

GREENWOOD SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES

January 2, 2024

5:00 pm

Item 1: Call Meeting to Order - Chair Chapman called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

Item 2: Pledge of Allegiance

Item 3: Review and approve:

Expenditure Warrant # 26 - \$ 35,057.41, Covering period Dec. 13 – Dec. 18, 2023

Expenditure Warrant # 27 - \$ 10,323.66, Covering period Dec. 19 - Dec. 26, 2023

Expenditure Warrant # 28 - \$ 13,895.14 Covering period Dec. 27 - Jan. 2, 2024

The Board reviewed Warrant # 26, Warrant # 27, and Warrant # 28.

Selectman Milliard motioned and Selectman Oickle seconded to approve Warrant # 26, Warrant # 27, and Warrant # 28 as read. Vote: 3-0. Warrants are approved.

Item 4: Review and approve minutes of December 12, 2023

The Board reviewed the minutes.

Selectman Oickle motioned and Selectman Milliard seconded to approve the minutes as presented. Vote: 3-0. Minutes are approved.

Item 5: Comments from the Public - None

A. Selectmen contacted outside of meeting

Amy stated that she was contacted from someone who lives on the Sheepskin Bog Road inquiring about the same issues we have been working on.

Brian Letourneau stated that he had a comment but he would wait until the end of the meeting.

Item 6: Discuss request from Betsey Foster for signage for walkers

Kim stated that Betsey Foster sent her an email and was concerned about the safety of folks who walk on the roads in Greenwood and asked if the Board would consider installing signage. Selectman Milliard stated that there is no mention in her email about signage and where she believes the signage should be installed. Selectman Milliard stated that the Greenwood Road is a pretty long road and is she suggesting that we have one sign at the beginning of the Greenwood Road and one sign at the end of the Greenwood Road. Chair Chapman stated that the people that are walking on the road are probably only walking on a small section of it. Selectman Milliard stated that he is not against putting signage up but if it is relatively inexpensive at \$ 40.00 a sign. Selectman Oickle stated that this is a safety concern, he has concerns, and has seen people biking on the wrong side of the road. Selectman Oickle stated he isn't sure that signage is the answer but some type of education is needed. Selectman Milliard asked if we would put up a sign every 100 feet. Chair Chapman stated that we would have to

have them every mile or two. Chair Chapman stated that she gathers there are a lot of people walking beyond Twitchell Pond. Selectman Milliard suggested that we table the decision on this and we ask Kim to have a conversation with Betsey in regards to what her thoughts are as to how many signs we need, where should they be, and then we take it up after that. Selectman Oickle stated that he would be fine with that but thinks this is a combination of pedestrians and bicyclists. Selectman Milliard stated that he thinks we should address both issues at the same time. Selectman Oickle stated that he agrees we need to table this and he would like to take a closer look at this himself. Selectman Oickle stated that he is sure there are guidelines and would be glad to research this further.

Selectman Milliard motioned and Selectman Oickle seconded to table this topic until more information is available. Vote: 3-0.

Item 7: Discussion on FEMA Public Assistance for Greenwood Residents

Kim updated the Board that there were 2 – non residents who submitted their information to our Oxford County EMA office requesting FEMA Public Assistance due to flood damage to their Greenwood properties. Kim explained that both homes in Greenwood were not the primary residence of the non-residents so they do not qualify for this FEMA program.

Selectman Oickle asked if all of the road damage had been repaired in Greenwood. Kim stated that she had heard from Richie earlier today and he says all repairs should be done today or tomorrow.

Item 8: Discussion on Minimum Wage Increase from \$ 13.80 to \$ 14.15

Kim updated the Board that the State has increased the minimum wage from \$ 13.80 to \$ 14.15 and explained that there are several firemen that are at minimum wage presently. Kim stated that Fire Chief, Ken Cole is asking to increase all of the firemen the same amount to keep all of the firemen on the same payroll schedule. Selectman Milliard asked if this State is recommending this \$.35 increase. Chair Chapman stated that the State is making it mandatory. Selectman Milliard asked if we have any expectation that this will increase by the same amount next year. Kim stated that she has not heard an amount but knows they are discussing it again. Selectman Milliard asked if this has been a yearly thing for the last few years. Chair Chapman stated that the State has increased the minimum wage over the last several years as the State was pretty low at around \$ 8.00 per hour. Selectman Milliard asked if the percent increase has been the same every year. Kim answered no, that the State started the increases at \$ 1.00 per hour for a few years and then increased by .15 and then .60. Selectman Oickle asked if this is something that we budget for. Kim answered yes. Chair Chapman stated that she thinks that everyone should be at the same amount above minimum wage. Selectman Milliard agreed and stated that this is something that can be discussed during the budget meeting. Selectman Oickle agreed. Kim will update the Fire Department payroll to include the .35 increase to all Fire Department employees.

Item 9: Schedule 2024/2025 Budget Meetings

Kim asked the Board if Thursday evening's still work for the Board.

The Selectmen agreed that Thursday's do work. Kim stated that the meetings will be in February. Selectman Milliard stated that he is not available on Feb. 29th. Selectman Oickle stated that Thursday's will work for him. Kim stated that she would reach out to the Budget Committee to see what dates will work for them.

Item 10: Comments from the Public

- A. Brian Letourneau stated that he needed to get this on the record as it deals with life and safety. Brian stated that he has spoken about this with Joelle. Brian explained that on Oct. 12th he took his father-in-law who is a master electrician to Marty's trailer to do some electrical work. Brian stated that he has been working with him for 30 years and they installed both the generator cord and plug. Brian stated after checking the trailer to make sure all of the circuits were good and the cord coming out of the bottom had to have a plug. Brian stated that it has been 47 days with that generator running periodically as needed before David Gaudreau made his comment about that generator running. Brian explained that on Dec. 7th he went and took the video of the generator running and a picture of the meter to prove how many hours it had been used. Brian explained that this incident occurred after David stormed out of a Selectmen's Meeting. Brian explained that the 19th was the day after the storm and they were still out cleaning up, he gets a call that the trailer down there is smoking. Brian stated that he verified with Oxford if it is the last trailer down in and they answered yes. Brian stated they get down there, Marty had pulled the generator cord out, and got the kids out of the trailer. Brian stated that they found the generator plug had melted and was on fire. Brian stated that this is the plug he put in along with his father-in-law. Brian stated they did what they needed to do to make it safe and clear the call. Brian stated that he didn't know that Joelle had texted him and wanted information about this event. Brian stated the next day he spoke with Joelle and she questioned him about what had happened. Brian stated that he gave her the run down on what he had done, what he had seen etc. Brian stated that Joelle said that there is no way that that plug should have fallen off and it sounds like someone had tampered with it. Brian stated that Joelle asked if he had investigated it. Brian said he hadn't had the time to investigate it. Brian stated that Joelle asked him to call her when he looked at the cord. Brian stated that Joelle informed him that it sounds as if someone has tampered with that plug and directed him to file a police report because they have endangered peoples lives. Brian stated that they did file a police report. Brian brought a sample cord to show the Board what he was talking about. Brian stated that this was an act of arson and attempted murder.

Chair Chapman stated that he had contacted law enforcement. Brian answered yes but he wanted it stated on record. Chair Chapman stated it is on record. Brian stated that he is not accusing anyone. Chair Chapman stated that she doesn't want to be liable and if he had filed a police report then he had done what he could.

Chair Chapman questioned why it had to be placed on record. Brian stated that he thinks with all the issues going on down there he thought that is why it was asked to be put on record. Selectman Milliard stated that it was duly noted.

Item 11: Executive Session, per 1 M.R.S.A. §405 (6) (A) – Personnel Matters

Selectman Milliard motioned and Selectman Oickle seconded to go into Executive Session per 1 M.R.S.A. §405 (6) (A) – Personnel Matters at 5:22pm with Animal Control Officer, Roni Sue Vachon and Town Manager, Kim Sparks. Vote: 3-0.

Selectman Milliard motioned and Selectman Oickle seconded to come out of Executive Session per 1 M.R.S.A. §405 (6) (A) – Personnel Matters at 6:05pm with Animal Control Officer, Roni Sue Vachon and Town Manager, Kim Sparks. Vote: 3-0.

The Board thanked Roni for attending the meeting. Roni left meeting.

Selectman Oickle motioned and Selectman Milliard seconded to not reappoint Roni Vachon as our Animal Control Office. Vote: 3-0. Motion passes.

Kim stated that she would let Roni know of the Board's vote.

Item 12: Meetings and Events

Jan. 3rd – Meeting with Firstlight on Broadband, 11:00 am, Bethel Town Office
Jan. 8th – Planning Board Mtg. 5:30 pm GTO
Jan. 16th – Selectmen Meeting, 5:00 pm GTO
Jan 16th – G & W Budget Meeting 6:00pm – Woodstock Town Office
Feb. 5th – Planning Board Mtg. 5:30 pm GTO
Feb. 6th – Selectmen Meeting, 5:00 pm GTO
Feb. 20th – Selectmen Meeting, 5:00 pm GTO
Mar. 5th – Presidential Primary, 8:00 am to 8:00 pm
Mar. 12th – Selectmen Meeting, 5:00 pm GTO
Mar. 26th – Selectmen Meeting, 5:00 pm GTO

Item 13: Adjourn - Having no further business, Selectman Milliard motioned and Selectman Oickle seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:07pm. Vote: 3-0. Meeting is adjourned.