

*(Draft only – not approved by the Selectboard)*

# **Greensboro Selectboard**

June 10, 2020

## **Meeting Minutes**

**[Meeting was held via Zoom conference call]**

**SELECTBOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Peter Romans, Andy Kehler, Tracy Collier

**SELECTBOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Matt McAllister

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Kim Greaves, Tom Camarra, Josh Karp, Barbara Brooke, Gary Circosta, Chief Aaron Cochran, Bobbie Nisbet, Ellen Celnik, Aileen Gebbie

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

### **MINUTES**

1. Minutes from May 13 meeting unanimously approved.
2. Minutes from May 22 special meeting unanimously approved.

### **PUBLIC CONCERNS**

Bobbie Nisbet said that a letter has been sent to the town from the Lady Walkers, asking that the town hold a community forum to discuss local policing. Many communities are reviewing use-of-force policies of their local police departments, in light of nationwide protests spurred by killings of African Americans by police.

Chief Cochran said that some positive interaction with the community would be great at this time, and suggested that a forum include both Hardwick and Greensboro. Bobbie thought this was a good idea.

He explained that the HPD, like most police departments around the state, uses policies based on models provided by VLCT, and added that some aspects of these policies are mandated by the legislature.

He added that the legislature is currently looking at fast-tracking state-wide policing policy changes.

Bobbie asked whether the use-of-force policies could be looked over by residents. Chief Cochran said that they are not published online, but someone could come into the office and read them. He thought that one reason they might not be online is that they're written in such a way that the average person would need help understanding and interpreting them.

The Board agreed to get in touch with the Hardwick Selectboard about scheduling a forum. Discussion of how a forum would be held during the current coronavirus pandemic; it would likely have to be a Zoom meeting.

### **TOWN CLERK – Kim Greaves**

1. **Wednesday Recycling.** Kim said that either a volunteer or town employee is needed to staff the recycling center in order to offer Wednesday recycling. Kim will advertise for the position.

## 2. Town Hall – uses of the building.

- School use. The school will be out of the Town Hall, for good, at the end of June.
- Giving Closet. Kim proposed to move the Giving Closet up to one of the former classrooms. This would free up needed storage space for the Town Offices, and offer a larger, lighter space for the Giving Closet. The Board supported this proposal.
- Elections. Kim would like to move the Primary Election up to the mid level of the Town Hall, a more spacious area than the Town Offices, making it easier to meet requirements for social distancing. The Board supported this proposal.

She's been talking with the Secretary of State about whether the town can require voters to wear masks; Kim wants to protect the voters, and is especially concerned about poll workers who would be inside for many hours on voting day.

Kim noted there will likely be more absentee ballots used during this election.

- Future of Town Hall building. Peter said it appears that the town may be running out of uses for the Town Hall. Should we begin planning for a completely different use of the building? Should the town sell it? Convert it to affordable housing? The Board supported Peter looking into possible futures for the building.

## 3. Swimming lessons.

The Board agreed that town health officer Karl Stein should make a recommendation on whether swimming lessons can be held safely.

## 4. Funky Fourth.

- Parade. After discussion, Andy made the following motion:

*The Fourth of July parade will be cancelled.*

Tracy seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

- Fireworks. Discussion of whether residents will be able to watch a fireworks display safely, with proper social distancing. Andy made the following motion:

*The Fourth of July fireworks will be cancelled.*

Tracy seconded the motion, which did not carry (T.C. in favor; P.R. against, A.K. against).

## 5. Fuel oil prebuy.

The Board unanimously approved the fuel oil prebuy contract from Fred's Energy.

## 6. Listers certificate.

The Board reviewed and approved the *Certificate of No Appeal or Suit Pending* regarding the town's Grand List.

## 7. Cemetery mowing contract.

After discussion, Andy made the following motion:

*The Board accepts the cemetery mowing bid from John Sperry. The three-year contract starts at \$12k/year and increases by \$500 each year of the contract.*

Tracy seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

## **POLICE**

1. The Board reviewed the April and May police reports.
2. Chief Aaron Cochran reported that a new part-time officer has been hired.
3. **Greensboro Bend fire.** The fire at the old store in the Bend is being treated as suspicious and is under investigation. Chief Cochran thought that the site investigation was complete and that the building debris could be removed – but that he needed to double check with his detective.  
Chief Cochran said that fire investigations are difficult, often taking over a year to solve.
4. Andy asked how often the HPD receives calls from residents who are disgruntled about the police.  
Chief Cochran said that more often than not, the calls they get are to thank them for their work.

## **TREASURER – Barbara Brooke**

1. The Board reviewed the FY 2020 budget, YTD.
2. The Board reviewed the May check warrant reports.
3. Barbara reported that the state is allowing towns to lower budget line items and change property tax due dates without going back to the voters.
4. Discussion of what to do with a CD that just matured; it was agreed to move the funds to a savings account for now.

## **LAMOILLE COUNTY SHERRIFF – Dispatch Contract**

Andy made the following motion:

*The Board approves the \$24,547 dispatch contract with the Lamoille County Sherriff's Dept.*

Tracy seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

## **ROADS & DRIVEWAYS**

1. **Road Supervisor's report – Tom Camarra.** Tom reported that the road crew is making slow progress on road projects. They are currently hauling gravel on North Shore Rd., and will soon be repainting crosswalks.
2. **Sand.** The Board is considering using sand from the town pit this year, rather than purchasing from other area pits. The sand is being tested for quality and the results will be in soon.  
Peter has been talking with contractor J.P. Sicard about cost and timeframe for screening.
3. **Logging/Overlook Rd.** Eric Lapoint talked to Tom about doing some logging adjacent to Overlook Rd. Tom told him that if he puts in an access road, the town requires culverts to be a specific size; upon inspection it appears a much smaller culvert was used. No curb cut application has been received, and it's unclear if the culvert is permanent or temporary. Either way, the culvert is undersized and Tom is concerned about damage to the road in the case of a heavy rain event.
4. **Apartment proposal on Lake Rd.** The Lapoints have proposed to build a multi-unit apartment on Lake Rd. However, the building won't meet the required 50' setback from the road, and they've asked about moving a ±300' section of the road 15' to one side. A number of local and state permits would be required for the building, and moving the road does not in any way guarantee that all permits will ultimately get approved.

The Lapoints own both sides of the road, and would pay for moving the road.

Discussion about requiring that the Lapoints first receive the required permits, prior to giving permission to move the road. However there are questions about whether the road can safely handle the major increase in traffic that would result if the apartments are constructed.

Currently the road only has a few cars a day. With six apartments, there would be 8-12 vehicles traveling back and forth daily, plus heating oil trucks, garbage trucks, delivery trucks, etc. Tom had concerns about emergency vehicle access.

The road is already too narrow to be plowed by a town truck; it's plowed by Perry's with smaller trucks.

As a Class 3 road, Lake Rd. must be 'passable year round'. Does this mean that a fuel truck and a garbage truck must be able to pass each other? It would need to be made clear to the applicants that it's likely too expensive for the town to improve/widen the road all the way through. Andy will research the town's legal obligations regarding meeting a Class 3 road standard.

Tracy wondered if allowing a road to be moved would set a bad precedent.

**5. R.O.W. policy.** Tabled.

### **ONGOING BUSINESS**

**Personnel policy – update.** Tracy, Kim, Barbara and Tom will review the existing policy and determine if any changes should be made. When completed, an updated draft will be reviewed by the Board.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

- 1. Moving Recycling to the Fire Dept lot.** Andy will begin investigating this project.
- 2. WonderArts – movie night.** Carol Fairbank inquired about holding a movie night on the Village Green. This would be part of a traveling series, put on in neighboring towns as well. It was unclear whether ‘series’ means this would be a one-off or repeated event.

According to deputy health officer Christine Armstrong, an event like this may not be appropriate due to the coronavirus pandemic. Health officer Karl Stein will be asked to make a recommendation.

Discussion of who’d bear the responsibility for holding a safe event: the town, or WonderArts? A proper risk management plan would be required.

Andy made the following motion:

*The Board tables the decision on the proposed movie night until WonderArts and the town health officers can determine whether the event can be held safely.*

Tracy seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

- 3. Thank you to Willey’s Store.** BJ Gray donated a painted crosscut saw to the town, which will be given to Willey’s Store as a ‘thank you’ for all the ways the store has continued to serve the community throughout the coronavirus pandemic.
- 4. Mike Lapierre – resignation.** Selectboard member Mike Lapierre has resigned, effective immediately. Andy made the following motion:

*The Board appoints Gary Circosta to fill the vacant Selectboard seat until town meeting.*

Tracy seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

- 5. Conservation Commission.** Andy made the following motion:

*The Board appoints Jane Hoffman to the Greensboro Conservation Commission.*

Tracy seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**ADJOURNED: 8:30 PM**

*Respectfully Submitted: Josh Karp, Selectboard Clerk*