

GREENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

Regular Meeting Minutes

January 15, 2014

GCTV-15

7:00 pm

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by President Wisnewski.

President Wisnewski 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. Councilors Allis and Athey were absent.

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor William Martin; Director of Municipal Finance and Administration Marjorie L. Kelly; Town Clerk Maureen Winseck; Assistant Town Clerk Deborah Tuttle; Town Accountant Elizabeth Braccia; Chief Assessor Audrey Murphy; GCTV-15 staff; Anita Fritz, *the Recorder*; and members of the public.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Singer, second by Councilor Devlin, it was unanimously, **VOTED:** THAT THE GREENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL WAIVE THE RULES OF PROCEDURE, #8 ORDER AND DISPOSITION OF BUSINESS, TO ALLOW THE AGENDA ITEMS TO BE TAKEN OUT OF ORDER.

Order no. FY 14 -095

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Singer, second by Councilor Hoffman, it was unanimously, **VOTED:** THAT THE GREENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES THE APPOINTMENT OF ALFRED SIANO TO FILL THE VACANT PRECINCT 2 TOWN COUNCIL SEAT, UNTIL JUNE 30, 2014, PURSUANT TO CHARTER SECTION 2-11.

Town Clerk Maureen Winseck issued the oath of office to Councilor Siano.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES: On a motion by Councilor Singer, second by Councilor Devlin, it was unanimously,

VOTED: TO ACCEPT THE TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES OF DECEMBER 18, 2013.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None.

COMMUNICATIONS:

MAYOR: None.

SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT AND SCHOOL COMMITTEE: None.

TOWN OFFICERS: None.

MOTIONS, ORDERS, AND RESOLUTIONS

Order no. FY 14-094

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

MOVED: THAT IT BE ORDERED THAT THE GREENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL PURSUANT TO CHARTER SECTION 2-10, ACCEPTS THE FOLLOWING APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR TO THE GCTV BOARD OF DIRECTORS: CHRISTOPHER S. COLLINS.

DISCUSSION: Councilor Singer stated the committee forwarded a positive, 4 yes, 0 no, and 1 abstention, recommendation for approval. Councilor Hoffman expressed concern with comments made via social media by Mr. Collins. She would abstain from the vote. Councilor Kelner supported the appointment although she expressed concerns with comments made by Mr. Collins in the newspaper.

It was unanimously, (Councilor Hoffman abstained)

VOTED: TO APPROVE ORDER NO. FY 14 -094.

Order no. FY 14-093

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Renaud, second by Councilor Kelner, it was,

MOVED: THAT IT BE ORDERED THAT THE GREENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION TITLED “KEEP WMECO SERVICE CENTER IN GREENFIELD/FRANKLIN COUNTY”,

The Greenfield Town Council resolves that a WMECO service center should be retained in Greenfield for safety and well being of the community,

WHEREAS, if the WMECO service center is closed and services moved to Hadley, in Hampshire County, Franklin County will be the only county in Massachusetts without a service center, and

WHEREAS, Franklin County and Greenfield residents and business owners deserve equal access to public utility services, and

WHEREAS, in order to respond to severe weather-related emergency outages, Franklin County-based WMECO workers will have to travel an additional 37 miles on rural roads and/or congested highways, in treacherous conditions, to pick up bucket trucks and return to service Franklin County residents, resulting in a delayed response time of at least an hour, and

WHEREAS, driving the extra distance in hazardous conditions is unsafe for workers and delayed response time is unsafe for residents, and

WHEREAS, the delayed response time will also impact public safety services if emergency electrical repairs are needed due to auto accidents, fires, or other incidents, and

WHEREAS, WMECO has stated that current jobs will be retained; future hires are less likely to come from Franklin County residents given the burdens of commuting, and

WHEREAS, the decline of job opportunities for skilled workers will have a negative economic impact on Greenfield and Franklin County.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, THAT THE CITY OF GREENFIELD KNOWN AS

THE TOWN OF GREENFIELD, AS EVIDENCED BY THE SIGNATURE OF ITS PRESIDENT, DO HEREBY REQUEST THAT STATE AND LOCAL OFFICIALS AND WMECO MANAGEMENT WORK TOGETHER TO KEEP A WMECO SERVICE CENTER IN GREENFIELD/ FRANKLIN COUNTY.

Mark Wisnewski, Town Council
President

DISCUSSION: Councilor Renaud stated the committee forwarded a unanimous positive recommendation for approval.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Hoffman, second by Councilor Kelner, it was,
VOTED: AMEND THE SIXTH (6) WHEREAS TO READ AS FOLLOWING: “**WHEREAS, while** WMECO has stated that current jobs will be retained, future hires are less likely to come from Franklin County residents given the burdens of commuting, and”

Discussion was held regarding the importance of having WMECO remain in Franklin County.

It was unanimously,
VOTED: TO APPROVE ORDER NO. FY 14 -093 AS AMENDED.

Order no. FY 14-103

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Hoffman, second by Councilor Shapiro Miller, it was,
MOVED: THAT IT BE ORDERED TO SEE IF THE GREENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL ACCEPTS MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL LAW CHAPTER 32B SECTION 20 WHICH AUTHORIZES THE TOWN TO ESTABLISH AN OTHER POST EMPLOYMENT BENEFIT TRUST TO REDUCE THE UNFUNDED LIABILITY OF HEALTH CARE AND OTHER POST EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS FOR WHICH THE TOWN OF GREENFIELD IS OBLIGATED.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Hoffman, second by Councilor Shapiro Miller, it was unanimously,
VOTED: TO DELETE THE FOLLOWING “SEE IF THE GREENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL” AND CHANGE THE WORD “ACCEPTS” TO ACCEPT”

DISCUSSION: Councilor Hoffman stated the Ways and Means Committee forwarded a unanimous positive recommendation for approval.

It was unanimously,
VOTED: TO ACCEPT MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL LAW CHAPTER 32B SECTION 20 WHICH AUTHORIZES THE TOWN TO ESTABLISH AN OTHER POST EMPLOYMENT BENEFIT TRUST TO REDUCE THE UNFUNDED LIABILITY OF HEALTH CARE AND OTHER POST EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS FOR WHICH THE TOWN OF GREENFIELD IS OBLIGATED.

Order no. FY 14-100 A

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Hoffman, second by Councilor Ronhave, it was,
MOVED: THAT IT BE ORDERED, UPON RECOMMENDATION OF THE MAYOR, THAT GREENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL ACCEPTS MASS GENERAL LAWS CHAPTER 59 §5 CLAUSE

41C CHANGING THE EXISTING EXEMPTION PARAMETERS AS FOLLOWS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR STARTING JULY 1, 2014.

- INCREASE THE CURRENT EXEMPTION AMOUNT FROM \$750 PER FISCAL YEAR TO \$1,000 PER FISCAL YEAR.
- REDUCE THE AGE REQUIREMENT FROM 70 YEARS TO 67 YEARS AS OF JULY 1ST OF THE CALENDAR YEAR IN ORDER TO QUALIFY FOR THE JULY FIRST FISCAL YEAR.

DISCUSSION: Councilor Hoffman stated the Ways and Means Committee forwarded a unanimous positive recommendation for approval. Ms. Kelly summarized the request.

It was unanimously,

VOTED: TO APPROVE ORDER NO. FY 14 -100 A

Order no. FY14-100 B

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Hoffman, second by Councilor Renaud, it was,

MOVED: THAT IT BE ORDERED, UPON RECOMMENDATION OF THE MAYOR, THAT THE GREENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL ACCEPTS MASS GENERAL LAWS CHAPTER 59 §5 CLAUSE 41D ALLOWING CHANGES TO THE INCOME AND ASSET LIMITS UNDER MASS GENERAL LAWS CHAPTER 59 §5 CLAUSE 41C FOR THE FISCAL YEAR STARTING JULY 1, 2014.

DISCUSSION: Councilor Hoffman stated the Ways and Means Committee forwarded a unanimous positive recommendation for approval.

It was unanimously,

VOTED: TO APPROVE ORDER NO. FY 14 -100 B.

Order no. FY 14-100 C

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Hoffman, second by Councilor Ronhave, it was,

MOVED: THAT IT BE ORDERED, UPON RECOMMENDATION OF THE MAYOR, THAT THE GREENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL ACCEPTS MASS GENERAL LAWS CHAPTER 59 §5 CLAUSE 41C CHANGING THE EXISTING EXEMPTION PARAMETERS AS FOLLOWS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR STARTING JULY 1, 2014.

- INCREASE THE INCOME LIMIT FROM \$13,000 FOR SINGLE PERSON AND \$15,000 FOR MARRIED PERSON TO NO MORE THAN \$20,000 IF SINGLE AND \$30,000 IF MARRIED.
- INCREASE ASSET LIMIT FROM \$28,000 IF SINGLE AND \$30,000 IF MARRIED (DOES NOT INCLUDE DOMICILE) TO NO MORE THAN \$30,000 IF SINGLE AND \$40,000 IF MARRIED.
- TO APPLY AN INCREASE TO THE SOCIAL SECURITY DEDUCTION PER THE ANNUAL DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE GUIDELINES.

DISCUSSION: Councilor Hoffman stated the Ways and Means Committee forwarded a unanimous positive recommendation for approval.

It was unanimously,

VOTED: TO APPROVE ORDER NO. FY 14 -100 C

Order no. FY 14-101

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Hoffman, second by Councilor Ronhave, it was,
MOVED: THAT IT BE ORDERED, UPON RECOMMENDATION OF THE MAYOR, THE GREENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL ACCEPTS MASS GENERAL LAWS CHAPTER 59 §5 CLAUSE 17E WHICH AUTHORIZES AN ANNUAL INCREASE IN THE ASSET (WHOLE ESTATE) LIMIT FOR EXEMPTIONS GRANTED TO SENIOR CITIZENS, SURVIVING SPOUSES AND SURVIVING MINORS UNDER GENERAL LAWS CHAPTER 59, SECTION 5, CLAUSE 17D, BY THE PERCENTAGE INCREASE IN THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS, CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR THE PREVIOUS YEAR AS DETERMINED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF REVENUE, TO BE EFFECTIVE FOR EXEMPTIONS GRANTED FOR ANY FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING ON OR AFTER JULY 1, 2014.

DISCUSSION: Councilor Hoffman stated the Ways and Means Committee forwarded a unanimous positive recommendation for approval.

It was unanimously,

VOTED: TO APPROVE ORDER NO. FY 14 -101

Order no. FY 14-102

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Hoffman, second by Councilor Ronhave, it was,
MOVED: THAT IT BE ORDERED, UPON RECOMMENDATION OF THE MAYOR, THAT THE GREENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL ACCEPTS MASS GENERAL LAWS CHAPTER 59 §5 CLAUSE 54 ESTABLISHING A MINIMUM FAIR CASH VALUE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY ACCOUNTS TO BE TAXED AT \$10,000 FOR THE FISCAL YEAR STARTING JULY 1, 2014.

DISCUSSION: Councilor Hoffman stated the Ways and Means Committee forwarded a unanimous positive recommendation for approval.

It was unanimously,

VOTED: TO APPROVE ORDER NO. FY 14 -102

Order no. FY 14-097

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Hoffman, second by Councilor Singer, it was unanimously,
VOTED: THAT IT BE ORDERED THAT ORDER NO. 14-091 TABLED AT THE DECEMBER 18, 2013 TOWN COUNCIL MEETING BE REMOVED FROM THE TABLE.

Order no. FY 14-091

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Hoffman, second by Councilor Singer, it was,
VOTED: THAT IT BE ORDERED, UPON RECOMMENDATION OF THE, THAT THE GREENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL ACCEPTS MASS GENERAL LAW CHAPTER 40§13D PROVIDING FOR A RESERVE FUND FOR FUTURE PAYMENT OF ACCRUED LIABILITIES FOR COMPENSATED ABSENCES DUE ANY EMPLOYEE UPON TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT.

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

VOTED: THE ORDER TO READ AS FOLLOWS: THAT IT BE ORDERED, UPON RECOMMENDATION OF THE **MAYOR**, THAT THE GREENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL ACCEPTS MASS GENERAL LAW CHAPTER 40§13D PROVIDING FOR A RESERVE FUND FOR FUTURE PAYMENT OF ACCRUED LIABILITIES FOR COMPENSATED ABSENCES DUE ANY EMPLOYEE UPON TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT.

DISCUSSION: Councilor Hoffman stated the Ways and Means Committee forwarded a unanimous positive recommendation for approval. Councilor Hoffman reviewed and explained the request.

It was unanimously,

VOTED: TO APPROVE ORDER NO. FY 14 -091.

Order no. FY 14-098

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Hoffman, second by Councilor Maloni, it was,

MOVED: THAT IT BE ORDERED THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL APPOINT ASSISTANT TOWN CLERK, DEBORAH J. TUTTLE TO THE POSITION OF TEMPORARY TOWN CLERK, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 25, 2014, UNTIL A PERMANENT TOWN CLERK IS ELECTED.

DISCUSSION: Councilors Singer, Devlin, and Siano spoke highly of Mrs. Tuttle and would vote in favor of her appointment.

It was unanimously,

VOTED: TO APPROVE ORDER NO. FY 14 -098.

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS AND SIMILAR PAPERS None.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

APPOINTMENTS AND ORDINANCE COMMITTEE- Chairman Singer stated the committee would meet next month and report back to the Council.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE – Chairman Renaud announced the committee would meet on January 27, 2014 to discuss the Dog Park.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE – Chairman Devlin noted work continued with the Nuisance and Vacant property ordinances. The Biomass Waste to Energy Committee continued to meet and hoped to submit guidelines for the ordinance within a few months.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: Councilor Hoffman held the following first reading:

- To appropriate \$150,000 from 8700.920.5966 Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) to an OPEB Trust
- To appropriate \$150,000 from free cash to purchase the HAPCO Building on Olive Street from the Greenfield Redevelopment Authority

President Wisnewski suggested Council members try to attend the unveiling of Greenfield's Master Plan on Tuesday, January 21, 2013, 6:30 pm, GCC's Sloan Theater.

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

MOVED: TO DEDICATE THE JANUARY 15, 2014 TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES TO TOWN CLERK MAUREEN WINSECK.

DISCUSSION: Councilor Singer spoke of many fond memories through his time working on the Charter Commission and the Town Council especially as President. Councilor Devlin stated Ms. Winseck was always professional and helpful through his time on the Town Council. Councilor Hoffman said she admired Ms. Winseck and suggested if she ever wanted to run for office she would have her support. Councilor Renaud echoed the comments of previous Councilors and noted the Town Clerk's Office was well run and very professional. Councilor Kelner acknowledged Ms. Winseck as a friendly and knowledgeable person. Councilor Hirschfeld said Ms. Winseck was very helpful and kind. Councilor Shapiro Miller thanked her for all of the helpful orientation and patience. Councilor Ronhave said the public sectors loss would be the private sectors gain. Councilor Siano noted it was not the length of service but the quality and consistency of the service. Councilor Maloni shared that Ms. Winseck worked the first election he voted in and would be noticeably missed. President Wisnewski noted he had never once received a complaint about the Clerk's office and the Town of Greenfield was better for having had Maureen as Town Clerk.

Ms. Winseck stated the following: Good evening Mr. President, Town Councilors, Mayor, and members of the Public.

It was very difficult to arrive at the decision to retire from my position as Town Clerk.

I have enjoyed my tenure here and appreciate the opportunity to serve members of our community for the last 25 years.

As clerk to the Town Council I have faced many challenges. I wish to extend a sincere thank you to Council members, present and past for your support, guidance and encouragement.

I attribute much of my success to the great team that has supported me through the years. Those include Assistant Town Clerk Deb Tuttle, Town Clerk Administrative Asst. Jerry Marcanio, and Administrative Asst. to the Town Council Kathy Scott.

I would be remiss if I didn't recognize the great job the poll workers do for the Town. These people give their time and energy to conduct Elections for the voters of Greenfield. The Election process has become extremely complex due to numerous changes in election laws. These dedicated members of our community have hung in there with me to face these new challenges. Some of our poll workers have been with us for over 40 years and taught me a lot of what I know about elections.

Although I will miss my colleagues, I am looking forward to this new challenge and the start of a new phase in my life as a Real Estate Broker with Fitzgerald Real Estate.

It was unanimously,

VOTED: TO DEDICATE THE JANUARY 15, 2014 TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES TO TOWN CLERK MAUREEN WINSECK.

MOTIONS FOR RECONSIDERATION: None.

PUBLIC FORUM: None.

ADJOURNMENT: On a motion by Councilor Singer, second by Councilor Hoffman, it was unanimously

VOTED: TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:58 P.M.

A true copy,

Attest: _____
Maureen T. Winseck, Town Clerk

GREENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS

GCTV-15

Regular Meeting

January 15, 2014

1. Kelner, Marian	P						
2. Siano, Alfred	P						
3. Allis, Brickett	Abs.						
4. Ronhave, Steven	P						
5. Singer, David	P						
6. Hoffman, Hillary	P						
7. Renaud, Karen	P						
8. Shapiro Miller, Karen	P						
9. Hirschfeld, Norman	P						
10. Athey, Dalton	Abs.						
11. Wisnewski, Mark	P						
12. Devlin, Patrick	P						
13. Maloni, Mark	P						