

(Draft only – not approved by the Selectboard)

Greensboro Selectboard

February 13, 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, Barbara Brooke, Wayne Young, Sergeant Darin Barber, John Gay, Jeremy Labbe, Annie Houston, Emmitt Avery, Ceilidh Kane

CALLED TO ORDER: 6:31 PM

MINUTES

Minutes from the Board's January 9 meeting approved as written.

PUBLIC CONCERNS

None this evening.

GREENSBORO FIRE DEPT.

No report was available.

ROADS

Tom was not present (out plowing).

POLICE

Sgt. Darin Barber told the Board that the HPD has been busy, with many DUI's, drug activity, and some bad checks and retail thefts.

- 1. Loss of the K9 program.** Discussion of whether the HPD's budget will be reduced due to the cessation of the K9 program and the sale of the program's assets. Sgt. Barber said that Greensboro is not charged for capital expenses such as cruisers (or a K9 puppy), so Greensboro's share of the police budget won't be affected by the sale of those assets. However, personnel costs could be lower if a less experienced officer is hired to take the place of the K9 officer.
- 2.** Next year's police budget is slated to increase by just under 1%.

TOWN CLERK – Kim Greaves

- 1. Ballfield lease.** For many years, the town has paid the property taxes on the four corners ballfield in exchange for use of the property; the three-year lease is up for renewal. Andy made the following motion:

The town will enter into a three-year lease with the owners of the ballfield.

Mike seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

2. Liquor licenses for the Highland Center and Smith's Store were reviewed.

Andy made the following motion:

The Board approves Highland Center's first class liquor license and outside consumption permit, and Smith's Store's second class liquor license.

Sue seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

- 3. Town Offices – new interior door.** Kim informed the Board that she is planning to have a door installed in the hallway between the Selectboard desk and the Lister's office, to encourage the public to enter the town offices through the door just inside the front entrance. Kim is getting estimates and said that the fire marshal has approved the installation.
- 4. Pace & Hawley,** the town's outside auditor, submitted a 'letter of approval' for the Board to sign. It was unclear what the Board would be agreeing to if the letter was signed, so signing was tabled. The meaning of the letter will be clarified.
- 5.** Kim said there will be a meeting of the potential new Unified School District at 6 PM in the Hardwick elementary school gym.

CASELLA WASTE MANGEMENT – Coventry Landfill

John Gay (Casella Engineer) and Jeremy Labbe (general manager of the Coventry landfill) made a presentation to the Board.

Casella's landfill in Coventry is the last open landfill in the state. There's about three more years of capacity left, and Casella has applied for permits to add 51 more acres to the landfill. There's been some opposition to the expansion, and Gay said the company is reaching out to area towns to answer any questions. He gave a history of the landfill and explained in detail the lengths that are taken to protect groundwater from contamination.

The landfill expansion is estimated to provide 22-25 additional years of capacity, depending on recycling rates.

SPARK – Ceilidh Kane

Ceilidh Kane, executive director of WonderArts, spoke about the SPARK program and its need for a new space.

SPARK is a 'makerspace', and received a \$58,000 USDA grant to purchase high-tech equipment, including 3D and photo printers, a laser cutter, and a high-speed internet node. SPARK is currently housed in the WonderArts space in the basement of the Greensboro United Church, and a larger space is being sought.

Last year, Peter Romans and Ceilidh discussed the idea of renovating the third floor of the Town Hall as a new home for SPARK. An architect hired by the Preservation Trust of VT wrote a report detailing a few different options for renovating the space, with an estimated cost of about \$500k. Such a renovation would include major energy efficiency improvements to the building, as well as a lift or elevator.

Ceilidh said that the WonderArts Board would like to partner with the town on this project, and is committed to taking on fundraising and grant writing. She added that over \$500k of potential grants have already been identified.

Ceilidh will make a formal presentation to the Selectboard in April. She will bring architectural drawings showing possibilities for the renovation, a draft of a MOU between the town and WonderArts, as well as a draft budget for the project.

TREASURER – Barbara Brooke

1. The Board reviewed the FY 2019 budget, YTD.
2. The Board reviewed the January check warrant report.
3. **Investing town funds.** Barbara has been looking into ways for the town to invest funds, instead of having them just sit in regular checking or savings accounts. She observed that the town doesn't have any investment protocols, and submitted to the Board investment protocols from three area towns, for Board members to review and consider.

GREENSBORO CEMETERY COMMISSION – Wayne Young

William and Jeanne Eisner's property is adjacent to the Village Cemetery. Wayne explained that a recent survey uncovered a historical discrepancy in the Eisner's deed, showing that they supposedly own part of the cemetery. This sliver of land is useless to the cemetery, and the deed discrepancy could cause problems for the Eisners if they ever sell their property. Wayne asked the Selectboard for permission to have the town attorney write a quit-claim deed that would give the land to the Eisners. Wayne estimates this shouldn't cost more than a few hundred dollars.

The Cemetery Commission agreed to split the cost of writing and filing the quit claim deed. Wayne noted, however, that since it is the town's land, it might be most appropriate for the town to bear the entire cost.

Andy made the following motion:

The Board gives Wayne Young the authority to resolve the deed issue between the Village Cemetery and the Eisner's.

Mike seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

ONGOING BUSINESS

Caspian Lake Dam – update. Peter reported that he had a productive meeting with Hardwick Electric Dept. (HED) general manager Mike Sullivan. They agreed the next step will be a hydrological assessment of the lake and spillway.

Andy reported that he discussed the dam with Hardwick Selectboard Chair Eric Remick, who is happy to work with Greensboro to address the issue.

Discussion of property damage around the lake due to high water levels: is this a real problem? Andy said that since the HED stopped regulating the lake level at the spillway, historical infrastructure that had been in place for decades, such as decks on the shore, is now getting destroyed by ice, adding up to possibly hundreds of thousands of dollars in property damage.

Peter thought it would be useful to come up with a formal damage estimate, and added that according to the HED, lake levels were never seasonally adjusted in a systematic way.

Peter also said that he's discussed the dam with a number of professionals, and not one of them said that the dam is in danger of failure.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. This was Sue Wood's last Selectboard meeting. Other Board members thanked her for her service and leadership over the years.
2. The Board reviewed two draft ordinances which were created by the Greensboro Planning Commission.
 - **Dangerous Buildings.** Planning Commission Chair Dan Predpall wrote that this draft ordinance largely mirrors a VT League of Cities and Towns (VLTC) template.

Andy thought that the ‘building safety officer’ position created by this ordinance should not be an appointed position but a contracted service, due to the technical skills and training required, and possible liability that could arise from decisions that would have to be made.

- **Outdoor Storage of Junk and Junk Vehicles.** Dan wrote that this draft was created using a VLCT template, as well as from looking over 10 similar ordinances from around the state. Josh Karp felt that the draft ordinance was creating ‘aesthetic police’ and wondered whether it was necessary.

The Board unanimously approved adjourning the meeting.

ADJOURNED: 8:40 PM

Respectfully Submitted: Josh Karp, Selectboard Clerk