

GREENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
Special Meeting Minutes
March 7, 2011

GCTV-15

7:00 pm

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting was called to order at 6:04 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 Vicencio-Rasku was absent.

ALSO PRESENT: Town Clerk Maureen Winseck; Candidates for Town Council at Large Seat Cameron Ward and Karen Renaud; GCTV-15 staff; Anita Phillips, *the Recorder*; and members of the public.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Guin, second by Councilor Sutphin, it was unanimously,

VOTED: THAT THE GREENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE RULES OF PROCEDURE, RULE 8, ORDER AND DISPOSITION OF BUSINESS.

PUBLIC FORUM: President Farrell asked if anyone from the public would like to speak. Donovan Eastman, 7 Oak Street, spoke in opposition of elimination of the Town Preliminary Election on April 19, 2011.

MOTIONS, ORDERS, AND RESOLUTIONS

Order no. FY 11-064

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

MOVED: THAT IT BE ORDERED THAT THE TOWN OF GREENFIELD HEREBY PETITIONS THE LEGISLATURE OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS TO PASS SPECIAL LEGISLATION TO ELIMINATE THE TOWN PRELIMINARY ELECTION IN 2011.

SECTION 1. NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROVISIONS OF ANY GENERAL OR SPECIAL LAW OR THE CHARTER OF THE TOWN OF GREENFIELD TO THE CONTRARY, THERE SHALL BE NO PRELIMINARY ELECTION IN THE TOWN OF GREENFIELD AS OTHERWISE REQUIRED ON APRIL 19, 2011, AND ALL PERSONS WHOSE NOMINATION PAPERS ARE DULY CERTIFIED SHALL BE DEEMED TO HAVE BEEN NOMINATED.

SECTION 2. THIS ACT SHALL TAKE EFFECT UPON ITS PASSAGE.

DISCUSSION: President Farrell summarized the process to petition the Legislature thus far. He reviewed discussions held by the Council in previous years regarding the elimination of Town Preliminary Elections. Councilor Allis noted as the Chairman of the Charter Review Committee, this issue had been discussed often. He would be extremely surprised if this Charter requirement was not amended by recommendation of the Charter Committee. President Farrell stated if the Preliminary Election was held, there would only be one position on the ballot. Comments included:

- o Create language in the Charter to resolve this issue.
- o Surprised at the short time line for considering this proposal.
- o Other Massachusetts communities had petitioned the state and eliminated preliminary elections within their towns.
- o Senator Rosenberg and Representative Andrews did not anticipate a problem with passage in the Legislature.
- o All three Councilor at Large candidates were contacted: two responded that they did not have an issue with elimination of the preliminary election.
- o During last year's budget decision and vote, the Council took a calculated risk that a Preliminary Election would not be needed.
- o Voter turnout has been low in "off Mayoral elections years."
- o Concern with the appearance, the Town Council was interfering with the political process.
- o The town was not saving \$12,000 to \$14,000 because the funds were not in the budget. If the election was held, a Reserve Fund Transfer would be necessary for the cost of the election.
- o If this proposal did not pass, a preliminary election would be held and funded.

Councilor Singer explained why the Charter Commission included the Preliminary Election. He would not vote in favor of the proposed order because it "changed the rules in the middle of the game" and that was not fair to those who took out papers. President Farrell, Councilors Allis, Devlin, Guin and Maloney would vote in favor of the proposed order. Councilor Letourneau would not vote in favor of the proposed order.

Town Clerk Winseck stated:

- o The Secretary of the Commonwealth Galvin had appeared before the Legislature with a goal of cancelling the Presidential Primary Election due to lack of funds.
- o The Auburn City Clerk along with their State Representative filed special legislation to change the manner in which Presidential Primary and caucus nominations were done.

It was by majority roll call (10 yes and 2 no),

VOTED: TO APPROVE MOTION ORDER NO. FY 11-064.

As Acting Mayor, President Farrell spoke of the mud slide which occurred this morning from the Green River Cemetery down Meridian and Deerfield Streets. He noted there was significant damage in the area. Councilor Guin noted 3,000 cubic feet of material came down the hill. Acting Mayor Farrell noted all agencies involved responded and worked well together.

Councilor Allis stated the Charter Committee would speak with a representative of the Secretary of the States Office on March 29, 2011 regarding the election process. This meeting will take place at 6:30 pm at the Veterans/Planning Office, 114 Main Street.

Councilor Guin announced the Greenfield Music Telethon raised \$6,400 while on air. 100% of the funds go directly to the Music Departments in both the High and Middle Schools.

ADJOURNMENT: On a motion by Councilor Maloney, second by Councilor Allis, it was unanimously

VOTED: TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:10 P.M.

A true copy,

Attest: _____
Maureen T. Winseck, Town Clerk

GREENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS

GCTV-15
Special Meeting
March 7, 2011

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