

Greensboro Selectboard

October 11, 2023 – Minutes

[This was a hybrid meeting held at the Greensboro Free Library, with some participants joining remotely]

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

SELECTBOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Eric Hanson

OTHERS PRESENT: Brett Stanciu, Josh Karp, Liz Steel, Kim Greaves, Lt. Richard Wells (OCSD), Terry O'Connor, Dan Predpall, Elsa Schultz, Chad Sims, James Bandler, Matt McAllister, Brette McAllister

CALLED TO ORDER: 6:36 PM

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Ellen: high-speed internet at Town Hall – better connectivity for hybrid meetings

MINUTES

9/13/23 regular meeting: unanimously approved as amended

10/2/23 special meeting: unanimously approved as written

10/9/23 special meeting: unanimously approved as written

PUBLIC CONCERNS

None this evening.

GREENSBORO FIRE DEPT. – Chief Dave Brochu, Jr.

No reports were available this evening.

WILSON ST. DRAINAGE ISSUES – Elsa Shultz, Chad Sims

Elsa and Chad spoke about stormwater runoff that inundated their property on East St. this past summer, causing catastrophic damage. They expressed frustration that after many years of knowing about drainage problems behind Wilson St., the town has failed to address the issue. Elsa asked the town to make solving this problem a high priority.

Chad added that stormwater also runs down East St. due to storm drains in poor repair up near Willey's, and that these should be fixed immediately.

Peter said the town has discussed the stormwater issue a number of times in recent years, but for various reasons no improvements were made. He said this summer, the Selectboard and town staff have been in constant triage mode since the July flooding and there hasn't been time to deal with much else. Peter noted that Selectboard members are volunteers and can only do so much, but agreed that a solution should be found for this long-time problem.

Chad said he's concerned that they'll be flooded again before the town addresses the issue. Chad has done some research, and said it appears that stormwater used to flow towards the Grange side of the street, but years ago the town rerouted flows to the opposite side of the road, against the recommendation of an engineer. He questioned why this change was made in the first place.

Peter said he had no knowledge of this history, and added that the state must approve any project that impacts wetlands.

James Bandler thanked the Board for their public service, and said he was speaking on behalf of the owners of Highland Lodge. Workforce housing is the biggest challenge faced by their business, he said. The flooding of Elsa and Chad's property has made it difficult for them to do their jobs at the Lodge. James said the whole situation is due to neglect on the part of the town, and asked the Board to prioritize this issue.

Peter suggested a committee or small group be formed to move forward. Brett said she'd reach out to the state and get a site visit scheduled.

ROADS

1. Road Foreman's report. Tom was not present this evening.

2. July Flood – road repairs update. Gary said about \$500k of repairs and upgrades to flood damaged roads has been done so far, with help from many area contractors.

Projects covered by FEMA must be completed within 18 months of the flood event, meaning that work can continue next spring and summer on projects that aren't finished this fall.

Repair work on the "federal highway corridor" (Bend Rd., East St., Craftsbury Rd., Breezy Ave.) is on a tighter schedule and must be wrapped up this fall.

Terry asked how the town prioritized repairs to flood damaged roads, and asked why work on Gonyaw Rd. hasn't been completed yet. Peter said with extensive damage to roads town-wide, there's been an enormous amount of work to do with only so many available contractors, as well as challenges with required bidding processes. There are partially repaired roads all over town, and he's hoping many of these are able to be further improved before winter.

Peter invited Terry to bid on the remaining work on Gonyaw Rd. Terry expressed frustration at the lack of clarity he felt regarding the bidding process, and also with the way the town went about repairs to flood-damaged roads. After further discussion, David made the following motion:

The Board will close debate on this issue.

Ellen seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

ORLEANS COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPT.

1. Lt. Wells suggested Greensboro adopt rules that could put in place time limits for discussions at Selectboard meetings. VLCT can provide guidance on this process.

2. Lt. Wells noted recent complaints about speeding on Rt. 14 from residents near Eligo Lake. He said the OCSD could do a speed study at that location if desired by the town.

Peter said a speed study is also needed in Greensboro Bend, since residents there have requested that the town lower the speed limit on Main St. Lt. Wells said the OCSD should have time this fall to undertake speed studies in both areas.

TOWN CLERK – Kim Greaves

Request to Cater. Gary made the following motion:

The Board approves the Request to Cater Permit for Pear Ridge Productions LLC, for an event on Oct. 21 at Wilson Herb Farm.

Dave seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

TREASURER – Brett Stanciu

1. The Board reviewed the treasurer's monthly report, the FY24 budget report, and the September check warrant reports.
2. It was agreed to hold the first FY 2025 budget meeting on Oct. 23 at 1:30 PM.

ONGOING BUSINESS

Community Wastewater system.

- Ellen reported that appraisals for both the Fontaine and St. Michaels properties have been completed.
- Dan said he's reviewed engineering drawings from Hoyle Tanner that show exactly what portion of each parcel the town needs to purchase for the wastewater project. Dan has reached out to the two landowners about signing Option to Purchase agreements but has not heard back yet.
- Peter said he was notified that it's time to sign the \$3.9 million ARPA grant. Dan said there's no risk to the town in signing the grant, and Peter said he would do so.
- Liz Steel asked how the development of a community wastewater system would affect the Rural Edge proposal to develop housing at the Town Hall. Dan said it's likely that the Rural Edge project would not move forward without such a system.
- Dan said if the town is able to purchase the land needed and elects to move ahead with construction, it is estimated that the system would be completed in 2026.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. **Greensboro Bend mural.** Dan said the Bend Revitalization Initiative recently submitted a grant application to the VT Arts Council for a 35' mural in Greensboro Bend, to be painted by residents.
2. Dan said Greensboro was awarded a grant from the VT Community Foundation to hold a pickleball camp.
3. **Planning Commission (PC) appointment.** PC chair Kent Hansen recommended that the Board appoint Janet Patterson to a vacant position on the PC. Gary made the following motion:

The Board appoints Janet Patterson to the Planning Commission.

Peter seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

4. **Town Hall – internet & tech upgrade.** Ellen said an evaluation was recently completed for the Town Hall to determine what tech infrastructure is necessary for hybrid meetings to be held in the building. Data migration, tech support, a laptop to run meetings, and the video conference system will cost approx. \$3500. Ellen noted that the price for fiber internet from Consolidated has recently come down, and the town would need to switch to this service as part of the tech upgrade.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:18 PM.

Respectfully Submitted: Josh Karp, Selectboard Clerk