

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

# **Greensboro Selectboard**

August 12, 2020

## **Meeting Minutes**

**[Meeting was held in-person, with a Zoom conference call-in for some of the participants]**

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

**SELECTBOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Matt McAllister

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Kim Greaves, Josh Karp, Tom Camarra, Barbara Brooke, Sgt. Darin Barber, Kent Hansen

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

### **MINUTES**

Minutes from July 8 regular meeting unanimously approved as written.

Minutes from July 23 special meeting unanimously approved as written.

### **PUBLIC CONCERNS**

**Kent Hansen – Caspian Lake trail.** There’s been an unofficial trail around the shore of Caspian Lake for many years, crossing dozens of private properties. Kent observed that more and more landowners are blocking access to the trail by putting up fences and “no trespassing, private property” signage, and wondered if anything could be done to save the trail.

Andy said he’s been approached by at least five people who are concerned about the trail’s future.

While there is no established right-of-way for the trail, Andy said there may be a legal remedy, with a possible precedent in the Vermont Supreme Court allowing a community to protect assets that have been used by that community for extended periods of time.

Andy will look further into this issue.

### **POLICE**

Sgt. Darin Barber was present.

- The HPD has been doing more directed patrols. This is when officers pay extra attention to a particular area of town.
- There will be a community zoom meeting about policing on Aug 26 at 6 PM. Gary is coordinating the event with the Hardwick Town Manager.

## **ROADS & DRIVEWAYS**

### **1. Road Supervisor's report – Tom Camarra.**

- Winter sand has been put up.
- Despite being told earlier that there would be no state road grants this year, the town recently received a Better Backroads grant for ditching and stone on Garvin Hill.
- Chloride has been hard to get, causing delays in the grading schedule.
- Paving starts Friday 8/14: Hardwick St. and a short section of Bend Rd. will be paved.
- A new road crew member has been hired and has been working out well.

### **2. Sidewalk bid.** One bid was received, from BP & Sons for \$16,200. Kim noted that there is only \$15k in the sidewalk budget for this fiscal year.

Andy made the following motion:

*The Board accepts the BP & Sons bid of \$16,200 for sidewalk installation on East St.*

Tracy seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

### **3. R.O.W. policy – update.** Peter reminded those present that this discussion began a few months ago after the road crew knocked over and buried part of a farmer's fence during road maintenance operations. Peter added that while the town has the legal "right" to damage items in the town right-of-way, town employees and officials should go out of their way to maintain good relations between the town and taxpayers. Proactive, good-faith attempts to communicate with landowners should be made, and every reasonable step should be taken to take care of people's personal property.

A challenge is that sometimes public servants are not treated well by the public, and sometimes a public servant doesn't treat a resident well. Andy said that Tom recently asked him, politely, to move a fence so the town could complete ditching work. He was happy to comply, but said that some people may not comply, or communication could break down. Andy added that it's common for organizations to provide training in conflict resolution.

Tom agreed to reach out to Peter or Andy for assistance with right-of-way issues when a landowner is being uncooperative.

## **TOWN CLERK – Kim Greaves**

### **1. Primary Election.** Kim reported that yesterday's primary election was busy, and went well. Masks were required to vote inside, and there was one voting booth outside for anyone who didn't want to, or couldn't, wear a mask.

The coronavirus set-up felt safe to the poll workers, and many residents said that they liked the setup. The VT Secretary of State provided cleaning and other supplies to the town.

Kim said this was a good trial run for the November election.

Tracy thanked Kim for planning and implementing the voting process so well.

### **2. Emergency Management Plan.** Some corrections were pointed out; Kim will bring back an edited version to next month's meeting.

### **3. Town Hall – fuel tank.** Fred's Energy inspected the Town Hall's underground fuel oil tank and told Kim that within a few years, the state may not allow underground fuel tanks.

## **GREENSBORO FIRE DEPT.**

No report was available.

### **TREASURER – Barbara Brooke**

1. The Board did a final review of the FY 2020 budget.
2. The Board reviewed the FY 2021 budget, YTD.
3. The Board reviewed the June check warrant reports.
4. **FY 2022 Budget.** Discussion of holding a preliminary Budget meeting to discuss the FY 2022 budget. Should the Board consider limiting town spending due to the coronavirus pandemic and widespread financial hardship? Tracy said residents could be facing financial hardship for the next few years, and that things could get worse after stimulus and assistance payments run out. Andy added that unfortunately, small cuts to line items don't make much of a difference – it's the big ticket items that really impact the budget, such as the HERF account, the police contract, and driveway plowing. Budget work typically starts in October, and Andy suggested tabling the discussion until then.  
Tracy noted that a number of area towns now require organizations who request an appropriation to submit a petition every year, which must be signed by 5% of registered voters.
5. **Interim Town Treasurer position – update.** Barb worked with Brett Stanciu one day a week during August, and it's gone well. The Board agreed to have Brett work an additional day each week with Barbara. The Board also agreed that it's not necessary to create an interim treasurer position.
6. Discussion of a recent Fire Dept. purchase that cost approx. \$5k. It was agreed that the item should come out of the equipment budget, not the capital budget. Barbara will confirm with the outside auditor that this is correct.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

**Refinancing loan on new Fire Station.** Gary reported that there will be no fee for refinancing the loan, and that the interest rate would go from 3.15% to 2.02%. Gary said this would save ± \$28,000 over the eight years left on the loan. Andy made the following motion:

*The Board approves refinancing the Fire Station loan.*

Tracy seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

### **ONGOING BUSINESS**

1. **Moving Recycling to Fire Dept. lot – update.** Andy and Peter met with fire chief Dave Brochu Jr., and discussed logistics of the move. Ken and Peter will work on laying out a recycling area.  
It's possible that some gravel and excavator work will be required, and there are state requirements for moving and siting a recycling facility that must be met, making the process of moving more complicated than initially thought.
2. **Fire at old store in the Bend.** Peter reported that the heavily damaged building is scheduled to be torn down in September.
3. **Proposal to move Lake Rd. – update.** No update was available.

4. **Spark – Town Hall lease.** Andy and Carol are working on a lease agreement, using the old Lakeview lease as a starting point. Wonderarts will be the tenant and will be responsible for all Spark activities. Andy suggested the lease be set at \$1/year, given that Wonderarts is planning on making both short- and long-term improvements to the building, some of which are energy efficiency projects that will save the town money in the long run.
5. **Personnel Policy update.** This is being worked on and an updated policy should be ready for review at next month's meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:25 PM.

*Respectfully Submitted: Josh Karp, Selectboard Clerk*