Town of Greene

 Select Board Regular Meeting

 February 12th,2024

Selectboard Present: John Soucy - Chairman, Carol Buzzell - Town Manager, Amanda Leclerc, Sheldon Bubier, Mark Randall

Absent: Kevin Mower

Also present: Greg Keene – Public Works Supervisor, Brent Armstrong - CEO

Members of the public present: Don Bedford, Christine Gianopoulos

This meeting is televised on WGLT channel 7 and 1301 Greene, Maine.

**Call to order**: Soucy called the meeting to order @ 6:01 p.m.

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Leclerc made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 22nd, 2024, meeting and waive the reading of the minutes. Seconded by Randall. Voted 4 – 0

**Treasurer’s Report**: Buzzell stated that the report is on point through December. Buzzell also mentioned the second half of the taxes are due May 1st. Buzzell sent the report to the Budget Committee for the half of year so they can get updated. Buzzell will be asking that the department heads get their budget in by the end of March or the first of April. Soucy stated that Revenue Sharing, Homestead reimbursement, Excise Tax, all look to be on point. Bubier wanted to make sure the bank interest was going back into certain accounts. Buzzell did inform Bubier that it does go back into those accounts.

**Public Discussion**: Nothing to update.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Update on Roads**: Greg stated that they have put a new sprocket on truck # 15. Wiring was also done on another truck. Three trucks went through inspection with one truck still there. The cold patch machine is out of service, the hot box of the machine is completely burnt out and not usable. Greg thanked Dean Staman who looked it over and gave them the parts list at no cost. The crew is doing cold patch with bags and tackling one road at a time. Greg stated the crew is doing a fantastic job. They removed a hanging down limb by request from a couple of bus drivers, this was hitting the top of the buses as they traveled this road. They also received a call regarding a dumped appliance on the side of the road (in the roadway) they went out and removed that item. They also helped Judy at the Historical Society. Greg said what a wonderful girl. They started cleaning the floor drains but are going to wait until spring when the ground thaws out. Soucy also asked about the catch basins around town. Soucy mentioned the potholes on Sawyer and Main Street. Greg said that they will be out there with cold patch to keep working on those potholes. Greg put out a packet for the roadway to the town shed. DEP said that there is supposed to be a five-year inspection and asked for pictures of the pavement, which Greg stated there is no pavement. Greg is going to do some research on this. He suggested a concrete apron. Bubier mentioned contracting out some of the work. There is a lot of shoulder work that needs to be done. This will be discussed more. Soucy suggested a workshop to discuss more on this road maintenance.

**Fema Disaster Assistance**: Buzzell mentioned money is out there for individuals, and business owners. Business owners can apply for a low interest loan. Individuals can also apply for this assistance. Fema is available from 6am to 6pm to assist people or feel free to contact us for assistance. Flyers have been put out at the town office. This information is also on our Facebook page and our website. Deadline to apply is April 1st.

**Update on Transfer Station**: Greg said that there is a shed here on the property and they will move this up to the transfer station for the drums. Greg said the stairs are unsafe and do not meet OSHA compliance, so he wants to build a new deck. The containers that are now being used are only 30 yarders and they used to be 40 yarders, so this is making for more trips. It was also mentioned about the containers being frozen.

**Update on Fire Department**: Soucy mentioned how much quieter January was. They had a total of 30 calls. 26 were medical related and 4 were fire related.

**Update on Main Street Stream Crossing**: Carol was in contact with Rick who is doing our engineering and our consultant. They completed the hydro logic assessment and they have selected structure size and design. The permits need to be sent to the US Army Core of Engineers, which they thought we had this all done but it was not completed. They offered to do this for us for an extra $1,000.00. The board has approved the 1,000.00 extra for the permits. DEP we are exempt from this due to the design. The next stage is the final design process. Then the next step is to get it out for bid. Bedford asked again about the grant. The grant is good until 2025. Bedford was still concerned with what the mainland had told him. Buzzell stated that she talks to them all the time. If the grant expires, we don’t feel that this will happen, but if that happens due to any delays we can ask for an extension. Leclerc also mentioned that with most grants if all applications and paperwork are submitted already, they will usually grant an extension with no issues. Bedford also mentioned how the board has been dragging their feet in regard to this project for years. Bubier stated that they have not been dragging their feet. He also stated that Bubier has only been on the board since August, and Bubier stated that he has been at the town meetings. Bubier and Soucy also stated that it was no fault of the present board of selectmen, they were given misleading and false information. The current Board of Selectmen had to start the process over.

**Storage Containers at the old VFW Building**: This was tabled until a member of GYA is able to attend a meeting.

**Other:** Soucy wanted to make sure with Dave Chabot that the agreement with NECEC regarding money in Escrow is still in the contract. Also, if they destroy our roads will they still cover that?

**NEW BUSINESS**:

**Abatement 2024-08**: This mobile home was already on the land account and was taxed twice. Leclerc made a motion that we abate the amount of $284.70. Seconded by Bubier. Voted 4 – 0

The mobile home at 82 Main Street lot #4 is no longer in the park. The tenant was evicted by the park landlord in 2022 for non-payment of rent. The tenant left no forwarding address. The tenant did not pay taxes owed for 2019-2024. The assessor suggested that the amount of $658.05 be written off as uncollected. Leclerc made a motion that the amount of $658.05 be written off. Seconded by Bubier. Voted 4 – 0

**Greene Transfer Station Facility Rules**: Buzzell updated the Transfer Facility Rules. Loads of brush will be $5.00 for a truck load. Trailer loads no bigger than 16 ft will be $10.00. Leclerc made a motion to accept these prices. Seconded by Bubier. Voted 4 – 0

**Committee Appointment – Conservation Commission**: Leclerc made a motion to accept Nicole Camire’s application for the Conservation Committee. Seconded by Randall. Voted 4 - 0

**Library Trustee Resignation & Appointment**: Christine Gianopolous spoke about the resignation of Todd Hofacker. Leclerc made a motion to accept the application of Justin Lafontaine for Library Trustee. This was seconded by Randall. The board voted 4 – 0 to appoint Justin Lafontaine for this position.

**Emergency Management Director Asst- Appointment:** Leclerc made a motion to accept Eric Farrenkopf’s application for Emergency Management Director Assistant. Seconded by Randall. Voted 4 –0.

**March 5th Primary Election**: Buzzell suggested the closure of the clerk’s office on March 5th for the Presidential Primary Election. Leclerc made a motion to close the clerk’s counter on March 5th. Seconded by Randall. Voted 4 - 0

**Committee Reports**: Nothing to update at this time.

**Other**: Nothing to update.

**Announcements**:

The Selectmen’s meeting will be February 26th at 6:00 P.M. at the Town Office. The Assessor is in the office twice a month. Call the Town Office for an appointment. The CEO will be available during normal business hours. Please call 946-5146 (office) for an appointment.

**Approve Accounts Payables/Payroll Warrants**:

Leclerc moved the following warrants:

**Accounts Payables Warrants**:

Warrant # 70 for $40,069.62

Warrant # 73 for $51,609.99

Warrant # 76 for $472,496.43

**Payroll Warrants**:

Warrant # 69 for $17,114.42

Warrant # 71 for $12,911.22

Warrant # 72 for $1,037.75

Warrant # 75 for $15,112.27

**Ella Thompson Fund:**

Warrant # 74 for $2,243.12

All these were seconded by Bubier.

Voted 4 – 0

Motion by Leclerc to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Bubier.

Meeting adjourned @ 7:01 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Kelly Ouellette, Deputy Town Clerk John Soucy, Chair