

Greensboro Selectboard

February 9, 2022 – Minutes

[Meeting was held in person and on video conference]

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

SELECTBOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Matt McAllister

OTHERS PRESENT: Brett Stanciu, Kim Greaves, Josh Karp, Tom Camarra, Janet Long, Nancy Riege, Ellen Celnik, Tim Brennan, Michael Porrazzo, Eric Hanson, Elizabeth Steel, Christine Armstrong, Jane Hoffman

CALLED TO ORDER: 6:31 PM

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Gary: Appoint Dave Brochu Jr. as fire chief; ARPA final rule; Selectboard guidance for ARPA committee

MINUTES

1/12/22 **regular meeting** unanimously approved as amended.

1/17/22 **special meeting** unanimously approved as written.

1/25/22 **special meeting** approved as written. (P.R., T.C., D.K. in favor; G.C. abstained as he wasn't present)

PUBLIC CONCERNS

Clearing sidewalks. Sandra MacLeod wrote a letter to the Board expressing concern that the new sidewalk clearing work will lead to salt-laden snow blown onto her property, possibly damaging her plantings. Peter said that some towns solve this problem by blowing snow into a truck, but with a small road crew such as ours, it could be difficult to free up a road crew member for this task, not to mention other logistical challenges. Peter added that so far, no salt has been used on our sidewalks.

Nancy Riege shared Sandra's concerns, but suggested waiting until spring to assess the impacts of this first season of snowblowing and go from there.

GREENSBORO FIRE DEPT – Chief Dave Brochu, Jr.

Chief Dave Brochu discussed the monthly FD report with the Board.

- At their January meeting, members of the GFD re-elected Chief Brochu. The Selectboard will appoint him at next month's meeting.
- Phone issues have been impacting the fire house and setting off all kinds of automatic alarms. Kim said phone problems are affecting a number of town departments and she's been working with Consolidated on solutions.

ORLEANS COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPT.

No representative from the OCSD was available. The board reviewed the January OCSD report.

ROADS

- 1. Road Foreman's report.** Tom said that during a recent big storm the crew put in a lot of hours, and thankfully trucks have been holding up well. David Kelly thanked the road crew for their hard work.
- 2. Wildlife removal (i.e. beavers).** From time to time, the town has had beavers trapped who are causing issues with certain roads. David Kelly said there's a local and national debate underway about moving to a higher standard of ethics regarding the way society interacts with wildlife such as beavers. Colorado banned leghold trapping with some exceptions; David suggested Greensboro consider adopting a similar regulation. He admitted that this would be getting ahead of the legislature on this issue, but that he'd go to court pro bono on behalf of the town if a local regulation was challenged.

David said it would be good for small, local government to step out in front on this, and he's seeking approval to further research this topic and bring a proposal before the Board. A community committee could be formed to discuss human/wildlife conflicts and the issue of trapping.

Gary asked who would enforce such a regulation, and if there are fines, who would issue them? He added that the town already has a hard time enforcing existing ordinances, and wondered about landowners trapping on their own land.

Tracy felt that putting such restrictions in place would be a big deal. Josh questioned whether local municipalities can even enact such regulation, since it seems that the state has jurisdiction over wildlife regulations. David said that some skepticism is legitimate, but despite that, something should be drafted and criticisms dealt with as they arise. No action taken by the Board.

TOWN CLERK – Kim Greaves

Town Meeting 2022

1. Kim said town meeting ballots have been received from the printer and are being sent to all registered voters. School ballots are not being sent out and must either be requested ahead of time, or voted in person on town meeting day.
2. Discussion of possible inaccuracies in the HERF accounting in the town report. Brett requested that she and a few board members work to clarify these issues. Gary, David, and Brett will meet.
3. The Town Meeting informational meeting will be run like last year, fully remote with Tim Nisbet moderating. Tracy suggested it be recorded so it could be accessed by someone who's unable to attend. Gary said he's open to holding a second informational meeting since this one is being held so early.

TREASURER – Brett Stanciu

1. The Board reviewed the treasurer's monthly report.
2. **FY22 budget report, YTD.** Reviewed by the Board.
3. **January check warrant reports.** Reviewed by the Board.
4. **ARPA Committee.** Brett reported that there are 12 people on the ARPA committee, including two co-chairs. The just released 'final rule' opens up much wider possibilities in the way funds can be used. Gary said that the town can basically spend these funds with no restrictions.
Gary asked whether the Board needs to wait for committee recommendations before spending ARPA funds. Brett said VLCT strongly recommends community support for all expenditures, and suggested that the Selectboard spend funds only at the recommendation of the committee.

It was agreed that there must be good communication between the Board and the ARPA committee. Brett said recommendations on best practices for ARPA committees will be coming soon from VLCT.

OTHER BUSINESS

- 1. Development Review Board - appointments.** Long time DRB members Jan Travers, Lee Wright and Linda Romans have left the DRB. These openings were advertised and five letters of interest were received. DRB chair Jane Woodruff has recommended that the Board make three appointments: Tim Brennan (full member), Lise Armstrong (alternate) and Joanne Lacasse (alternate). David made the following motion:

The Board appoints Tim Brennan, Lise Armstrong, and Joanne Lacasse to the DRB as recommended.

Peter seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

- 2. Delinquent tax collection.** Discussion of whether the town should continue with an independent delinquent tax collector, or if the town treasurer should take on the job. Delinquent tax collector Janet Long felt it's important to keep the delinquent tax collector separate from the current tax collector (the town treasurer), otherwise the latter could possibly manipulate dates to change who's considered delinquent. Peter agreed that having the treasurer take on both roles could lead to the perception of a conflict of interest.

Discussion of whether the 8% delinquent tax fee could, or should, be reduced based on extenuating circumstances. Discussion of whether the Board should further investigate the legality and practicality of charging less than the 8% on a case by case basis.

David made the following motion:

The Selectboard has the authority to reduce the delinquent tax penalty of 8% to a lower amount, if it deems extraordinary circumstances exist for a taxpayer.

Janet asked whether it would be more appropriate for the board of tax abatement to make such judgement calls. Further discussion; it was unclear who, if anyone, has the authority to change the 8% figure.

Brett suggested that the Board not change the current system. Dave withdrew his motion.

No action taken by the Board.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Gary made the following motion:

The Board will enter executive session at 7:58 PM to discuss a personnel matter.

Peter seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

The Board left executive session at 8:20 PM and took no action.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:20PM.

Respectfully Submitted: Josh Karp, Selectboard Clerk