

# Greensboro Selectboard

## January 11, 2023 – Minutes

[Meeting was held via video conference]

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

**SELECTBOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Tom Camarra, Christopher Roy, Kim Greaves, Josh Karp, Brett Stanciu, Eric Hanson, Fan Watkinson, Lise Armstrong, Isa Oehry

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

### ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Peter: executive session for Greensboro Award

### MINUTES

1. 12/14/22 regular meeting unanimously approved as written.
2. 12/22/22 special meeting approved as amended (P.R., E.C., T.C., D.K. in favor; G.C. abstained). Gary noted he abstained due to not being present at the meeting.

### PUBLIC CONCERNS

None this evening.

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

No report available this evening.

### ORLEANS COUNTY SHERIFF’S DEPT.

The Board reviewed the December OCSD report.

### ROADS

1. **Road Foreman’s report – Tom Camarra.** Tom said a part-time employee has been hired to clear sidewalks.
2. **Damage to mailboxes by snowplow.** Tom said the town’s Winter Roads Policy states that no replacement will be made in case of damage. Board members felt this policy provides clarity on the matter and ended discussion.
3. **Certificate of Highway Mileage.** The Board reviewed the annual Certificate of Highway Mileage. Peter made the following motion:  
*The Board approves the Certificate of Highway Mileage.*  
Tracy seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

## **TOWN CLERK – Kim Greaves**

1. **Grand List errors and omissions.** The Board reviewed the PVR-4261-E form that lists changes to current use parcels. Gary made the following motion:

*The Board accepts the current use changes as listed on the PVR-4261-E form.*

Ellen seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

2. **Town Assessor proposals.** The Board reviewed proposals from VT Appraisal Company, VT Municipal Assessor, and the shared assessor position through the Lamoille County Planning Commission. After discussion, David made the following motion:

*The Board accepts VT Appraisal Company's proposal for town assessor.*

Ellen seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

3. **Equalization Study / Reappraisal.** The VT Dept. of Taxes 2022 Equalization Study was reviewed by the Board, showing that Greensboro's CLA is 81.14%. A CLA this low means a reappraisal is required, and will result in an 'upward adjustment' by the state of the town's education tax rate.

Kim said that due to the hot real estate market over the past few years, many towns are in the same situation and there are only so many firms who do town-wide appraisals. She believes it will take up to two years to get a reappraisal underway, with a cost of at least \$100k.

4. **Town meeting Warning.** The Warning wasn't signed by the Board since the FY24 budget hasn't been approved yet. Additionally, it's looking likely that the state legislature and Governor will allow towns to hold town meeting by Australian Ballot again. This option was discussed, but no decision was made.

## **TREASURER – Brett Stanciu**

1. The Board reviewed the treasurer's monthly report, the FY23 budget report, and the December check warrant reports.
2. **Investments.** Peter and Eric Hanson looked into investment options for town reserve funds. There's currently \$970k in the HERF account and \$360k in the Capital Budget; discussion of putting \$500k of HERF funds and \$250k of Capital Budget funds into a six-month CD or CDs. Peter said this is a very safe, conservative approach that will earn the town some interest without tying up funds for a long period of time.

Discussion of which federally insured financial institution to work with. David made the following motion:

*The town will use Northfield Savings Bank/Infinex as the brokerage for investing \$750k. Funds will be invested only if fully insured. The Board designates Peter Romans to sign investment documents as necessary.*

Ellen seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

## **ARPA COMMITTEE AND PROPOSALS**

The Board undertook a partial review of the ARPA committee's funding recommendations.

Gary suggested that the ARPA proposals be brought to town meeting for further discussion.

Peter felt that 'the people have spoken through the ARPA committee'. The committee was made up of a cross-section of the community and according to Brett, thoughtfully reviewed all proposals.

David said that ARPA funds were intended to give the town a boost, and felt the Board should follow the committee's recommendations.

Tracy said that the Board should consider funding a grant writer using ARPA funds. She felt that many of the ARPA proposals could likely be funded by grants, freeing up ARPA funds for other purposes. The Board agreed that with the exception of the time-sensitive broadband funds request (the ARPA funds will leverage additional broadband funds), projects didn't need immediate funding. Ellen made the following motion:

*The Board approves allocating \$24k of ARPA funds to NEK Broadband.*

Tracy seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Tracy made the following motion:

*The town will begin the process to hire a grants coordinator/ARPA fund administrator.*

Ellen seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

## **BUDGET FY2024**

Discussion of budget line items.

Gary felt that the library should be requesting less money from the town, and funding more of their operations using their endowment. Peter said the library's endowment funds are invested, with just the interest used for operating costs.

Gary thanked organizations and agencies that kept their appropriation requests level funded.

Gary asked for a HERF analysis from Board. Brett said she's asked Board members to take on this project, but no one has stepped forward. In the meantime, residents Eric Hanson and Jennifer Lucas have volunteered to work on the HERF. In the immediate term, Brett said she's using figures worked out by Gary and Andy a few years ago.

Brett said she'd be happy to work with Gary on the HERF if he was willing.

Gary requested that a detailed explanation of the Porter Brook bridge project be included in the town report, since the town is currently short about \$150k for this project.

Peter made the following motion:

*The Board approves the FY24 budget, in the amount of \$2,104,396.*

Tracy seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

This budget is a 6.64% increase over FY23.

## **ONGOING BUSINESS**

**New town garage – update.** No update was available.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Peter made the following motion:

*The Board will enter executive session at 8:43 PM to discuss the Greensboro Award.*

Tracy seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

The Board left executive session at 8:50 PM and took no action.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:50 PM.

*Respectfully Submitted: Josh Karp, Selectboard Clerk*