

Greensboro Selectboard

October 14, 2020

Meeting Minutes

[Meeting was held via Zoom conference call]

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

SELECTBOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Linda Ely, Tom Camarra, Kim Greaves, Josh Karp, Ken Johnston

CALLED TO ORDER: 6:30 PM

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

1. Curb cuts (two)
2. NEK Waste Management District budget – *Ken Johnston*

MINUTES

Minutes from September 9 meeting unanimously approved.

PUBLIC CONCERNS

None this evening.

POLICE

No officer was present.

1. The Board reviewed the September police report.
2. **Police contract.** The Board agreed that Gary and Andy will represent the town during police contract negotiations with the town of Hardwick.

Discussion about holding a special town meeting to get community input on the police contract, given that this contract is a major component of the town budget. The Board has started to discuss the challenges it may face while building a budget amidst widespread financial hardship caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

After Gary and Andy meet with the Hardwick Town Manager and Police Chief and a draft of the new contract is drawn up, the Board will revisit the idea of a special meeting. While this has been a three-year contract for a number of years, a new contract could be negotiated to last for other lengths of time (i.e. one or two years).

ROADS & DRIVEWAYS

1. **Road Supervisor's report – Tom Camarra.** Tom reported on the activities of the road crew this past month.

2. Kim reported that the town will not be receiving a Better Backroads Grant this year.
3. **Salt Contract.** The town has budgeted for 850 tons of road salt this year, and has obtained pricing from both Cargill (\$77.42/T) and American Rock Salt (\$76.00/T). Last year, contracts were signed with both suppliers in case one of them had a shortage; these contracts lock in pricing but do not require the town to actually purchase the salt. Last year salt was only purchased from American, but Tom said both companies are good to work with. Andy made the following motion:

The town will sign salt contracts with both Cargill and American Rock Salt.

Peter seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

4. Kim suggested that the town apply for the state's Municipal Roads Grants-in-Aid Program. Andy made the following motion:

The town will apply for the state's Municipal Roads Grants-in-Aid program.

Peter seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

5. **Issues with specific roads.**

- **Lake Rd.** Eric LaPoint had indicated he wanted to discuss moving Lake Rd. with the Selectboard, but was not present at this meeting.
 - **Circus Rd.** Discussion of beavers blocking a culvert on Circus Rd. The road crew has removed the blockage a few times, but the beavers keep coming back. Peter suggested that a long-term solution to the problem be found, such as trapping or beaver barriers, rather than the road crew going back repeatedly to clear the culvert. Barriers are known to work in certain situations but it is unclear whether one would work here. Matt and Tom will look into solutions for this problem.
 - **Gebbie Rd.** Peter said Gebbie Rd. is washing badly in places and suggested prioritizing work on this road. A related issue is that Peter Gebbie has been growing corn right up to the traveled way in places, interfering with maintenance operations and causing some visibility/safety issues. Matt and Tom will discuss with Peter.
 - **Winchester Rd.** This road is right at the town border with Stannard. Matt said it appears that the town of Stannard did some ditching, causing water to flow more quickly, which is now washing out a driveway just over the line in Greensboro. Discussion of who's responsible for fixing this problem: Stannard, Greensboro, or the landowner? Matt will investigate further.
 - **Old Schoolhouse Rd.** Armour Moodie had indicated he wanted to discuss road wash on his property on Old Schoolhouse Rd, but wasn't present at this meeting.
6. **Curb cuts.** The Board unanimously approved curb cuts for Margaret Sparrow (TH#8) and Carroll Matayer (Harrington Rd.), pending Tom's final inspection and approval.
 7. **New Town Garage planning – update.** Tom reported that he and the road crew discussed possible locations for a new town garage, and they agreed that rebuilding on the current site makes the most sense. The current site is a central location that has worked well for the road crew over the years, and is a logical starting point for the different plow routes during winter. Discussion of building a new garage down on Rt. 16, assuming a suitable property can be found. Peter said it's probably more efficient to have a garage on Rt. 16 as it's closer to the gravel pit, and less time hauling could add up to considerable savings. Tom agreed that it would be less hauling initially, but since most town roads are on the other side of town, the crew would end up hauling gravel up past the current garage site anyway.

The Judkins property on Rt. 16 is up for tax sale; Matt, Peter and Tom will assess the site as a garage location. Kim noted that the property owners have a year and a day to pay the back taxes, and added that there may be liens on the property.

The Sullivan property on the Bend Rd. is also being considered. A few downsides to this property are already known: it appears that the sand pile wouldn't fit, and existing structures would have to be torn down which can be costly.

Discussion of building a garage on the Fire House lot; efficiencies could likely be found by consolidating town facilities. However, there could be wetland issues with this site, and it is unclear whether the sand pile would fit there. If it did, residents might find a sand pile unsightly; perhaps screening could be installed. Or, the current garage site could be used for sand stockpiling.

Discussion about the losses of efficiency that would likely result if the sand pile is located off the main town garage site.

TOWN CLERK – Kim Greaves

1. **Poll watchers.** Kim invited the Board to be poll watchers during the upcoming election, and observe the clerks counting ballots.
2. **Outside consumption permit – Hill Farmstead Brewery.** Andy made the following motion:
The Board approves Hill Farmstead Brewery's outside consumption permit.
Matt seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

GREENSBORO FIRE DEPT.

No representative from the Fire Dept. was present and no September report was available.

TREASURER – Barbara Brooke

Barbara was not present.

1. The Board reviewed the FY 2021 budget, YTD.
2. The Board reviewed the September check warrant reports.
3. **Outside audit.** Gary and Andy discussed the FY 2020 audit with the town's outside auditor.
4. **Budget meetings.** A preliminary budget meeting will be scheduled for mid-November after both the election and the property tax due date.

ONGOING BUSINESS

1. **Moving Recycling to Fire Dept. lot – update.** After a number of visits to the Fire House lot, it appears that moving recycling to that site is too problematic. Peter said that the stump dump looks like a more promising site.
2. **Personnel Policy.** A new draft has been completed. VLCT will review the draft, and Board members and employees will review the draft and comment over the next few weeks. Gary will meet with the road crew to discuss any questions about the policy.

Andy thanked Gary for his many hours of work on the policy.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. **NEK Waste management district budget.** Due to poor recycling markets, the NEKWMD needs to generate more income. Member towns must vote to approve changes to the District's budget; four different income-generating scenarios were presented to towns. While it was agreed that option #4 looked reasonable, the Board approved NEKWMD rep. Ken Johnston choosing whichever option he thinks makes the most sense.
2. **Halloween event request – Modern Times Theater.** Modern Times Theater put in a request to hold Covid-safe events in downtown Greensboro on Halloween. After discussion, Andy made the following motion:

The Board approves Modern Times Theater's request to hold events on Halloween, conditioned on Health Officer Karl Stein's approval.

Tracy seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

The Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted: Josh Karp, Selectboard Clerk

AMENDED 11/11/20 J.K.