

- Draft only, not yet approved by the Selectboard -

# Greensboro Selectboard

## February 12, 2025 – Minutes

[This was a hybrid meeting held at the Lakeview School]

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

**SELECTBOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**OTHERS PRESENT in person:** Tim Nisbet, Davis Barnett, Deputy Cota, Jan Terwiesch, Mark Snyder, Liz

Steel, Mike Metcalf, Erika Karp, Josh Karp, Kim Greaves, Lise Armstrong, Cilla Smith, Jennifer Ranz, Beth Meachem, Brenden Beer, Maria Amador, Kent Hansen, Judy Carpenter

**OTHERS PRESENT remote:** Christine Armstrong, Dan Predpall, Chief Dave Brochu, Jr., Elsa Shultz, Chad Sims, Gary Circosta, Elissa Mackin, Glenn Olds, Jennifer Lucas, Ila Hunt, Janet Long, Eileen Gebbie, Anne Stevens, Dede Stabler, Elaine Cole-Kerr, Rod Kerr, June Bascom, Lisa Yokana, Mary Metcalf, Meaghan Meachem, Melissa Moffatt, Michael Porrazzo, Mike Lammert, Nancy Lammert, Peter Romans, Rick Lovett, Stefanie Cravedi, Steve Diglio, Vince Cubbage, Diane Irish, John Stone, Day Patterson, Julie Porrazzo, BJ Gray

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

### ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

- Isa Oehry was to speak on the CaspianArts Art Fest. She is unable to make it this evening.
- Add to Treasurer's Report: FEMA update – Josh

### MINUTES

- Minutes unanimously approved as written for 1/8 regular meeting, 1/27 special meeting, 1/30 special meeting.
- Minutes unanimously approved as amended for 1/14 special meeting.

### PUBLIC COMMENT / CONCERNS

**Mark Snyder.** The separation of Greensboro and Greensboro Bend doesn't work, I'm tired of the 'us' and 'them'. We need to work together and move forward as one community, let's create a grant-funded master plan for our town that includes both villages. First is solving our water and wastewater problems.

**Lise Armstrong.** I would like to request that when someone is speaking, they are allowed to finish and not be interrupted, this will lead to better meetings.

**Beth Meachem.** The Communications Working Group is encouraging people to come to Town Meeting, and also make sure residents are aware of Articles 8 (changing day of town meeting) and 9 (changing to electing town officers by Australian Ballot).

**Davis Barnett.** I've started the Greensboro Free Cafe at recycling. I'll be there most Saturday mornings, come down and enjoy free coffee, cocoa and sweets, chat with your neighbor or maybe meet

someone you don't know. I'm hoping to bring our community together, the future of our town is up to each of us.

**Brenden Beer.** At a recent meeting of the Mountain View Union District Board, it was decided that next year Lakeview Elementary will be a universal pre-k only. Also discussed was a petition for a Greensboro student to go to Craftsbury Elementary. This decision was tabled for a month so the board can better understand the fiscal implications. We are now a town without an elementary school or school choice. David said the lack of school choice with Craftsbury makes no sense, since we are in the same district. He said we should push for school choice, we're already tuitioning kids to area tech centers.

**Jennifer Ranz.** There's confusion in the community about the Town Hall and many unanswered questions. Statements about the building not being well utilized are not accurate, the basement houses the town offices and town records, the second floor has the Giving Closet, Hardwick Gazette, and two actively-used municipal rooms. While the third floor is not used due to ADA compliance issues, many towns in Vermont have used grants to fund accessibility upgrades, reducing the burden on taxpayers. The Town Hall is a valuable community asset but has been neglected. Many have expressed a desire to have more community gathering spaces, why would we consider selling this building to a private developer?

### **WILSON ST. STORMWATER PROJECT**

Stormwater has impacted residences on Wilson St. and a residence on 32 East St. for a number of years. With a grant from VT Emergency Management, the town hired KAS Engineering to develop a range of solutions to this flooding problem, which were presented by Steve Diglio from KAS.

Of the solutions presented, Steve recommended the board select #1 and #2. #1 involves the installation of new stormwater infrastructure behind the 42 Wilson St. residence, continuing down through the town parking lot, across East Street and discharging into Greensboro Brook.

#2 involves new stormwater infrastructure, including a catch basin, near the tip of the Town Hall Green. Gary asked whether this would impact the existing Town Hall septic system or any future system that might be proposed for this site. Dan and Steve both said there is no additional septic capacity on the Village Green site, and that the proposed catch basin wouldn't impact the existing disposal field.

The cost for these two projects is estimated to be \$513k. Dan said FEMA is expected to make a decision in late March about the amount of federal funds available for this project. At that time, the board must needs to decide which proposed solutions to pursue and, if the cost exceeds the FEMA award, figure out how to pay for the difference.

Dan said the town will need to apply for a FEMA construction grant in March or April.

The town would own the new stormwater infrastructure, and easements would be required for areas impacted by the project that are not on town property. Steve said he's been able to discuss the possible solutions with all landowners except for Nancy Riege.

Eric said the KAS presentation will be put on the town website so the public can review and comment, and the discussion will continue at the March selectboard meeting.

### **GREENSBORO BEND WATER SYSTEM**

Rochelle Miller is the new clerk of Greensboro Bend Fire Dist. #2, and Lincoln Miller is the new director. Rochelle said it's been a tough year with the prior director stepping down, equipment failures, persistent leaks and a lengthy boil water notice. Rochelle thanked the town for plowing the access road to the pump house. She also asked if the town could make some improvements to the access road so it

can better handle big equipment such as well drilling rigs. Rochelle added that stormwater off Schoolhouse Road often floods the access road, and she hopes the town can figure out a solution for this problem, perhaps a culvert. The board agreed that MacNeil, Tom and a representative from Fire District #2 will meet and discuss.

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

1. Chief Brochu said the members of the GFD have voted to submit his name to the board, requesting that he be reappointed fire chief at the March selectboard meeting.
2. **New Fire Truck.** Chief Brochu said the Rescue 10 truck is 40 years old and needs to be replaced. Engine 2 has had recurring problems and also should be replaced. While it could be refurbished for \$350k, this investment may not pay off since OSHA requirements might mandate its replacement anyway due to the overall age of the truck. Other negatives include the fact that the truck would be out of service for months as it's being worked on, and financing options might be limited. Both trucks could be replaced by a new 'E-One' pumper which currently lists for about \$607k. It is expected the price will go up to \$647k in July. This new truck wouldn't be delivered for at least three years.  
Chief Brochu said late model 'cookie cutter' used trucks are also an option, and received quotes ranging from \$409k to \$474k for these units. It was unclear whether this type of truck would be able to replace both of the older trucks, as the E-One would do. Eric said the board will revisit this issue in March.

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

The Board reviewed the January OCSD report.

#### **ROADS & DRIVEWAYS**

1. **Road Foremans Report.** Tom was not present. The road crew has been very busy with winter road maintenance due to regular snow events.
2. **Road crew union contract – update.** Bobbie said negotiations have been going well and should be completed within the next few weeks. Ellen said the union agreement may affect wages of the other town employees.
3. **Beaver Deceiver installation on Whetstone Brook Rd.** Ellen made the following motion:  
*The board approves paying Skip Lisle's bill of \$4,300 for the installation of a beaver deceiver on Whetstone Brook Rd.*  
David seconded the motion which carried unanimously. Josh will look into whether FEMA can cover this expense.

#### **TOWN CLERK & INTERIM TREASURER – Kim Greaves**

1. **Liquor license – Highland Lodge.** Bobbie made the following motion:  
*The board approves 1st and 3rd Class liquor licenses for the Highland Lodge.*  
MacNeil seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

2. **I.T. contract with Mosedale Integrated Solutions.** Kim said the town and Hardwick Gazette split the \$1200 contract. She added that Andy Mosedale is very responsive and has been good to work with. David made the following motion:

*The town will renew its contract with Mosedale Integrated Solutions.*

Ellen seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

3. **Internet firewall.** Kim recommended having Andy Mosedale set up new firewall hardware for the town offices. Andy will charge \$1164 for this service. David made the following motion:

*The town will contract with Mosedale Integrated Solutions to set up a new internet firewall.*

Ellen seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

4. **Town offices – mold remediation update.** Bobbie had asked Rod Kerr to contact suppliers about commercial dehumidifiers, and he submitted a quote of \$8253. Rod is looking into a change in a boiler room wall that could eliminate one of these expensive units, but would need approval from the fire marshal.

5. **FEMA report.** Josh reported that enough FEMA reimbursements have been received that the town can pay back its 2023 flood loans. David made the following motion:

*The town will pay off the \$997,000 2023 flood loans from Community National Bank and the VT Bond Bank.*

MacNeil seconded the motion which carried unanimously. Gary asked the board to put FEMA information up on the town website. He noted that spending protocols need to be worked out for the FEMA reimbursements the town has received over and above the funds that were borrowed. Josh said he will work on putting FEMA information on the town website this coming week.

## **2025 TOWN MEETING**

- **Pre-Town Meeting.** After discussion the selectboard agreed to hold a pre-town meeting on Wed. Feb. 19 at 6:30 PM at Lakeview School. Town moderator Tim Nisbet said he will attend to answer any questions about Town Meeting process. Tim suggested discussing the articles in the Town Meeting warning, in order.  
Liz said with three selectboard openings, it would be ideal if candidates would declare at the pre-town meeting.
- As a member of the Communications Working Group, Liz asked the selectboard to encourage all town committees to set up a table at Town Meeting, as well as organizations requesting larger appropriations.
- **Child care.** Liz said she's found a high school student who will volunteer to do child care at Town meeting as part of a community service requirement. She added that the town should think about this every year as part of overall Town Meeting preparations.
- Discussion of the percentage of registered voters who attend Greensboro's town meeting. Liz and Ellen came at this question with statistics that did not appear to agree.
- Liz said over half of Vermont towns elect their officers using Australian Ballot. This approach won't do away with Town Meeting, but instead will complement the traditional meeting. Gary suggested that the idea of voting for town officers using Australian Ballot is to engage residents who ordinarily don't attend Town Meeting.
- Gary asked Eric if he will be running again for selectboard. Eric said he will not be.

- **Town Meeting lunch.** The HCA is preparing lunch this year at an estimated cost of \$1500. David said while the HCA should be compensated, he'd like the meal itself to be by donation only. No one should be turned away due to cost, he said, and some fundraising is currently being done. After discussion of using town funds to cover any fundraising shortfall, it was agreed that this won't be necessary as donations are very likely to cover all costs.
- Liz suggested that Town Meeting Day be added to the calendar on the town website.

## **ONGOING BUSINESS**

1. **Grant writer.** Tabled. Gary requested that job descriptions of town employees be made available on the town website. He said this would help the public better understand the division of labor amongst town staff.
2. **New Wastewater Committee appointments.** Eric said the board received seven letters of interest in serving on the new wastewater committee, and made the following motion:

*The board appoints Jefferson Tolman, Blake Auchincloss, Stew Arnold, Davis Barnett, Mike Metcalf, Mary Parker and Dan Predpall to the new town wastewater committee.*

David seconded the motion. Liz suggested the wastewater committee work closely with the housing committee. Eric said the new committee, which will be an official town committee, will be asked to focus on the wastewater needs of the two villages. Eric said Hoyle Tanner's preliminary engineering report will be delivered to the town later this month, and will be a good starting point for the new committee. Dan, who was active on the initial wastewater committee, suggested that the Bend is the best location for a wastewater facility, and could serve both villages. Vince asked the selectboard to create a charter for the new committee, to make it clear what their mandate is and how they are supposed to operate. Josh noted that charters for most town committees were almost put in place a number of years ago but the process was never completed. The vote was held and the motion carried unanimously.

3. **Sign policy.** Bobbie reported that the draft sign policy has been reviewed by the town attorney. He made a few changes but overall said it was a good policy.

Bobbie clarified some aspects of the policy, including that 'No Hunting', 'No Trespassing', directional signs and Farmers Market signs are exempt.

David suggested posting the updated draft policy to the town website, and taking public comment over the next month. Ellen made the following motion:

*The board accepts the sign policy as presented.*

The motion did not receive a second. Nancy said there have been two Supreme Court rulings based on cases in Pennsylvania that might be relevant to Greensboro's sign policy. She asked if the town attorney is aware of these rulings. David said he didn't know and that he'd bring these cases to the attorney's attention.

Gary felt that the town has targeted some 'Save Town Hall' signs for removal while leaving other signs alone, and asked whether this is constitutional. He encouraged the board to thoroughly research this issue before proposing a policy.

The board agreed to put the updated sign policy on the website so the public can review and comment. The board will revisit this policy at its March meeting. Elissa suggested that the policy make it clear that if a sign is removed by the town, the reason will be documented and the landowner notified.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

1. **Planning Commission.** Planning commission chair Kent Hansen said responses to last fall's community survey and feedback from the 1/15 community conversation can be found on the town website. A follow up community conversation will be held virtually on Feb. 24 for those unable to attend the 1/15 event.
2. **Teach America to Swim Contract.** David said the contract is ready to sign, but there's no town swim committee and the board needs to appoint someone to have the authority to sign the contract. David will send the board the swim contract and the organization's certificate of insurance to look over.
3. **Board response to anonymous communications.** Eric suggested that the board won't respond to anonymous communications. Other board members agreed.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION #1**

MacNeil made the following motion:

*The board will enter executive session at 9 PM to discuss Personnel.*

Bobbie seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

The board left executive session at 9:10 PM. MacNeil made the following motion:

*Brett Stanciu's dental insurance coverage will be changed from a one-person coverage to a two-person coverage. Kim Greaves will be paid out 80 hours of her accumulated leave, leaving her with 34 hours of carryforward leave.*

Bobbie seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION #2**

Ellen made the following motion:

*The board will enter executive session at 9:11 PM to discuss the Greensboro Award.*

David seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

The board left executive session at 9:15 PM. Ellen made the following motion:

*The board made a unanimous decision about the Greensboro Award that will be announced at the 2025 Town Meeting.*

David seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 9:16 PM.

*Respectfully Submitted: Josh Karp, Selectboard Clerk*