

GREENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
November 12, 2008

Town Hall Annex Meeting Room

12:00 noon

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting was called to order at 12 Noon by President Maloney.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS: Roll Call was taken. Councilor Lashier was excused. Councilors Letourneau and Guin were absent.

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Christine Forgey; Director of Municipal Finance and Administration Marjorie L. Kelly; Town Clerk Maureen Winseck; Anita Fritz, the *Recorder*; Hugh Massey, WHAI; and members of the public.

MOTION On a motion by Councilor Joseph, second by Councilor Allis, it was unanimously
VOTED: TO WAIVE THE RULES OF PROCEDURE, RULE 8 ORDER AND DISPOSITION OF ITEMS.

Councilor Joseph held a first reading: REDUCE THE FISCAL YEAR 2009 EMPLOYEE HEALTH BUDGET BY \$600,000.00 AND TRANSFER \$475,000.00 TO THE FOLLOWING FISCAL YEAR 2009 BUDGETS:

- \$ 3,000.00 TO TOWN COUNCIL SALARY AND WAGES
- \$ 32,000.00 TO THE TREASURER'S EXPENDITURES
- \$ 15,000.00 TO LICENSING SALARY AND WAGES
- \$250,000.00 TO THE GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
- \$ 50,000.00 TO VETERANS' ORDINARY BENEFITS
- \$ 75,000.00 TO UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

It was noted the total amount of \$475,000 was incorrect; the amount should be \$425,000 which will be amended on the Town Council floor.

Councilor Joseph stated there would be a Ways and Means Committee meeting tonight in the Director of Municipal Finance and Administration's office at 6:00 pm to discuss the supplemental budget.

President Maloney read a letter from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education dated October 31, 2008 into the record of minutes (see attached). He reviewed the Council's efforts to obtain financial assistance from the State for the Schools. Vice President Martin requested the following from the School Administration:

- ✧ Why did the state limit Greenfield options to just meeting with the Gill Montague School District?
- ✧ Town Council should form a regional planning committee.
- ✧ If the pothole funds do not come in, what will the fiscal ramifications to the school budget be?
- ✧ Requested the Fiscal Year 2008 school budget prior to the November 19, 2008 Town Council meeting.
- ✧ Requested the Town to provide a 1st quarter report for the School.
- ✧ Town Council should consider each supplemental budget transfer request individually.

Councilor Singer suggested the State may be urging Greenfield to move ahead of the pack regarding School Regionalization rather than having the State decide who Greenfield would regionalize with. "This may put us ahead of the curve." He suggested the Town Council form the committee suggested in the letter. Councilor McLellan agreed. Councilor Farrell suggested a discussion regarding the establishment of a Regional Planning Committee should be held. He emphasized the manner in which Dr. Chester delivered the message was extremely poor. Councilor Mason suggested a conversation be held with Dr. Chester. He understood there were typically no strings tied to pothole funds. Why was Greenfield any different? He questioned whether the school had spent or earmarked the funds for a specific purpose. Councilor Siano believed Gill/Montague and Mohawk had been awarded their Pothole Funds because they had joined the GIC. Councilor Allis expressed concern 1.) With issues facing both the Greenfield and Gill/Montague School systems 2.) Who would sit on the committee? 3.) Who would be making the decisions? At this point Gill/Montague doesn't have a budget. Councilor Joseph stated our school system was in dire straits. If the Town budgeted more conservatively during the last 3 to 10 years, \$200,000.00 would not be so direly needed. As a community, we have put ourselves in the position to have to fight for funding from the State. President Maloney stated the Town Council would not rush a decision on this issue. He noted DESE told Greenfield and Montague in order to regionalize they need the following: **A.** a regional planning committee **B.** a vote from the Legislative body of the respective towns and **C.** the process takes about 2 or so years. The School Committee has been told they have the authority to create a Superintendence Union with a majority vote from each Committee. President Maloney stated information would be gathered regarding requirements to form Regional Planning. Ms. Kelly suggested if

Councilors had additional questions regarding the School, they should forward them prior to the Town Council meeting on November 19, 2008.

ADJOURNMENT: On a motion by Councilor Allis, second by Councilor Joseph, it was unanimously **VOTED:** TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 12:41P.M.

A true copy,
Attest: _____
Maureen T. Winseck, Town Clerk

GREENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS

GCTV-15
Regular Meeting
November 12, 2008

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