Town of Greene

 Selectboard Regular Meeting

 March 11, 2024

Selectboard present: John Soucy – Chairman, Carol Buzzell – Town Manager, Sheldon Bubier, Mark Randall, Kevin Mower.

Absent: Amanda Leclerc.

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

Members of the Public Present: Don Bedford, Phil Lavoie, Anthony Shostack, Crystal Nicholas, Kyle Purington, Joyce Bucciantini, Carl Bucciantini, David Chabot, George Farris, Eric Farrenkopf, Nick Achorn

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

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mower made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 26th meeting and waive the reading of the minutes. Seconded by Bubier. Voted 4-0

**Treasurer’s Report**: Buzzell stated that everything looks good. Letters will be going out to the department heads to have their budgets by the end of April. Then they will get the budget meeting scheduled.

**Public Discussion**: Don Bedford mentioned putting more money in the budget for next year for the box culvert for the Main Street bridge. Soucy stated he thinks the reason why they didn’t put any money in it was because we were going to bond it. Phil Lavoie mentioned that the budget committee did put money in it and at the Town meeting the taxpayers went with the selectboard and decided not to put money in it. Buzzell stated that once we know how much it is we can go back to the Budget Committee. Soucy stated that the taxpayers voted not to fund that line item. Bedford stated he would look it up and if he finds out differently, he will be bringing it back to the next meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Update on Public Works**: Greg stated that the truck is at Viking being put together, so this is in progress. Greg thanked the Fire Department for their assistance during the last storm. Greg also wanted to thank town residents who cleaned out their culverts of leaves. Greg implemented a strategy with his workers to have them take before and after pictures of the storm damage and document hours spent on each project. Greg and Eric hope to get this to FEMA by the 18th. Greg is also looking to purchase gravel from Bubier Construction to fill in some of the deeper areas. He stated that this would be cheaper than purchasing structural fill. Greg said they have been working on North Hatch Hill Road and it will open to traffic, but please still take caution. Greg has a list of roads up on his board and they will continue to work on these until they are finished. Phil Lavoie mentioned the need for more cones and barricades.

He stated that a lot of the cones get lost or destroyed or taken. Phil wants to get together with Public Works to make up a list of what is needed and also wants to get a plan in place for when these disastrous storms hit. Phil asked for $10,000 from the ARPA fund. Greg also asked about purchasing a trailer for all the storm supplies. Greg asked that the bill from Spaulding for the repairs to the hot box come out of the ARPA fund. Motion was made by Mower to pay the amount of $2,373.00 for the Spaulding bill from the ARPA fund. Seconded by Randall. Voted 4 – 0.

**Update on Transfer Station**: Greg stated that he was going to put up the new sign, but the weather was not cooperating that day. Greg said he will definitely get it up soon, but right now the roads are top priority.

**Update on Fire Station**: Phil Lavoie stated that they had 33 calls. 7 were fire related and 26 were medical related.

**Presidential Primary Election – March 5th Results**: Buzzell mentioned that we had 544 residents come in to vote. Results are listed below.

**Republican: Democratic:**

Binkley: 0 Biden: 91

Desantis: 1 Phillips: 9

Haley: 65 Lyons: 16

Ramaswamey: 0

Trump: 357

**Broadband Committee Update**: Carl Bucciantini Broadband committee member spoke about the proposal from Spectrum. The estimated cost of this project is $285,000. This proposal will provide fiber to all of those currently unserved by Spectrum. There are currently 119 residents unserved by Spectrum. There may be an increase in reliability for existing cabled areas as Spectrum improves their infrastructure to accommodate these new installations. There was concern that out of the 119 people not currently receiving services from Spectrum, how many are actually going to purchase the service? It was discussed that the service of high-speed internet will only increase the interest for people who decide to move into the town. It was suggested that Brian Lippold, our technical consultant, reach out on behalf of the town to the County Administrator regarding any additional funding opportunities.

**Other**: Brent Armstrong suggested the Board waive a standard building permit fee of $105.00 for Cassandra Roy, who is representing MSAD 52 for the intent of building a Pavilion at Greene Central School. Motion was made by Bubier to accept this proposal, and this was seconded by Mower. Voted 4 – 0.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**MSAD # 52 Budget- Estimated Budget Impact**: Buzzell stated that the budget for Greene increased by $101,324. Bubier mentioned the undesignated fund of 4.8 million dollars. Bubier thought that they were not allowed to keep that much and half of it was supposed to go back to the towns. Shostack a representative for the school board stated that the State only allows so much, which he did not have that exact amount, to be set aside for certain funds, like special education, general education, capital reserve fund, etc. That would give the district a cushion in case of unexpected expenses. Bubier stated that he thought the amount that could be in the reserve was 2.4 million and they currently have 4.8 million. Kyle Purington said it can be reallocated and sifted to other categories. Shostack will get more details on this from the superintendent. Bubier also discussed his concerns that the children do not receive education on civics. Bubier feels that the kids should know how the Town functions. Joyce Bucciantini mentioned that it used be recommended that children have 3 social studies. Shostack did not know where the district stands with civic learning. Soucy talked about the buses not being full and how we may be able to cut costs on this issue.

**New England Clean Energy Connect (CMP Corridor**): There were 2 representatives from NECEC. David Chabot and project manager Nick Achorn. There was a lengthy conversation regarding usage of the roads in Greene for the CMP Corridor. They have moved south due to weather conditions up north that has stopped the work for now in that area. They are asking for permission from the town to access the roads. They talked about the escrow that will protect the infrastructure of the roads, this will guarantee that they pay and fix any damage that ensues during the usage of our town roads. They gave maps and paperwork highlighting the roads that will be impacted. The board was also interested in what will the NECEC do for the town in return. There were a few different suggestions proposed. They will have to get back to us on this after further discussion. This is also going to affect our tarring projects, so public works will have to change when they had planned to do this.

**Protected Expressive Activities @ Transfer Station Policy**: This is a basic policy to outline the rules and procedures for certain activities like campaigning or receiving signatures for petitions etc. at the Transfer Station. This policy is to let them know what is expected of them when they are doing this. Motion to accept this policy made by Bubier and seconded by Mower. Voted 4 – 0.

**Purchasing Policy**: This item was tabled.

**Facility Usage Policy**: The policy on facility usage was old and outdated. Buzzell updated the policy. This would be if any staff member or a not-for-profit organization wanted to use a Town facility and what the rules would be for the usage of that facility. Mower made the motion to accept the policy, and this was seconded by Bubier. Voted 4 – 0.

**Public Works Supervisor Job Description**: The job description for Public Works Supervisor was updated by Buzzell. The job description was given to Greg for him to read over and sign. This was motioned by Mower and seconded by Bubier. Voted 4 – 0.

**Signing of Municipal Quitclaim Deed – Pelton**: Sally Pelton is dividing her property and after some research we discovered that one of the liens was not discharged properly. The wrong book and page was documented incorrectly back in 2007. To correct this a quitclaim deed needed to be done. Motion made by Bubier to approve the quitclaim deed and seconded by Randall. Voted 4 – 0.

**Committee Reports**: Randall mentioned the Sabattus Dam Committee will be looking for $380,000 from each of the 3 towns. They have a public hearing in July. Soucy asked if they were still going to bond the project. Randall stated yes to the bond. Randall stated that there was a meeting with Governor Mills and there may be money from the State for the dam project. They are also trying to put in a fish ladder. We had two prices with a fish ladder and without.

**Other**: Nothing to update

**Executive Session 1M.R.S.A. ss 405(6)e legal**: Bubier made a motion to entered into Executive session, seconded by Mower. Entered Executive session @ 8:01 p.m.

Returned from Executive session @ 8:37 p.m.

Motion to adjourn @ 8:43 p.m. Voted 4 – 0

**Announcements:**

The Selectmen’s meeting will be March 25th at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Office. The Assessor will be in the office March 18th. 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**:

Mower moved the following warrants:

**Accounts Payables Warrants**:

Warrant # 82 for $77,825.08

Warrant # 85 for $458,234.65

**Payroll Warrants**:

Warrant # 81 for $12,959.63

Warrant # 84 for $16,024.90

**Ella Thompson:**

Warrant # 83 for $872.36

These were seconded by Bubier. Voted 4 – 0

Respectfully submitted,

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Kelly Ouellette, Deputy Town Clerk John Soucy, Chair