

GREENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
November 19, 2008

GCTV-15

12:00 noon

**CALL TO ORDER:** Meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by President Maloney.

**ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:** Roll Call was taken. All Councilors were present.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Mayor Christine Forgey; Director of Municipal Finance and Administration Marjorie L. Kelly; Town Accountant Mike Kociela; Chief Assessor Audrey Murphy; Chairman of the Board of Assessors Richard Henry; School Superintendant Susan Hollins; Town Clerk Maureen Winseck; School Committee members Gregory Aubin, Donovan Eastman and Maryelen Calderwood; Greenfield High School Acting Principal Donna Woodcock; Teachers Union President Tom Bevacqua; Public Safety Commissioner, Gary Longley; Anita Fritz and Mackenzie Issler, the *Recorder*; Dave Vallette, the *Republican*; GCTV-15 staff; and members of the public.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:** Councilor Joseph read the following Public Hearing and Notice: In accordance with the Home Rule Charter, the Greenfield Town Council will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, November 19, 2008, beginning at 7:00 p.m. at GCTV-15, 393 Main Street: to consider the following:

- TO ADOPT A RESIDENTIAL FACTOR IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL LAWS, CHAPTER 58, SECTION 1A, WHICH SHALL BE USED BY THE BOARD OF ASSESSORS TO DETERMINE THE PERCENTAGES OF THE LOCAL TAX LEVY TO BE BORNE BY EACH CLASS OF REAL AND PERSONAL PROPERTY. THE ASSESSORS SHALL PROVIDE ALL INFORMATION AND DATA RELEVANT TO MAKING SUCH DETERMINATION AND THE FISCAL EFFECT OF THE AVAILABLE ALTERNATIVES. THE HEARING IS REQUIRED UNDER SECTION 56 OF CHAPTER 40, MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL LAWS.
- 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

The Town Council will consider the above at their meeting on Wednesday, November 19, 2008, which begins at 7:00 p.m. at the GCTV-15 Studio, 393 Main Street.

A full copy of the proposals are available for review in the Greenfield Town Clerk's Office, 14 Court Square, Greenfield, MA, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday and 8:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m., Friday.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

In accordance with the Home Rule, Charter the Greenfield Town Council will consider the following on Wednesday, November 19, 2008, beginning at 7:00 p.m. at GCTV-15, 393 Main Street:

Amend Section 200-2.1 - Amend existing definition of "family day-care home" to state: FAMILY CHILD CARE HOME -- A private residence that, on a regular basis, receives for temporary custody and care during part or all of the day, children up to and through age twelve or children under sixteen years of age if such children have special needs, and receives for temporary custody and care for a limited number of hours, children of school age in accordance with regulations promulgated by the Office of Child Care Services of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; provided however, that the number of children under the age of 16 must not exceed ten. A family child care shall not mean a private residence used for an informal cooperative arrangement among neighbors or relatives, or the occasional care of children with or without compensation therefore.

A full copy of the proposals is available for review in the Greenfield Town Clerk's Office, 14 Court Square, Greenfield, MA, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday and 8:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m., Friday.

President Maloney opened the Public Hearing at 7:13 pm. He asked if anyone from the public wished to comment regarding the Tax Classification. No one from the public spoke. The Public Hearing would be left open.

President Maloney asked if anyone from the public wished to speak regarding the Fiscal Year 2009 Supplemental Budget. Donovan Eastman, School Committee member, spoke as a citizen rather than a School Committee member. He favored the \$250,000.00 appropriation for the School Department. President Maloney closed the Public Hearing at 7:20 pm.

Councilor Joseph held the second reading:

- o 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

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

MAYOR: None.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE SUPERINTENDENT: Mayor Forgey, Ms. Kelly, and Dr. Hollins spoke to the Town Council at length regarding the Fiscal Year 2009 Supplemental Budget request for the Schools.

President Maloney called a recess at 9:08 pm. The Town Council reconvened at 9:25 pm.

TOWN OFFICERS: None.

**MOTIONS, ORDERS, AND RESOLUTIONS**

**Order no. FY 09 -046**

**Financial Order 09-12**

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

**MOVED:** THAT IT BE ORDERED THAT THE YEAR 2009 EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE BUDGET BE REDUCED BY \$600,000 AND THE SUM OF \$425,000 BE TRANSFERRED TO DEPARTMENTAL BUDGETS AS FOLLOWS:

- \$3,000 TO TOWN COUNCIL SALARY AND WAGES
- \$32,000 TO TREASURER’S EXPENDITURES
- \$15,000 TO LICENSING COMMISSION SALARY AND WAGES
- \$50,000 TO VETERANS’ EXPENDITURES
- \$75,000 TO UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION
- \$250,000 TO GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**DISCUSSION:** President Maloney stated the proposed transfers would be discussed individually. He announced the Town Council budget would not provide fees to allow Councilors to attend seminars or conventions. The \$3,000.00 would restore the Council Administrative Assistant to full time. President Maloney explained \$32,000 for the Treasures’ office was due to legal expenses for the recuperation of Tax Titles. The Town took in far more than this amount being requested. The intent of the original reduction to the Licensing Commission wage line was to have existing staff fill in for the Administrative Assistant; however this did not work out. \$50,000 for the Veteran’s expenditures were for payments required by the Town. Councilor Joseph noted the town would be reimbursed by the State for this expense. President Maloney explained \$75,000.00 for Unemployment Compensation which was due to lay offs this year. Ms. Kelly expected the Town Council would have to visit this item at the end of the Fiscal Year to add an additional \$50,000.00 to \$75,000.00 to the line. Councilors Guin, Allis, Singer, Farrell, Martin, Joseph, Mason, and President Maloney would vote in favor of this proposal. Councilors requested the School budget expenditures for the \$250,000.00 be shown independently from the original budget passed in June.

It was unanimously

**VOTED:** THE FISCAL YEAR 2009 EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE BUDGET BE REDUCED BY \$600,000 AND THE SUM OF \$425,000 BE TRANSFERRED TO DEPARTMENTAL BUDGETS AS FOLLOWS:

- \$3,000 TO TOWN COUNCIL SALARY AND WAGES
- \$32,000 TO TREASURER’S EXPENDITURES
- \$15,000 TO LICENSING COMMISSION SALARY AND WAGES
- \$50,000 TO VETERANS’ EXPENDITURES
- \$75,000 TO UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

- \$250,000 TO GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Councilor Joseph stated the Ways and Means Committee forwarded positive recommendations to the Town Council for the following orders.

**Order no. FY 09 -047**

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

**VOTED:** THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL ADOPT A MINIMUM RESIDENTIAL FACTOR OF ONE (1) RESULTING IN AN EQUAL TAX RATE FOR ALL CLASSES OF PROPERTY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2009.

**Order no. FY 09 -047**

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

**VOTED:** THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL VOTE THAT NO RESIDENTIAL EXEMPTION BE ADOPTED FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009.

**Order no. FY 09 -047**

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

**VOTED:** THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL VOTE THAT NO SMALL COMMERCIAL EXEMPTION BE ADOPTED FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009.

**Order no. FY 09 -048**

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

**MOVED:** THAT THE GREENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL AMENDS THE CODE OF THE TOWN OF GREENFIELD CHAPTER 200, SECTON 2.1 TITLED "TERMS AND WORDS" SUBSECTION "B" BY DELETING THE CURRENT DEFINITION OF "FAMILY DAY-CARE HOME" AND INSERTING THE FOLLOWING:

FAMILY CHILD CARE HOME -- A PRIVATE RESIDENCE THAT, ON A REGULAR BASIS, RECEIVES FOR TEMPORARY CUSTODY AND CARE DURING PART OR ALL OF THE DAY, CHILDREN UP TO AND THROUGH AGE TWELVE OR CHILDREN UNDER SIXTEEN YEARS OF AGE IF SUCH CHILDREN HAVE SPECIAL NEEDS, AND RECEIVES FOR TEMPORARY CUSTODY AND CARE FOR A LIMITED NUMBER OF HOURS, CHILDREN OF SCHOOL AGE IN ACCORDANCE WITH REGULATIONS PROMULGATED BY THE OFFICE OF CHILD CARE SERVICES OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS; PROVIDED HOWEVER, THAT THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 16 MUST NOT EXCEED TEN. A FAMILY CHILD CARE SHALL NOT MEAN A PRIVATE RESIDENCE USED FOR AN INFORMAL COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENT AMONG NEIGHBORS OR RELATIVES, OR THE OCCASIONAL CARE OF CHILDREN WITH OR WITHOUT COMPENSATION THEREFORE.

**DISCUSSION:** Councilor Guin explained the discussion to date regarding the proposed amendment including this definition and the zoning change proposal for family day cares. The Economic Development Committee forwarded a positive recommendation to change the definition for Family Day Care Home only.

It was unanimously

**VOTED:** THAT THE GREENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL AMENDS THE CODE OF THE TOWN OF GREENFIELD CHAPTER 200, SECTON 2.1 TITLED "TERMS AND WORDS" SUBSECTION "B" BY DELETING THE CURRENT DEFINITION OF "FAMILY DAY-CARE HOME" AND INSERTING THE FOLLOWING:

FAMILY CHILD CARE HOME -- A PRIVATE RESIDENCE THAT, ON A REGULAR BASIS, RECEIVES FOR TEMPORARY CUSTODY AND CARE DURING PART OR ALL OF THE DAY, CHILDREN UP TO AND THROUGH AGE TWELVE OR CHILDREN UNDER SIXTEEN YEARS OF AGE IF SUCH CHILDREN HAVE SPECIAL NEEDS, AND RECEIVES FOR TEMPORARY CUSTODY AND CARE FOR A LIMITED NUMBER OF HOURS, CHILDREN OF SCHOOL AGE IN ACCORDANCE WITH REGULATIONS PROMULGATED BY THE OFFICE OF CHILD CARE SERVICES OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS; PROVIDED HOWEVER, THAT THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 16 MUST NOT EXCEED TEN. A FAMILY CHILD CARE SHALL NOT MEAN A PRIVATE RESIDENCE USED FOR AN INFORMAL COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENT AMONG NEIGHBORS OR RELATIVES, OR THE OCCASIONAL CARE OF CHILDREN WITH OR WITHOUT COMPENSATION THEREFORE.

**Order no. FY 09 -049**

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

**MOVED:** THAT THE GREENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL PURSUANT TO CHARTER SECTION 2-10 APPROVES OF THE FOLLOWING APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR TO THE LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES: ADRIENNE BOUDREAU — THREE YEAR TERM JUNE 2011 (TO REPLACE BRENDAN TAFEEE).

**DISCUSSION:** Councilor Allis stated the Appointments and Ordinance Committee forwarded a positive recommendation.

It was unanimously

**VOTED:** THAT THE GREENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL PURSUANT TO CHARTER SECTION 2-10 APPROVES OF THE FOLLOWING APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR TO THE LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES: ADRIENNE BOUDREAU — THREE YEAR TERM JUNE 2011 (TO REPLACE BRENDAN TAFEEE).

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

**APPOINTMENTS AND ORDINANCE COMMITTEE-** Chairman Allis stated additional info was requested regarding the Senior Tax Work off Plan. He noted the Ways and Means Committee would also discuss this issue and the Appointments and Ordinance Committee. The next meeting would be held on December 8, 2008 if needed.

**COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE-** Chairman McLellan stated the next meeting would be held on November 24, 2008 with the Greening of Greenfield to discuss the Greenfield Town Energy Audit.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE** – Chairman Guin stated a meeting will be scheduled to discuss the Zoning Amendment for the Family Day Care.

**WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE** – Chairman Joseph stated the committee discussed the Senior Tax Work off Plan, but has not reached a conclusion.

**EDUCATION TASK FORCE COMMITTEE-** Chairman Joseph stated the committee would meet tomorrow, November 20, 2008.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:** President Maloney discussed a letter received from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Commissioner Mitchell D. Chester (letter attached) regarding Pothole Funds. He would assign the task of studying Regionalization and the potential for “shared services” to the Education Task Force in order to fulfill the Town Council requirements set forth in the letter. Mayor Forgey stated the Greenfield and Gill/Montague School Committees had met on Monday, November 17, 2008. During the meeting Gill/ Montague School Committee withdrew their vote to apply for a State Grant for \$25,000.00 exploring Regionalization. The Greenfield School Committee voted in favor of applying for the State Grant for \$25,000.00 exploring costs savings. She noted the Grant deadline was the end of this week. There would be another meeting on December 8, 2008 between the two School Committees at a location yet to be determined.

Councilor Allis thanked all of the organizations and people who participated and attended the Veterans’ Day Parade. President Maloney thanked Christine Scott, Bryan Smith, the GHS Key Club, Councilors Allis, Letourneau, and Siano for their participation in the Veterans’ Day Parade.

**MOTION:** On a motion by Councilor McLellan, second by Councilor Farrell, it was, unanimously  
**VOTED:** TO RESERVE A PAGE IN THE MINUETS FOR EDWARD MICKA, SR. A LONG TIME ZBA MEMBER AND POLL WORKER AND LINDA GIBOWICZ A FORMER TEACHER FOR THE GREENFIELD SCHOOL SYSTEM.

**MOTIONS FOR RECONSIDERATION:** None.

**PUBLIC FORUM:** None.

**ADJOURNMENT:** On a motion by Councilor Farrell, second by Councilor Allis, it was unanimously  
**VOTED:** TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 10:45P.M.

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

GREENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS

GCTV-15  
Regular Meeting  
November 12, 2008

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

# In memory of

*FORMER MEMBER OF THE ZONING BOARD OF  
APPEALS AND LONG-TIME POLL WORKER ON  
ELECTION DAYS*

*DR. EDWARD S. MICKA, SR. JANUARY  
11, 1931- NOVEMBER 15, 2008*

*AND*

*LONG-TIME SCHOOL DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEE  
LINDA M. GIBOWICZ  
1947- 2008*

