

# Greensboro Selectboard

February 10, 2016

## Meeting Minutes

**SELECTBOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Susan Wood, Peter Romans, Sean Thomson, Ernest Machia

**SELECTBOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Marsha Gadoury

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Dan Tanner, Valdine Hall, Josh Karp, Ken Johnston, Lily McAteer, Charlie McAteer, B.J. Gray, June Cook, Officer Kevin Lehoe

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

### MINUTES

1. Minutes from the January 13, 2016 meeting unanimously approved as amended
2. Minutes from the January 27, 2016 meeting unanimously approved as written.

### PUBLIC CONCERNS

There were no public concerns this evening.

### ROADS

**Road Supervisor's Report – Dan Tanner.** Wizzy Hall has been helping out with plowing and sanding as needed, since the crew is down a man. Discussion of renting a chipper so the crew can do some roadside brush cutting, since there hasn't been much snow to deal with.

### POLICE

Officer Kevin Lehoe was present. The Board reviewed the January police report. It was noted that there was an armed robbery at Smith's Store in Greensboro Bend.

### TOWN CLERK & TREASURER – Valdine Hall

1. **Budget F.Y. 2016 Y.T.D.** The Board reviewed the F.Y. 2016 budget, Y.T.D.
2. Valdine reported that she has hired an assistant clerical person, who will work a few hours a week, or as needed.

## **ONGOING BUSINESS**

**Temporary Signage Policy.** Sean has been researching the Town's options for a temporary signage policy. He reported that it appears to be legally permissible to have a policy that simply states *'No temporary signs on town property are permitted without written permission of the Selectboard.'* Discussion; *'Temporary'* would need to be defined. It was unclear whether these temporary signs would need to follow town zoning regulations for signs.

Sean will draft a policy.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Ken Johnston, the Town's Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District representative, reported to the Board on a number of recycling issues.

- 1. Recycling Center Violations.** The state visited the recycling center on 1/14 and noted a few violations: florescent bulbs were stored improperly; there were tires in the metal bin; computer monitors were lying around outside. These issues have been taken care of.
- 2. Selectboard Recycling Liaison.** Ken suggested that the Board create a recycling liaison, for more efficient communication between himself and the Board. This position will be filled at the March Board meeting.
- 3. District Budget Votes.** The District is considering changing the way its budget is voted on. Currently, member towns must hold Australian Ballot votes; this can be unwieldy. Discussion; the Board was open to other ways to structure this vote, but thought Town voters should be polled about this.
- 4. District Income Streams.** Global prices have dropped for most commodities including recyclables. Since the District sells collected recyclables to help fund its operations, it is struggling financially. The District also raises income through tipping fees paid by trash haulers; Ken told the Board that tipping fee income goes down as recycling rates increase. In the interest of financial stability, the District is considering raising tipping fees and/or putting in place a per-capita assessment (i.e. \$1 per year per resident). Peter noted that whatever financial/structural changes are made at the District, those who produce the waste should pay for it.
- 5. Method of Picking Up Recyclables.** The current 'gaylord' containers are very labor intensive for the District to swap out each week; ways to make recycling pick up more efficient are being discussed. A consultant hired by the District recommended that roll-offs be used, allowing the pickup of recyclables to be more mechanized. This change would mean new recycling facilities for many District towns including Greensboro; such facilities can't be designed until the District finalizes changes to its collection process.

USDA grant funding of 35%-50% of building costs may be available for the construction of new recycling centers.

The Planning Commission is working on updating the town plan; the P.C. will be asked to 1) look into possible sites for a new recycling building, and 2) gather public input on the siting and design of such a building.

## **GREENSBORO ARTS ALLIANCE & RESIDENCY – Charlie & Lily McAteer**

Lily McAteer told the Board that GAAR would like permission to put up their tent on the Town Hall Green from June 15 – August 25; this would be the tent's third year on the Green. Some of the Town Hall rooms would also be used, as they were last year. Lily added that this would be the tent's last year, as the Mirror Theater will be completed by next summer.

Sue read two emails from folks who are against the tent; the writers expressed concern that the Green is 'taken over' by GAAR for much of summer.

Peter said that due to controversy in town regarding the new theater, the tent, GAAR signage etc., he would like to see the question of the tent discussed at town meeting under 'other business' (with any vote taken being non-binding). Discussion of limiting discussion to town taxpayers. The Selectboard would vote on the tent at its March meeting, having heard a variety of public opinion.

Charlie McAteer and others agreed that its hard to know whether such a public discussion would be more likely to 'clear the air' around issues with the tent, or stir things up even more. Charlie expressed concern that the discussion could become a referendum on the controversial Mirror Theater building.

Charlie added that delaying the tent decision for a month puts GAAR in a perilous logistical situation, since they are currently planning their summer schedule, and if the tent is not approved at the Selectboard's March meeting an alternative site could be difficult to find on short notice. Charlie asked whether a policy exists governing use of the Town Hall Green; Sue replied that there is no policy; the Board deals with requests to use the Green on a case-by-case basis.

Ernie said the group needs a space for tent, discussion at town meeting seems too complicated, and that GAAR's request to put up the tent should be approved.

Discussion of whether a survey at town meeting, rather than opening the floor, may be a better approach to garner public input; it may also be possible to put such a survey on the town website. Charlie requested that the survey include a space for suggestions on how GAAR can do a better job on the Green during the summer. He added the organization would be willing to make some improvements to the Green as a good will gesture.

Sue made the following motion:

*The decision on the GAAR tent will be tabled. A survey will be available at town meeting and if possible, on the Town web site, in order to get a broad spectrum of input to inform the Board's decision. The Board will vote on GAAR's tent request at its March 9 meeting.*

Peter seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Sue told Charlie and Lily that it might be prudent to consider alternative sites, in the meantime.

Sean will prepare a survey that will be available at town meeting and possibly on the town website.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Sue made the following motion:

*The Board will enter executive session at 8:17 PM to discuss a real estate contract, with Josh Karp present.*

Peter seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

The Board left executive session at 8:18 PM, and took no action.

**ADJOURNED: 8:18 PM**

*Respectfully Submitted: Josh Karp, Selectboard Clerk*