

October 20, 2011

A Special 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 Thursday, October 20, 2011 at 3:00 p.m. This meeting was called to discuss the 2011 road paving program as well as any other business that may come before the Board.

PRESENT:	Sara Idleman	Supervisor
	Bob Jeffords	Councilman
	Steven Patrick	Councilman
	George Perkins	Councilman
	Eric Whitehouse	Councilman

Others Present: Elaine Kelly and Kellie Blake.

Dispensing with formalities, Supervisor Idleman opened the meeting at 3:10 PM.

Supervisor Idleman stated we are here to discuss and approve the extra expenditure of money to complete the paving project on North Road.

She gave the following background information: About two weeks ago Highway Superintendent Rick Sullivan was upset because Scott Nowakowski, who does contracting work for Peckham Materials, was supporting Rick's opposition in the upcoming election. Rick then told Peckham that he didn't want Scott working on the Greenwich paving job. However, Scott works for Peckham not the Town of Greenwich. Supervisor Idleman stated that she spoke with Ken Luskin from Peckham. Ken said he wanted Scott on the job, Peter Simoneau from Peckham said he wanted him on the job because Scott does a lot of good work for Peckhams and Sara said she wanted him on the job as he was a local person. It was decided that Scott would be on the job.

Paving was scheduled to begin this morning but when Rick found out that Mr. Nowakowski was going to be working for Peckham after all, he pulled our guys off the job. Peckhams then had to go out and get an additional crew which means it is going to cost the Town of Greenwich more money to complete the job so we need to approve the expenditure of the extra money.

Councilman Whitehouse said that the job started this morning with delivery of equipment and loading of trucks. At least one truck was already loaded in Middle Falls and headed up to the job prior to Rick pulling the guys so the job was underway. Councilman Whitehouse also stated that he had gone by the job site at 7:55 this morning and Brian Barbur was there with multiple guys. Rick was at the intersection of North & Christie Roads talking to guys and setting signs up to get ready to start. However, Councilman Patrick stated that he had received a phone from Peckham at 7:26 to advise him that Rick had pulled his guys off the job. So it is believed that Rick was possibly taking down the signs at 7:55 instead of setting them up.

Councilman Perkins wants an explanation from our Highway Superintendent as to why our guys were pulled off and why it's going to cost the taxpayers \$8,000 - \$10,000 more on a job that we've already approved the funding for.

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Supervisor Idleman said that she could request that he submit something in writing. Councilman Perkins would at least like to know verbally what his problem was. Supervisor Idleman stated that Rick's problem was that he did not like the fact that one of the people working for Peckhams was supporting his opponent, Stan Mattison. Councilman Perkins said, "So it cost the taxpayers \$8,000 - \$10,000 for a political reason and a freedom of speech issue?" Supervisor Idleman said it sounds like it. Councilman Perkins stated that he doesn't feel that is a good enough reason to take a man's livelihood away from him and to cause the taxpayers to be spending an extra \$8,000 - \$10,000 on the job. He continued by saying that we have to pave the road and take care of the highways.

The current "Agreement to Spend Highway Funds" to pave North Road is for \$214,800.60 and now knowing that the project will exceed that amount the Board decided it was necessary to appropriate additional funds to complete the project.

RESOLUTION NO. 134-11
Highway – North Road Paving

Resolution by Councilman Perkins
Seconded by Councilman Whitehouse

RESOLVED, that the Board spends up to \$10,000 on the added expenditures of labor on the North Road job.

Discussion: Supervisor Idleman stated for the record that she had spoken with Attorneys this afternoon to make sure what we are doing is done according to Highway Law and it is. Councilman Whitehouse noted that all the preparation work has been completed for this job. It's not like we can just put it off. Councilman Jeffords stated that there are culverts that have open spaces that haven't been paved over. We can't just leave it. Councilman Whitehouse said there are cuts in the pavement where it's going to join so there are some open areas there as well.

ROLL CALL:

Councilman Whitehouse	Aye
Councilman Perkins	Aye
Councilman Patrick	Aye
Councilman Jeffords	Aye
Supervisor Idleman	Aye

Carried.

Motion by Councilman Patrick
Seconded by Councilman Jeffords
and passed unanimously by said Board,
that the meeting be adjourned at 3:18 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Elaine A. Kelly, RMC, CMC
Town Clerk