

Greensboro Selectboard

August 10, 2016

Meeting Minutes

SELECTBOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Peter Romans, Susan Wood, Michael Lapierre, Judy Carpenter

SELECTBOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Sean Thomson

OTHERS PRESENT: Chief Dave Brochu, Jr., Josh Karp, Dan Tanner, Joe Wood, Audrey DeProspero, Adam Froehlig, Meaghan Meachem

CALLED TO ORDER: 6:32 PM

MINUTES

Minutes from the July 13, 2016 meeting approved as written.

PUBLIC CONCERNS

There were no public concerns this evening.

NEW SELECTBOARD MEMBER

Selectboard Chair Sue Wood welcomed Michael Lapierre to the Board.

NEW ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

Planning Commission (PC) member Joe Wood explained that the PC advertised for the Zoning Administrator position and received 10 responses. A hiring committee interviewed four qualified applicants and unanimously chose Audrey DeProspero. The PC then unanimously approved DeProspero and is now seeking Selectboard approval. Peter made the following motion:

The Selectboard approves Audrey DeProspero as the Town's new Zoning Administrator.

Michael seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

POLICE

No representative from the Hardwick Police Dept. was present.

The Board reviewed the July 2016 police report.

ROADS

1. Road Supervisor's report – Dan Tanner.

- The new excavator should be delivered during the week of Aug. 15.

- An owner of land adjacent to Greensboro's gravel pit (in Glover) inquired as to whether the town would be interested in purchasing approx. five acres of his land. Dan said this land is likely not very desirable to the town; the Board took no action.
 - The road crew will soon be putting up winter sand.
 - The new loader was backed into a tree and a cowl was cracked. Dan reported it would cost \$2800 for new one but that the cowl could be repaired for much less.
 - The ½ ton pickup will soon need replacement; discussion of replacing it with a ¾ or 1 ton truck with a plow. Dan has discussed a new truck with Valdine, who said there's funds available for this purchase. Dan will get quotes on new trucks for next month's meeting.
2. **Road liaison.** The Board unanimously appointed Michael Lapierre as road liaison (secondary).
 3. **Changing 50 MPH speed limit on gravel roads.** Sue did further research on this topic and found contradictory information about the process of changing speed limits. It appears that a simple town ordinance could be written to change speed limits; she will work on a draft ordinance. Additionally, Sue and Dan will work to determine locations where new stop signs are needed.
 4. **Sassi curb cut.** The Board signed a curb cut for Anthony Sassi.

GREENSBORO FIRE DEPT.

1. **Chief's report – Chief Dave Brochu, Jr.**
 - 911 sign forms were sent out with tax bills, and there has been a good response.
 - New batteries installed on the Tanker and Engine 1; new radios ordered for Engine 1, Tanker, and Rescue.
2. **New Fire Station – Heaving: Update.** Peter met with a few engineers to discuss the heaving problem and review the repair approaches of different contractors. There was little or no heaving during last year's mild winter. Given a number of unknown factors, it was agreed that waiting another winter and seeing if the situation improves on its own (due to settling) makes the most sense. Peter made the following motion:

The Board will take a wait-and-see approach on the heaving issue at the new firehouse.

Judy seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Contractors who put in bids for the repair work will be notified by Valdine.
3. **Extra fill material at new firehouse.** Discussion of getting rid of this material to improve drainage and appearance of the site. Peter made the following motion:

Bids will be solicited for removal of the extra fill material at the new firehouse; included in the bids will be a requirement that the area is to be cleaned up, left smooth, and sloped for good drainage (as required).

Michael seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
4. **Stannard Fire Contract.** Peter will work with Valdine and Chief Dave Brochu, Jr. to update the contract.

ONGOING BUSINESS

- 1. Selectboard Rules of Procedure.** Selectboard members Judy Carpenter and Michael Lapierre will stop by the town offices and sign the Rules of Procedure document.
- 2. Sign Board – Town Park.** Peter reported that Jennifer Ranz and Naomi Ranz-Schleifer have agreed to do artwork for the sign board.
- 3. Long Range planning committees.** Despite some advertising, no one has showed interest in joining long range planning committees. Meaghan Meachem suggested soliciting committee members using social media and Front Porch Forum.

Judy volunteered to serve on the Town Properties committee. Other residents who could be asked about serving are *Mark Snyder, Tim Nesbit, BJ Gray*.

Peter Romans, Michael Lapierre, and Adam Froehlig volunteered to serve on the Roads & Infrastructure committee. Other residents who could be asked about serving: *Wayne Young, Warren Hill*.

- 4. Changing the day/time of Town Meeting.** Discussion of the reasons for, and process of, changing the structure of the annual town meeting. Resident Meaghan Meachem told the Board that most working people can't make it to Town Meeting; one way towns have tried to increase participation is by moving away from the traditional 'Tuesday morning' format. It's become more and more common to hold an informational meeting a few days prior to town meeting and on town meeting day, have most items on the warning voted by Australian Ballot. With polls usually open from 10-7, most working people can find time to get in and vote.

It was noted that both the school budget vote and Northeast Kingdom Solid Waste Management District vote (both Australian ballot votes) must be held on the traditional town meeting day (the first Tuesday in March).

Sue said that an informational meeting can be held on the Saturday, Sunday, or Monday before the Tuesday town meeting.

Any change to the day/time/location of a town meeting must be placed on the warning (by the Selectboard or via a petition) and approved by the voters.

Discussion of holding a survey at the November election to get input about changing town meeting.

Meaghan will do a survey of how town meeting is structured in towns around the region.

The process for changing town meeting will be clarified with the Secretary of State.

- 5. Selectboard use of social media.** Meaghan teaches electronic journalism arts at Lyndon State College and works with social media on a daily basis. She suggested that putting Selectboard notices, agendas and relevant links on social media sites and Front Porch Forum could increase awareness and interest. Discussion of the Selectboard having a Facebook page; Meaghan offered to help out if the town decides to set up social media accounts.
- 6. Bend Park.** Judy lauded the Recreation Committee for the work they've done to plan the gathering at the park in Greensboro Bend.

OTHER BUSINESS

The Board unanimously approved Judy replacing Sean to sign order sheets.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Sue made the following motion:

The Board will enter executive session at 8 PM to discuss a personnel issue, with Josh Karp present.

Peter seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

The Board left executive session at 8:45 PM, and took no action.

ADJOURNED: 8:45 PM

Respectfully Submitted: Josh Karp, Selectboard Clerk