

(Draft only – not approved by the Selectboard)

# Greensboro Selectboard

November 13, 2019

## Meeting Minutes

**SELECTBOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Peter Romans, Andy Kehler, Michael Lapierre, Tracy Collier  
(*present via. speakerphone*)

**SELECTBOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Matt McAllister

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Kim Greaves, Josh Karp, Chief Aaron Cochran, Barbara Brooke, Karl Stein, Dave Stoner, Carol Fairbank, Stew Arnold, Judy Dales, Andy Dales, Mary Metcalf

**CALLED TO ORDER: 6:30 PM**

### MINUTES

Minutes from the Oct. 9 meeting unanimously approved as written.

### PUBLIC CONCERNS

None this evening.

### GREENSBORO FIRE DEPT.

No representative from the GFD was present and no October report was available.

### POLICE

Chief Aaron Cochran was present.

1. The Board reviewed the October police report, which listed 35 incidents in Greensboro during the month.
2. The HPD's new cruiser, a Ford Explorer hybrid, will be arriving next month.
3. Chief Cochran noted that he is very pleased with current staff, and added that the detective position (created last year) has been a great asset to the Dept.

### ROADS

Road Foreman Tom Camarra was not present.

1. **Hutchins – paving cost coverage.** Hutchins has been paid the amount of their original bid for paving roads (\$108,062) but has not yet been paid for paving the town offices parking lot. They estimated that paving the lot would cost \$5,000; the job was billed out at \$7560. After discussion, Andy made the following motion:

*The Board authorizes Kim Greaves to negotiate the final payment with Hutchins; the payment shall not exceed \$7560.*

Mike seconded the motion, which carried (P.R., M.L, A.K. in favor; T.C. abstained).

- 2. Road reclassification.** The Board is concerned about the cost of keeping up some very short town roads which are now driveways, often to just a single residence. A number of these are Class 3 roads; discussion of downgrading some of these roads to Class 4.

Some of these roads are plowed with town trucks, while others are plowed by plowing contractor BP & Sons. Peter will work on categorizing these roads, which will assist the Board in making decisions about which roads should be downgraded.

- 3. Parking in downtown Greensboro Village.** Mike talked to Robbie Hurst, and they agreed that delineating parking spots in the center of town is a sensible approach. Mike will discuss with Tom.
- 4. Snow fence.** Andy received a call from Shaun Hill, asking whether the town would consider putting up snow fence on Jaffin Flat to reduce drifting into the road.

Discussion of installing snow fence on a route basis, which could potentially reduce plow runs, saving considerable time and money. Peter cited a study that showed the cost to purchase and install snow fence can be up to 100 times cheaper than plowing drifts over and over.

Peter will ask Matt to discuss with Tom, the idea of installing snow fences on certain routes.

Peter will investigate snow fence options. It may be worth spending more up front on a system that will last longer, and is quicker to set up and take down.

- 5. Town garage.** The Board reviewed construction consultant Steve Pitkin's estimate for developing a preliminary plan for a new town garage on the existing town garage site. Pitkin estimated his cost to be \$1800 plus incidental expenses, with an additional \$700-\$1500 for mapping.

Andy made the following motion:

*The town will retain the services of Stephen Pitkin to develop a preliminary plan for the siting and construction of a new town garage at the current town garage location.*

Peter seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Steve reported to Peter that Glover's new town garage cost \$485k.

Peter asked Dave Ducharme if he would sell all or part of his lot in Greensboro Bend to the town, for a site for a new town garage. Dave said his lot is not currently for sale and that he is not interested in subdividing.

## **TOWN CLERK – Kim Greaves**

- 1. Brook Field Service – generator service contract.** Discussion of whether to sign up for a service contract for the Town Hall generator. The Board agreed that for now, Kim will call in for service as necessary. In the future, Brook Field Service will be asked about providing a discount if maintenance is scheduled on the same day for both the Town Hall and Fire House generators.
- 2. Records management.** Kim reported that VSARA (the VT State Archives and Records Administration) has provided the Town Clerk's office with suggested guidelines for records preservation. Andy made the following motion:

*The Board adopts the Records Management Policy and Schedule, as recommended by VSARA.*

Mike seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

- 3. Windows 10 upgrade.** Kim reported that the hardware required for the upgrade will cost approx. \$3200. There will be additional costs to 'clean up' the town computers. Andy made the following motion:

*The Board approves up to \$1500 be taken out of the Capital Budget to pay for the labor to install Windows 10 on town computers.*

Mike seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Additional upgrade-related costs will be paid out of the general fund.

4. **Dangerous buildings.** Kim sent out two letters, certified receipt requested, informing the property owners that due to building condition, they are in violation of the town's Dangerous Buildings Ordinance and must take action.

#### **TREASURER – Barbara Brooke**

1. The Board reviewed the FY 2020 budget report (YTD) as well as the October check warrant reports.
2. The town's outside auditor recently completed their audit; the report won't be available for some time.

#### **CONNECTED GREENSBORO TASK FORCE**

The Connected Greensboro Task Force (CGTF) was formed during the Greater Greensboro meetings earlier this year. Carol Fairbank made a presentation on behalf of the CGTF, noting that only 9% of Greensboro residents have 'high speed' internet service. The goal of the CGTF is to make high speed internet available town-wide.

Service providers like Consolidated Communications are not likely to install high speed internet infrastructure due to our low population density and low return on investment.

The GCTF proposal is for Greensboro to join a Communications Union District (CUD), a municipal entity formed to provide high speed internet service. A CUD can be comprised of a few towns or many towns, and is managed by a Board made up of representatives from each member town.

There is no financial risk to Greensboro or to individual residents because the CUD, as a separate municipal entity, assumes the risk of any project. As a municipal entity, the CUD would have also access to certain grants and bonding.

The CUD would contract with a provider to install fiber within the District, with service hopefully available by 2025. It is estimated that the high speed internet provided by the CUD would cost the same as currently available DSL – but with vastly superior upload and download speeds.

CGTF is asking the Selectboard to add a question about joining a CUD to the 2020 town meeting warning.

Andy made the following motion:

*To be included as an article in the 2020 town meeting warning: "Shall the voters of the Town of Greensboro enter into a Communications Union District to be known as NEK Community Fiber, under the provisions of 30 V.S.A. Ch. 82?"*

Peter seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

1. **Karl Stein (Health Officer).** Newly appointed health officer Karl Stein informed the Board about two inspections he recently did, due to complaints he received. Trash piles at some residences are a recurring problem, and he wondered about creating a policy where residents could apply for free one-time trash removal. He noted that health hazards such as trash piles could result in maladies carried to the school via students.

Peter noted that the job of health officer is often difficult, and that there is a \$1000 stipend for the position.

Karl asked what more he should do in his position as health officer. Karl, Peter and Kim will discuss on-going issues around town that Karl could look into.

- 2. Circus Smirkus.** Jenn Carlo (Executive Director), Robin Laplante (Director of External Relations), and Stew Arnold (Smirkus Board member) made a presentation to the Board about the ‘Smirkfest’ festival.

Smirkus is proposing to hold ‘Smirkfest: Northern Vermont’s Circus and Arts Festival’ on June 6, 2020. They are seeking approval from the Selectboard, and want to work collaborative with the town as they plan the event.

300-500 participants are expected; discussion of parking needs. Jenn said they are talking to HCA about offering parking there, with a shuttle bus.

Smirkus is hoping this will become an annual event.

Members of the Board were supportive of Smirkfest.

- 3. Willey Beach sign.** Ted Donlon has been working on repairs to the Willey Beach sign for about a year. Peter inquired about progress, and Ted assured him that the repairs will be finished soon.
- 4. The Emergency Planning Committee** has re-activated itself, with Anne Stevens as Chair.
- 5. Lakeview Union School.** An article in the Hardwick Gazette quoted Lakeview principal Justine Guthrie as suggesting that all classes might be housed in the main school building next year – implying that the Town Hall may not be used. Andy will look into this.

**ADJOURNED: 8:40 PM**

*Respectfully Submitted: Josh Karp, Selectboard Clerk*