

(Draft only – not approved by the Selectboard)

Greensboro Selectboard

December 11, 2018

Meeting Minutes

SELECTBOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Andy Kehler, Peter Romans, Michael Lapierre, Matt McAllister, Susan Wood (present via speakerphone)

SELECTBOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Kim Greaves, Josh Karp, Dan Predpall, Ellen Celnick, Victoria Von Hessert, Hal Gray, MacNeil, David Miltenberger, Jerilyn Virden

CALLED TO ORDER: 6:30 PM

MINUTES

Minutes from November 14 meeting approved as written.

PUBLIC CONCERNS

None this evening.

GREENSBORO FIRE DEPT.

Chief Brochu was not present; Kim presented his November report to the Board.

POLICE

Chief Aaron Cochran was present.

- 1. November incidents.** The HPD responded to 17 incidents in Greensboro during November, including a number of car accidents due to winter weather.
- 2. HPD losing K9 unit.** The HPD's K9 officer has been recruited by the Lamoille County Sherriff's Dept., forcing the suspension of the HPD's K9 program. Chief Cochran noted that the Sherriff's Dept. can offer more competitive salaries than the HPD.

Negotiations are underway between the HPD and Sherriff's Dept. to determine the value of the K9 program: the puppy was purchased by the HPD, the officer trained with the dog for three years, and a special cruiser is required for the K9. Chief Cochran said that a trained K9 could be worth up to \$20,000.

If the HPD kept the dog, it would take two or three years to train up another officer to work with the K9. It appears the HPD is not interested in this option.

Chief Cochran added that a part time officer will be moved up to full time, taking the place of the departing officer.

- 3. Investigator Position.** Chief Cochran reported that the dedicated investigator position that started up in July has been extremely successful. The investigator has been able to perform investigations and interviews without interruptions, and other officers are able to get out of the office and do more patrol work. The new position was paid for in part by a federal COPS grant.

ROADS

Road Foreman Tom Camarra was not present.

- 1. Road Foreman's report.** Kim presented Tom's November roads report. The road crew has worked considerable overtime with the early onset of winter weather, spreading 862 yds. of sand and 119 tons of salt on town roads to date.
- 2. Road Salt.** There has been talk of salt shortages in parts of the state; Greensboro has not been affected yet. Victoria asked if alternatives to salt have been considered, for water quality reasons. She said that a few years ago, an article came out about New Hampshire reducing salt use due to water quality concerns.

Peter said that salt is unsustainable in the long term and expensive in the short term. The town budgeted \$60,000 for salt this year, a figure that does not include the road crew's time and equipment use for trucking the salt.

Discussion of reducing or eliminating salt on a section of main road, on a trial basis. Peter will discuss with Tom.

LAKEVIEW UNION SCHOOL BOARD – MERGER UPDATE – Victoria Von Hessert

Victoria updated the Board on the school merger mandate from the state Board of Education. Under the merger plan, Lakeview Union, Hardwick, Woodbury, Stannard (pre-K only) and Greensboro (pre-K) school districts will be merged and a new school board formed, made up of representatives from all four towns.

An organizational meeting will be held on January 3, with a transitional Board getting elected. This Board will eventually work out and approve 'Articles of Agreement' which will govern the new district.

Under the state's merger plan, decisions about individual schools will be made by the new district's Board, with an overall budget approved by the voters of all four towns. A worry is that Greensboro will lose local control over major school decisions (such bonding or even closing the school), as Hardwick would have more members on the new School Board and more residents to vote on budgets. The new district would take ownership of all three elementary schools, other school property, and school-related debt.

29 School Boards from around the state, plus four or five Selectboards, have joined a lawsuit appealing the merger plan. Victoria said that the Lakeview, Greensboro and Stannard School Boards joined the appeal because School Board members were very concerned about the loss of local control, and whether the merger is even constitutional. An additional layer of confusion is how the Greensboro/Stannard union will be affected.

Victoria said the lawyers working on the appeal are working pro-bono, and that the appeal was joined with the understanding that there would be no cost to the town or school.

While the appeal may slow the merger process down, the merger is still moving ahead and deadlines to work out the Articles of Agreement and school budgets must still be met.

The Stannard Selectboard recently joined the appeal. Andy asked if there are downsides to Selectboards joining the appeal. Victoria thought there were none, and that the Greensboro Selectboard joining the appeal would give it that much more weight.

Sue made the following motion:

The Greensboro Selectboard will join the appeal of the state's forced school district merger plan.

Andy seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. The Board signed the appeal.

TOWN CLERK – Kim Greaves

Quilt Class in Collier Room at the Town Hall. There has been a request to hold a quilting class in the Collier Room on Saturdays. Kim will attend the class and will open and close the building. The Board approved the class.

TREASURER – Barbara Brooke

Barbara was not present; Kim presented the monthly budget reports.

1. **2019 budget report YTD** was reviewed.
2. **November Check warrant report**, including the payroll report, was reviewed.

TOWN PLAN – SELECTBOARD VOTE

Selectboard members reviewed the updated Town Plan prior to the meeting. Andy commented that the affordable housing part of the plan focuses too much on Greensboro Bend, and that there needs to be a town-wide action plan to attract young families – and that concentrating on the Bend is not enough.

Planning Commission Chair Dan Predpall said that developing affordable housing in Greensboro Bend would likely be easier than in other parts of town. Eventually, he said, the possibility of affordable housing should be investigated in the rest of town as well.

Discussion of updating the Zoning Bylaw to reflect the Town Plan updates. Dan hoped that a planning consultant, hired with grant funding, will help the Planning Commission update the Bylaws in the near future.

Peter made the following motion:

The Selectboard approves the updated Town Plan.

Sue seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

ONGOING BUSINESS

2020 budget. The completed 2020 budget was discussed. Regarding the roads line item, it might make sense in future budgets to budget for specific road projects.

Andy made the following motion:

The Selectboard adopts the 2020 budget, as presented.

Matt seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. **Greensboro Cemetery Commission (GCC).** GCC member MacNeil reported that Wayne Mutrux has been hired to establish the boundary lines at the Village Cemetery, so brush can be cleared from the perimeter. This will make additional plots available.
The GCC continues work on restoring the Baker Cemetery.
2. **Forestry plan for gravel pit.** Matt reported that the forest management plan for the town's 76 acre Glover gravel pit property has been updated. The update is good for 10 years.

The Board agreed unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

ADJOURNED: 7:46 PM

Respectfully Submitted: Josh Karp, Selectboard Clerk