

*(Draft only – not approved by the Selectboard)*

# Greensboro Selectboard

December 20, 2017

## Meeting Minutes

**SELECTBOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Judy Carpenter, Peter Romans, Michael Lapierre, Susan Wood (via speakerphone), Sean Thomson

**SELECTBOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Kim Greaves, Josh Karp, Denise Stuart, Bob Montgomery, Tom Camarra, Andy Kehler, Shaun Hill

**CALLED TO ORDER: 6:30 PM**

### MINUTES

Minutes from 12/20 approved as written.

### PUBLIC CONCERNS

There were no public concerns this evening.

### POLICE

No representative from the HPD was present.

**COPS Grant.** The HPD was found eligible for a COPS grant. The Hardwick Selectboard will consider accepting the grant at it's Dec. 21 meeting.

### GREENSBORO FIRE DEPT.

No representative from the GFD was present.

The Board reviewed the November report submitted by Chief Dave Brochu Jr.

### ROADS

**1. Road Supervisor's Report.** Tom reported that the crew has been plowing and doing minor repairs on equipment. All trucks have been working well.

**2. Road Conditions – Mateo Kehler (Jasper Hill Farm), Shaun Hill (Hill Farmstead Brewery).**

In a letter to the Board earlier in the week, Mateo Kehler (JHF) expressed concern about a rumor he'd heard: that the Selectboard ordered a reduction in sand use by the road crew. Peter and Sue said that this is untrue and there has been no reduction in sanding rates.

Andy Kehler (JHF) complained about inconsistent winter road maintenance on Garvin Hill Rd., making it difficult at times for tractor trailers to access their business. It's unfortunate, he said, that every few years he has to come back to the Selectboard to discuss this recurring problem.

Andy noted that in JHF's Act 250 application, the town expressly agreed to adequately maintain the roads leading to their facility.

A tractor trailer bound for JHF recently got stuck on Garvin Hill Rd. According to Road Foreman Tom Camarra, Chuck Hill was on the scene and noted that the truck didn't have winter tires. Later it became apparent that the driver was inexperienced with winter driving, when he stopped at the town garage and asked for assistance in unchaining.

Peter said that the town can't keep all roads in equally passable condition, in all types of weather, at all times. Truckers simply have to use chains when conditions warrant, adding that fuel oil and milk trucks do this as a matter of course.

Bob Montgomery (HFB) commented that Taylor Road is generally not well sanded, and at times he's sanded the road himself when expecting a truck delivery.

Tom said that a common condition during snowstorms is for a freshly sanded road to be covered by new snow, leading to slippery conditions until the plow comes around again. When asked why sand is put down in a narrow strip down the center of the road, Tom explained that the spinner only spins out 6-8 feet.

While there is a general policy for winter road maintenance, there is no specific language governing sand application rates or technique.

Discussion about how to address the concerns of JHF and HFB. Shaun Hill suggested a policy worded like '*an adequate amount of sand is to be spread in a timely fashion, uniformly distributed across the road*'. New and/or improved signage was also discussed.

Tom said that Taylor Rd. is not a good road for tractor trailers to use in the winter. The Bend Road and Garvin Hill Rd. should be used instead for truck access to both JHF and HFB.

Peter suggested that signs be put up at the beginning of Young and Taylor Roads stating something like '*No tractor trailers between Nov. 1 - April 30. Use the Bend Rd. and Garvin Hill Rd. as an alternate route, xx miles S. on Rt. 16*'. The language on the signs must be written carefully so as not to exclude oil or milk trucks. Other trucks commonly on roads in winter, such as logging trucks, were not discussed. Possibly, the sign could limit tractor trailers by using a weight limit.

However the sign is worded, the HPD would provide enforcement.

Andy suggested there also be a sign at the intersection of Rt. 16 and the Bend Rd. stating '*Alternate truck route for Taylor Road*'.

Shaun noted that Garvin Hill Rd. needs to be well maintained if all truck traffic is being directed there.

Andy will make a JHF truck schedule for Tom. The road crew might be able to adjust their sanding schedule to coincide with JHF's regular truck deliveries.

- 3. Businesses Using Town Sand Pile.** The Board has started gathering data on the amount of free sand being taken from the town pile for business use. It was noted that most neighboring towns prohibit the taking of free sand by businesses.

Andy said that the free sand is a low-cost way for the town to support small businesses.

## **TOWN CLERK – Kim Greaves**

- 1. Liquor Licenses.** Highland Lodge, Willey's Store, and Smith's Store submitted liquor licenses for Board approval. Michael made the following motion:

*The Board approves the following liquor licenses: Highland Lodge: 1<sup>st</sup> Class license and outside consumption permits; Willey's Store: 2<sup>nd</sup> Class license; Smith's Store: 2<sup>nd</sup> Class license.*

Peter seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. The Board signed the liquor licenses.

2. **Common Level of Appraisal (CLA).** Kim explained that the CLA is a number generated by the VT Dept. of Taxes, comparing town-assessed property values with recent property sales. If the CLA is 86% or below, a reappraisal is required. Greensboro's CLA is 101%, meaning that sales are on-par with values and that no reappraisal is necessary in the near future.
3. **Town Assessor Bids.** Only one bid was received, from current town assessor Stearns Allen. His bid was the same as last year (\$12k). The Board isn't concerned about receiving only one bid, because Stearns knows the town well and thus is very efficient. The Board unanimously accepted Stearns' bid.

#### **TREASURER – Denise Stuart**

1. **FY 2018 budget, Y.T.D.** The Board reviewed the FY 2018 budget, Y.T.D. The town offices I.T. line item is over budget, since two additional NEMRC licenses were purchased (land records and dogs), and extra tech support was needed. For FY 2019, licenses will be taken out of the tech support budget and put in a separate line item.
2. The FY 2019 budget is almost completed.
3. **New Server – Update.** It turned out that the new server didn't need to go out to bid, due to the project being done in multiple, smaller phases, and because professional services are excluded from the town's bid policy.

#### **ONGOING BUSINESS**

**Library Lease Agreement.** The current lease agreement with the town is somewhat unclear about what constitutes 'repairs and maintenance'. After reviewing the lease, town attorney Bill Davies said that problems with the septic system fall under 'repairs & maintenance' and as such are the library's responsibility.

It was agreed that a clearer lease would benefit both parties.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Sean made the following motion:

*The Board will enter executive session at 7:55 PM to discuss a personnel issue. Denise Stuart and Kim Greaves will be present.*

Michael seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

The Board left executive session at 8:07 PM.

The Board unanimously agreed to form a sub-committee, made up of Judy and Susan, to continue work on the issues discussed.

#### **ADJOURNED: 8:09 PM**

*Respectfully Submitted: Josh Karp, Selectboard Clerk*