

## OCTOBER 14, 2008

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 Tuesday, October 14, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT:	Donald Wilbur	Supervisor
	Bob Jeffords	Councilman
	Steven Patrick	Councilman
	George Perkins	Councilman
	Eric Whitehouse	Councilman

Others Present: Elaine Kelly, Kellie Blake, Alan Wrigley, Rick Sullivan, Stanley Mattison, Tony Basile - The Journal Press, Jenny Lyttle - Main Street, Marge Wilbur and Marilyn Boyd.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 110-08  
Transfer/ Budget Amendment 10/14/08

Resolution by Councilman Jeffords  
Seconded by Councilman Perkins

and passed unanimously by said Board,

RESOLVED, that the following transfers be approved:

General Fund - Townwide:

1) Transfer \$491.67 from A7140.1 Playgrounds & Recreation – Personal Services to A7140.4 Playgrounds & Recreation – Contractual Expense.

Budget Amendment: Capital Fund – Beach

1) \$ 305.94 from Capital Fund Beach to H27150.4 Capital Fund Beach –Contractual Expense for repairs and labor to pavilion roof.

RESOLUTION NO. 111-08  
Payt. of Bills 10/14/08

Resolution by Councilman Whitehouse  
Seconded by Councilman Patrick

and passed unanimously by said Board

RESOLVED, that the following bills on Abstract #8010 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:	0339-0341	\$ 1,322.13
General Town-wide (A):	0342-0381	\$ 9,259.01
General Outside Village (B):	0382-0384	\$ 580.20
Capital Fund Beach:	2006-2008	\$ 305.94
Highway Town-wide (DA) Pre-pay:	5125	\$ 20.49
Highway Town-wide (DA):	5126-5128	\$ 13,005.93
Highway Outside Village (DB):	5129-5137	\$ 1,411.53

## OCTOBER 14, 2008

RESOLUTION NO. 112-08  
App. of Minutes 9/10/08 & 10/01/08

Resolution by Councilman Whitehouse  
Seconded by Councilman Patrick

and passed unanimously by said Board,

RESOLVED, that the minutes of September 10<sup>th</sup> and October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008 be approved and accepted as submitted.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

### COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

1) Marilyn Boyd questioned why there are not Assessor Reports at every board meeting. The Assessor did write a report for this month, which Councilman Patrick read aloud. Mrs. Boyd also asked Supervisor Wilbur to give an update on the transfer stations.

### REPORTS:

1) Greenwich Fire Department Report: An activity report for September was received from the Greenwich Fire Department.

2) Planning Board Report: Board members received the minutes of Planning Board meetings that were held on September 11<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> and ZBA minutes for the meeting held on September 16, 2008.

3) Assessor Report: Assessor Colleen Adamec left a report for the Board stating that she has reviewed the sales from July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008 and noted that the Town has a 3-5% residential depreciation for the 2009 roll. She is waiting to hear from the State with their percentages. Renewal exemption applications have been sent for Enhanced STAR, Agricultural and Non-Profits. Low-Income Senior and Disability exemptions have different income requirements and will be sent out in January. Small Claim hearings for 2008 are finished and Colleen is awaiting the results. On Wednesday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, Colleen will be attending a presentation on the grant study for assessment consolidation.

4) Code Enforcement Report: No report.

5) Highway Report: Highway Superintendent Rick Sullivan gave the following report:

- 901 gallons of diesel fuel used in September.
- Winter sand piles are up with 3,000 yards coming from Tom Lewandowski and 1,000 yards from Carl Robertson. The Irwin Road sand pile has 700 gals of liquid calcium added and the Highway garage pile has 1300 gals.
- Roadside mowing will be completed soon.
- Salt shed is 90% complete.
- New culvert on River Road.

Seasonal Roads: Town Highway Law Section 205-a states that the Town Highway Superintendent is authorized to annually designate, on or before the first day of November in each year, a town highway as a seasonal limited use highway. Seasonal limited use highways

## OCTOBER 14, 2008

shall be those town highways without occupied residences or commercial buildings dependent on such highways for access. Seasonal limited use highways shall be appropriately posted and the town is authorized to temporarily discontinue snow and ice removal and maintenance from the first day of December until the first day of April on any highway so designated.

Highway Superintendent Rick Sullivan designated the following roads to be Seasonal Roads effective December 1, 2008 until April 1, 2009:

1. John Sears Road beginning at House #117 continuing southwesterly to Kilburn Road;
2. Larmon Road from Anthony Road to Lick Springs Road.

6) Supervisor Report: Supervisor Wilbur reported that the 2009 Tentative County budget is \$6 million short of a flat tax levy. If kept at this level and not using any fund balance, this would translate to a 24% increase. If \$3 million from the fund balance is used this would cut the increase to 12% but using that much of the fund balance may not be the best idea. There are so many mandates that there are not many places to cut. Services and jobs may be on the line. Sheriff's department road patrols account for \$1.6 million and are not mandated but cutting back would be a public safety issue. Cooperative Extension is not a mandated program either. The Board of Supervisors have been working hard to pare the budget. A lot of the increases are driven by fuel costs. The number of miles for road paving has been cut which will also cut back on fuel usage. \$36,000 has been cut from the pool cars, which is two cars or 5% of their budget. The tax levy has been about \$25 million and is projected to increase to approximately \$31 million. Again, this before any fund balance comes into use.

Transfer Stations: The County has decided to go out to bid for anyone who is interested in the transportation of the recyclables from the transfer stations to their end depository. Under this proposal, the public would still bring recyclables to the transfer station but a private company would take it from there. This would alleviate the cost of marketing as well as some machinery. The current cost of the recycling program is \$1.1 million. In three years the trash plant contracts are up and at that point the County could possibly get out of the trash business all together. If that happens residents would then be responsible for hiring a private hauler. Supervisor Wilbur feels that most people like the recycling program that the County provides but it is not cheap. It is considered the Cadillac of recycling programs and is, as good if not better, than any other county in NYS but recyclables never pay their way. Residents like the program we run but at some point you have to put a value on it. The revenues that are generated do not come close to paying for the process. How much are the taxpayers willing to pay for the service? When is enough, enough? These are very tough decisions. Where do we cut? Do we raise the sales tax by 1%? Do we cut programs? Do we cut jobs? The Board of Supervisors is open to suggestions and solutions.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

#### 1) Tentative Budget.

Public Safety Committee members Jeffords and Patrick stated that they had met with the Fire Chiefs and had given them the proposed 2009 figures and the Chiefs are planning to attend the public hearing. Councilman Patrick stated that the Chiefs were appreciative.

### NEW BUSINESS:

## OCTOBER 14, 2008

1) Employee Handbook: Vacation Schedule. Highway Superintendent Rick Sullivan stated that the Highway Department employees would like a change to the vacation schedule. The current schedule is: (The requested changes are in parenthesis)

Years of Consecutive Service	Weeks of Vacation
1	1
2	2
7 (5)	3
12 (8)	4
20 (12)	5

The requested change would have no impact on the budget but the department would be down an employee for those extra times. Highway Superintendent Rick Sullivan stated that he is no longer using wingmen on plow routes so there is that extra money to call in substitutes if needed. Discussion followed on the elimination of the wingmen, as \$7,000 had been included for them in the 2009 budget. Rick stated that he isn't using them but would use some of that money for substitutes. It was decided that the \$7,000 appropriation could be reduced to \$5,000 and the line item description will be changed to substitute drivers.

Back to the vacation discussion, the Board discussed the possibility of 1,2,5,10 & 15 years. Councilman Jeffords will contact Washington County to find out what other towns offer their employees and report back at the November meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS (con't)

RESOLUTION NO.113-08  
Budget Changes

Resolution by Councilman Patrick  
Seconded by Councilman Jeffords

RESOLVED, that the following changes be made to the 2009 Tentative Budget and upon acceptance of said changes that the 2009 Tentative Budget becomes the 2009 Preliminary Budget for the Town of Greenwich.

- DA 5142.1 Snow Removal Personal Services be reduced by \$2,000 from \$96,400 to \$94,400
- B 3620.1 Safety Inspection Personal Services be reduced by \$500 from \$5,500 to \$5,000
- B 3620.4 Safety Inspection Contractual Expense be increased by \$500 from 0 to \$500.

Roll Call: Councilman Whitehouse     Aye  
              Councilman Perkins         Aye  
              Councilman Patrick         Aye  
              Councilman Jeffords         Aye  
              Supervisor Wilbur          Aye

RESOLUTION NO.114-08  
Budget & Fire Protection Contracts/Public Hearings

Resolution by Supervisor Wilbur  
Seconded by Councilman Patrick

and passed unanimously by said Board,

## OCTOBER 14, 2008

RESOLVED, that Public Hearings be held at 7:35 PM on Wednesday, November 5, 2008 for the purpose of obtaining public comment on the 2009 Proposed Fire Protection Contracts and at 8:00 PM for the purpose of obtaining public comment on the 2009 Preliminary Budget.

2) Supervisor Wilbur stated that the joint meeting between the Town Board, the Planning Board and the Zoning Board of Appeals to review the Zoning Law needed to be scheduled. Wednesday, November 19<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM or Monday, November 24<sup>th</sup> was suggested. These dates will be given to the other Boards for their consideration and then the date will be finalized.

3) Clerk to the Supervisor Kellie Blake stated that some employees have requested direct deposit for payroll checks and she would like the Board's permission to proceed.

RESOLUTION NO. 115-08  
Payroll – Direct Deposit

Resolution by Councilman Jeffords  
Seconded by Councilman Whitehouse

and passed unanimously by said Board,

RESOLVED, that Clerk to the Supervisor Kellie Blake is authorized to set up Direct Deposit for the Town's payroll account.

Motion by Councilman Whitehouse  
Seconded by Councilman Perkins  
and passed unanimously by said Board,

that the Board enter into Executive Session at 8:48 P.M. to discuss a personnel matter as well as pending litigation.

Motion by Councilman Patrick  
Seconded by Councilman Whitehouse  
and passed unanimously by said Board,

that the regular meeting be resumed at 9:25 P.M.

Supervisor Wilbur stated that the Executive Session held was pertaining to 1) a personnel matter and (2) pending litigation and that Attorney Alan Wrigley has been instructed to negotiate a settlement for the pending litigation.

Motion by Councilman Perkins  
Seconded by Councilman Jeffords  
and passed unanimously by said Board,

that the meeting be adjourned at 9:26 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine A. Kelly, RMC, CMC  
Town Clerk