

GREENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
October 19, 2011

GCTV-15

7:00 pm

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

President Singer 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. All Councilors were present.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Mayor William Martin; Director of Municipal Finance and Administration Marjorie L. Kelly; Town Clerk Maureen Winseck; DPW Superintendant Sandra Shields; GCTV-15 staff; and members of the public.

**ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:** On a motion by Councilor Farrell, second by Councilor Devlin, it was unanimously **VOTED:** TO ACCEPT THE TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 14 AND 21, 2011.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:** None.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

**MAYOR:** Mayor Martin discussed the following:

- The Pumping Station bridge abutments and dam would be repaired and the bridge would remain as is. In the future a citizens group would hopefully begin a movement to repair the bridge.
- The appropriation request for \$90,000 from Fund 1610, Sale of Town Owned Land, for the following purposes: \$25,000 for the reclamation of soil at the Town "Poor Farm" under the contract with Just Roots; and \$65,000 for the second year option on the Lunt property.
- Mass SBA has allowed the Greenfield High School Building Committee to change the High School project from a repair to a renovation.
- Reviewed the Fiscal Year 2011 revenue.
- The Solar Farm should be up and running in November.
- Phase one of the Hazardous Waste Assessment performed on the Lunt Property was completed and phase two had begun. When phase two was completed, the report would indicate what areas of the building and property were buildable and what needed to be removed. There would be public forums held when this was completed.
- If a majority of the Main Street merchants wanted free holiday parking, it would be considered.

**Ms. Kelly** responded to questions from Councilors:

- The Unions have agreed to meet once a week with the Town to discuss Health Insurance. November has been set as a target to determine decisions.
- Parking revenue information would be provided to the Council in November.

Mayor Martin invited the Councilors to a groundbreaking ceremony to celebrate the return of the Vermonter Train service to Greenfield. The ceremony will be held on October 20, 2011, 2:15 p.m. at the Greenfield Energy Park.

**SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT:** Dr. Hollins spoke of the following:

- An increase in total student population of 80 students over last year's. Because of this, the Town was not spending as much.
- Transportation costs.
- Recent and near future retirements and the number of teachers hired over the past two years.
- Use of a Grant to enroll 10 administrators for a National School Leadership program.
- Greenfield schools testing procedures to evaluate student progress with a particular emphasis on reading.
- General maintenance and capital work being done on School facilities.
- Would look into the lower SAT scores.

**TOWN OFFICERS:** None.

**MOTIONS, ORDERS, AND RESOLUTIONS**

**Order no. FY 12 -039**

**MOTION:** On a motion by Councilor Allis, second by Councilor Farrell, 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 HISTORICAL COMMISSION: BENTON COOK - 3-YEAR TERM - JUNE 30, 2014.

**DISCUSSION:** Councilor Allis stated the committee forwarded a unanimous positive recommendation.

It was unanimously,

**VOTED:** TO APPROVE MOTION ORDER NO. FY 12 -039.

**Order no. FY 12 -038**

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

**MOVED:** THAT IT BE ORDERED THAT THE GREENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES THE ATTACHED RESERVE FUND TRANSFER FOR POSTAGE BE TRANSFERED INTO ACCOUNT NUMBER 0100-210- 5344 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$62.26.

**DISCUSSION:** Councilor Sutphin stated the committee forwarded a unanimous positive recommendation.

It was unanimously,

**VOTED:** TO APPROVE MOTION ORDER NO. FY 12 -038.

**PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS AND SIMILAR PAPERS** None.

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

**APPOINTMENTS AND ORDINANCE COMMITTEE-** Chairman Allis noted work on the General Ordinance Review continued. The committee would consider the naming of Wedgewood Gardens at the regular November meeting.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE** – Chairman Wisnewski stated the committee created a list of questions to be discussed regarding Municipal Aggregation.

**COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE** – Chairman Vicencio-Rasku reminded the Town Council of the “Greenfield Community Forum” for Precincts 1, 2, & 3 taking place at GCC Downtown on Tuesday, October 25, 2011. For additional information, there was a Facebook page titled “Greenfield Community Forum” for citizens to post questions and gather information. All Councilors, residents, and businesses were invited to attend.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Councilor Sutphin held first readings:

- Ordered that the Town Council, with the approval of the Mayor, vote to transfer \$18,600 from bond proceeds for repairs to the Youth Center, originally approved by the Town Council on May 27, 2007 and bonded on December 15, 2009, to payment to upgrade fire alarm systems at the Federal Street School and Academy of Early Learning.
- Ordered that, \$90,000 be appropriated from Fund 1610, Sale of Town Owned Land, to the following purposes:
  - \$25,000 for the reclamation of soil at the Town “Poor Farm” under the contract with Just Roots.
  - \$65,000 for the second year option on the Lunt property.

**MOTION:** On a motion by Councilor Wisnewski, second by Councilor Sutphin,

**MOVED:** THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL PRESIDENT WAS CHARGED WITH SUBMITTING A LETTER TO THE MASSACHUSETTS LEGISLATIVE REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE TO EXPRESS OUR CONCERNS WITH THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE HOUSE SECOND BERKSHIRE DISTRICT.

**DISCUSSION:** Councilor Wisnewski expressed concerns regarding the proposed redistricting with Greenfield being districted with communities for which it had very little in common geographically, economically, and culturally. Councilor Hoffman agreed, noting the “bizarre” shape of the proposed district. Councilor Farrell suggested Councilors make comments regarding the district individually, not by letter from the President on behalf of the Town Council. President Singer suggested a redistricting representative attend the next meeting to explain the process and reasoning behind the proposal. The seven day response period was very short to allow for towns to consider the proposal. Councilor McLellan suggested a letter from the Town Council expressing concern and requesting information. It was suggested that there had been a public process which occurred prior to the proposal being created. Councilor Vicencio-Rasku voiced objections to the changing of the district

boundaries which changed the Representatives. Councilor Sutphin reiterated this process was based on population. She would not vote in favor of this motion. Councilor Allis noted the redistricting process took place very openly. After Council discussion, the Mayor suggested he could compose a letter outlining the Town Council’s concerns regarding the proposed redistricting and deliver it to Senator Rosenberg. Councilors Wisniewski and Sutphin withdrew the motion and second respectively. The following were questions for the Mayor to forward to Senator Rosenberg:

1. What geographical and cultural considerations were used to determine redistricting as it pertains to Greenfield?
2. Were there any other communities the size of Greenfield that were similarly affected or implicated in the redistricting?
3. During public comment on the issue, was there discussion that a configuration like this would be the outcome of redistricting? In other words, was thought given to the geographic diversity that we are seeing here?
4. Was there a redistricting proposal that combined Greenfield and Montague which was reviewed and rejected? Why weren’t Montague and Greenfield considered in the same district?
5. Was consideration given to the fact that the two incumbent representatives would no longer be eligible to serve communities they currently represent in Franklin and Berkshire Counties?
6. How does this change or affect the efficiency of State Representatives and Senators in this region in regard to communicating with each other?

**MOTIONS FOR RECONSIDERATION:** None.

**PUBLIC FORUM:** Susan Wargafik, 45 Forest Ave, of the Greening of Greenfield Committee, invited the Council to an event titled “Creating Greenfield’s Future: Our Food, Economy, and Community” on Sat, November 5, 2011, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm at Greenfield Community College, Main Campus. She noted much of the discussion held that day would be relevant to the upcoming Master Plan review.

**ADJOURNMENT:** On a motion by Councilor Farrell, second by Councilor Devlin, it was unanimously **VOTED:** TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:43 P.M.

A true copy,

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

**GREENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS**

GCTV-15  
Regular Meeting  
October 19, 2011

1. Kelner, Mariann	P						
2. McLellan, Thomas	P						
3. Allis, Brickett	P						
4. Ronhave, Steven	P						
5. Singer, David	P						
6. Hoffman, Hillary	P						
7. Renaud, Karen	P						
8. Vicencio-Rasku, Iris	P						
9. Hirschfeld, Norman	P						
10. Farrell, Timothy	P						
11. Wisniewski, Mark	P						
12. Devlin, Patrick	P						
13. Sutphin, Tracey	P						