

# Greensboro Selectboard

## January 12, 2022 – Minutes

[Meeting was held in person and on video conference]

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

**SELECTBOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Brett Stanciu, Kim Greaves, Josh Karp, Eric Hanson, Tom Camarra, Nancy Riege, Ellen Celnik, Lise Armstrong

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

### ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Kim: Conservation Commission appointment

### MINUTES

- 12/8/21 regular meeting: approved as written (P.R., M.M., T.C., D.K in favor; G.C. abstained)
- 12/8/21 budget meeting: approved as written (P.R., M.M., T.C., D.K in favor; G.C. abstained)
- 12/29/21 special meeting: unanimously approved as amended

### PUBLIC CONCERNS

None this evening.

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

Chief Dave Brochu was not present. No F.D. report was available.

### ORLEANS COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPT.

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

### ROADS

1. **Road Foreman's report.** Tom reported that there's been lots of ice to deal with lately.
2. **Mixing salt with sand.** Tom said that when it's colder than  $\pm 18^{\circ}$ , salt is mixed in with the sand. Tom added that the state recommends reducing salt use for water quality reasons, and he feels the road crew puts down the minimum amount possible to keep the roads safe.
3. **Sidewalk Equipment.** Peter visited the highway departments of Hardwick, Morrisville and Stowe to investigate different approaches to sidewalk plowing. He said these towns are all using some type of dedicated equipment.

Peter said the road crew in Morrisville is using a Trackless machine to maintain 14 miles of sidewalk, and they like the unit. A used Trackless is available locally for \$25k, and Peter suggested that the town try it out.

The town of Bennington uses, or used, a Trackless on their 40 miles of sidewalk. Tom said the road crew there noted that the narrow machine is top heavy, and that parts can be very expensive and must be special ordered. Tom wondered who would be able to repair this specialized piece of equipment in our area. Peter said the local Trackless salesman lives in Craftsbury.

Tom said another option is to purchase a skid steer, which in addition to clearing sidewalks could be used for other purposes year-round, such as street sweeping and cleaning around guardrails. Plus, he added, parts would be easier to get. Ellen said that with only one mile of sidewalks to maintain in Greensboro, a machine wouldn't get much use and thus would need less maintenance.

Matt said a new piece of equipment that would need less maintenance and has a number of other uses might make more sense than the used, specialized Trackless unit. David said he wasn't sure the town could justify purchasing new equipment for this purpose.

Nancy Riege asked why the town is suddenly planning to plow sidewalks. Peter said the idea has been on the table for a long time, and that there are now enough sidewalks in good condition to justify spending funds to clear them. Tracy added that the town is required to plow the new sidewalk on East St. due to the terms of a grant received for that project.

Peter said the town will be hiring a part-time employee to do the plowing and sanding of sidewalks.

David made the following motion:

*The town will try out the Trackless machine and see how well it works.*

Peter seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

- 4. Tousant Hill Rd. – snowmobile use.** The bridge behind the Bend Depot will be replaced this winter, and the town has been asked to allow snowmobilers on Tousant Hill Rd. until the bridge work is completed. While most of the road is in Stannard, a short section at the beginning is in Greensboro. Peter made the following motion:

*The Board approves snowmobilers using Tousant Hill Rd. during this winter until the bridge is replaced.*

David seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

- 5. Certificate of Highway Mileage.** Reviewed and approved by the Board.
- 6. New Town Truck – body and plow package.** HP Fairfield submitted bids for two makes they offer, Tenco and Everest. Pricing is very close, and Tom said he prefers Tenco.

David made the following motion:

*The town accepts HP Fairfield's bid of \$109,785 for the Tenco body and plow.*

Gary seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

- 7. Power line under Rocking Rock Rd.** VT Electric Coop is requesting permission to bury a power line under the road at 1483/1485 Rocking Rock Rd. David made the following motion:

*The Board approves VEC laying a utility line under the road at 1483/1485 Rocking Rock Rd., as requested.*

Tracy seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

## **TOWN CLERK – Kim Greaves**

- 1. Conservation Commission.** Conservation Commission Chair Clive Gray recommended that Arlene Averill be appointed to the Conservation Commission. Dave made the following motion:

*The Board appoints Arlene Averill to the Conservation Commission.*

Peter seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

2. **Liquor licenses for Hill Farmstead and Willey's Store.** Gary made the following motion:

*The Board approves liquor licenses for Hill Farmstead Brewery and Willey's Store.*

David seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

3. **2021 Equalization study.** The study, from the VT Tax Dept., was reviewed by the Board. Greensboro's common level of appraisal (CLA) is now 90.39%. Kim said that when the CLA drops below 85% a reappraisal is required, and she thought this would likely happen in the next few years. A reappraisal could cost up to \$100k. The change in Greensboro's CLA is due to many properties selling for more than they're listed for. Kim noted Hardwick's CLA is even lower than Greensboro's.

## **TOWN MEETING 2022**

1. **Town meeting by Australian ballot?** The legislature once again voted in favor of giving towns the option to hold town meetings by Australian Ballot in 2022. Towns also have the option of postponing the meeting. While Governor Scott hasn't signed the bill yet, he's expected to.

Kim said the Board must decide where and when to hold town meeting either tonight, or in the next few days.

Discussion. If the town was to hold a regular town meeting, the two places big enough are the school gym and the Highland Center (HCA). Peter said most residents are unlikely to attend an in-person meeting given the ongoing pandemic, and that this will have the effect of excluding many from voting. Tracy, David, and Gary agreed.

Currently, the HCA requires anyone attending events to show proof of a negative COVID test or show a vaccine card. The secretary of state is concerned that such requirements could limit voting rights, and while it's possible HCA could change these rules, David said it's unlikely.

Gary said candidates for open positions have until January 24 to put their names forward, and must be allowed two days after that to take their names off the warning, if they change their mind. Discussion of the fact that this deadline comes after the town report must be sent to the printer. Kim will discuss this issue with the secretary of state, and also see if the town report can be sent to the printers later than originally planned.

Gary suggested that to keep participation at a high level, the town should mail ballots to all registered voters, as was done last year. Kim said that while costs incurred from mailing ballots won't be reimbursed by the state this time around, ARPA funds may be available for this. She noted that in-person voting will still be required, as it was last year.

David made the following motion:

*The town will hold the 2022 Town Meeting by Australian Ballot, contingent on Governor Scott signing the bill allowing this. Ballots will be sent to every registered voter.*

Tracy seconded the motion which carried unanimously (Matt had left the meeting at this point).

Discussion of the requirements for notifying the public that the auditor's printed report is available. Discussion of the requirements for distributing the auditor's printed report. Kim and Gary will clarify exactly what these requirements are.

2. **Town meeting informational meeting.** Discussion of holding the informational meeting on Sat. 2/19/22 at 3:30 PM via Zoom. This needs to be confirmed with Town moderator Tim Nisbet.
3. **Town meeting warning.** The Board reviewed the draft warning.

Gary suggested that substantive items such as the zoning proposals and speed limit proposal be placed at the front of the warning.

Gary also suggested that the question of allowing cannabis retailers to operate in town should not be included in the warning. Discussion. Kelli Story is the only resident who's come forward to request that the Board put this item on the warning. Tracy said that while she isn't opposed to this item being on the warning, she thought it should be added the same way other items typically are: either by the Selectboard, or by a voter petition.

It appeared that the outcome of a Board vote on the motion would be a tie, and the vote was not held.

The Selectboard will not add the cannabis question to the warning. Kelly will be told to submit a petition if she still wants this item on the warning.

### **TREASURER – Brett Stanciu**

1. The Board reviewed the treasurer's monthly report.
2. **FY22 budget report, YTD.** Reviewed by the Board.
3. **December check warrant reports.** Reviewed by the Board.
4. **ARPA Committee.** Brett said 13 people have expressed interested in serving on the ARPA committee, and the first meeting will be held Jan 27. Brett will continue to educate herself on ARPA matters and ask VLCT for guidance as needed. The committee will ultimately make recommendations to the Selectboard on ways to spend the funds.

Gary and Tracy said they'd sit in on the ARPA committee meetings when they're able.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

**Town Charter.** No discussion, no action taken.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Peter made the following motion:

*The Board will enter executive session at 8:45 PM to discuss a personnel matter and the Greensboro Award, with Kim Greaves present.*

David seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

The Board left executive session at 8:55 PM.

Gary made the following motion:

*Brett's hourly rate will be increased to \$21.30, effective 7/1/21.*

Tracy seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 9 PM.

*Respectfully Submitted: Josh Karp, Selectboard Clerk*  
*AMENDED 2/9/22 J.K.*