

GREENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

Regular Meeting Minutes

March 26, 2008

Greenfield Community Television

7:00 p.m.

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

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

**ALSO PRESENT:** Assistant Town Clerk Deborah Tuttle; Director of Municipal Finance and Administration Marjorie L. Kelly; School Committee Chairman Greg Aubin; Attorney John Mason; Anita Fritz, the *Recorder*; Hugh Massey, WHAI; Dave Vallette, the *Republican*; members of the media; GCTV-15 staff; and members of the public.

**ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:** On a motion by Councilor Allis, second by Councilor McClellan, it was unanimously **VOTED:** TO ACCEPT THE TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 20, 2008.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

MAYOR: None.

SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT: None.

TOWN OFFICERS: None.

**MOTIONS, ORDERS, AND RESOLUTIONS**

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

**MOVED:** THAT THE GREENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES THE APPOINTMENT OF JOHN R. MASON, JR. TO FILL THE VACANT COUNCILOR AT LARGE TOWN COUNCIL SEAT, UNTIL JUNE 30, 2009, PURSUANT TO CHARTER SECTION 2-11

**DISCUSSION:** President Maloney discussed the resignations of Sara Vieu and Mark Odato:

- Ms. Vieu's position would be filled by election on the June ballot.
- A legal opinion from Town Attorney Kos and consultation with the Massachusetts Secretary of State's Office has determined Mr. Odato's position would be filled by a vote of the Town Council until June 30, 2009.
- Two people had submitted letters of interest to fill Mr. Odato's Council seat. They were Jessica Van Steensburg and John Mason Jr.
- Committee Chairmen of the Town Council voted to appoint Mr. Mason to the seat.

Councilor Wisnewski read charter section 2-11 regarding vacancies on the Town Council. He stated the charter section was very vague. He did not explore alternate options such as a write-in candidate. He suggested err on the side of democracy. He believed the intent of the Charter was to not allow an appointed position to hold a seat on the Town Council for more than one year. He would not vote on any appointment to this position. Councilor Farrell stated the Town Attorney, Assistant Town Clerk and the reporter for the *Recorder* all spoke to the Secretary of State. He agreed with Councilor Wisnewski that the Charter was vague and should be amended. Councilor Farrell urged the membership to appoint Mr. Mason. President Maloney had requested the Ordinance Committee review Charter Section 2-11. Councilor Guin would vote to appoint Mr. Mason. Councilor Letourneau felt ill-informed to make an appointment this evening. She discussed her appointment to a vacant seat. She noted discussion held at that meeting centered on appointing a person with "like views" of the Councilor who had vacated the seat. Councilor Letourneau suggested the views of Ms. Van Steensburg were similar to Mr. Odato. In her belief, the spirit of previous appointments did not "fit" this situation. Councilor Letourneau favored the appointment of a female member; relatively new to the Town; and with different points of view. Councilor Farrell reviewed the process for Councilor Letourneau's appointment. He discussed the differences between appointing a precinct Councilor versus an At-Large Councilor. Councilor Martin noted there were numerous Town Hall female employees employed as department managers in the Town Hall.

It was by majority, 8 yes, 1 no, and 1 abstention,

**VOTED:** THAT THE GREENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES THE APPOINTMENT OF JOHN R. MASON, JR. TO FILL THE VACANT COUNCILOR AT LARGE TOWN COUNCIL SEAT, UNTIL JUNE 30, 2009, PURSUANT TO CHARTER SECTION 2-11.

Assistant Town Clerk Tuttle swore in Councilor Mason.



**APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE** Chairman Allis announced the committee would meet on April 14, 2008 to discuss an appointment received today. He noted a meeting was held at the Police Station. He commended the Police Department on their attempt to save energy by shutting off the heat and unplugging unused lights.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE** Chairman Guin stated the committee would hold a Public Hearing regarding the acceptance of a Public Way on March 27, 2008. Also on the agenda was a discussion relative to Keno-to-go.

Councilor Allis stated the Police Department Captain would be forwarding a proposed amendment to an existing ordinance. The proposal would require bartenders to attend training and be licensed by the Town of Greenfield.

**TREASURER** Councilor Lashier stated the Town Council expended \$2,506.06 in March. The Town Council has 40% of the budget remaining.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:** President Maloney stated the Mayor intended to forward the Fiscal Year 2009 Operating Budget within the first 10 days of April. Ms. Kelly responded to Councilor questions regarding the following topics:

- Town Audit funds for Fiscal Year 2007, 2008 and school audits.
- Management Information Systems.
- The next quarterly report would come to the Town Council around the middle of April.
- Weights & Measures inspections have begun.
- The School Carry Forward was mostly used for summer salaries for teachers.
- State Assessment comes directly from the Cherry Sheet and deals with School Choice sending tuition, Charter Schools, and Veteran’s Agent.
- Annual appropriation to the Contributory Retirement fund which was based on actuary studies that require the Town to be a fully funded retirement system. This was the amount needed to be appropriated. Unfunded liability information will follow.
- In Fiscal Year 2009, if the unions vote to increase the copayments from \$10.00 to \$15.00 dollars, Health Insurance would increase 6.5%.

President Maloney suggested it may be time for the Council to appoint an Auditor. This was not a motion or being formally brought forward, but something to be thought about. In the upcoming difficult budget year, the Council may need to set aside 10,000 to 15,000 thousand dollars for this process.

Councilor Farrell requested the Community Relations Committee invite Franklin County Home Care Corporation to discuss the Meals on Wheels program. Meals on Wheels have been asked to move from the Senior Center. He believed it was important to continue to provide these services to the citizens of Greenfield.

Vice President Martin congratulated the GHS Hockey Team for their accomplishments this year.

**MOTIONS FOR RECONSIDERATION:** None.

**PUBLIC FORUM:** None.

President Maloney stated the Councilors would be contacted with a date when the Mayor would present the Fiscal Year 2009 Operating Budget to the Town Council.

**ADJOURNMENT:** On a motion by Councilor Farrell, second by Councilor Allis, it was unanimously **VOTED: TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:15 P.M.**

A true copy,

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

GREENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS

GCTV-15  
 Regular Meeting  
 March 26, 2008

		Appointment						
1.	Lashier, Dennis	P	Y					
2.	McLellan, Thomas	P	Y					
3.	Allis, Brickett	P	Y					
4.	Maloney, Mark	P	Y					
5.	Wisnewski, Mark	P	Abst.					
6.	Letourneau, Danielle	P	N					
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	--					

8 yes  
 1 no  
 1 abstention