Town of Greene

Selectmen’s Regular Meeting

April 8th, 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, George Farris, Phil Lavoie, Albert Murch, Amy Soper, Eric Farrenkopf.

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.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mower made a motion to waive the reading of the minutes from the March 25th meeting and approve once read. This was seconded by Bubier. Voted 4 – 0.

**Treasurer’s Report**: Buzzell stated that the Town’s finances are in great shape. The second half of taxes are due May 1st. She stated that the department heads need to have their budgets in by Friday April 12th or Monday at the latest. Buzzell will then schedule the town budget meeting.

**Public Discussion:** Don Bedford mentioned the condition of East Main Street again. Gregg said that Public Works will go and take a look at it.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Update on Public Works:** Greg mentioned that the new truck has arrived. Public Works worked on lettering some of the new cones. Greg said the ARPA safety packets have arrived and the order for the trailer should be in motion soon. Greg stated that some of the new signs are up at the Transfer Station and when the others arrive, they will install those as well. The oil is now being stored in the last building on the right going into the Transfer Station. When they pick up the oil, they will be taking all of it in one trip. Greg mentioned that the hot box malfunctioned again, so he contacted Earl Bubier to take a look at it. Greg ordered more cold patch so they will continue the work on the pot holes. John Murphy has been hired to remove all the scrap culverts from behind the salt shed and the town pit and that will be hauled away. Greg thanked multiple people and residents of Greene for all the help during the last storm. Greg stated that the installation of the new culvert on North River Road will begin on April 16th.

Soucy thanked Sheldon for his help hauling out the truck that was stuck and again thanked the fire department and the residents of Greene for all the help. This was greatly appreciated by all!

**Update on Transfer Station:** The new No Smoking sign was put up. Randall had commented on how well the sign looked; Greg was happy to get the compliment.

**Update on Fire Department:** Phil Lavoie stated that they had 38 calls for the month of March. 33 were medical related and 5 were fire related.

**MSAD #52 Budget Update:** Soucy stated that he noticed the number for their increases dropped dramatically. The increase was 1.75%, and they are halfway through the budget cycle. Bubier mentioned that it was beneficial to mention the undesignated fund balance. They will be at the Tri-Town meeting on April 24th in Leeds.

**District Court Decision – George Stanley & Utopia Underdogs, LLC:** Brent mentioned that there was a hearing on February 15,2024. Mr. Stanley requested time to submit written evidence which was granted by the judge. The judge’s decision was dated March 26th,2024. After two and a half years Mr. Stanley was found in violation of the junkyard statue and flea market ordinance. Fines for the Junkyard violations total a penalty of $89,500.00 and fines for the flea market violations total a penalty of $44,750.00.

Mr. Stanley has 45 days from the date of order to clean up the property. The town may take the necessary measures following the expiration of the 45 days. The board asked for a little more clarification on what happens after the 45 days has expired.

**Other:** Nothing to update.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Deane Pond Project – Androscoggin Land Trust**: Amy Soper was present at the meeting and asked for a letter of support from the board. Androscoggin Land Trust proposes to protect and preserve 300 acres in Greene in the Allen Pond/Hooper Pond watershed. The land is currently owned by the Nickerson and Sawyer families. Androscoggin Land Trust asks the town of Greene for their support in the conservation of the beautiful properties. The motion was made by Randall to write the letter of support and seconded by Bubier. Voted 2 – 2. Motion failed.

**County Tax:** The amount of $600,023 to be paid for the county tax. Motion made by Mower and seconded by Bubier. Voted 4 – 0.

**Fire Department Benevolent Fund Policy:** Phil Lavoie asked that $7,000.00 be taken from the Firemen’s benevolent fund and that this amount be put into the Firemen’s Auxiliary account. This amount will be earmarked for the purchase of gym equipment for the fire station.

**Greene Historical Society Building Roof Bids:** Bubier spoke about the condition of the Historical Society building. The building needs a new roof, and also many other repairs. There are some bids for a new roof, but they decided to wait and go over these bids when the committee is present at the next meeting. Bubier spoke about how important it is to preserve the building and keep the buildings of the past maintained so we could then have them opened for people to enjoy again. Currently we have 5 active members for the Historical Society, and they are working hard to come up with a plan to get all contents in the building organized, and the needed repairs completed.

**Committee Reports:** Nothing new to update.

**Other:** Nothing new to update.

**Announcements:**

The Selectmen’s meeting will be April 22nd at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Office. The Assessor will be in the office April 22nd please 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 # 90 for $284,999.00

Warrant # 92 for $46,306.14

Warrant # 95 for $41,889.90

**Payroll Warrants**:

Warrant # 91 for $17,200.36

Warrant # 93 for $16,702.10

**Ella Thompson Fund**:

Warrant # 94 for $1,997.40

These were all seconded by Bubier. Voted 4 – 0

Mower made a motion to adjourn the meeting this was seconded by Bubier.

Meeting adjourned at 6:51 p.m. Voted 4 - 0

Respectfully submitted,

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Kelly Ouellette, Deputy Town Clerk John Soucy, Chair