

Greensboro Selectboard

October 8, 2014

Meeting Minutes

SELECTBOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Marsha Gadoury, Peter Romans, Susan Wood

SELECTBOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Warren Hill, Jr.

OTHERS PRESENT: Valdine Hall, Josh Karp, June Cook, Tom Vickery, John Mackin, Lenny Schiavone, Nancy Sullivan, Tom Anastasio, Gina Jenkins, Janet Long, Erwin Salls, Jr., Ed LeClair, Chief Aaron Cochran, Megan Rose, Carol Plante

CALLED TO ORDER: 7:00 PM

MINUTES

Minutes from September 10, 2014 approved as written.

PUBLIC CONCERNS

Sally Lonegren has expressed concern about a dead tree on the Town Hall Green. The Board unanimously agreed that the tree should be removed. Adam Holbrook will be asked to do the work.

POLICE

1. August and September police reports reviewed by the Board.
2. *Police Contract.* Warren and Sue will work on the police contract with members of the Hardwick Selectboard.

ROADS

1. *Road Supervisor's Report.* Road Supervisor Dan Tanner was not present; the Board reviewed his written roads report.
2. *Snowplow Turnarounds.* After discussion, the Board unanimously agreed to run the town's Winter Parking Policy in the Hardwick Gazette. Marsha will further discuss the issue with Dan.
3. *Sidewalk Grant Update.* Peter reported that the grant application is more complicated than the sidewalk committee had hoped; a scoping study will be required after all. Grant applications are accepted in May and October each year, so the town can apply next spring. The Board unanimously appointed Lance Hall to the sidewalk committee, which also includes Peter Romans and Naomi Ranz-Schleifer.
4. *Road Name for Smirkus Complex.* The Board unanimously approved 'Clown Alley' as the road name for the new Circus Smirkus complex at 421 Breezy Ave. It was noted that road name signs should be placed at both the entrance and exit, since the road is a one-way loop.

TOWN CLERK – Valdine Hall

1. The Board reviewed the FY 2015 Budget, Y.T.D.
2. *Tom Vickery (Town Assessor) – Grand List Error.* Tom told the Board that a software glitch resulted in a property tax bill being based on an assessment that was \$2,600,000 too high. Since the tax rate was set prior to the error being discovered, and tax bills were sent out, correcting this error will result in the town's municipal budget running a \$14,000 deficit. The state education portion of the error, considerably more, will be absorbed by the state.

Valdine said that the town can legally run a deficit if necessary. If this happens, next year's tax bill may include an additional line item to recover the \$14k, amounting to approx. one-half cent on the tax rate.

Tom asked the Board to approve his 'Errors and Omissions' letter so the property owner can be sent a corrected tax bill.

Marsha made the following motion:

The Board accepts the 'Errors and Omissions' letter as presented by assessor Tom Vickery. The error was clearly due to a software glitch in the Microsolve program.

Peter seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

As such, it was not necessary for the Board to set a new tax rate.

ONGOING BUSINESS

Circus Smirkus – Industrial Revenue Bond. Smirkus Executive Director Ed LeClair explained the Industrial Revenue Bond program. Through this federal program, towns have the ability to allow non-profits within their borders to take advantage of lower interest loans. In Vermont, VEDA administers the program. In 2015, Smirkus will be asking for a \$2.3 million bond allocation, out of the town's total bonding capacity of \$10 million. A bond allocation agreement would be signed, stating that the town is fulfilling the IRS requirement that a municipal authority has reviewed and approved Smirkus' request. LeClair agreed that Smirkus will cover town attorney costs resulting from drawing up the agreement. Discussion about financial risk to the town; LeClair said there is no such risk. Peter made the following motion:

The Board approves moving forward with the Bond Allocation Agreement as presented by Circus Smirkus Executive Director Ed LeClair.

Marsha seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

HARDWICK AREA COMMUNITY JUSTICE PROGRAM – Carol Plante

Carol Plante, director of the Hardwick Area Community Justice Program, updated the Board on the Program's past year. Plante explained that the program is victim focused, and tries to ensure that people are not re-victimized. The Program works very closely with the probation and parole boards. Their caseload is down by approx. one-third, compared with the past few years.

The COSA re-entry program has stalled due to lack of approved affordable housing. The Dept. of Corrections took funding earmarked for the COSA program and gave it back to community justice programs as part of a differently structured re-entry services program.

The Hardwick Area Community Justice Program will be celebrating its 10th anniversary on Wednesday, Oct. 22 from 5-7 PM on the third floor of the Hardwick Memorial Building.

GREENSBORO FIRE DEPARTMENT – Chief Erwin Salls, Jr.

1. The G.F.D. will hold an open house at the new fire station on Sunday, Oct 19 from 10-2 PM. Invitations have been sent to area fire departments that often work with the G.F.D.
2. The G.F.D. recently approved a bullying/hazing policy, and rewrote its alcohol policy to include drugs.
3. Landscaping is progressing at the new fire station.
4. Two appraisals of the old fire house property have been received: Dave Rowell (Watson): \$80k; Betsy Donlon/Dorian Sarris (Lang/McLaughry): \$110k.

NOISE ORDINANCE

Noise from wedding parties at the Lakeview Inn has caused issues with neighbors for many years. A few years ago, former Selectboard member Anne Stevens visited the Nancy Sullivan/Lenny Schiavone household during a party at the Inn and found the noise levels unacceptably high. Peter Romans agreed that noise levels can indeed be unbearable for some close neighbors. According to Nancy Sullivan, concerns about evening noise levels were expressed at the Inn's conditional use hearing many years ago, but that appropriate conditions were not placed on the permit.

Discussion of whether a noise ordinance should cover just the villages or be town-wide. Chief Cochran said that a town-wide ordinance would be easier for the H.P.D. to enforce.

The Board agreed that public input is needed.

Marsha made the following motion:

A committee will be formed to investigate a noise ordinance.

Peter seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Committee members will include Tom Anastasio, Peter Romans, Lenny Schiavone, Megan Rose, and Chief Erwin Salls, Jr. Others are welcome and will be solicited through an ad in the paper.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. *Bridget Collier, Letter of Resignation from Selectboard.* Bridget has resigned from the Selectboard, effective immediately.

- Marsha made the following motion:

The Selectboard accepts Board member Bridget Collier's resignation.

Peter Romans seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Sue said that a public notice of the vacancy must be posted for 10 days. The notice will include a request for letters of interest from anyone interesting in filling the vacancy. Assuming there are respondents, the Board will then make an appointment, with the interim Board member serving until the 2015 town meeting.

- The Board unanimously approved the following replacements for Bridget's Selectboard positions:

Selectboard Vice Chair: Warren Hill, Jr.

Greensboro Fire Dept. Liaison: Peter Romans

Legal Liaison: Susan Wood

Order Sheets: Marsha Gadoury with Warren Hill, Jr. as back-up.

- The Board unanimously approved Bridget receiving her Selectboard stipend in an amount proportional to her length of service. Her replacement will also receive a proportional stipend.
2. *Front Entryway Roof, Town Hall.* Jim Maxfield (“The Roofmeisters”) was asked to submit a quote for fixing the front entryway roof, but due to a miscommunication actually completed the work. His cost of \$1400 for the work compared with a quote of \$585 from Russ Hislop (the two quotes spec’d different roofing materials). Marsha talked to Maxfield, who said he wouldn’t charge the town for the work. After discussion, the Board unanimously approved Maxfield being paid \$1100 for his work on the roof.
 3. *Town Bullying Policy.* Sue presented a draft ‘Harassment, Bullying and Hazing Policy’. The Board unanimously agreed that the policy should go to VLCT to be reviewed from a legal and insurance standpoint; the review will cost \$80/hr.

ONGOING BUSINESS

1. *Willey Beach Committee.* Committee member John Mackin presented a proposal for the initial development of the Willey Beach parcel. After this first phase is complete, the committee will dissolve and the recreation committee will take over management of the parcel. After discussion, Peter made the following motion:

The Selectboard accepts the Willey Beach Committee’s plan for initial development of the Willey Beach parcel, without the requested \$5,000 budget. The committee may now take the plan to the D.R.B.

Marsha seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

2. *Town Hall Janitor – Update.* Marsha will be doing interviews on Oct. 9 for this position.
3. *Additional Recycling Help – Update.* Earl Cole has been hired to fulfill two roles: 1) as an alternate for attendant Gabe Clark and 2) to work with Gabe during the busy summer season.
4. *D.R.B. Alternate Member – Stipend.* The Board unanimously agreed that the recently appointed D.R.B. alternate member should receive the same stipend as regular members.

ADJOURNED: 8:52 PM

Respectfully Submitted: Josh Karp, Selectboard Clerk

AMENDED 11/15/14 J.K.