Town of Greene

 Selectboard Regular Meeting

 March 25,2024

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

Also present: Greg Keene – Public Works Supervisor

Members of the Public Present: Don Bedford, Phil Lavoie, George Farris, Joyce Bucciantini, Carl Bucciantini, Justin Lafontaine, John White.

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

**Call to order**: Soucy called the meeting to order @ 6:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Leclerc made a motion to approve the minutes and waive the reading of the minutes of the March 11th meeting. This was seconded by Mower. Voted 5 – 0.

**Public Discussion**: Nothing to update.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Update on Public Works**: Greg spoke about the Emergency response trailer that he and Phil Lavoie had discussed. They are looking to purchase an Emergency Response Trailer and have this trailer set up with the appropriate signage and needed supplies. This has been a problem for many years and the need for these supplies is very important for the safety of the town residents. This trailer will be stored at the Public Works Garage. This trailer is for Emergency Maintenance Only. The cost for the trailer with extra lighting would be $8,300.00. The amount that was asked for was $21,000.00 from the ARPA fund. Soucy agreed that the need for this is very important and asked that a motion be made. Leclerc made the motion to approve the funds out of the ARPA fund for the trailer and supplies needed, and not to exceed the amount of $21,000.00. This was seconded by Mower. Voted 5 – 0. Greg also mentioned the need for back up cameras and dash cameras, he said this would be helpful and also add more safety. He suggested getting these items for the 6 trucks. The cost for the cameras is $400.00 each. There was discussion on the snow collecting on the back of the trucks, and how would you keep the cameras clean. Bubier also stated that the cameras could be easily damaged if you were to back into a gravel pile, and asked how long would they last. The discussion continued and it was decided to put this on the back burner for now. Greg discussed the catch basins and getting these cleaned out. Construction on the culverts is scheduled for April 16th. Soucy asked Greg if he had a chance to look over the State grant information he had given him. Greg said he did look at it, and he would like to look into a project regarding the sidewalks on Main Street for the school children. Soucy stated that the State grants can be combined together to do certain projects and suggested Greg discuss this with his connection at the State. Greg was told by Phil that the road needs to be blocked off when they do their yearly fire drill, and the sidewalks going down main street to the library would really dress up the area. This would also solve the shoulder issues. Bubier mentioned the personal property lines and to just keep this in mind, we would need surveying.

Greg was also concerned about smoking at the Transfer Station and stated that this should not be allowed, and signage should be posted. Greg is also concerned with the waste oil at the Transfer Station. He is going to use one of the buildings at the transfer station and make this the storage area for the waste oil. He also wants to separate the diesel and gas. Greg is also working on the issues with tires at the transfer station.

**Update on Transfer Station**: Phil did a walk through to look at safety concerns. Greg talked about many projects that are underway at the Transfer Station and mentioned these during the update for Public Works.

**Update on Fire Department**: Phil stated it was fairly quiet so there was not much to report.

**Purchasing Policy**: The purpose of this policy is to have a formal purchasing procedure in place. This policy ensures that there is a fair method of pricing for the residents of Greene. A motion was made by Leclerc to accept the updated policy as written. This was seconded by Mower. Voted 5 – 0.

**Androscoggin County Natural Mitigation Plan Resolution of Adoption 2024**: This policy had previously been approved. Soucy stated this is just for their information and review. Soucy also stated that Angela Molino has taken a job in Kennebec County and will no longer be the EMA director for Androscoggin County.

**FEMA (December 18th storm) update**: Carol, Greg and Eric had an exploratory phone call meeting with FEMA to discuss the recent damage. They will be having a recovery scoping meeting on March 27th for a more in-depth discussion regarding the storm damage.

**Broadband Committee update:** The discussion continued on the broadband project. The initial cost of $285,000.00 went down to $152,000.00 due to a variety of funding sources. It was discussed how important this new Infrastructure would be to the town residents. The need for high-speed internet is increasing due to remote work, online remote education for children, and basic health needs. Soucy asked if there were any stipulations along with the ARPA money from County? Carl stated only pending approval of our portion. Soucy mentioned that there are other options available for high-speed internet like Star Link. Soucy also wanted to know if the committee had checked with the 119 people and what the percentage is that would want the broadband? The committee members also mentioned how our neighboring towns have all gone to 100% high speed internet infrastructure and do we want the Town of Greene to be on the same playing field as our neighboring towns? Bubier stated that we don’t have the money, so this is going to fall on the taxpayers. The committee needs to sell this proposal to the taxpayers at the town meeting. The board recommends that this be moved to the town meeting. They spoke about the franchise agreement, and Buzzell stated we do get a franchise fee.

**New England Clean Energy Connect (CMP Corridor) update:** Buzzell stated that an escrow agreement of $500,000.00 was signed, ours was expired. This is good until August 31st.2025. This is for any repairs that would need to be done to the roads if they are damaged by NECEC. An agreement was made with the NECEC that they will pave Welcome Hill Road. This opened up more funds for the paving project at the Public Works facility.

**Main Street Crossing update:** Buzzell mentioned that they are still on track for the 2024 build season. The contract schedule was off track due to a pause for evaluating options. They are at 15% of the final design. Bidding will be a little later than anticipated.

**Other:** Nothing to update.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Boston Post Cane Policy & Nominations:** Buzzell stated that we did not have a policy for this, so she wrote up a policy. Mower made a motion to accept the policy as written. This was seconded by Leclerc. Voted 5 – 0. Buzzell also suggested the nomination of Claire Collins for the Boston Post Cane. Claire is currently the oldest resident in Greene at the age of 96 and in good health and was happy to hold this honor. Claire’s birthday is August 14th,1927. Claire’s brother Alden Peterson also held the Boston Post Cane. The presentation will be held at Claire’s home. Mower made a motion to accept Claire Collins as the recipient of the Boston Post Cane. This was seconded by Leclerc. Voted 5 – 0.

**Foreclosure Notices:** There was a list of foreclosures. Buzzell stated that out of this list, 5 will probably not pay. There are 2 on the list that are deceased, and the heirs are not interested. They have until April 20th, 2024, to pay the full amount. If not paid by April 20th it is an automatic foreclosure. Buzzell would then go back to the board to see what the board would decide to do with the property.

**Tri-Town Meeting – April 24th @ 6:00 p.m.:** Tri-Town Meeting will be held April 24th,2024 at 6:00 p.m. in Leeds. Buzzell asked if anyone had anything for the agenda. It was asked if the school board would be there, Buzzell stated yes, they would be there.

**Committee Reports:** Bubier stated that Bob Hodgkins, Byron Boyington, Matt Higgins, and Phil Lavoie were present at the meeting. They went over each line item of the budget. At the meeting Ron mentioned that the demo/construction containers we rent from Troiano need repair, Greg will call to see about replacements. There were questions about the State of Maine Waste Management fee. The fee is $2.00 per ton. Hauling fees should be less next year because Corcoran is hauling recyclables for free and hauling mixed recyclables for only $135.00 per load with no extra fees. BDS tire charges a flat fee of $4.00 per tire with no trucking fee. Bubier also wanted to know if we sign a new contract with Maine Waste Energy each year, Buzzell believes it’s every 3 years. Ron also mentioned the need for a more secure place to store the waste oil. Greg is going to bring up a small shed to store the oil barrels. Ron mentioned the need for space for the antifreeze and gasoline, it was suggested that they ask Clean Harbor if they would be able to pick up less than 300 gallons. It was also suggested to add a skid tank which is self-contained and has no chance of leakage.

Currently the Transfer Station Equipment reserve account has $70,052.82. It was decided to ask voters for an additional $20,000.00. Ron wanted to know what the cost would be for a new compactor, or the cost to rent one. They are going to research this. They also discussed the pros and cons of a new building.

**Other:** Nothing to update.

**Executive Session 1 M.R.S.A. ss405 (6)D & 405 (6)A:** Leclerc made the motion to enter executive session. This was seconded by Bubier. Entered executive session @ 7:28 p.m.

**Announcements:**

The Selectmen’s meeting will be April 8th at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Office. The Assessor will be in the office April 1st. 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 #87 for $69,951.13

Warrant #89 for $23,324.60

**Payroll Warrants**:

Warrant #86 for $14,807.44

Warrant #88 for $14,903.74

These were all seconded by Leclerc. Voted 5 – 0

Executive session ended @ 8:06

Mower made a motion to adjourn the meeting @ 8:11 p.m. This was seconded by Leclerc. Voted 5 - 0

Respectfully submitted,

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Kelly Ouellette, Deputy Town Clerk John Soucy, Chair