

July 13th, 2023 Town Board Minutes

Due to severe weather the regular meeting of the Greenfield Town Board was held July 13th, 2023 at 6:45 PM with the following members present: Rick Capasso, Deputy Supervisor, MaryAnn Johnson, Ty Stacey and Mike Gyarmathy, Councilpersons and 1 resident. Absent was Supervisor, Kevin Veitch and Town Counsel, Mark Schachner. The meeting was opened by Deputy Supervisor Capasso with the Pledge to the Flag.

On a motion by Stacey, C and seconded by Gyarmathy, C the minutes from June 8th, 2023 were approved as submitted by all board members present.

CORRESPONDENCE

All correspondence was received and filed. Letter from Christopher Hillerich regarding petitions for the Brookview Village Expansion, Letter from Susan English regarding the Brookview Expansion and a Letter from Vince Walsh regarding an incident at Tupelo.

Resolution #99 - 2023 Urging the Governor to Veto A.04282B/S.3505B to Move Certain Local Elections to Even-Numbered Years

Motion: Gyarmathy, C

Seconded: Johnson, C

Whereas, the Town of Greenfield believes that increasing participation in the election process and reducing costs of government operations is good for our republic; and
Whereas, Assembly Member Amy Paulin and State Senator James Skoufis reintroduced legislation that would move local elections to even-number years during the 2023 legislative session; and
Whereas, versions of this legislation were introduced in previous years and failed to reach the floor for a vote due to lack of support; and
Whereas, after the 2022 session concluded, the bill sponsor indicated that hearings would be held on the proposal through the Election Committee process; however, there were no hearings held; and
Whereas, the legislation passed in the middle of the night on the last days of the legislative session which is counter to the idea of an open and transparent government; and
Whereas, the Town of Greenfield has several concerns with this bill; and
Whereas, this legislation usurps the Home Rule powers reserved by local governments and protected by the Constitution of the State of New York, raising questions of legality and constitutional authority; and
Whereas, local municipalities have had the ability to change their elections to even-number years for decades, and chose not to do so; and
Whereas, we believe that establishing the schedule of local elections is the right of the local government, and has been for more than 100 years; and
Whereas, The Assembly Bill sponsor indicated that she had not received any messages of support for this proposal from any of the 57 Counties and 933 Towns across New York State impacted by this legislation and
Whereas, this legislation excludes more than half of all New Yorkers who vote in cities and villages from the changes to election law, creating an inequity among New York voters; and
Whereas, this legislation unfairly excludes the elections to offices in New York City and all other cities and villages in New York State, as well as certain offices within all counties and towns; and
Whereas, the proposed legislation circumvented the legislative committee process during this session, limiting public input and understanding of the impacts; and
Whereas, there has been no financial analysis or operational analysis of the impacts on local Boards of Elections; and
Whereas, there are concerns that the current election and ballot counting technology would not be able to adequately meet the demands of the significantly increased ballot size; and
Whereas, this will create confusion amongst voters in towns and counties across New York State; and

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Whereas, separating the elections affords voters more time and focus to better understand important local issues and provides candidates the appropriate platforms to explain their stance on issues without having to compete against national and state level campaigns; and

Whereas, moving local elections to even-numbered years would increase the cost of campaigns for local office, reducing the number of candidates willing to invest funds into their own campaign, because the cost of media will increase to compete with national and state level campaign advertisements, and

Whereas, there are significant legal and constitutional questions regarding the legality of this measure that have not been adequately addressed; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this Town of Greenfield urges the Governor to oppose this legislation and utilize her veto authority to reject this proposal; and

Resolved, that copies of this resolution be distributed by the Greenfield Town Clerk to Governor Kathy Hochul, Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart Cousins, Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, Senate Minority Leader Robert Ort, Assembly Minority Leader William Barclay, Assembly Bill Sponsor Amy Paulin, Senate Bill Sponsor James Skoufis, Senator James Tedisco, and Assemblymember Matthew Simpson.

Vote: Ayes: Capasso, Stacey, Johnson and Gyarmathy

Noes: None

Absent: Veitch

RESOLUTION #100 – 2023 AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF REAL PROPERTY

Motion: Stacey, C

Seconded: Gyarmathy, C

WHEREAS, Thomas Kopf owns real property at 9 Locust Drive, Greenfield Center in the Town of Greenfield, Tax Map No. 138.3-1-18 (the "Property") which is adjacent to Town Hall, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Greenfield would like to buy the Property from Thomas Kopf for potential use as a rear driveway to the Town Hall property and/or any other lawful public purpose; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Kopf is willing to sell the Property to the Town for \$45,000 to be paid half (\$22,500) in the calendar year of 2023 and the remaining half (\$22,500) in the calendar year 2024.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Town of Greenfield approves purchase of the Property located at 9 Locust Grove Road in the Town of Greenfield, Tax Map No. 138.3-1-18 from Thomas Kopf in accordance with the above payment schedule;

AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that the Property will be used by the Town of Greenfield for Town purposes;

AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that construction of an additional driveway would likely not be an action subject to State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) review but, in the event that any further action subject to SEQRA review is contemplated, such review will be undertaken as required in the future;

AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that the Town Supervisor is hereby authorized to take all actions necessary to effectuate the transaction, including execution of any and all documents in form approved by Town Counsel.

AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that the Town Supervisor, Town Clerk and Town Counsel are authorized and directed to take such additional actions and execute such documents as may be necessary to effectuate the intent of this Resolution.

Duly adopted this 13th day of July, 2023 by the following vote:

Ayes: Capasso, Stacey, Johnson and Gyarmathy

Noes: None

Absent: Veitch

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RESOLUTION #101 – 2023 APPROVE NEW EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK

Motion: Johnson, C
Seconded: Stacey, C

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby approves the New Employee Handbook as written by Public Sector HR Consultants LLC.

Vote: Ayes: Capasso, Stacey, Johnson and Gyarmathy
Absent: Veitch

RESOLUTION #102 – 2023 APPROVE BROOKHAVEN PARK PAVILION USAGE

Motion: Gyarmathy, C
Seconded: Johnson, C

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby approves the usage of Brookhaven Pavilion to Friends of the Kayaderosseras' Bike Tour Saturday, September 16th, 2023.

Vote: Ayes: Capasso, Stacey, Johnson and Gyarmathy
Absent: Veitch

RESOLUTION #103 – 2023 PROCLAMATION HONORING RUSSELL M. ORMSBEE

Motion: Stacey, C
Seconded: Johnson, C

Proclamation
Honoring Russell M. Ormsbee

WHEREAS, it is with great appreciation that the Town of Greenfield honors our resident Russell Ormsbee as he celebrates his 100th birthday; and

WHEREAS, he was born July 22, 1923 in Porter Corners, N.Y. and is the last living male descendant of the historic Ormsbee name in the Town dating back to 1796; and

WHEREAS, he is an honorable World War II Veteran, serving as Sergeant in the U.S. Army Air Corps from 1942-1946, where he served as a fighting engineer of a C54 cargo plane that was tasked with evacuating injured people in Hawaii to hospitals in California; and

WHEREAS, he had an esteemed career for more than 39 years at the International Paper Company as Yard Master for the railroad and Accountant; and

WHEREAS, he has been a life-long musician, guitar and bass player, square dance caller, and member of several country western bands including the Melody Mountain Boys, where he played on live television in 1952 and at the Grand Ole Opry and Shades of Country, which he was a part of until 2014; and

WHEREAS, he has been married for 37 years to Dorothy Ormsbee and father to step-son Jeffrey Dumont and built both of his homes, including where he lives today at 1118 North Creek Rd.; and

WHEREAS, he has been an active community member involved with the Greenfield Seniors, Greenfield Grange and more.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Greenfield hereby extends this Official Proclamation of Recognition and Honor for the life of Russell Ormsbee on July 22, 2023.

Rick Capasso, Deputy Town Supervisor
Mike Gyarmathy, Councilman

MaryAnn Johnson, Councilman
Ty Stacey, Councilman

I hereby certify that the above certificate was approved by the Town Board on July 13, 2023.

Kevin Veitch, Town Supervisor
Vote: Ayes: Capasso, Stacey, Johnson and Gyarmathy
Absent: Veitch

Karen Downen, Town Clerk

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RESOLUTION #104 – 2023 APPROVE HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT TO ATTEND FALL CONFERENCE

Motion: Johnson, C

Seconded: Gyarmathy, C

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby approves for Justin Burwell Highway Superintendent to attend the NYS Superintendent of Highways Fall Conference at Turning Stone Verona, NY September 26th thru the 29th.

Vote: Ayes: Capasso, Stacey, Johnson and Gyarmathy

Absent: Veitch

Deputy Capasso has meet with Matt Fogerty about Air-conditioning for the Ambulance department. It will take place after Toby Middlebrook and Casey Cornell meet and figure out what will be done. Because we lease the building Casey will take care of the situation and the Town will pay him back. Funds are available for this project per our Accountant clerk. Will have full details of what will take place after they meet.

Monthly reports were submitted by Supervisor, Town Clerk, Building Department, Recreation Department, Court, Dog Control and Brookhaven.

RESOLUTION #105 – 2023 BUDGET RESOLUTION AND AMENDMENT TO AUTHORIZE A TRANSFER OF FUNDS

Motion: Johnson, C

Seconded: Stacey, C

RESOLVED, that the Supervisor be allowed to make the following transfer of funds as presented:

TO: Town Board

July 6, 2023

RE: Budget Resolution and Amendment to Authorize a Transfer of Funds

In Order to properly account for increased costs due to oversight at the Dog Park, including associated mileage, increase General Fund Account, **A3510.400 Control of Dogs, Contractual Expense by \$6,000 and also A1920.400 Municipal Dues by \$180**, total amount of \$6,180 from **A1990.400 Contingency**:

GENERAL FUND:

Decrease A1990.400 Contingency by \$6,000

Increase A3510.400 Control of Dogs, Contractual Expense by \$6,000

Decrease A1990.400 Contingency by \$180

Increase A1920.400 Municipal Dues by \$180

Respectfully,

Cara A. Parks

Principal Account Clerk

Town of Greenfield

TO: Town Board

July 6, 2023

RE: Budget Resolution and Amendment to Authorize a Transfer of Funds

In Order to properly account for the costs due associated with the creation of the new, Town Handbook, increase General Fund Account, **A1430.400 Personnel, Contractual Expense by \$1,400**. To account for the increased costs for managing the Town's IT and IT upgrades, transfer to **A1680.400 Data Processing, Contractual by \$10,000**, for a total amount of **\$11,400** from **A1990.400 Contingency**:

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GENERAL FUND:

Decrease A1990.400 Contingency by \$1,400
Increase A1430.400 Personnel, Contractual Expense by \$1,400
Decrease A1990.400 Contingency by \$10,000
Increase A1680.400 Data Processing by \$10,000

Respectfully,
Cara A. Parks
Principal Account Clerk
Town of Greenfield
Vote: Ayes: Capasso, Stacey, Johnson and Gyarmathy
Absent: Veitch

RESOLUTION #106 – 2023 GENERAL BILLS

Motion: Stacey, C
Seconded: Johnson, C

RESOLVED, that the General Bills in the amount of \$101,525.93 be paid.

Vote: Ayes: Capasso, Stacey, Johnson and Gyarmathy
Absent: Veitch

RESOLUTION #107 – 2023 HIGHWAY BILLS

Motion: Johnson, C
Seconded: Gyarmathy, C

RESOLVED, that the Highway Bills in the amount of \$73,537.65 be paid.

Vote: Ayes: Capasso, Stacey, Johnson and Gyarmathy
Absent: Veitch

RESOLUTION #108 – 2023 PARKS BILLS

Motion: Johnson, C
Seconded: Stacey, C

RESOLVED, that the Parks Bills in the amount of \$65,646.63 be paid.

Vote: Ayes: Capasso, Stacey, Johnson and Gyarmathy
Absent: Veitch

RESOLUTION #109 – TRUST AND AGENCY BILLS

Motion: Johnson, C
Seconded: Gyarmathy, C

RESOLVED, that the Trust and Agency Bills in the amount of \$820.02 be paid.

Vote: Ayes: Capasso, Stacey, Johnson and Gyarmathy
Absent: Veitch

On a motion from Gyarmathy, C and seconded by Johnson, C the meeting was adjourned at 6:56 PM.

Town Clerk

