

# Greensboro Selectboard

April 8, 2015

## Meeting Minutes

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

**SELECTBOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Marsha Gadoury

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Chief Aaron Cochran, Josh Karp, Tom Anastasio, Gina Jenkins, Erika Karp, Dave Brochu, Jr., Kristen Leahy, Phil Gray

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

### MINUTES

Minutes approved as amended for the March 11, 2015 meeting.

### PUBLIC CONCERNS

**Jane Kleinsinger – Dead Coyotes Hanging.** Jane submitted a letter to the Board complaining that a number of dead coyotes have been hanging at a residence in view of travelers on the Bend Rd. After brief discussion, the Board took no action.

### POLICE

Chief Aaron Cochran was present.

- 1. Police Reports.** The Board reviewed the February and March 2015 police reports.
- 2. K9.** Chief Cochran reported that the Dept.'s K9 police dog is retiring; a deposit has been placed on a yet-to-be born German shepherd puppy from North Carolina. To keep taxes as low as possible, the Dept. is planning a fundraiser to raise money for the dog's training.
- 3. Noise Ordinance.** Tom Anastasio told Chief Cochran that he was shocked by Cochran's anti-noise ordinance memo that was read at town meeting. He said the Chief's comments were based on a sample ordinance and misled voters – because an ordinance drafted specifically for Greensboro would look very different from such a sample ordinance. Tom disagrees with the perspective that "*the existing state noise law is good enough*"; he feels this law is inadequate and does not protect anyone from noise. Chief Cochran said that a basic noise ordinance covering the entire town "wouldn't be a bad thing", but one with multiple zones, each with different noise regulations, would make enforcement a real challenge. Tom concluded by urging the Selectboard to work towards producing a noise ordinance for Greensboro.

### ROADS

Road Supervisor Dan Tanner was not present.

- 1. Road Supervisor's Report.** The Board reviewed Dan's roads report.
- 2. Ongoing Business: Extended Warranty for Western Star Truck.** Marsha and Dan met and agreed on an extended warranty package for the town's 2015 Western Star Truck, at a cost of \$7114. The warranty includes five years of towing and electrical coverage and seven years of engine coverage.

- 3. Road Sign Request.** The entrance to David Kelley and Kelly Robinson's driveway (1501 Shadow Lake Rd.) is located on a sharp corner; pulling out of their driveway can be dangerous. They are requesting that the town erect signs, something to the effect of 'slow down, sharp corner', and have offered to pay for the signs. Peter made the following motion:

*The Board approves the road crew putting up two signs on the approaches to the sharp corner as discussed, to be paid for by David Kelley and Kelley Robinson.*

Ernie seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

- 4. Annual Highway Plan (VTrans).** The Board signed the annual Highway Plan.
- 5. Certificate of Road & Bridge Standards.** The Board signed the Certificate of Road & Bridge Standards.

#### **GREENSBORO FIRE DEPT.**

- 1. New Fire Chief.** Dave Brochu, Jr. presented the Selectboard with a letter from the Greensboro Fire Dept., stating that the Dept. elected David Brochu, Jr. as the new fire chief on March 19, 2015. Peter made the following motion:

*The Board unanimously accepts the Fire Department's recommendation of David Brochu, Jr. as the new fire chief.*

Ernie seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

- 2. New Fire Truck.** The new fire truck will be hauled up from Florida next week.

#### **TOWN CLERK**

Town Clerk Valdine Hall was not present.

- 1. FY 2015 Budget.** The Board reviewed the FY 2015 budget, YTD. Ernie expressed concern about the cost of dispatch service (approx. \$24k).
- 2. Don Maynard – Liquor License Request.** Don lives at 615 Hill Rd. and is turning part of his garage into a retail space. He has received town D.R.B. and state Act 250 approvals, and is requesting that the Board approve a Class II liquor license so he can sell bottled beer. There will be no consumption of beer or food on the premises. The hours of operation are not confirmed yet, but will likely be Wed. through Sat., 11 AM - 6 PM. Sean made the following motion:

*The Board approves the Class II liquor license, as requested by Don Maynard.*

Sue seconded the motion, which carried (S.W., S.T., P.R. in favor; E.M. opposed). The Board signed the license.

- 3. Public Service Officer.** The Board signed the Public Service Officer form; Peggy Lipscomb will continue in the role.
- 4. Bend Community Park – Lease Renewal.** The lease is between the town and VTrans, since a portion of the park is in the Lamoille Valley Rail-Trail R.O.W. Peter made the following motion:

*The Board approves the lease renewal for the Greensboro Bend Community Park.*

Ernie seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

- 5. Fireworks Contract.** New fire chief Dave Brochu, Jr. signed the fireworks contract. Erika Karp noted that fireworks could be toxic and perhaps the town should reconsider purchasing them.

## **ONGOING BUSINESS**

- 1. Old Firehouse Sale.** Peter talked to town attorney Bill Davies: the Board needs to come up with terms for the sale, such as whether the property will be listed with a real estate agent, auctioned off, or put out to bid, and what the minimum price would be for the property. Publishing of the terms must be followed by a 30 day warning period; then the building can be sold. If enough voters don't like the terms of the sale, a petition can be submitted during this warning period calling for a town meeting.

Discussion of how to come up with a property value. Two area realtors appraised it last year and many felt the values were unrealistically high. It is unknown whether the lot is buildable or not, and if a septic system could be installed: both questions must be answered before a value can be determined. Kristen Leahy will ask surveyor Wayne Mutrux to compute the exact acreage of the lot using existing tax maps. Peter will contact engineer Patrick Larson to discuss septic capability. After these two questions are answered, Peter will approach a few realtors and ask them to write up a property report.

As a former real estate broker, Kristen said that putting property out to bid tends to result in lower proceeds from a sale, and suggested the town consider listing the property with a real estate agent.

It was agreed that the town should sell the property for the highest price possible, and that the process should move along as fast as is practical.

- 2. Tim Short Property:** No progress made to date; the ground is still snow covered.
- 3. New Streetlights.** Peter reported that Efficiency VT will cover all costs relating to upgrading the town's streetlights to L.E.D. fixtures. Although the new fixtures will be 33% more efficient, the town won't save much money in the short term because Hardwick Electric bills the town per streetlight, not per watt used. In the long term, however, the town should save money. Both Craftsbury and Hardwick have installed some of these lights and people seem to like them. Peter made the following motion:

*The Board approves upgrading to L.E.D. streetlights, contingent upon confirmation that there will be no cost to the town. Efficiency VT will provide the lights, which will be installed by Hardwick Electric.*

Ernie seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. The new fixtures will be installed as soon as H.E.D. can do the work.

## **GREENSBORO PLANNING COMMISSION – TOWN PLAN**

Zoning Administrator Kristen Leahy and Planning Commission Chair Phil Gray submitted the updated Town Plan to the Board. This minor update of the Plan includes new sections on Flood Resiliency and Village Center Designations. The Plan will get a comprehensive review in 2017.

The Selectboard needs to hold a public hearing on the Plan update 30-120 from tonight. If the Board holds its hearing ASAP, downtown businesses in both the Bend and the Village can apply for Village Center grants this spring, and the town will likely be more successful when it applies for sidewalk grants. Peter made the following motion:

*The Board will hold a public hearing on the Town Plan update on May 12, 2015 at 7 PM in the Collier Room at the Greensboro Town Hall.*

Ernie seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. It was noted that a quorum is not required for the hearing to occur, as no votes will be taken.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

**1. Recreation Committee (RC).**

- RC Chair Erika Karp told the Board that the committee now consists of only herself and Michele Laflam. She'd heard that the Selectboard recently tasked the RC with implementing the Willey Beach project, and thought that more members would be needed if this was true. Perhaps last year's Willey Beach Committee should be re-formed? Peter told Erika that he will work with the road crew to complete site work; Erika volunteered to look into landscaping options.
- The Board accepted Mary McGraths resignation from the RC.
- It was noted that the Four Corners Ballfield can be used by anyone, but that use must be scheduled around soccer, baseball and softball games.

**2. Caspian Challenge.** Victoria Von Hessert submitted a letter to the Board detailing this year's proposed Caspian Challenge run. The event will be held on Sunday, July 26, with the Hardwick Police Dept. providing traffic control as necessary. Peter made the following motion:

*The Board approves the 2015 Caspian Challenge run.*

Sean seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**3. Selectboard Personnel Committee.** One of the Selectboard's roles is to manage town employees; Sue suggested the Board move from an ad hoc approach to a more formal approach by forming a Personnel Committee. The Committee's responsibilities would include:

- Reviewing the performance of town employees in light of job requirements and expectations, and deciding on performance-based raises; and
- Assisting with resolving conflicts involving town employees (e.g. conflicts between an employee and the public, or between an employee and another employee).

Sue noted that town clerk Valdine Hall is in favor of such a committee. Ernie made the following motion:

*The Selectboard will form a Personnel Committee, made up of two Selectboard members and the town clerk. The committee members at this time will be Sue Wood and Marsha Gadoury, along with town clerk Valdine Hall. Sean Thomson will serve as alternate Selectboard member.*

Sean seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**ADJOURNED: 8:45 PM**

*Respectfully Submitted: Josh Karp, Selectboard Clerk*