

GREENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

Regular Meeting Minutes

January 17, 2018

Greenfield High School, 21 Barr Avenue

7:00 pm

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Renaud.

President Renaud 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 All Councilor were present.

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor William Martin; Town Clerk Deborah J. Tuttle; Finance Director/Town Auditor/Town Accountant Elizabeth Braccia; Director of Administration Mark Smith; School Committee Chairperson Adrienne Nunez; School Committee Secretary Donald Alexander; Special Assistant to the Mayor for Special Projects John Lunt; GCTV-15 staff; Aviva Luttrell, *the Recorder*; and members of the public.

The Pledge of Allegiance was held.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT: The following members of the public spoke regarding:

- Maryellen Calderwood, 82 Sanderson Street, read the attached two letters from Tonya Avery, 106 A Laurel Street and Diane Clancy and Suzanne Elkin, 32 Abbott Street in opposition of privatization of town trash.
- David Cohen, 335 Green River Road, spoke in opposition of privatization of town trash.
- Sarah Ahern, 15 Abbott Street, spoke in opposition of privatization of town trash.
- Jim Geisman, 64 East Cleveland Street, spoke in opposition of privatization of town trash.
- Margo Jones, 28 Chestnut Hill, spoke in support of the reassignment of funds from the Hurricane Irene Bond to the Parking Garage project.
- David Moscaritolo, 43 Country Club Road, stated he was speaking on behalf of 207 residents who were part of a new Facebook group he created titled "Stop Spending Greenfield" who were concerned with the town debt.
- Maria Burge, 29 Garfield Street, welcomed the new Councilors, noted she had taken on a Veterans liaison role in the community and suggested the Town Council should be more active in community service.
- Dorothy McIver, 88 Columbus Avenue, spoke in opposition of privatization of town trash.
- John Benzinger, 141 Stony Lodge Rd. Wiliamstown, spoke in support of the reassignment of funds from the Hurricane Irene Bond to the Parking Garage project.
- Jeffery Dome, Fiske Mill Road Shelburne, spoke in support of the reassignment of funds from the Hurricane Irene Bond to the Parking Garage project.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: Per the request of President Renaud, Councilor Stempel read the following Public Hearing notice: In accordance with Home Rule Charter, the Greenfield Town Council will hold a public hearing on Wed., Jan. 17, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at the Greenfield High School Cafeteria, 21 Barr Avenue. to receive public input on the following:

- The Sum of \$ 529,271.23 to be reassigned from the excess funds of the Hurricane Irene Bond to the Parking Garage Capital project.
- The Sum Not to Exceed \$150,000 to be appropriated from the General Stabilization Fund for the purpose of performing a Town Wide Revaluation of Town Properties not included in annual valuations.

The Town Council will consider the same on Wed., Jan. 17, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. at Greenfield High School Cafeteria, 21 Barr Avenue. Materials can be obtained from the Town Clerk's Office, 14 Court Sq. from 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Mon. - Fri. or phone 413-772-1555, x. 6163.

Karen Renaud, Greenfield Town Council President

Councilor Stempel held the following second reading:

- The Sum of \$ 529,271.23 to be reassigned from the excess funds of the Hurricane Irene Bond to the Parking Garage Capital project.
- The Sum Not to Exceed \$150,000 to be appropriated from the General Stabilization Fund for the purpose of performing a Town Wide Revaluation of Town Properties not included in annual valuations.

President Renaud opened the Public Hearing at 7:35 pm and asked if anyone from the public wished to speak. Seeing no one she stated the hearing would remain open.

COMMUNICATIONS:

MAYOR: Mayor Martin spoke of:

- Welcomed the new Council.
- Support for the transfer of funds to the Parking Garage.

Mayor Martin and Ms. Braccia responded to questions from the Town Council regarding:

- Issues discovered during the construction of the parking garage which were unexpected.
- The tax rate had been set at \$22.43.
- A request would be forwarded to the Town Council in February for rescinding of borrowings.
- Explanation of bonding, appropriation and rescinding of funds were requested for future information.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM GCET BOARD OF COMMISSIONER AND/OR GCET DIRECTOR"

Mr. Lunt and Ms. Braccia spoke of the following:

- GCET is working temporarily out of offices at 114 Main Street due to the brake in the main water sprinkler line which caused subsequent water damage. There was no interruption in services to customers from this issue.
- A coverage map can be seen on the GCET website.
- Fourth straight month of growth, it's a good step on a long road.
- Budget process.
- Marketing and advertising.
- Innovative network.

Mr. Lunt and Ms. Braccia responded to questions from the Town Council regarding:

- There will be approximately 265 to 275 customers by the end of the month.
- Phone services are being added to services.
- Future services being considered are home security, streaming solutions, straight network TV solutions.
- Plans for Main Street businesses.
- Timeline when a customer requests service.
- Town employees working for GCET; offsets for employees working for GCET and how the employee's duties are being covered; funds from Comcast Cable contract for GCET.

President Renaud asked if anyone wished to speak at the Public Hearing. Maryellen Calderwood, 82 Sanderson Street, spoke in support of the reassignment of funds from the Hurricane Irene Bond to the Parking Garage project.

SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT AND SCHOOL COMMITTEE: Ms. Nunez spoke of the following:

- Welcome new members.
- Process for school closings.
- Subcommittee assignments and budget development.
- The Federal Street art room was expected to open by the first week in February.

Ms. Nunez responded to questions from the Town Council regarding MSBA requirements for Green River School and a deadline to have students in the building so as not to have to repay MSBA funding.

TOWN OFFICERS: None.

President Renaud asked if anyone wished to speak at the Public Hearing. Seeing none she closed the Public Hearing at 8:15 pm.

MOTIONS, ORDERS, AND RESOLUTIONS

Order no. FY 18-062

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

MOVED: THAT IT BE ORDERED THAT THE GREENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL PURSUANT TO CHARTER SECTION 2-10, ACCEPTS THE FOLLOWING APPOINTMENTS BY THE MAYOR TO THE VETERANS ASSISTANT FUND:

- Joe LaChance
- Rodney Gammell
- Michael Bozek
- Loreen Flockerzie
- Timothy Niejadlik

DISCUSSION: Councilor Rickett’s stated Appointment and Ordinance Committee had not met in January to make a recommendation.

It was unanimously,

VOTED: TO APPROVE ORDER NO. FY 18 -062.

Order no. FY 18-053

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

MOVED: THAT IT BE ORDERED, UPON RECOMMENDATION OF MAYOR MARTIN, AN ORDER, TO REPURPOSE \$ 529,271.23 FROM EXCESS FUNDS BORROWED FOR PAYING EXPENSES INCURRED FOR DAMAGE CAUSED BY HURRICANE IRENE ORDERED, THAT: THE SUM OF \$ 529,271.23 TO BE REASSIGNED FROM THE EXCESS FUNDS OF THE HURRICANE IRENE BOND TO THE PARKING GARAGE CAPITAL PROJECT.

DISCUSSION: Councilor Stempel stated the Ways and Means Committee recommendation was to have discussion rather than table the order for further information. Discussion included:

- Questions relating to issues found during construction and when were they were discovered.
- Getting the project up and running.
- Conflicting information received today as opposed to information received last week.
- No reason the Town Council can not consider project “change orders” for the project.

- This project is needed by the State more than the town; they will not shut it down.
- Greenfield is not a walking community; people want to park close to their intended location.
- Historical features intended to be used on the facade could be stored for future use; this was not a necessity at this time.
- Time was needed to sift through the information recently received.
- Clarification of what a motion to table meant for this vote.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Mass, second by Councilor Allis, it was by majority roll call, 10 yes and 2 no,

TABLED: THAT IT BE ORDERED, UPON RECOMMENDATION OF MAYOR MARTIN, AN ORDER, TO REPURPOSE \$ 529,271.23 FROM EXCESS FUNDS BORROWED FOR PAYING EXPENSES INCURRED FOR DAMAGE CAUSED BY HURRICANE IRENE ORDERED, THAT: THE SUM OF \$ 529,271.23 TO BE REASSIGNED FROM THE EXCESS FUNDS OF THE HURRICANE IRENE BOND TO THE PARKING GARAGE CAPITAL PROJECT.

Order no. FY 18-054

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

MOVED: THAT IT BE ORDERED, UPON RECOMMENDATION OF MAYOR MARTIN, AN ORDER TO APPROPRIATE \$150,000 FOR THE PURPOSE OF PERFORMING A TOWN WIDE REVALUATION OF TOWN PROPERTIES, THE SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$150,000 TO BE APPROPRIATED FROM THE GENERAL STABILIZATION FUND FOR THE PURPOSE OF PERFORMING A TOWN WIDE REVALUATION OF TOWN PROPERTIES NOT INCLUDED IN ANNUAL VALUATIONS.

DISCUSSION: Councilor Stempel stated the Ways and Means Committee forwarded a majority positive recommendation to approve and amended order by striking \$150,000 and inserting in its place \$75,000 and also inserting the word “nonresident” after the word “of” in the motion.

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

MOVED: THAT IT BE ORDERED TO STRIKE “\$150,000” AND INSERT IN ITS PLACE “\$75,000” AND INSERT “NONRESIDENT” AFTER THE WORD “OF” IN THE MOTION.

DISCUSSION: Discussion included:

- Focusing on commercial property revaluation ensures assessments are up to date.
- Appropriation could be further reduced.
- More residential turnover ensures residential revaluation.
- A commercial property on Main Street just sold for \$90,000 over the assessed amount; this example shows the need for commercial reevaluation.
- There are fewer than 6000 residential properties and 900 commercial properties in Greenfield.

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

MOVED: THAT IT BE ORDERED TO STRIKE “\$75,000” AND INSERT IN ITS PLACE “\$30,000.”

DISCUSSION: President Renaud asked if anyone had questions. She read the order as amended and asked the Town Clerk to do a roll call vote: THE SUM NOT TO EXCEED **\$30,000** TO BE APPROPRIATED FROM THE GENERAL STABILIZATION FUND FOR THE PURPOSE OF PERFORMING A TOWN WIDE REVALUATION OF **NONRESIDENTIAL** TOWN PROPERTIES NOT INCLUDED IN ANNUAL VALUATIONS.

It was by roll call, majority, 9 yes and 3 no,

VOTED: TO APPROVE ORDER AS AMENDED.

Discussion was held regarding the votes the Town Council should take relating to the amendment. Councilor Allis read the motion as amended as follows: THE SUM NOT TO EXCEED **\$30,000** TO BE APPROPRIATED FROM THE GENERAL STABILIZATION FUND FOR THE PURPOSE OF PERFORMING A TOWN WIDE REVALUATION OF **NONRESIDENTIAL** TOWN PROPERTIES NOT INCLUDED IN ANNUAL VALUATIONS.

President Renaud stated the vote would be retaken to ensure clarity.

It was by roll call, majority, 9 yes and 3 no,
VOTED: TO APPROVE ORDER AS AMENDED.

It was by roll call, unanimously,
VOTED: THAT IT BE ORDERED, TO APPROPRIATE **\$30,000** FOR THE PURPOSE OF PERFORMING A TOWN WIDE REVALUATION OF TOWN PROPERTIES ORDERED, THAT: THE SUM NOT TO EXCEED **\$30,000** TO BE APPROPRIATED FROM THE GENERAL STABILIZATION FUND FOR THE PURPOSE OF PERFORMING A TOWN WIDE REVALUATION OF **NONRESIDENTIAL** TOWN PROPERTIES NOT INCLUDED IN ANNUAL VALUATIONS.

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS AND SIMILAR PAPERS None.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE – Chairperson Stempel stated the committee would discuss the tabled issue of “The Sum of \$ 529,271.23 to be reassigned from the excess funds of the Hurricane Irene Bond to the Parking Garage Capital project” at its February meeting.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE – Chairperson Mass announced the committee would discuss “facilities” at their January meeting and possibly the Student Shadowing program at the February meeting.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE – Chairperson Leonovich noted the committee did not meet in January; the next meeting would be held on February 13, 2018.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

MOTIONS FOR RECONSIDERATION: None.

ADJOURNMENT: On a motion by Councilor Allis, second by Councilor Ricketts, it was unanimously

VOTED: TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:01 P.M.

A true copy,

Attest: _____
Deborah J. Tuttle, Town Clerk

GREENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS

GCTV-15
 Regular Meeting
 January 17, 2018

	Attendance	18-053 Motion to Table	18-054 amendment \$75,000	18-054 amendment \$30,000	18-054 vote as amended	
1. Sund, Verne	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
2. Lobik, John	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
3. Allis, Brickett	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
4. Muzyka-Pyfrom, Wanda	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
5. Dolan, Timothy	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
6. Gilmour, Sheila	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	
7. Wheeler, Otis	Y	Y	N	N	Y	
8. Mayo, Douglas	Y	N	N	N	Y	
9. Leonovich, Daniel	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
10. Mass, Isaac	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
11. Renaud, Karen	Y	---	---	---	---	
12. Ricketts, Penny	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
13. Stempel, Ashley	Y	Y	N	N	Y	
		10 yes 2 no	9 yes 3 no	9 yes 3 no		