

# Greensboro Selectboard

December 8, 2021 – Minutes

[Meeting was held in person and on video conference]

**SELECTBOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Peter Romans, Matt McAllister, David Kelley, Tracy Collier

**SELECTBOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Gary Circosta

**OTHERS PRESENT:** MacNeil, Linda Romans, Chief Dave Brochu, Jr., Brett Stanciu, Kim Greaves, Josh Karp, Ellen Celnik, Michael Lapierre, Eric Hanson, Lise Armstrong, Eric LaPoint, Rick Ely, Elissa Mackin, Christine Armstrong, Tom Camarra, Carolyn Kehler, Devin Burgess

**CALLED TO ORDER: 6:33 PM**

## ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Kim: Karen LaPoint curb cut

## MINUTES

- 11/10/21 regular meeting: unanimously approved as written.
- 11/17/21 budget meeting: unanimously approved as written.
- 11/23/21 budget meeting: unanimously approved as written.
- 12/1/21 budget meeting: unanimously approved as written.

## PUBLIC CONCERNS

None this evening.

## GREENSBORO FIRE DEPT – Chief Dave Brochu, Jr.

1. November GFD report reviewed.
2. **SCBA bottles.** Chief Brochu said there are 10 SCBA units in service, with each one needing one bottle plus a spare. The old bottles need to be replaced, and he is proposing to upgrade from 15-year bottles to 30-year bottles. To spread out the cost, five bottles would be purchased each year over the next four years.

David made the following motion:

*The Board authorizes the purchase of five replacement SCBA bottles for \$7450.*

Tracy seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

3. **Dispatch options.** The town's dispatch contract with the Lamoille County Sheriff's Dept. covered dispatch for both the HPD and GFD. The Orleans County Sheriff's Dept. doesn't need this additional dispatch service, and while it is hoped that the LCSD will lower the contract amount to reflect this, this has not been negotiated yet. In the meantime, Chief Brochu said the GFD is exploring alternative dispatch options.

## ORLEANS COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPT.

1. No representative from OCSD was present.
2. November OCSD report reviewed.

## **ROADS**

1. **Road Foreman's report.** Tom said the road crew has been sanding and salting.
2. **Harry Miller comment.** Harry Miller commented to Peter that drivers need to be made aware of dangerous road conditions on Harrington Rd. Town trucks can't plow or sand the steep, narrow road, leaving BP & Son to maintain the road during the winter. It was agreed that signage at the top of Harrington and Overlook Rds. would be prudent. Tom will research what signs would be most appropriate, adding that drivers also need to use common sense and slow down.
3. **Speed limit on gravel roads.** For gravel roads with no marked speed limit, the speed limit is 50 mph by default. While this is clearly too fast in some places, it is an unwieldy, lengthy and expensive process to lower speed limits here and there on gravel roads. An easier approach could be to lower the speed limit on all gravel roads at once. After discussion, David made the following motion:

*The question 'shall the speed limit of all gravel roads be set at 35 mph' will be included as an article in the 2022 town meeting warning. The Selectboard will consider this to be a binding vote by residents.*

Peter seconded the motion, which carried (P.R., D.K, T.C. in favor; M.M. opposed).

4. **Driveway plowing bids.** One bid was received from current contractor BP & Son, for \$406,500. The three-year bid is based on 500 driveways, with year one costing \$133k, year two \$135.5k, year three \$138k. Peter said one reason the cost of the contract didn't increase much this time around is that some businesses in town will no longer be plowed by the contractor.

Tracy made the following motion:

*The Board accepts the BP & Son bid for plowing driveways.*

David seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

5. **Porter Brook bridge – engineering bids.** David looked closely at East Engineering's bid and found it was at least \$12k less than the other contractor. David made the following motion:

*The Board accepts the East Engineering bid for the Porter Brook Bridge project.*

Tracy seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

6. **Sidewalk plowing bids.** One bid was received from Michael Lapierre, for \$52k. All Greensboro Village and Greensboro Bend sidewalks would be cleared and sanded once two inches of snow accumulates.

A number of those present appeared surprised at this dollar amount. Michael said he'd have to go out and buy all the equipment to do the job.

Ellen said that the bid seems way out of proportion to the amount of work that needs to be done, and wondered why the town doesn't just purchase the necessary equipment to do the job.

Peter said that the town is obligated to clear the new sidewalk on East St. as a requirement of grant funding. David made the following motion:

*The decision on plowing sidewalks will be tabled, since further research is necessary.*

Matt seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Tracy wondered if the town would be considered out of compliance with grant requirements in the meantime.

7. **Curb Cut – Karen LaPoint.** Tom gave preliminary approval to this curb cut. David made the following motion:

*The Board approves the LaPoint curb cut, pending final inspection after construction.*

Matt seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

8. **New town truck – open bids.** Bids were received from dealers for Western Star (\$145.7k), Freightliner (\$132.1k) and Mack (\$131.5k). After discussion, Matt made the following motion:

*The Board accepts the Mack bid.*

Tracy seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

### **PLANNING COMMISSION / ZONING BYLAW PROPOSED CHANGES**

The Selectboard held a public hearing on 12/6 to hear public comment on changes to the zoning bylaw proposed by the Planning Commission (PC). Discussed were the Expanded Resource District, Expanded Village Districts, Misc. Changes, the Shoreland Protection District, and Short-term Rental (STR) regulations. After discussion, David made the following motion:

*The Selectboard approves the Planning Commission’s zoning bylaw proposals for the Expanded Resource District, the Expanded Village Districts, and the Misc. Changes, and sends these proposals forward to a town vote.*

Peter seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Some members of the Selectboard felt that the Shoreland Protection District and Short-term Rental proposals are not ready for Board approval and need further discussion. Kim said that if these final two proposals are to be voted on at town meeting, a decision must be made by the third week in January in order to get these items on the warning.

Discussion of questions raised at the 12/6 hearing.

Josh asked whether an NVDA attorney reviewed the two newer proposals. Christine Armstrong said that a review was done, but not by an attorney. She said the PC has done its best, and if the Selectboard wants the proposals reviewed by an attorney, they should pursue this.

Zoning Administrator Brett Stanciu said she’s opposed to the STR regulations as currently proposed. She felt this proposal needs to be thought through more comprehensively, and that the question of enforcement must be addressed.

Regarding Rick Ely’s substantive comments and criticisms, Linda Romans said he worked closely with the PC throughout the drafting process, and that the PC took a number of his suggestions. She said it’s disheartening that Rick submitted so many comments right before the public hearing. Christine said she disagreed with many of Rick comments, and felt a number of his statements are inaccurate. Rick said the PC has done a huge amount of work on the bylaw proposals and deserves our thanks. While he said that some of his concerns come down to policy disagreements, he added that he’s still interested in participating in the process going forward.

Peter suggested that PC and Selectboard members meet and continue discussions of these proposals in the coming weeks.

### **TOWN CLERK – Kim Greaves**

**Town Meeting 2022.** Kim reported that due to the ongoing pandemic, the legislature may give Selectboards the option, as it did in 2021, to change the way town meetings are held. The legislature isn't meeting until January, and the printing deadline for the town report is approaching, so the Selectboard will likely be making decisions about town meeting at the last minute.

### **TREASURER – Brett Stanciu**

1. The Board reviewed the treasurer's monthly report.
  - The outside auditor is finishing up a review of town accounts.
  - **ARPA funds.** Brett suggested that the town form an ad hoc committee to gather public input on ways the ARPA funds might be spent. She stressed the importance of having a diverse mix of residents on the committee.
2. **FY22 budget report, YTD.** Reviewed by the Board.
3. **November check warrant reports.** Reviewed by the Board.

### **ONGOING BUSINESS**

1. **Budget meetings.** David said work on the budget has been going well, and noted there were some challenges due to inflation. Brett thanked David, Peter, and Tracy for their work on the budget.
2. **Bend Depot lease.** David said it's possible that the state may offer the town, as a municipal entity, a reasonable lease on the Depot land. He suggested that the town write a letter to VTrans, asking them to either lease the property directly to Mark - with reasonable terms - or consider leasing the property to the town. The Board approved Peter and David sending the letter.
3. **Recreation Committee.**
  - Swim program. Devin Burgess said the Recreation Committee (RC) is planning swimming lessons for summer 2022, and is proposing to partner with the Newport chapter of 'Teach America to Swim'. Instructors and lifeguards would travel down to Caspian Lake for the lessons. Carolyn Kehler said this program was done very successfully in Eden, with about 80 kids taking part. The RC's goal is to provide lessons to any child who wants them, with no one turned away. She said that if the RC ends up spending all of their allotted funds, the difference could be made up through fundraising. The program would cost the town \$100/student, with some costs recouped with a sliding scale fee. The program has a 1 to 10 instructor/student ratio, and classes run 40 minutes.

The RC is looking into the possibility of offering lessons to Hardwick kids as well.

Peter asked the RC to keep the Board in the loop as the program develops, so the financial commitment of the town can be fully understood.

- Skating Rink MOU. David said both the RC and the Highland Center have approved a MOU for their skating rink collaboration. The document lays out how the partnership is structured moving forward, but is not legally binding. David made the following motion:

*The Board approves the skating rink MOU as approved by the Recreation Committee and Highland Center.*

Tracy seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

- 1. Mask mandate.** Peter said a town-wide mask mandate is not on the table as far as he's concerned, but suggested that the town continue requiring masks in town buildings. After discussion, Peter made the following motion:

*Masks will continue to be required inside town-owned buildings in Greensboro.*

David seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

- 2. Christmas bonus for town employees.** Peter made the following motion:

*Christmas bonuses will be paid to town employees, the same amount as in previous years.*

Tracy seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Peter made the following motion:

*The Board will enter executive session at 8:25 PM to discuss the Greensboro Award.*

David seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

The Board left executive session at 8:40 PM and took no action.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Unanimous vote to adjourn at 8:40 PM.

*Respectfully Submitted: Josh Karp, Selectboard Clerk*