

# Greensboro Selectboard

July 13, 2016

## Meeting Minutes

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

**SELECTBOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Michael Lapierre, Judy Carpenter

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Valdine Hall, Josh Karp, June Cook, Chief Aaron Cochran, Devin Burgess, Betsy Donlon, Shaun Hill, Chief Dave Brochu, Jr.

**CALLED TO ORDER: 6:32 PM**

### MINUTES

Minutes from the 6/8/16 regular meeting approved as written.

Minutes from the 6/22/16 special meeting approved as written.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION – Appointment of New Selectboard Member

Sue made the following motion:

*The Board will enter executive session at 6:40 PM to discuss the appointment of a new Selectboard member.*

Peter seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

The Board left executive session at 6:50 PM. Peter made the following motion:

*The Selectboard appoints Michael Lapierre to the Selectboard.*

Sean seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

### PUBLIC CONCERNS

**Willey Beach Mowing – Jane Johns.** Jane is concerned about the Board's recent decision to leave the entrance of the Willey Beach unmowed (but with a mown path): ticks will flourish. Sue felt that the wide mowed path should help keep the tick population at bay; she will call Jane and discuss.

### POLICE

1. Police report for June 2016 reviewed.
2. **False Alarms (Security Systems).** Discussion of charging for repeat false alarms. Peter said that those who have alarm systems should be the ones paying for repeat false alarm checks by the police. Chief Cochran said there are different ways to structure false alarm fees, and that it can be tricky to figure out a fee structure that's fair due to lighting and power outages (which often cause false alarms). Chief Cochran said that currently, if there are a lot of false alarms at a particular address, the H.P.D. will simply stop responding.

The Chief will run a report that will indicate how many repeat false alarms there are; the report will be discussed at the Sept. Selectboard meeting.

- 3. Speeding Concerns.** Shaun Hill said there's lots of traffic on the roads leading to his brewery, and that dangerous speeding is occurring, mostly by certain locals who don't slow down as they approach the brewery. This speeding is dangerous to pets, children, himself, his customers, his employees... The road is especially dangerous where it's narrow; 'slow down' signage may help but won't likely do anything. Shaun said that neighbors he's talked to are in favor of changing the speed limit from 50 to 35 mph.

Betsy Donlon is concerned about people speeding on Young Road, using it as a short cut between Rt. 16 and Greensboro Village. With five new homes built in recent years, this has become more of a residential neighborhood, with families and pets often in or near the road. The road has very narrow stretches as well as a very sharp curve, making pedestrian/vehicle interactions even more dangerous. Betsy would like to see the speed limit changed from 50 to 35 mph, or even lower.

Discussion. State law states that gravel roads have a 50 mph speed limit unless a lower speed limit is put in place.

There are two approaches to changing a speed limit:

1. A Speed Study. With a speed study, the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile of speeds are used to figure out a new speed limit. Road width, curves, and other factors are looked at. Towns typically hire someone to do a study, with the cost being as high as a few thousand dollars each road. Speeds can't be lowered to an 'unreasonable' limit.
2. Changing Speed Limits Without a Study. This can be done; however, it's not recommended, and no tickets can be issued until five years after the change.

Josh Karp suggested changing the speed limit of all gravel roads to 35 mph, without any studies. He said there are very few areas where a 50 mph speed limit is appropriate on Greensboro's gravel roads.

Sue will look into who is available to perform speed studies and the cost of such studies; she will report back next month.

### **GREENSBORO FIRE DEPT. – Chief Dave Brochu, Jr.**

- 1. Chief's Report.** Chief Dave Brochu, Jr. updated the Board on recent activities of the G.F.D.
- 2. New Firehouse – Open Bids for Fixing Heaving at Front Entrance.** Four bids were received:

CONTRACTOR	BID PRICE	NOTES
Boomer Mercier	\$15,600	
Gary Dimick	\$19,700	Also bid \$6,000 for a different approach than spec'd.
Ron Fenoff	\$15,498	Original excavation contractor for new firehouse.
Gary Bellavance	\$17,838	

Each contractor came up with a different approach. After discussion, it was agreed that Peter and Dave will discuss the problem and the different approaches with an engineer, in order to help the Board decide which contractor/approach to choose. According to Peter, original contractor Ron Fenoff feels that silty gravel contributed to the problem.

- 3. Stannard Fire Contract.** The contract is up for renewal and needs to be refigured; Peter will work on this.

## **TOWN CLERK & TREASURER – Valdine Hall**

1. The Board reviewed the FY 2016 budget (recap).
2. **Set Local Tax Rate.** Peter made the following motion:  
*The Board sets the local tax rate at \$.5854.*  
Sean seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
3. The Board signed a note to borrow funds in anticipation of tax revenue.

## **ROADS**

1. **Road Supervisor's Report.** Road Supervisor Dan Tanner was not present.
2. **Road Crew Liaison.** Decision tabled until next meeting.

## **ONGOING BUSINESS**

1. **Selectboard Rules of Procedure.** Reviewed and signed by the Board.
2. **Sign Board – Town Park.** Plans for improvements to the sign board are still being worked out. Two additional options have come to light: 1) remove the sign board; 2) add signs with arrows pointing to local businesses/non profits.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

1. **Recreation Committee – John Schweitzer.** In a letter, rec. committee member John Schweitzer asked the Board to address the overflowing trash can at the Bend Park (the Board recently agreed upon a 'carry in/carry out' policy for town parks). Discussion; maybe this park should indeed have a trash can that's emptied regularly because people may stay at the park for a length of time due to the playground, picnic tables, etc. A recycling receptacle would need to be purchased. Valdine will call Perry's and ask whether they would be willing to pick up the trash and recycling, and change the trash bag when they do it.

John also requested that the posts on the double swing be repaired prior to the park's big event on August 11. Valdine will contact John and discuss the nature of the post repair.

2. **Special Event Request – Hotel VT.** The Hotel VT is requesting permission to hold a special event where alcohol will be served, for a Vermont Land Trust fundraiser at Todd Hardie's farm on Taylor Rd. The event will be held on Sat. July 30 from 5-10 PM; the Board unanimously approved the request.
3. **Kingdom Games.** Request to hold a swim event on Caspian Lake. The Board unanimously approved the request; Valdine will sign it.

**ADJOURNED: 8:03 PM**

*Respectfully Submitted: Josh Karp, Selectboard Clerk*