

# Greensboro Selectboard

June 14, 2023 – Minutes

[Meeting was held via video conference]

**SELECTBOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ellen Celnik, Gary Circosta, David Kelley, Peter Romans, Eric Hanson

**SELECTBOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Kim Greaves, Brett Stanciu, Josh Karp, Tom Camarra, Christopher Roy, Dan Predpall, Mike Montgomery, Nigel Friend, Beth Meachem, Christine Armstrong, Isa Oehry

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

## ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

- Kim: curb cut application
- Eric: let's move the payroll increases vote to executive session. After discussion, Peter made the following motion:

*The Board will discuss the payroll increases in executive session.*

Ellen seconded the motion which carried (P.R., E.C., E.H., D.K. in favor; G.C. abstained).

- Peter: municipal roads permit status
- Peter: road reclaimer grant
- Gary noted a correction to the agenda: the petition to decrease the speed limit on Main St. states 25 mph, not 35 mph.

## MINUTES

1. May 10 regular meeting approved as amended unanimously.
2. May 30 special meeting approved as written unanimously.

## PUBLIC CONCERNS

**Community garden – Beth Meachem.** Beth asked if wood chip mulch could be used at the community garden. Kim requested that mulch be applied such that it doesn't interfere with mowing. The Board approved use of the mulch.

## LIBRARY DRIVEWAY – Beth Meachem

The north section of library driveway needs to be repaired. The Board and Road Foreman believe repaving would be the best approach. The Altmans, who own the land, are in favor of using staymat and the Board has decided to respect their wishes.

The Board reviewed a quote for the work that was solicited by Beth. Peter felt the bid was high and said he'd solicit a few more bids.

While the work won't happen until fall, Beth will discuss the project with the Altmans, as they indicated they might contribute funds to the project.

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

No report was available.

## ORLEANS COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPT.

1. The Board reviewed the May OCSD report.
2. **Police Contract annual renewal.** The price in the renewal contract remains unchanged at \$190K. Gary thanked the OCSD for their service to the town and made the following motion:

*The Board approves the renewal contract with the Orleans County Sheriff's Dept., in the amount of \$190k.*

Peter seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

## ROADS

### 1. **Road Foreman's report – Tom Camarra.**

- Roads are in decent shape, despite a significant amount of rain. Current work includes culvert replacements, ditching on T.H.#8, and grant-funded work on Lakeview Rd.
- The road crew has reclaimed shoulders on 9.5 miles of town roads. Tom said the reclaimer did a great job, Peter agreed.
- The road crew is trying to fit vacation time in prior to July 1.
- Peter requested that the crew address the issue of stormwater running directly into Tate Brook on North Shore Rd.

2. **Western Star trade-in.** There were no offers on the truck, so it was traded in. Due to a recent fault code the dealer may reduce the \$55k trade-in allowance.

3. **Paving bid.** One bid was received, from Pike Industries at \$88.60/ton. At this price one mile will cost \$138,659, while the town budgeted \$165k for paving. Discussion of using the entire budgeted amount and paving an additional stretch of road beyond the typical one mile. Pike employee Nigel Friend said they could do this, assuming their equipment can be driven, rather than trucked, to the second area. Ellen made the following motion:

*The Board accepts Pike's paving bid. They'll be asked to pave as much road as our \$165k budget will allow.*

Peter seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

4. **Roadside mowing bid.** Mike Montgomery submitted the only bid, for \$8467.50. Peter made the following motion:

*The Board accepts Mike Montgomery's bid for roadside mowing.*

David seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

5. **Gravel crushing and sand.** McCulloch submitted the lone bid: \$5.25/yd. for crushing and \$4.25/yd. for sand screening, using the town loader to stockpile sand. Peter made the following motion:

*The Board accepts McCulloch's bid for crushing and sand screening.*

David seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

6. **Sidewalk prep work.** No bid was received for sidewalk prep. work. Tom reiterated that it may make sense to replace/repair storm drains along Breezy Ave. prior to the new sidewalk being installed. No decision was made by the Board.

7. **Damage to driveways during snowplowing.** The Board reviewed David's draft letter to Perry's, requesting a meeting to discuss damage to driveways last winter. The Board agreed the letter may be sent as written.
8. **Petition to change speed limit on Main St. in Greensboro Bend to 25 mph.** Peter said a speed study will be done using the town's speed cart, to inform the discussion on changing the speed limit. He hopes to have the study completed by next month's meeting.
9. **Curb Cut.** The Cemetery Commission requested a curb cut, which Tom recently approved. Peter made the following motion:
 

*The Board approves the curb cut as requested by the Cemetery Commission.*

 Gary seconded the motion which carried unanimously.
10. **Municipal road permit status.** Tom said there's a glitch with the VTrans tablet interface where the system says you're out of compliance, despite projects being completed and details uploaded. Tom assured the Board that the town is in compliance, noting he was told that Greensboro is one of the top 50 towns in the state in terms of permit compliance.
11. **Shoulder reclaimer grant.** The town has received a \$6400 grant for a shoulder reclaimer unit. Peter and Tom will look into options for purchasing a unit.
12. **New Town Garage – update.** Peter said that \$250k - \$500k could be saved by siting the new town garage on the fire station lot. An advantage of this approach is that the road crew wouldn't have to work around an extremely disruptive construction project at the current town garage site. Despite some inefficiencies created by splitting town garage infrastructure into two locations, Tom was in favor of this plan.
 

To determine whether this option is even possible, a few regulatory items must be taken care of first such as obtaining a new wetlands delineation. If the option is indeed found to be possible, discussions with the fire dept. would be a next step.

#### **TOWN CLERK – Kim Greaves**

1. **Liquor licenses.** Peter made the following motion:
 

*The Board approves Special Event Permits for Alchemy Brewing, Appalachian Gap Distillery and Eden Ice Cider, all for the VT Cheesemakers Festival at the Highland Center on August 13.*

 David seconded the motion which carried unanimously.
 

Discussion of parking at the HCA, given that there's been parking issues during large events in the past. Dave said the HCA has made significant improvements in the way parking is handled for larger events. Eric suggested that HCA Executive Director Keisha Luce be asked to discuss parking during the festival with Fire Chief Dave Brochu, Jr.
2. **Funky Fourth.** The Funky Fourth will take place on Sat. July 1. Dave said more pies are needed for the pie auction. This year's parade will feature the National Guard Band. Smith's Store will be providing a picnic lunch again, and Highland Lodge will offer food from the grill.
3. **Fuel oil contract.** Current fuel oil pricing is significantly lower than last year. Discussion of whether to pay a price cap fee as was done last year. Peter made the following motion:
 

*The town will pre-order 3500 gals of fuel oil from Blanchard Oil at \$3.16/gal., and pay a cap fee of \$1750.*

 David seconded the motion which carried unanimously.
4. **Hazard mitigation plan update.** NVDA submitted the only bid, for \$6500. Mailings are estimated to cost an additional \$1500. The town received a \$10k grant to pay for the update. David made the following motion:
 

*The town accepts NVDA's bid for the Hazard Mitigation Plan update.*

Ellen seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

- 5. Cemeteries mowing bid.** John Sperry submitted the sole bid. His three-year proposal is \$14,500 for FY24, and \$15k each year for FY25 and FY26. Dave made the following motion:

*The Board accepts John Sperry's bid for mowing town cemeteries.*

Gary seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

- 6.** The Board approved Elaine Cole-Kerr's request to put up a sign at the Village Green, advertising her art gallery.

### **TREASURER – Brett Stanciu**

- 1.** The Board reviewed the treasurer's monthly report, the FY23 budget report, and the May check warrant reports.

- 2. Reappraisal account.** Brett said there's \$78k in the town's reappraisal account. These funds aren't needed in the short term and she suggested moving them to a CD with Infinex. Ellen made the following motion:

*The Board approves moving the \$78k in the reappraisal account into a CD with Infinex.*

Peter seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

- 3. Non arbitrage account.** Despite extensive research, Brett is still unclear about the Board's options for using the funds in this account. The auditor suggested getting an opinion from the town attorney, but she declined to offer an opinion, saying there was not enough information for her to do so.

Brett said at some point, the Board needs to make a decision on using these funds. Gary suggested asking the town auditor to clarify whether these are unrestricted general funds, or if taxpayer approval is required to spend them.

### **ONGOING BUSINESS**

- 1. LVRT trailhead project – update.** Dan said the parking lot lease with VTrans should be completed soon. The parking lot is being designed and construction should begin in July. It is hoped that installation of some amenities will begin this fall.

A mural grant has been applied for. With guidance from a mural artist, a mural depicting the history of the railroad would be painted by residents of the Bend.

On July 15 there will be a celebration of the opening of the LVRT. Governor Scott will travel the entire rail trail and may make a stop in the Bend. If this stop is confirmed, refreshments will be offered and a poster will be put up to thank the Governor for his support of the LVRT project.

- 2. Selectboard Rules of Procedure.** Discussion tabled. Peter encouraged Board members to review the document and be prepared to discuss at next month's meeting.
- 3. Administrative assistant to Selectboard.** Tabled.
- 4. Trapping on town properties.** Dave presented a trapping ordinance that will be discussed at an upcoming public hearing. Kim is working on scheduling the hearing, likely in late July.
- 5. Wake boats.** Dave said a petition has been drafted by area attorneys who care about Caspian Lake, pro bono, that would exempt the lake from state wake boat regulations. After discussion, Dave made the following motion:

*The Board will be a signatory on the wake boat petition.*

Ellen seconded the motion which carried (P.R., D.K., E.C., E.H. in favor; G.C. abstained. Gary noted this was due to not having received a copy of the petition in advance of the meeting).

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

**1. Dispatch contract with Lamoille County Sheriff's Dept. (LCSD)** With the Orleans County Sheriff handling their own dispatching, the LCSD dispatch contract amount was cut in half after negotiations a few years ago.

Gary felt that a contract for \$11,578 still seems high for just 30-40 fire calls a year. While Peter noted that the LCSD is providing 24/7 coverage, undoubtedly expensive to provide, he agreed that the cost does seem high. Gary suggested the town attempt to renegotiate the dispatch contract next year. Peter made the following motion:

*The Board approves the dispatch contract with the Lamoille County Sheriff's Dept., in the amount of \$11,577.69.*

Ellen seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

**2. Town Hall tenants contract.** The Board reviewed a new contract covering use of the southwest room on the second level of the Town Hall. Ellen made the following motion:

*The Board approves the Town Hall tenants contract.*

Peter seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Peter made the following motion:

*The Board will enter executive session at 8:50 PM to discuss personnel and contracts.*

Ellen seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

The Board left executive session at 9:05 PM. Dave made the following motion:

*All town employees will receive a 7% wage increase for FY24.*

Ellen seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was unanimously adjourned 9:06 PM.

*Respectfully Submitted: Josh Karp, Selectboard Clerk*