

NOVEMBER 4, 2009

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Greenwich, Washington County, New York was held at the Town Office Building, 2 Academy Street, Greenwich, New York on Wednesday, November 4, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT:	Donald Wilbur	Supervisor
	Bob Jeffords	Councilman
	Steven Patrick	Councilman
	George Perkins	Councilman
	Eric Whitehouse	Councilman (7:40)

Others Present: Kellie Blake, Alan Wrigley, Rick Sullivan, Tim Tefft - The Journal Press, John Cofrancisco, Marta Ward, Sara Idleman and Thomas Dimopoulos.

Supervisor Wilbur led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and Acting Clerk Kellie Blake called the roll.

RESOLUTION NO. 109-09
Transfers 11/04/09

Resolution by Councilman Patrick
Seconded by Councilman Perkins

and passed unanimously by said Board,

RESOLVED, that the following transfers be approved:

General Fund - Townwide:

- 1) Transfer \$23.67 from A7140.1 Playgrounds and Rec. Personal Services to A7140.4 Playgrounds and Rec. Contractual Expense.
- 2) Transfer \$527.10 from A1990.4 Contingent Account to A5010.4 Supt. Of Highways – Contractual Account.
- 3) Transfer \$152.47 from A1410.103 Town Clerk Personal Services – Deputy (Ashton) to A1410.102 Town Clerk Personal Services – Deputy (Willetts).

Highway Fund – Outside Village:

- 1) Transfer \$5170.51 to DB5130.4 Machinery Repair from DB5110.4 General Repairs.

RESOLUTION NO. 110-09
Payt. of Bills 11/04/09

Resolution by Councilman Jeffords
Seconded by Councilman Patrick

and passed unanimously by said Board

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RESOLVED, that the following bills on Abstract #9011 be approved and audited and the Supervisor be authorized to pay said bills from their respective funds:

<u>FUND</u>	<u>BILL #</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
General Town-wide (A) Pre-pay:	0354	\$ 432.24
General Town-wide (A):	0355-0383	\$ 5,528.94
General Outside Village (B):	0384-0386	\$ 83.10
Special District Lighting (SL):	0387	\$ 805.37
Highway Town-wide (DA) Pre-pay:	5164	\$ 20.49
Highway Outside Village (DB):	5165-5172	\$ 5,251.82

RESOLUTION NO. 111-09
App. of Minutes 10/13/09

Resolution by Councilman Jeffords
Seconded by Councilman Perkins

and passed unanimously by said Board,

RESOLVED, that the minutes of October 13, 2009 be approved and accepted as submitted.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- 1) A letter was received from Blodgett Road resident Nancy Crosby stating her concern over the discussion of possibly reducing the hours or privatizing the transfer stations. She feels this would be a move in the wrong direction as we should be looking to ways to increase recycling rather than turning back the clock and return to the wasteful practices of the past.
- 2) A letter was received from the American Legion Liberty Post 515 stating that they will be filing a renewal application to the NYS Liquor Authority which is due by the last day of November.
- 3) A request was received from Lakes to Locks Passage for a contribution of \$250 for 2009 and 2010 Town Budgets which will help provide services including Visitors Centers, brochures and various other opportunities.

RESOLUTION NO. 112-09
Lakes to Locks Passage Donation

Resolution by Councilman Jeffords
Seconded by Councilman Perkins

and passed unanimously by said Board,

RESOLVED, that the request for \$250 contribution from Lakes to Locks Passage for the 2009 and 2010 Town Budget be approved.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

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- 1) John Cofrancisco had concerns regarding the Fire Department Contract increases. Supervisor Wilbur stated that the Public Hearing would be opening shortly and asked if John would like to wait until then. Mr. Cofrancisco stated that he would wait.
- 2) Resident of Hardscrabble Lane, Marta Ward stated that she would like to stress the importance of redirecting a portion of the lane. Ms. Ward also stated that time was of the essence as this road was very dangerous; this week a large hole had been dug near Mr. Allen's property. Councilman Patrick stated that he had seen the hole and wasn't sure what to do about it. Highway Superintendent Rick Sullivan stated that he would have like to have been informed and would have given Steve his opinion on the matter. Rick further stated that Attorney Alan Wrigley had looked into ownership of the road and the Town owns three rods (approximately a width of 48 feet). Ms. Ward further stated that in the past she had offered to donate a portion of her property to the Town for this project and stated that she was still willing to do so and that another resident, Mr. Allen had offered a portion of his property for the same purpose. Councilman Patrick stated that he had walked along Ms. Ward's property but had not been to Mr. Allen's yet. The Board discussed the possible distance required for the redirection of the road, surveying, legalities involved in the donation of the property and the anticipated costs associated with the project. Councilman Patrick stated that he and Councilman Whitehouse will continue with their evaluation and assured Ms. Ward that progress was being made. Highway Superintendent Rick Sullivan stated that he had spoken to Ian Miller at NYSDOT and Willy Grimke at Washington County DOT and both parties expressed their desire to help with equipment and manpower.

REPORTS:

- 1) Greenwich Fire Department Report: No report received.
- 2) Planning Board Report: Board members received the minutes of the Planning Board meetings that were held on October 8 & 15, 2009 as well as the minutes of the ZBA meeting that was held on October 1, 2009.
- 3) Assessor Report: No report received.
- 4) Code Enforcement Report: Code Enforcement Officer Dan O'Connor's report stated that two building permits had been issued during the month of October.
- 5) Highway Report: Highway Superintendent Rick Sullivan stated that:
 - 426.3 gallons of fuel had been used.
 - 3rd roadside cutting had been finished and mower was stored for the season.
 - 60 ft. culvert pipe was installed on Bunker Hill Road. Cold patch will be put down once the ground has settled.
 - Working on getting plows and wings ready for winter.
 - There is a dead maple tree on Derby Road – Rick asked if there was money in the Budget to remove the tree. Clerk to the Supervisor Kellie Blake stated that there were funds in DB5110.4 – General Repairs.

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Highway Superintendent Rick Sullivan provided the Board with three quotes for a 20 ft. Swenson Sander Chain for the G-4 truck. Rick also provided quotes for a 30 ft. chain, which he doesn't think he will need. The quotes for the 20 ft. chain were: Adirondack Highway Materials: \$579.15, Arrowhead Equipment: \$785.00 and T & T: \$735.00. Budget Officer Marge Wilbur stated that a transfer had been made into the machinery account because that line item was over budget. Rick stated that he didn't understand how he could be over budget when there was FEMA money available. Supervisor Wilbur explained that the FEMA money was and had always been in the Highway Account. Clerk to the Supervisor Kellie Blake explained that when a line item needs a transfer it is considered over budget. Rick further stated that he could wait on the chain for the truck but would rather have it just in case. The Town Board authorized Rick to purchase the 20 ft. Swenson Sander Chain from Adirondack Highway Materials at a cost of \$579.15.

7:50 PM: The Clerk read the Public Hearing Notice for the 2010 Fire Contracts.

Motion by Councilman Patrick
Seconded by Councilman Jeffords

and passed unanimously by said Board,

that the Public Hearing on 2010 Proposed Fire Contracts be opened at 7:50 PM for public comment.

John Cofrancisco stated that the Fire Tax seems to be one of the higher taxes being added onto the property taxes. He realizes the need for adequate emergency coverage, but would like to see the amount frozen. Councilman Patrick stated that the Town had an agreement with the Fire Companies that none of them would receive a decrease in funds. Currently the funding is determined by the percentage of assessed values in each Fire district. There was a shift in the assessed value in one of the districts because of new construction. This shift would have caused the Cossayuna Fire District to have a decrease in funds. Councilman Patrick further stated that the Board had to raise them up to receive the same funding as last year which raised all the Fire Districts up. Councilman Patrick stated that the Town has used this formula for years and it has worked out well, but the Board agrees that the formula in which the Fire Districts receive funding will be looked at next summer.

Motion by Councilman Perkins
Seconded by Councilman Whitehouse

and passed unanimously by said Board,

that all persons desiring to be heard, having been heard, the Public Hearing be closed at 7:54 PM.

7:56 PM: Public Hearing 2010 Preliminary Budget.

The Clerk read the Public Hearing Notice for the 2010 Preliminary Budget.

Motion by Councilman Jeffords
Seconded by Councilman Patrick

and passed unanimously by said Board,

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that the Public Hearing on 2010 Preliminary Budget be opened at 7:56 PM for public comment.

John Cofrancisco asked Supervisor Wilbur if SCA Tissue had come to the end of their 10 year business exemption? Budget Officer Marge Wilbur stated that they were at full value this year.

Motion by Councilman Whitehouse
Seconded by Councilman Perkins

Discussion: Supervisor Wilbur stated that the tax rates were all listed in the Budget Highlights and tax rates are all down except for the Fire Districts. The total tax levy is down, so the average person in the Town of Greenwich will pay fewer taxes for this budget.

and passed unanimously by said Board,

that all persons desiring to be heard, having been heard, the Public Hearing be closed at 7:58 PM.

Reports Continued:

6) Supervisor Report: Supervisor Wilbur stated that the Tentative Budget had been presented at the County. The Public Hearing at the County will be on Friday, November 13th. Currently the forecasted increase for the tentative budget is 3.99%, the same as a year ago. There have been some cuts made, by the County Budget Officer, which some people have concerns about. The funding for Cooperative Extension has been cut to the bare minimum for them to receive funding from Cornell. (\$100,000) A furlough of two days for every person working for Washington County has been proposed, which would save approximately \$85,000. Soil and Water has been cut another \$40,000. Those with concerns should come to the Board with ideas on how to cut in other areas. The Highway Budget has been cut so that only 8 miles of paving will be done when typically 28 miles have been paved per year. Several vacant positions have not been filled. The Budget should be adopted by the end of November or early December. Supervisor Wilbur stated that Washington County is fortunate compared to another County to the North of us that is looking at double digit increases and this county received three times the amount of sales tax revenue that Washington County did. There will be several presentations of the County Budget. The local one will be on November 12th at the Greenwich VFW from 3:00-4:30 pm.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- 1) 2010 Fire Contracts

RESOLUTION NO. 113-09
Fire Contracts for 2010

Resolution by Councilman Jeffords
Seconded by Councilman Patrick

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Greenwich hereby approves the 2010 Fire Contracts as follows:

Village of Greenwich \$90,022; Village of Schuylerville \$14,598 Middle Falls Fire Department \$80,290; Cossayuna Volunteer Fire Co. \$58,393 for a total of \$243,303.

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ROLL CALL: Councilman Jeffords Aye
Councilman Patrick Aye
Councilman Perkins Aye
Councilman Whitehouse Aye
Supervisor Wilbur Aye

Carried.

2) 2010 Budget

RESOLUTION NO. 114-09
2010 Budget Adoption

Resolution by Councilman Whitehouse
Seconded by Councilman Perkins

Discussion: Supervisor Wilbur asked if the Board would like to cut any more or increase it. Councilman Jeffords stated that it was a good budget as presented, the best one the Town has had.

RESOLVED, that the 2010 Budget for the Town of Greenwich be approved and adopted as submitted.

ROLL CALL: Councilman Jeffords Aye
Councilman Patrick Aye
Councilman Perkins Aye
Councilman Whitehouse Aye
Supervisor Wilbur Aye

Carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

1) Councilman Perkins stated that the Town had entered into a contract with Mountain Top Seamless Gutters to clean out the gutters on a yearly basis. Councilman Perkins would like to ask them to replace the down spouts on the end of the gutters with something more flexible as the current ones have been flattened out.

2) Councilman Perkins further stated that the office building seems to be settling severely. There seems to be a problem with the center column in the basement. Councilman Perkins went into the basement and observed a floor joist that was cracked. He stated that the other side of the joist can not be seen because there is homasote covering the wall. He suggested that the Board have contractor Dean Brophy examine the beam, take out the homasote and repair or slowly jack the beam up so that it is level again. There is some cracking in the wall in the Town Clerk's Office above the beam.

The Board thought these were both items that should be taken care of and Councilman Perkins will contact the Mountain Top Seamless Gutter and Dean Brophy.

Motion by Councilman Jeffords
Seconded by Councilman Patrick

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And passed unanimously by said Board,

that the Board enters into Executive Session at 8:09 pm for the purpose of discussion pending litigation and a personnel matter.

Supervisor Wilbur declared that the regular meeting be resumed at 8:57 pm.

Supervisor Wilbur stated that the Executive session was devoted to pending litigation and personnel issue and the Board instructed the Attorney on how to proceed.

3) Kyle Vandewater’s term on the Planning Board expires on December 31, 2009. Greg Smith’s term on the Zoning Board of Appeals expires on December 31, 2009. The Ethics Board. Five (5) One year terms expire 12/31/09.

The Ethics Board shall consist of five members, a majority of whom shall not be officers or employees of the Town of Greenwich, however, at least one member of the Board shall be a municipal officer or employee. The initial appointments were made on July 8, 2008 with all expiring on December 31, 2009.

RESOLUTION NO. 115-09
Planning Bd., Zoning Board of Appeals
and Ethics Board Vacancies

Resolution by Councilman Patrick
Seconded by Councilman Jeffords

and passed unanimously by said Board,

RESOLVED, the Town Board advertise in the Town’s official newspaper to fill vacancies on the Town Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals and Ethics Boards and that letters of interest must be received by the Town Clerk no later than 4:00 P.M. on Thursday, December 3, 2009.

Motion by Councilman Patrick
Seconded by Councilman Whitehouse

and passed unanimously by said Board,

that the meeting be adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kellie Blake
Acting Clerk