a motion by Councilor Maloney, second by Councilor Allis, it was,  
**MOVED:** THAT IT BE ORDERED THAT THE GREENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL, UPON RECOMMENDATION OF THE MAYOR, **THAT** THE FOLLOWING BORROWING AUTHORITIES TOTALING \$1,154,400 BE RESCINDED:

6/25/2003	DESIGN AND REPLACE HIGH SCHOOL ROOF	\$397,000
6/1/2004	REPLACE NEWTON STREET ROOF	\$ 6,000
6/1/2004	REPAIR MECHANICAL VENTILATION AT GHS	\$ 38,100
12/19/2007	IMPROVEMENTS TO THE GREEN RIVER SWIM AREA	\$297,000
2/20/2008	DPW DUMP TRUCK	\$ 28,000
8/20/2008	REPAIRS TO GHS PLUMBING	\$ 300
8/20/2008	REPAIR HS TERMITE DAMAGE	\$ 25,000
8/20/2008	HS SECURITY SYSTEM	\$ 11,000
5/27/2009	UPGRADE COMMUNITY CENTER	\$352,000
Total		\$1,154,400

**DISCUSSION:** Councilor Maloney noted the Ways and Means Committee forwarded a unanimous positive recommendation. He reviewed why the consolidation was possible.

It was unanimously,  
**VOTED:** TO APPROVE MOTION ORDER NO. FY 11 -045.

**Order no. FY 11-054**

**MOTION:** On a motion by Councilor Maloney, second by Councilor Allis, it was,  
**MOVED:** THAT IT BE ORDERED THAT THE GREENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES THE ATTACHED RESERVE FUND TRANSFER FOR TREASURER’S ADVERTISING TO BE TRANSFERED INTO ACCOUNT NUMBER 0100.145.5345 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,500.00.

**DISCUSSION:** Councilor Maloney noted the Ways and Means Committee forwarded a unanimous positive recommendation.

It was unanimously,  
**VOTED:** TO APPROVE MOTION ORDER NO. FY 11 -054.

**PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS AND SIMILAR PAPERS** None.

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

**WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE** – Chairman Maloney stated the committee was reviewing a request from the Retirement Board to increase the retiree COLAs.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE** – Chairman Guin would notify the committee if the January 27, 2011 meeting would take place.

**COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE** – Chairman Letourneau toured portions of the Greenfield High School and the continued discussion regarding a Skate Park.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Councilor Maloney held first readings:

Mayor's Capital Improvement Plan for FY2012 in the amount of \$2,113,400 broken down departmentally as follows:

General Government:	\$ 42,000
Central Maintenance:	\$ 30,000
Police:	\$ 110,350
Fire:	\$ 72,050
School:	\$ 331,000
Public Works:	\$1,510,000
Recreation:	\$ 18,000
Total:	\$2,113,400

President Farrell reviewed an updated agenda sent earlier today regarding the discussion relating to the elimination of the Assistant Assessor position. He informed the Councilors the discussion must relate to the elimination of the position and not the person in the position. If discussion was held about the person in the position, this would be a violation of Open Meeting Law.

Councilor Devlin reviewed his request from the December 2010 meeting asking for financial information and reasons for the elimination of the Assistant Assessor position. Mayor Martin and Ms. Kelly reviewed the following:

- o The restructuring of Town Government which began during the previous Administration.
- o Attempted to outsource the Building Department to the Franklin Regional Council of Governments.
- o Process for the elimination of the Assistant Assessor position began approximately 15 months ago. By law, a process needed to be followed.
- o Elimination of the position has to result in equal performance and reduced cost.
- o This would provide a monetary savings to the Town of Greenfield.
- o Reviewed items listed in the Request for Proposal. In the opinion of the Chief Assessor, Finance Department, and Mayor, services were comparable to current services over the term of the contract. It would cost less than the other package.
- o Mayflower would be in town a fair amount of time and would meet with people if necessary.
- o Basic clerical services were needed in the Assessors', Building Inspector, and Clerk's Offices which would be addressed in a different way.
- o It may cost the town some money within the first year due to contract requirements for buybacks, unemployment, and health insurance. Over the course of the three (3) year contract, the savings were expected to be between \$50,000 and \$75,000.
- o The other issue looked at was the potential to double new growth from \$300,000 to \$500,000.
- o The union was willing to accept a new part time or full time hire to staff the Assessors, Building Inspector and Clerk's Office to perform simple customer oriented duties.
- o The contract with Mayflower was a three (3) year contract that did not need Town Council approval.
- o Management by the Executive office was better than management by the Unions.

Comments from Councilors included:

- o The employee currently holding the Assistant Assessor position was approximately 2 to 3 years from retirement.
- o The town may not be saving money using the aforementioned venue.
- o An unfair labor practice was filed against the town by the Union.
- o Urged the Mayor to meet with Counsel to resolve labor issues so as not to cost the town extra legal fees related to this issue.
- o Requested copied of the RFP, duties, cost for unemployment and buyback and any information which justifies the savings.
- o In certain situations, there were values and added benefits that were more than the sum of the numbers.
- o Laying off an important position such as the Assistant Assessor lends the question of "who would be next."

President Farrell noted he was very sensitive to all sides. Several conversations have been had with all parties including the Board of Assessors. He believed the Mayor has the ability to make decisions. We may not like them or agree with them all the time but it was the decisions being made.

**MOTIONS FOR RECONSIDERATION:** None.

**PUBLIC FORUM:** Richard Roth, 319 Log Plain Road, spoke of the importance of keeping local people working for the town and not outsourcing of positions. It doesn't appear that over the three year contract with Mayflower, the Town would be saving very much money. He had spoken to a lot of people in his area and noted the decisions the Mayor made would follow him to the next election. He requested the Mayor rethink the numbers. Mr. Roth asked the Mayor what the advantage was for eliminating this position. How much money would it save the town over the next three years? Mayor Martin would contact the Attorneys tomorrow to see and if he could release that information pending litigation.

Karen Renaud, 64 Munson Street, disagreed with the denigrating comments made about unions by the Mayor. She stated a Union would not file an Unfair Labor Practice without the belief they have a good cause.

Councilor Allis invited everyone to attend the Winter Carnival on February 4, 5, & 6, 2011. Additional information was available on the town web site.

**ADJOURNMENT:** On a motion by Councilor Maloney, second by Councilor Sutphin, it was unanimously **VOTED:** TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 10:29 P.M.

A true copy,

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

**GREENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS**

GCTV-15  
Regular Meeting  
January 19, 2011

1. Bitters, Paul	P						
2. McLellan, Thomas	---						
3. Allis, Brickett	P						
4. Maloney, Mark	P						
5. Singer, David	P						
6. Letourneau, Danielle	P						
7. Sluter, Shenandoah	P						
8. Vicencio-Rasku, Iris	P						
9. Hirschfeld, Norman	P						
10. Farrell, Timothy	P						
11. Guin, Daniel	P						
12. Devlin, Patrick	P						
13. Sutphin, Tracey	P						



New Copy  
1/19/11

at Town Council Mtg.

## CITY REPORT FOR THE TOWN OF GREENFIELD

WILLIAM MARTIN  
MAYOR

JANUARY 2011

Mr. President and Councilors, I thank you for the opportunity to present this report for the City known as the Town of Greenfield. It is with great pride that I can provide this information about the past year not only for this legislative body but to our residents and taxpayers. Before I elaborate on the Town's initiatives for stability and our efforts for progress, let me preface my comments with an observation that I feel is a critical element for our continued success. That crucial element is teamwork.

We appreciate the many examples of cooperation between the Town Council and the Town hall. Without this sharing of governance, our ability to confront the myriad of obstacles before us would be overwhelming as we attempt to deliver the services promised within the restricted revenue stream and mandates that exist. This idea of working together to reach our goals also goes beyond the Council and the Town Hall; it extends to all internal departments, their leaders and to all of the municipal employees. It has been difficult, to be sure, but the necessary adjustments and modifications are being implemented.

Our initiatives for stability began more than 15 months ago. The guiding principles for decision-making are to create new revenue sources, monitor departmental spending, search for operational efficiencies, seek departmental missions, improve management of our assets, retain our business base and accommodate and facilitate economic development. We have had some successes and we have some failures but we are determined. We aggressively pursue opportunities with the Federal and State for grants and programs and we are recognized for our efforts, innovation and resolve.

During last year's budget meetings, I used the term "new cash". I explained that the concept behind "new cash" was to advance our community goals by converting existing, underutilized assets and by redesigning liabilities to create new revenue for redistribution within the budget. The primary reason to develop new revenue sources is to replace the lost revenues from State aid without raising property taxes beyond the 2 ½ % levy limit. If we were successful, I had initially estimated \$600,000 might be available for the 2012 budget.

Let me offer some examples of this "new cash".

- The **APR** voted by the Town Council for town-owned land will further our goals of community farming, sharing local produce, offer an agrarian educational opportunity and provide \$198,000 to the Town. This team was led by Eric Twarog, Director of Planning & Development.
- The **Solar Farm** (one of the largest in New England) contract, approved by the Town Council with Axio Greenfield LLC, signed and witnessed by Governor Patrick, assured Greenfield a place in all "green" discussions. This project serves to advance our energy conservation and consumption goals. This team was led by Sandra Shields, Director of Public Works. Awaiting its final approval (due January 20) before seeking a local building permit, these 30 year agreements

will save Greenfield more than **\$300,000** annually, funds that can be redistributed throughout the budget.

- Designation as a “**Green**” community, and the first in the State to apply and be so labeled, gave a public view to the early efforts of Greening Greenfield and the opportunity to stay ahead of the curve in community energy conservation efforts. Greenfield served as the state location for Secretary Bowles to announce the first group of qualified communities. The “green team” was led by Eric Twarog, Director of Planning & Development. Greenfield received **\$207,000** for its part in the Green Communities Act.
- Approved by the Town Council, the **Sale of Town-Owned Property** was scanned and reviewed for details, and after several attempts, sale contracts were negotiated. Currently, there is **\$194,000** sold or in the process of sale. Bob Pyers, our Economic Development Director, leads this asset-conversion team.
- Approval by The Town Council for updating **Parking** lots with digital kiosks will assist in decreasing office time for ticket follow-up and increase parking revenue by upwards of **\$200,000**. This revenue will allow us to maintain and improve vehicle lots and spaces without borrowing for paving and other improvements. This team is led by Bob Pyers and Larry Petrin, Senior Engineer, DPW.
- Approval by the Town Council for High School renovations, and now the **Green Repair Program**, has accelerated our conservation and municipal building repair. These multiple applications, coordinated with the School Department and School Committee, have the potential to save millions in borrowing and spending. This endeavor is led by several teams with Lane Kelly, our Finance Director, leading all major communications with the Massachusetts School Building Authority. Both programs will encompass spending in the vicinity of \$40,000,000 with Greenfield qualifying for approximated **79%** reimbursement.

This plan for “new cash” will continue through 2012. We will always search for ways to manage more efficiently, spend more wisely and protect the jobs and homes of the community. But these decisions, always made in the best interests of the community, are many times controversial.

There is, and will continue to be, a dichotomy of thought. Many decisions impact our employees and our neighborhoods. Oftentimes the dialogue of opposing ideas becomes harsh, even uncivil. I believe that all ideas on a subject need to be placed for public comment or departmental discussion and all speakers respected. As Mayor, however, there are restrictions placed on my involvement based in General Law and in collective bargaining law. I need to adhere to these restrictions as we implement our ideas and initiatives but I also need to facilitate our community goals.

Some examples of the initiatives we have started to aid us in reaching our community and policy goals are as follows:

- The annex was closed to improve the work environment for the Inspections Department, reduce costs and decrease the governmental footprint. The Inspections, Health and Licensing Departments have been incorporated into the first floor of Town Hall to complement the Customer Service area
- The Bendix property was introduced to EPA and accepted for clean-up and this will prepare the parcel for development
- The Central Core Safety Task Force was formed to assist the residents of the railway encampment. The Task Force, in cooperation with the Police Department, Pan Am Railways, several social service agencies and the Greenfield Housing Authority, identified a myriad of social service programs and housing options to help those residents
- The Mayor’s Memo was produced with GCTV to provide information on Town actions for residents and respond to the need for an open and transparent government

- The Lunt property was optioned to explore the potential for development favorable to the needs of Greenfield
- The Community Development Block Grant was reconfigured to better focus on our community goals
- The gift of the Dakin property, with your approval, was solicited to increase the Town's holdings in that important geological area to over 60 acres
- Legislation was approved to modify the lease at 20 Sanderson Street to allow all municipal uses
- Legislation was approved to allow the Mayor to hire Special Reserve Police Officers to assist the Department
- Central Maintenance was created, with your approval, to comply with the charter and better monitor energy consumption, decrease repair and maintenance costs, develop a comprehensive program to improve efficiency and extend the economic life of our buildings and equipment
- A Director of Finance was established, with your approval, to comply with the Charter
- Large capital investments in our schools, with your approval and the leadership of Superintendent Susan Hollins, coupled with the guidance of our designated Procurement Officer Lane Kelly, led to an increase in enrollment and a decrease in students choosing another district
- Creation of a Veterans Resource & Referral Center to offer improved access and service to our Veterans and their families and also to research the potential to establish a County regional Veterans office
- Formation of the Greenfield Education Foundation to provide innovative and advanced opportunities for our students. This incredibly outstanding initiative is led by Robert Cohn and many community leaders. In its first year over \$50,000 was contributed to our Public School System

The Town of Greenfield has been recognized by outside observers this past year for our actions and accomplishments. Our community and our government can be proud of these awards. Along with the "green" designation by the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources, we have been selected as a "Leading by Example" community, one of only four communities so recognized in the state. We have also been selected by the Barr Foundation for two-years of technical assistance by Serrafix, LLC, at no cost to us, for implementing municipal energy upgrades and conservation programs.

Lastly, let me say that we are fortunate to have so many skilled and experienced municipal employees to address the needs of the residents and the Council. We will continue to do our best to set a standard for community innovation, responsible budgets and to maintain our open and transparent Town government. We have several projects to complete and several new initiatives to pursue. I will keep the Council informed of the progress as the year passes.

I thank you for listening and I thank you for giving of your time for your community.