

(Draft only – not approved by the Selectboard)

# Greensboro Selectboard

January 9, 2019

## Meeting Minutes

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

**SELECTBOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Kim Greaves, Josh Karp, Dan Predpall, John Schweitzer, Ben Brucey

**CALLED TO ORDER: 6:31 PM**

### MINUTES

Minutes from December 11 meeting approved as written.

### PUBLIC CONCERNS

There has been a request from residents to leave Christmas lights up in the Town Park for a few more months. The Board agreed to leave the lights up through February.

### GREENSBORO FIRE DEPT.

1. The December Chief's report was not available.
2. **Stannard Fire Contract.** The Board reviewed the Fire Protection Agreement between Greensboro and Stannard. From July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019, Stannard will pay Greensboro \$8622 for fire protection services, based on a previously agreed-upon formula. Andy made the following motion:

*The Board accepts the fire protection agreement between Greensboro and Stannard.*

Mike seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

### ROADS

1. Road Foreman Tom Camarra was not present. Kim reported that December sand use was 932.5 yds., with salt use of 161 tons.
2. The Certificate of Highway Mileage (VTrans) was reviewed and signed by the Board.

### POLICE

1. No officer was present, and the December report was not available.
2. Andy asked whether the HPD's budget will be reduced with the K9 officer leaving. Kim will ask Chief Cochran to address at next month's meeting.

## **TOWN CLERK – Kim Greaves**

1. **Liquor Licenses** for Hill Farmstead Brewery and Willey’s Store were reviewed. Sue made the following motion:

*The Board approves liquor license applications for Hill Farmstead Brewery and The Willey’s Store.*

Andy seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

2. **2018 Equalization Study.** Town assessor Stearns Allen is requesting the Board’s approval to appeal two sales to the state; these are out-of-the-ordinary sales and unfavorably affect the town’s Common Level of Appraisal (CLA).

Andy made the following motion:

*The Board approves the appeal of Greensboro’s CLA valuation.*

Mike seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

3. **Town Report warning.** The warning is almost complete. After the budget is finalized at this meeting, the warning will be available for Board members to sign next week.

## **TREASURER – Barbara Brooke**

1. The Board reviewed a summary of town bank accounts.
2. The Board reviewed the FY 2019 budget, YTD.
3. The Board reviewed the December check warrant report.

## **GREENSBORO ASSOCIATION – CASPAIN LAKE DAM (John Schweitzer)**

John Schweitzer, representing the Greensboro Association (GA), updated the Board on the status of the Caspian Lake dam.

The Hardwick Electric Dept. (HED) owns the dam (a separate deed from the public beach). No maintenance has been done to the dam for 40 years; five years ago the HED let the dam’s license expire. This means the State won’t let the HED adjust the dam to keep the water level in the lake seasonally constant – such adjustments were made seasonally for the last eighty-plus years. The lake level in winter is now 12 to 14 inches higher than normal historical levels, leading to over \$200,000 in property damage.

John met with the State Agency of Natural Resources (ANR), who says the problem is HED’s to deal with as the property owner. ANR recommends that the Selectboard send a letter to the HED, asking that they consider the property damage that is happening and take steps to correct the issue.

ANR’s policy is to let streams and lakes flow at their natural level. The existing spillway cannot handle the increased natural flows of the lake during the winter, and ANR suggests that HED undertake a hydrologic study of the inflows and outflows of the lake, and redesign the spillway so that it can handle the higher seasonal flow.

Greensboro Planning Commission (GPC) Chair Dan Predpall said that the GPC is aware of the problem, and considers it an important issue. While an ANR report showed that the dam is not in danger of failing, an extreme weather event that causes lake levels to rise quickly could result in major property damage, with the current undersized spillway.

HED general manager Mike Sullivan has been unwilling to engage with John and Dan on this issue. John added that the HED has no incentive to do anything; however, Sue wondered if the HED might have some liability for property damage resulting from their inaction.

Discussion of Greensboro acquiring the property from HED, which would give the town control to repair and maintain the dam as necessary. It is assumed that the HED would basically give away the property. Discussion; there was disagreement over whether it's in the best interest for the Town to own the dam.

Peter said that the HED is our electric company, and basically a non-profit – and that we should make an effort to work with them to find a solution to this problem. Peter will reach out to Mike Sullivan, and Andy will talk to Hardwick Selectboard chair Eric Remick. It was noted that Greensboro resident Nat Smith is on the HED Board.

John said that the GA is willing to contribute funds towards a solution to this problem. Grants could also be sought.

### **GREENSBORO PLANNING COMMISSION (Dan Predpall)**

- 1. Better Connections grant (VTrans).** Dan explained that this is a grant to plan the development of the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail from East Hardwick to Greensboro Bend, and would be a joint project between Greensboro and Hardwick. Dan said there would be no future obligation to actually undertake the construction project. The \$105,000 grant requires a \$3750 match from Greensboro.

Andy made the following motion:

*The Board will sign the resolution to apply for the Better Connections grant, which will be used to plan the development of the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail from Greensboro Bend to East Hardwick.*

- 2.** Audrey DeProspero resigned as minute-taker of the GPC; Dan said that a member of the GPC will take over this task.
- 3.** Due to a process issue, the GPC is required to hold public hearings on the updated Town Plan again, followed by Selectboard adoption, again.

### **ONGOING BUSINESS**

#### **1. School District – Forced Merger.**

- Resolution to Waive Objection. Andy made the following motion:

*The Board will sign the Resolution to Waive Objection for the presiding judge in the Act 46 appeal.*

Matt seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

- Selectboard member for Act 46 matters. Attorney David Kelley suggested that a Board member be given authorization to act for the Board on Act 46-related issues; they would be given signing authority but would check in with other Board members prior to signing anything.

Peter made the following motion:

*The Board approves Andy to execute Act 46 merger appeal documents.*

Matt seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**2. FY 2020 Budget.** Amendments were discussed to the FY 2020 budget. Peter made the following motion:

*The Board approves the amended FY 2020 budget in the amount of \$1,920,297.*

Andy seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

**Grange Building.** An area architect has offered to do a free study of the Grange building, and figure out how to best utilize and renovate the building.

Drawings already exist to make the Grange into an event center with commercial kitchen and other amenities. Moving the Town Offices to the Grange has also been discussed.

Sue noted that the Grange was purchased with Recreation Committee funds, with the expectation that the building would be used for recreational purposes.

There is about \$68,000 in the town's Grange account, leftover from an earlier grant and not earmarked for anything at this time.

After discussion, the Board agreed to tell the architect that his offer is much appreciated, and that the Board will get back to him when there is a sense of direction for a Grange renovation project.

The Board unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting.

**ADJOURNED: 8:03 PM**

*Respectfully Submitted: Josh Karp, Selectboard Clerk*