

GREENWOOD SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES

July 25, 2023

5:00pm

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

Roll Call: Selectman Amy Chapman, Selectman Norman A. Milliard, Selectman Bob Oickle, and Town Manager Kim Sparks

Item 2: Pledge of Allegiance

Item 3: Review and approve:

Expenditure Warrant # 3 - \$ 58,605.46. Covering period July 6, - July 17, 2023
Includes voucher # 72, payable to Pine Tree Waste for \$ 18,423.24
Includes voucher # 77, payable to Harvard Pilgrim for \$ 25,835.80

Expenditure Warrant # 4 - \$ 20,712.58 Covering period July 18,- July 24, 2023

The Board reviewed Warrant # 3 and Warrant # 4.

Selectman Milliard motioned and Selectman Oickle seconded to approve Warrant # 3 and Warrant # 4. Vote: 3-0. Warrants are approved.

Item 4: Review and approve minutes of July 11, 2023

The Board reviewed the minutes of July 11, 2023.

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

Item 5: Comments from the Public

- A. Resident, Brian Letourneau asked the Board if they would start thinking about how to help the homeless population in Greenwood. Brian stated that he knows of a few people in Greenwood that are homeless and knows that the numbers are most likely going to increase over time. Brian stated that part of the problem on Sheepskin Bog Road is because Henry Brooks has been helping homeless people. Brian asked what we can do in our community to help the homeless in our area. Chair Chapman stated that Brian has valid points and that our Town Ordinances state that RVs can't be used year round. Brian asked if the Town would consider the new State housing rules. Chair Chapman stated that statewide, Towns would have to allow an accessory dwelling on properties but it would have to comply with the existing codes. Selectman Oickle asked if there was an existing fund to assist in these cases. Kim explained that there is a General Assistance fund. Selectman Oickle asked what were the parameters of the General Assistance fund. Kim explained that it is based on the person's income and number in the household. Kim explained that the applicant has to have lived in Greenwood for 30 days to be eligible to apply. Selectman Oickle asked if anyone has applied for Assistance that was homeless. Kim stated that she hasn't had any applications from anyone who was homeless. Selectman Milliard stated that this is a concern to the Board and asked Brian if he knew if these folks were aware that there might be some assistance available to them. Brian stated that he wasn't sure if they were aware of any assistance.

Brian stated that a lot just sold on the Greenwood Road and folks are living in tents and cars. Chair Chapman stated that this is concerning for our small town and we can help with our General Assistance program. Selectman Milliard stated that our program is at least a start to help them but it is like any other program having steps that they have to go through to get the assistance. Selectman Milliard stated that it was an important thing for Brian to bring up and as we go forward its important for us to understand, and determine what we can do to assist and alleviate some of this.

- B. David Gaudreau stated that during the last Selectmen's meeting someone was moving a shed onto the property across the road from his place. Mr. Gaudreau asked how someone can bring in buildings without building permits. Chair Chapman asked if there were building permits and a septic permit issued? Kim explained that a permit had been issued for the shed and the applicant was working on getting a septic system permit. Mr. Gaudreau stated that a work trailer had been brought in last week and didn't think that had a permit. Kim stated that did not have a permit and is in the photos that Joelle had taken of the property. Brian stated that the trailer in question has been registered. Chair Chapman asked if this was on Henry Brook's property. Kim answered that it is Henry's property that he is currently leasing to Marty Letourneau. Chair Chapman asked if it was a camper trailer or a building. Mr. Gaudreau stated that it was an office trailer. Chair Chapman stated that if they are staying on the property, they need to have a septic system. Kim stated that Joelle wasn't able to attend tonight's meeting but will be sending a letter to Henry Brooks with clean-up dates included for each area. Selectman Milliard asked if Joelle indicated when the next letter would be going out. Kim stated that it would be done this week. Selectman Milliard asked if they could have another update at their next meeting. Chair Chapman agreed and asked if Joelle could give them an update at each Selectmen's Meeting – that she doesn't have to be at every meeting but to submit a written update to the Board. Kim stated that she would let Joelle know and would have this on every meeting agenda until it is all resolved. Mr. Gaudreau asked what was going to be done about the farmhouse. Kim stated that Joelle didn't mention it in this letter.

Selectman Oickle asked about the Ambrose Brook's letter that it states that it is necessary for a septic system and then it mentions that the camper can't be used year round so it seems redundant to have a septic system installed that can't be used. Kim explained that Ambrose can use the camper for six months of the year if it has a septic system. Chair Chapman stated that he can't have a woodstove. Kim stated that was correct – no woodstoves in camper trailers. Kim stated that Ambrose told Joelle that he doesn't stay there during the winter. Mr. Gaudreau stated that as far as he knows Ambrose has been living there year round for several years. Selectman Milliard stated that if Ambrose is saying that he doesn't live there in the winter but comes back to check up on his animals, do we now have another potential issue that it could be considered animal abuse as the animals are there in the winter without anyone to oversee them. Chair Chapman asked how many animals are we talking about. Kim stated she is unsure of the number. Mr. Gaudreau asked if he keeps the generator running all winter for the animals. Kim stated that she wasn't sure. Selectman Milliard stated that these are all details that we need clarity on. Selectman Oickle stated that the indication is that he is living there year round and what does he have to do to live there year-round. Selectman Oickle stated that Ambrose owns the property but what does he have to do to comply to live there year round.

Kim stated that Ambrose would need to build a structure to code. Chair Chapman stated that he would also need to install a septic system. Selectman Milliard stated his concern about the Ambrose letter is Joelle makes reference to several different things and gives 6 months to have a septic system installed. Selectman Milliard stated his concern that it is now July and almost August and there is no way you are going to install a septic system in January or February and asked for more clarity on that. Chair Chapman asked what happens if it isn't installed in 6 months. Selectman Oickle asked if it was their expectation to install it and they don't, they would have to leave the property. Selectman Milliard stated that the expectation that we are referring to also pertains to Henry in regards to Joelle saying that these things need to be removed. Chair Chapman stated that Joelle will be working on a letter that will have cleanup deadlines and the Board would ask to be updated on the cleanup progress at every meeting.

C. Selectmen contacted outside of meeting - No contact.

Item 6: Review letters from Codes Officer, Joelle Corey regarding Henry Brooks and Ambrose Brooks

The Board reviewed the letters.

See discussion above – Item 5. B.

Item 7: Review and cast vote on annual MMA Election for Vice President and Executive Committee Members

The Board reviewed the ballot and voted for the proposed slate recommended by the nominating committee:

VICE-PRESIDENT - 1 YEAR TERM

Vote for One Proposed by MMA Nominating Committee:

Melissa Doane, Town Manager, Town of Bradley

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS - 3 YEAR TERM

Vote for Three Proposed by MMA Nominating Committee:

Shiloh LaFreniere, Town Manager, Town of Jay

Nathaniel Rudy, Town Manager, Town of Gray

Dina Walker, Selectperson, Town of Weld

Item 8: Discuss request from Mahoosuc Kids to allow them to use the Town Beach for the remainder of their program – unable to change to Monday mornings.’

Kim explained that she heard back from Amy Connell, Director of the Mahoosuc Kids program and that Amy had asked if the Board would reconsider to let MKA continue to use the Town Beach for the next three Monday’s. Kim explained that the program is over in three weeks and stated that she informed Amy that next year’s program would have to be in the morning until noon. Selectman Milliard asked if they understand that if we give them this extension for the remainder of this year, that we will not give them any more extensions, and they will be able to use the beach next year only in the mornings. Kim stated that they are aware that they are only allowed to use the beach on Monday mornings next year. Kim stated that Amy is very appreciative and thanks you all for letting them use the beach. Selectman Milliard asked if they understood why we have made this decision. Kim stated that they do understand and asked how many complaints have we received. Selectman Oickle asked what time they were wanting to use the beach for the next three weeks. Kim answered that they are asking to use it from 1:30pm to 3pm in the afternoon on the next 3 Mondays. Chair Chapman suggested that we put a sign at the beach that the Mahoosuc kids will be using the beach on Monday afternoons for the next three weeks. Selectman Oickle said he hates to turn the kids away and getting the notice out there so folks will know. Selectman Milliard stated that he was ok with allowing them to use the beach for 3 more weeks as long as they are aware that next year will need to be in the morning. Chair Chapman and Selectman Oickle agreed to allow Mahoosuc Kids to continue to use the beach for the next three Mondays from 1:30 pm to 3 pm. Kim stated that she would let Amy Connell know.

Item 9: Copies of Mahoosuc Housing Code Audit for meeting on July 31, 2023

Kim gave copies of the Mahoosuc Housing Code Audit for the Board to review before their meeting on July 31st at the Bethel Town Office with Selectboards from Woodstock, Newry and Bethel.

Item 10: Request from Bill Bickford for donation for former Selectman Margery Swan’s celebration of life on August 16, 2023 at the Legion Hall.

Kim explained that Bill Bickford asked if the Town would be willing to contribute to the cost of former Selectman Margery Swan’s celebration of life. Kim explained that the Legion was trying to raise \$ 175.00. Kim stated that she was told by Marie Bartlett and Bill Bickford that Margery was the first female Selectman for Greenwood. Selectman Milliard asked if we knew when Margery had served. Kim stated that she hadn’t had the time to look that up but would.

Chair Chapman motioned and Selectman Oickle seconded to make a \$ 175.00 donation in memory of Margery Swan to the Legion to cover costs for her celebration of life. Vote: 3-0. Motion passes.

Item 11: Review and sign Quit Claim Deed for Diana Polli, Map U02-043

The Board reviewed the Quit Claim Deed for Diana Polli. Kim explained that the taxes were paid current on the Polli account. The Board signed the deed and Kim will get it recorded at the Registry of Deeds.

Item 12: Meetings and Events

July 31st – Area Selectmen’s Meeting, 5:00 pm Bethel Town Office

Aug. 8th – Selectmen’s Meeting, 5:00 pm GTO

Aug. 21st – Planning Board Meeting, 5:30 pm GTO

Aug. 22nd – Selectmen’s Meeting, 5:00 pm

Aug. 26th – Hazardous Waste Collection Day, 9:00 am, Bethel Transfer Station

Item 13: Adjourn - Having no further business, Selectman Milliard motioned and Selectman Oickle seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:08 pm. Vote: 3-0. Meeting is adjourned.