

# Greensboro Selectboard

## January 27, 2025 Special Meeting – Minutes

[This was a hybrid meeting held in the Collier Room at the Town Hall]

**SELECTBOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ellen Celnik, David Kelley, Eric Hanson, MacNeil

**SELECTBOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Bobbie Nisbet

**OTHERS PRESENT in person:** Andrea Macleod, Kim Greaves, Josh Karp

**OTHERS PRESENT remote:** Mike Lammert, Nancy Lammert, Elissa Mackin, Gary Circosta, BJ Gray, Diane Irish, Dede Stabler, Nancy Reynolds, Anne Stevens, Gail Sieg, Elaine Cole-Kerr

**CALLED TO ORDER: 10 AM**

### **ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

None this evening.

### **WARN A TOWN VOTE ON THE RURALEDGE PROJECT**

Eric explained that the selectboard learned the town can't just hold an Australian Ballot (AB) vote on the RuralEdge question. First, there must be a public vote on using the AB process to decide this question. If approved, the AB vote on the RuralEdge project would then be scheduled. Eric read language provided by the town attorney that would, if approved by the selectboard, be added to the 2025 Town Meeting warning:

*"Shall the voters of Greensboro, Vermont authorize a vote by Australian Ballot on the question of whether to transfer ownership of the Town Hall to RuralEdge?"*

Ellen said another option would be to hold a floor vote at Town Meeting on the proposed conveyance of the property. If this passed, a group of voters could always petition for a re-vote of this question by AB.

David said it's been shown statistically that AB votes don't increase voter participation. He felt a floor vote on the proposed conveyance is the best approach.

Eric said the feeling in town is that the RuralEdge question should be voted on by AB.

Nancy agreed with Eric, saying this is a pressing issue for the town and AB would allow all residents to vote. Some are unable to take Town Meeting Day off from work, others can't physically get to town meeting and could vote via absentee ballot.

Elissa said with process and transparency missteps along the way, it's important that the transfer be voted on by AB.

Gary said the selectboard has long promised an AB vote on the property transfer, and that this method of voting will increase participation. He added that the selectboard should have done its homework and understood the statutory process earlier. David made the following motion:

*The selectboard will warn that the vote on the proposed conveyance of the town hall building to RuralEdge is to take place at Town Meeting on March 4, 2025.*

MacNeil seconded the motion which carried (Celnik, Kelley, MacNeil in favor; Hanson opposed).

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 10:25 AM.

*Respectfully Submitted: Josh Karp, Selectboard Clerk*