

**Town of Greenville
Board of Selectmen**

Minutes – February 14, 2024

Call to order at 5:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Meeting Room, 46 Main Street, Greenville. Present: Chairperson Carla Mary, Selectman Kathleen McNamara, and Town Administrator Tara Sousa.

Old Business

None

New Business

Warrant Draft, Public Hearing Handouts

The Selectmen reviewed the 2024 Warrant draft. The Selectmen discussed how to split up the reading duties during the hearing. The Town Administrator relayed that Attorney Bedard had one recommendation, regarding gross budgeting of the police cruiser article was needed, but she was awaiting feedback from our new Department of Revenue Auditor, as this was the same language approved 3 years prior. She discussed the need for a separate public hearing for the bond article, which was posted for February 21, 2024. Potential funding sources, such as a USDA Rural Development Loan/Grant, were discussed. The Board reviewed the Tax Impact Estimate handout.

Water/Sewer Revenue Analysis

The Selectmen reviewed the calculations for the rate needed to support the water and sewer operations contract. Chairperson Mary confirmed with the Town Administrator that a \$2.00 increase on water and roughly \$10.00 increase on sewer would only meet the annual operating costs, and would not provide substantive additional funds for capital expenditure planning.

Board of Selectmen Town Report Narrative

The Selectmen reviewed the draft Selectmen's town report narrative. Chairperson Mary requested a revision regarding the transition of water and sewer accounts payable to the Town Administrator and Bookkeeper. There were no other changes.

The meeting was in recess from 5:45 until 6:00 p.m.

6:00 p.m. - Budget Public Hearing

Chairperson Mary opened the hearing by reading the following: "Pursuant to RSA 32:5, the Greenville Board of Selectmen will hold a public hearing regarding the proposed 2024 budget and warrant articles on Wednesday, February 14th, 2024 at 6:00 pm in the Town Hall Meeting Room, 46 Main Street, Greenville (Chamberlin Street entrance). In the event of inclement weather, the snow date will be February 15th, 2024 at 6:00 pm." The Selectmen began with review of the general fund budget (Article 4), reading each section and opening discussion.

Richard Eaton, of 5 High Street, inquired about the increase in election costs, such as ballot clerks. Moderator Marshall Buttrick noted that there are 4 elections scheduled in 2024. Mr. Eaton recommended that funds be allocated for brick repair on the Town Hall. The Town Administrator answered that there was an article approved at the 2023 Town Meeting for that and other exterior work. She reported that the Town had been able to obtain 2 quotes last year, and hoped to schedule the work this year. Mr. Eaton asked if the Emergency Management budget was the salary amount for that position. Ed White, Emergency Management Director, answered that that amount funds stipends, supplies, etc., and offered to share the full breakdown.

Regarding the proposed Wastewater Budget, Town Treasurer Elisa Fitzgerald asked about the increases from 2022 to 2024. Chairperson Mary the Town Administrator discussed the operations contract changes and cost increases.

Marshall Buttrick asked if there are rate changes anticipated with the proposed sewer and water budgets. Attention was directed to the Tax Impact handout, which reflected likely increases of \$10 and \$2 respectively.

Returning to the General Fund budget, Mr. Eaton asked if the substantial reduction in streetlight cost was due to new lighting or reductions in the Eversource rate. The Town Administrator answered that the reduction is due to the LED streetlight conversion. She noted that the Town is in a long-term contract for electric rates, so we will not have the same reduction as the Eversource rate.

Ms. Fitzgerald asked if the sewer and water rates will be sufficient to pay back the General Fund this year, as the funds ended the year owing the General Fund. The Town Administrator did not anticipate being able to fully repay the General Fund, due to the delay between changing and then collecting the new rate.

The Selectmen reviewed the revenue portion of the handout, then transitioned to reviewing the warrant articles not already discussed.

Regarding Article 3, it was noted that there would be a bond hearing February 21, 2024. The Town Administrator discussed the construction estimate for the previously approved chemical feed facility, and that the allocated funding for the project was approximately \$460,000 short, due to sharp cost increases. Chairperson Mary discussed that the flow pacing within the new facility should reduce chemical usage, resulting in some operational savings.

Marshall Buttrick asked about the status of the Town's discharge permit. The Town Administrator answered that we are meeting the effluent requirements of our permit.

Ms. Fitzgerald asked if the sewer rates would be funding the debt. The Town Administrator answered that current sewer debts are funded by the general fund, and if additional debt were incurred, she expected it would also be charged to the general fund.

Marshall Buttrick asked about the terms of a potential bond. The Town Administrator answered that the Town will be exploring all options, including requesting additional congressionally directed spending. She discussed the potential terms under a USDA Rural Development loan/grant, which she estimated would have an interest rate and payment similar to some of the Town's existing bonds, with a \$0.13/1,000 estimated tax impact next year, if approved.

Regarding article #8, Marshall Buttrick asked about the (unassigned) fund balance. He was referred to the Tax Impact handout, which listed the DRA (2023) retained fund balance as \$1,421,388.

Regarding article 11, the Town Administrator discussed that the DRA may require rewording of the article to gross budget the full \$73,804 noted in parentheses. Mark Winslow, of 238 Adams Hill Road, asked if the proposed cruiser would be a truck. Chief McTague answered that it would be truck.

Mr. Winslow asked if there had been a resolution to the cable franchise agreement, and the Town Administrator answered that the Town was awaiting word from Comcast on the success of their grant application before finalizing any agreement.

Regarding Article #16, Allyson Wilkins discussed that 8% of Keno revenue goes to the venue, with 92 % going to the State. She explained that the State committed to 18-19% of Keno finds going to fund public kindergarten, but that funding has not gone up, so Keno is just supplanting other State monies.

Hearing no other comments, Chairperson Mary announced the closure of the public hearing.

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The Selectmen:

- Reviewed, discussed, and approved minutes of the January 24, 2024 meeting.
- Reviewed, discussed, and approved a Purchase Order: Highway.

Motion by Chairperson Mary, 2nd by Selectman McNamara, to adjourn at 6:44 p.m.

Motion carried with 2 in favor, none opposed.

Submitted by: Tara Sousa/Town Administrator

Approved by:



Carla C. Mary/Chairperson

Douglas A. Reardon/Selectman



Kathleen J. McNamara/Selectman