

# Greensboro Selectboard

## November 8, 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, Eric Hanson

**SELECTBOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Brett Stanciu, Liz Steel, Kim Greaves, Officer Andrew Gonyaw (OCSD), Elsa Schultz, Chad Sims, Beth Meachem, Brenden Beer, Naomi Ranz-Schleifer, Ila Hunt, Erika Karp, Joseph Gresser, Steve Lotspeich, Judy Carpenter, Josh Karp

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

### **ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

Lotspeich curb cut, Cook Hill Rd. - repair schedule, FEMA/flood repairs update

### **MINUTES**

- 10/11/23 regular meeting unanimously approved as written.
- Gary noted that minutes of budget committee meetings should be approved at each regular Selectboard meeting.

### **PUBLIC CONCERNS**

1. **RuralEdge/Town Hall housing project update – Naomi Ranz-Schleifer.** Naomi asked for an update on the project. Peter said there's nothing to report at this time. Kim said RuralEdge has been investigating the Town Hall building. Some believe the project is unlikely to move forward without the community wastewater system.
2. **Brenden Beer – new library/municipal entity.** Brenden asked what the process would be to create a new library structured as a non-profit municipal entity. The objective is that this new entity would form a partnership with the OSSU to turn Lakeview School into a magnet school.  
It appears that the creation of this new municipal entity would need to be approved by voters at a town meeting.  
David Kelley said that Greensboro voters no longer control Lakeview School directly, with Mountain View School Board now being the controlling authority. The voters of Greensboro, Hardwick, Woodbury and Stannard collectively make decisions about the future of Lakeview School. Greensboro could vote to create the new public entity, but this wouldn't really accomplish anything other than expressing sentiment. Brenden said such sentiment could be the beginnings of a conversation with the larger school board. He noted that he's communicated with the Mountain View School Board about this idea.

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

Chief Brochu said he wasn't able to attend many Selectboard meetings this past year due to his busy schedule, but moving forward either he or another member of the GFD will attend.

- The GFD was very busy this summer, with 26 alarms since Feb. 1 and extra work flushing culverts for Greensboro and Stannard after the July flood.

- Chief Brochu is getting quotes for two more SCBA tanks and a compressor, and asked the Board to consider this expenditure as budgeting for FY2025 continues.
- Previously approved electrical upgrades at the new firehouse are underway.
- Chief Brochu thanked Smith's Grocery for their ongoing support of the GFD, and thanked the road crew for sending up the town excavator to a fire in Stannard this past week.

### **ORLEANS COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPT.**

Officer Andrew Gonyaw was present. He said the OCSD has placed a speed cart on Rt. 14 near Eligo as requested by the town. Data from the cart has not been processed yet.

### **GREENSBORO FREE LIBRARY**

1. **Municipal Energy Resilience Program (MERP).** The library is taking part in the MERP and Liz and Beth gave the Board an update on program activities to date. Liz said there's been productive discussions with area towns about pooling resources on energy resilience and conservation education. Upcoming projects at the library will serve as examples to the community on ways to weatherize an old building and make it more energy efficient.

An energy assessment of the library has been completed, with a report expected in February. The town can apply for up to \$500k in implementation grants to address needs indicated in the report.

2. **Gutters.** Beth said the library is badly in need of gutters, for the health of both the building and patrons. Due in part to poor drainage around the building, there's been mold issues in the basement. While remediation work will be completed soon, they don't want the issue to crop up again and gutters would divert a large amount of water away from the foundation. She received two estimates and would like to use *Worth's Seamless Rain Gutters* at a cost of \$12,629. She requested that the Board approve this request as soon as possible so the work can be scheduled.
3. **Repaired north driveway.** The library's north entrance was resurfaced with staymat. Peter said the town will do its best not to damage the new surface during plowing operations.

### **TOWN MEETING 2024 – LOCATION**

Erika Karp, Ila Hunt, and Judy Carpenter spoke regarding a petition submitted to the town with over 100 signatures, proposing to hold the 2024 Town Meeting at Lakeview School.

Peter asked whether those who signed the petition understand that Greensboro voters no longer make decisions about the school's future by themselves. Erika felt that some know this and others may not, but regardless, highlighting the role of the school in our community makes holding town meeting there worthwhile.

While it was noted that the school may not be as new or well-featured as the HCA, Eric and Brenden both agreed that the school offers a more intimate meeting space. Erika said the school kitchen could be used to prepare lunch, perhaps a local group who wants to fundraise could take this on.

David said while he cares deeply about the school, the HCA is simply a better venue for town meeting. Ellen agreed, saying there is likely better air filtration at the HCA as well as more parking. Eric made the following motion:

*Greensboro will hold the 2024 Town Meeting at Lakeview School.*

Gary seconded the motion, which did not carry (E.H., G.C. in favor; E.C., D.K. opposed; P.R. abstained).

After further discussion, Eric made the following motion:

*Greensboro will hold the 2024 Town Meeting at Lakeview School.*

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

Peter said while he didn't fully agree with moving town meeting to the school, his vote in favor was an acknowledgement of all those who signed the petition. He added it would be great if volunteers would work with town office staff to set everything up for town meeting.

## **ROADS**

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

**2. July flood/road repairs update.**

- *FEMA update.* Gary said a lot of behind-the-scenes administrative work is being done by the town with assistance from FEMA representatives. This work will continue well into next year and likely beyond.
- *Cook Hill Rd.* There was a request that portions of Cook Hill Rd. be repaired. Peter said the road crew should be able to get to the work next week.
- *Craftsbury Rd. and Bend Rd.* This is a part of a federal highway corridor and has a separate reimbursement process (not through FEMA). Work on this corridor is almost complete.
- *Line of Credit.* Brett said almost \$900k has been expensed to date against the town's \$1,000,000 line of credit for flood damage repairs.

**3. Curb Cut – Lotspeich.** Tom recently approved a curb cut for Steve Lotspeich on Lake Shore Rd., specifying a 24" culvert. Discussion of whether this size culvert is large enough, given that there's a 36" culvert just down from that location. Ellen noted it would have been easier to discuss this issue if Tom had been present. Eric made the following motion:

*The Board approves the Lotspeich curb cut with the 24" culvert, as recommended by road foreman Tom Camarra.*

Gary seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

**4. Paving.** The first pass on Bend Rd. is done, with the final coat to be completed in the next few weeks. Small areas of Cemetery Ridge Rd. are also being paved, repairing places where the road was torn up to replace culverts impacted by the July flooding.

## **TOWN CLERK – Kim Greaves**

**Special Event Permits.** Gary made the following motion:

*The Board approves Special Event Permits for Eden Ice Cider Company and Shelburne Vineyard LLC for an event at the HCA on November 19.*

Eric seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

## **TREASURER – Brett Stanciu**

1. The Board reviewed the treasurer's monthly report, the FY24 budget report, and the October check warrant reports.
2. Brett thanked Kim and Jeanne for helping to process a large amount of tax payments on tax day. She noted delinquent taxes are down this year at \$104k.
3. **Porter Brook Bridge.** This bridge wasn't damaged in the July flood, isn't eligible for FEMA funding, and was previously scheduled to be replaced this past summer. The job cost \$459k.

The town received \$200k in state grants for the project and had budgeted a \$25k grant match in FY24, leaving a balance of \$234k. After consulting with the town's auditor, the Board decided to pay this remaining balance from the Capital Fund. In an article on the 2024 town meeting warning, the Board will request that the voters approve replenishing the Capital Fund with \$234k from the General Fund balance.

4. **Budget meetings for FY25** are ongoing and open to the public, held Wednesdays at 1:30 PM. Naomi said that during the two pandemic years with no in-person town meetings, she appreciated the informational meetings where the town budget was explained and questions could be asked. She felt that this kind of public engagement should be more built-in to the budgeting process.

### **ONGOING BUSINESS**

1. **Community Wastewater project.** Eric said that two big items being worked on right now are determining whether the properties identified as suitable for the disposal field can be purchased, and what the actual capacity of the disposal field will be.  
Naomi asked if additional community support is needed for this project. Peter said not at this time.
2. **Wilson St. Drainage issues.** Peter said he has a possible solution in mind and is trying to set up a meeting with state officials to discuss. He added that Dan Predpall is looking into grant funding.  
Chad said they filed a complaint with the DEC, and other than DEC employee Dan Mason being assigned to their case, they haven't had much of a response. While he felt positive about steps the town is taking to find a solution to the drainage problem, Chad asked how he and Elsa could be compensated for the considerable damage done to their property.  
David Kelley said the town has a clear responsibility to fix the drainage issues, and Elsa and Chad shouldn't be the individual victims of the municipality's mistake. David reiterated that the town's insurance carrier has refused to cover damage to Elsa and Chad's building, and while he disagrees with this opinion, he also said the town can't spend taxpayer dollars on direct compensation to them. David said he's worked with ANR in the past and would reach out to the agency for help.  
Gary requested that moving forward, all Selectboard members be given background information about any meetings and conversations that have taken place in the past month on this issue, to help them prepare for a discussion at upcoming regular monthly meetings.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:15 PM.

*Respectfully Submitted, Josh Karp, Selectboard Clerk*

*AMENDED 12/13/23 J.K.*