

Greensboro Selectboard

February 8, 2017

Meeting Minutes

SELECTBOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Susan Wood, Judy Carpenter, Sean Thomson, Michael Lapierre

SELECTBOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Peter Romans

OTHERS PRESENT: Dan Tanner, Valdine Hall, Josh Karp, Chief Aaron Cochran, Captain Art Brochu, Patsy Mercier, Wayne Young

CALLED TO ORDER: 6:32 PM

MINUTES

- Minutes from Jan. 11 regular meeting unanimously approved as written.
- Minutes Jan. 24 special meeting unanimously approved as amended.

PUBLIC CONCERNS

There were no public concerns this evening.

POLICE

Chief Aaron Cochran was present.

The Board reviewed the January police report.

ROADS

- **Road Supervisor's Report – Dan Tanner.** Andre is back at work full-time.
- **Mailboxes Hit by Town Snowplows.** There have been recent complaints about town plows hitting mailboxes. Discussion; Sue said that the policy in recent years has been to not pay for repairs or replacements. The Board agreed to further discuss this issue; Sean will research policy options.
- **Town Properties Committee – Town Garage Report.** The Board reviewed the Town Properties Committee report on the Town Garage. Discussion about the floor drain, which either needs to be plugged or a water/oil separator must be installed.
- **Roadside Mowing – Spreading Invasive Plants.** The Board reviewed a letter from Planning Commission member Christine Armstrong, who has been revising the 'Natural Resources' section of the Town Plan. She became concerned that the invasive plant *Japanese Knotweed* may be spread during roadside mowing operations in the summer. Discussion; further research is needed to determine if the plant is being spread by roadside mowing, and if so, the most practical and effective way to reduce its spread.

- **Driveway Plowing.** A recent and recurring complaint about driveway plowing is that parts of town (such as North Greensboro) that receive more snow aren't always plowed when there's 5" of snow (the driveway plowing threshold), since much of the rest of the town has less snow. The Board will review the plowing contract in detail when it expires; this is the second year of a three year contract.

GREENSBORO FIRE DEPT.

Captain Art Brochu presented Chief Dave Brochu, Jr.'s January report.

- The G.F.D. re-elected Dave Brochu, Jr. as Chief, and submitted his name to the Selectboard for approval. Mike made the following motion:

The Selectboard approves David Brochu, Jr. as Fire Chief of the Greensboro Fire Department.

Judy seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

- The 911 sign project will continue through 2017, and is going well.
- The septic tank at the new fire station has an ongoing issue of ground water intrusion, necessitating more pumping than usual. The G.F.D. and the engineer who designed the septic system are working to solve the problem.
- Six breathing apparatus were received from the Essex Town F.D., which recently upgraded. These units, while used, are an upgrade from G.F.D.'s current breathing apparatus.
- The annual fishing derby sponsored by the G.F.D. will be held on Sat. March 4.

TOWN CLERK & TREASURER – Valdine Hall

The Board reviewed the FY 2017 budget, Y.T.D.

CEMETERY COMMISSION – Wayne Young, Patsy Mercier

Wayne Young told the Board that the privately owned strip of land in front of the Baker Cemetery (approx. 55'x120') could be purchased to expand the cemetery in the future; the parcel is currently not for sale.

Wayne reported that lots of work has been done to clear brush from cemetery edges, but that there's more work to do, including further clearing and new fencing. Some of the cemeteries need to be surveyed in order to clarify the boundaries. Discussion of new signage.

Plots have been selling well in some of the cemeteries. Wayne noted that some towns charge more for plots sold to non-residents, an attempt to keep plots available to locals; Greensboro does not currently do this. Wayne added that soon, some town cemeteries may have only cremation plots available, due to steep, rough land and ledge.

Patsy Mercier, who administers the selling of cemetery lots, used to get a \$500 annual stipend; this year she received \$300. Wayne said that Patsy has done this job for a long time, knows how to do it well, and her services are well worth the full \$500. He added that Patsy should get a stipend every year she does the job. Sue and Valdine will look into the stipend issue.

OTHER BUSINESS

- **Selectboard Meetings in Greensboro Bend – Judy Carpenter.** Judy suggested that the Board alternate meetings between Greensboro Village and Greensboro Bend. Discussion of possible locations; St. Michaels church seems like the best option, although it will cost \$50/meeting.

After further discussion, Judy made the following motion:

The Board will hold its regular meeting in Greensboro Bend once per quarter, at St. Michael's church, at a cost of \$50 per meeting.

Michael seconded the motion, which carried (J.C., M.L., S.W. in favor; S.T. against).

Specific dates will be worked out at the Board's reorganizational meeting in March (after town meeting).

- **Heart of VT Chamber of Commerce.** After discussion, Sean made the following motion:

The Town will join the Heart of VT Chamber of Commerce for a \$75 annual fee.

Judy seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

ONGOING BUSINESS

- **Planning Commission Appointments.** Letters of interest in joining the Planning Commission (PC) have been received from Mary Landon and Todd Hebert. The Board agreed that the applicants should discuss their interest with the PC and perhaps attend a meeting; the PC can then make a recommendation to the Selectboard.

- **Recycling Committee Update – Judy Carpenter.** Judy reported that due to poor markets for recyclables, the Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District (NEKWMD) is now charging a hauling fee of \$30 for each pick up. This fee existed in the past, but was lowered and then eliminated when markets recovered.

Judy added that the food scrap collection program will soon cost the town \$8 per tote emptied.

Discussion about the future of recycling. The NEKWMD has decided not to change the way it collects recyclables, so a new recycling building/setup won't be required. However, changes and improvements could still be made to the recycling center. Discussion; Sean wondered if there is anything to be learned from Canada's successful and comprehensive recycling program.

Judy reported that the Recycling Committee hasn't worked on its charter because members have been thinking of it as a short-term committee, tasked with researching a new building. As a building may be off the table, Judy said that the committee may not need to exist much longer.

- **Committee Charters.** Sean reported that the *Beach* and *Buildings and Grounds* Committees have been working on their committee charters, and has heard from committee members that the process of reviewing their charters has been useful.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Sue made the following motion:

The Board will enter executive session at 8:25 PM to discuss a personnel issue.

Sean seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

The Board left executive session at 8:40 PM and took no action.

ADJOURNED: 8:40 PM

Respectfully Submitted: Josh Karp, Selectboard Clerk