

Greensboro Selectboard

April 9, 2025 – Minutes

[This was a hybrid meeting held at the Greensboro Free Library]

SELECTBOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Ellen Celnik, MacNeil, Tim Brennan, Mike Metcalf

SELECTBOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Judy Carpenter

OTHERS PRESENT in person: Tom Camarra, Jan Terwiesch, Erika Karp, Kent Hansen, Bobbie Nisbet, Beth Meachem, Kim Greaves, Josh Karp

OTHERS PRESENT remote: Vince Cubbage, Chad Sims, Christian Holland, Christine Armstrong, Chief Dave Brochu, Davis Barnett, Elissa Mackin, Gary Circosta, Janet Long, Lise Armstrong, Melissa Moffatt, Miriam Rogers, Rick Lovett, Peter Romans, Elaine Cole-Kerr, Liz Steel, Dan Predpall, Eric Hanson, Brian Titus, Rob Brigham, Tim Nisbet

CALLED TO ORDER: 6:30 PM

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Kim: 1. appoint NEK Broadband Reps John Stone and Mary Metcalf; 2. GUCC Easter egg hunt (4/19 on Village Green)

MINUTES

3/12 regular meeting, 3/21 special meeting, 3/28 special meeting unanimously approved as written.

PUBLIC CONCERNS

- Gary Circosta said one week ago, he sent the selectboard a notice of violation that the RuralEdge vote was not warned 30 days in advance as required by statute. He said he's yet to hear a response from the board. The ballot that was sent out for the RuralEdge vote is confusing, why didn't the town use the Secretary of State's ballot template? Statute requires the date of the vote to be printed on the ballot, this was lacking. Also the wording on ballot differs from the wording on the posted warnings, this is also a violation of statute.
- Vince Cubbage requested that when the selectboard receives a communication from the public, its receipt is acknowledged by the board chair. Vince said he created a charter for the new wastewater committee but never heard back that it was received. MacNeil said the board would do its best to acknowledge receipt of public communications.

GREENSBORO FIRE DEPT.

1. Chief Brochu reviewed the February/March GFD report with the board.
2. **New firetruck.** Chief Brochu said after considering refurbishing our current pumper truck, purchasing a used truck, or purchasing a new truck, the GFD believes a new truck is the way to go. The truck will take two to three years to build, so the town has some time to work out financing. The town could lease the truck, or bond for the purchase.

The new truck would replace both the 1986 Engine and the 2006 Pumper.

A refurbished truck would have a new chassis but the remaining components would be from the 2006 pumper. This means in terms of certification issues, the truck would still be considered a 2006 and would therefore have a limited useful life.

Chief Brochu said the new truck costs \$600k and will likely increase by \$40k if it's ordered after July 1. Peter said that a \$600k truck seems unsustainable for a small town and working class people. He asked if area towns could work together and share fire equipment.

Chief Brochu said the GFD has mutual aid agreements with most area towns and equipment is currently shared. For example, Hardwick is the only town in the area with a ladder truck, which they share with the whole mutual aid system. While there is some duplication with larger pumper trucks, Greensboro doesn't have a mini-pumper and relies on other towns for that type of truck when narrow camp roads must be accessed.

Gary agreed with Peter, saying that it doesn't seem feasible for a small town to afford these very expensive new firetrucks. He added that Greensboro needs to do a better job planning for these large capital purchases.

Chief Brochu said he's discussed fire truck purchases with the board in recent years but that funds earmarked for fire equipment in the capital budget haven't kept up with price increases.

Gary said back when he was on the board, he felt that used trucks made the most sense.

In terms of used trucks, Chief Brochu said that a 2015 would be the oldest truck he'd want to purchase. Such a truck could still cost \$400k and may not have the configuration preferred by the GFD. While a used truck might have a 20 year lifespan, a new truck could last 30 years and would come with a strong warranty.

Christian said the GFD is a frugal crew serving a diverse community, and while a \$600k truck sounds insane, it's needed. We need to keep our homes protected or we're all going to suffer.

Vince said while a new truck might be more expensive, it may cost us all more on our homeowners insurance if we have older trucks.

MacNeil suggested the board take the next month to research truck and financing options, and make a decision at the May board meeting.

ORLEANS COUNTY SHERIFF

The board reviewed the OCSD March report.

ROADS

1. **Road Foreman's report.** Tom said while the road crew has done some grading, better weather is needed before grading can start in earnest.
2. Tom said bids should be solicited for 10k yd. of crushed gravel and 5k yd. of sand.
3. Tom said bids should be solicited for roadside mowing with three passes on the blacktop and two passes on gravel roads.
4. **New town pickup.** Tom said the road crew is planning to replace the current pickup with a larger F550-size truck. This is a small dump truck that can be outfitted with a small sander on the back.

Peter asked how often the road crew would need a truck of that size, noting that it would be more expensive to operate. Tom said this larger truck would be more versatile throughout the year than the current one-ton pickup.

Peter said this truck may cost more than working-class taxpayers can be expected to pay. He also asked if the town is planning to purchase a skid steer. Tom said a skid steer is being considered, and would come with a bucket, snowblower and sander and could be used year-round. In the winter it would be used to clear sidewalks, replacing the current machine which has needed frequent repairs.

Tom said while the grader is up for replacement in FY26 and the loader is up in FY27, he'd like to switch replacement schedules and purchase a loader in FY26.

Ellen felt that the town needs to be more methodical with the HERF schedule.

Gary said the board needs to consider frugal Vermonters as it considers spending money on equipment. Peter agreed, saying the town should consider purchasing new equipment only when the current unit becomes too expensive to maintain. He felt that replacing equipment earlier than necessary to try to keep ahead of inflation doesn't make sense.

5. **FEMA report.** Josh said he'll write up a comprehensive report on the 2023 flood financials for the May selectboard meeting. Extra FEMA reimbursements have been received by the town, and the board needs to figure out a process for allocating these funds.

6. **Salt brine.** Peter and the Hardwick Town Manager visited Hyde Park to further investigate their salt brine system. He said while Hardwick and Craftsbury may also be interested in trying out a brine system, neither of these towns nor Greensboro has space to house a brine mixer. The towns could purchase prepared brine from Hyde Park and store it in large tanks. It takes about \$8k to set up a truck for brine.

Hyde Park estimates they've saved 30% on salt every year for the past nine years by using this brine system. However, truck operators need to be well-trained on the system to see maximum savings.

Ellen said sharing resources with neighboring towns makes sense. Peter said that as costs for everything increase exorbitantly, sharing of resources will become inevitable.

TOWN CLERK & INTERIM TREASURER – Kim Greaves

1. **Local Emergency Management Plan.** Kim said this needs to be updated every year. The board reviewed the updated Plan. Christine requested that she be added as deputy health officer and emergency responder. Mike made the following motion:

The board adopts the amended Emergency Management Plan as discussed.

Tim seconded the motion which carried (Metcalf, Brennan, MacNeil in favor; Celnik had stepped out).

2. **Liquor licenses.** Mike made the following motion:

The board approves the Hill Farmstead 1st Class liquor license, Special Events Permit, and Malt Manufacturer Permit. The board approves the Wilson Farm 2nd Class liquor license.

Tim seconded the motion which carried (Metcalf, Brennan, MacNeil in favor; Celnik had stepped out).

3. **Treasurer assistance.** Kim has lined up Brandy Smith, former Woodbury town treasurer, to assist two days a week. Her priority at this time is to help get the FY24 audit completed. Kim is hoping Brett might be able to begin work on a part-time basis towards the end of May.

4. **FY24 Audit.** Tim said the town is on track to complete the FY24 audit soon. Regarding Gary Circosta's question about how an incomplete audit may invalidate decisions made at the 2025 Town Meeting, VLCT said there is no record of a town paying any penalty for a late audit.

Gary said while there might not be a penalty, the unfinished audit meant voters didn't have a complete picture of what they were voting on.

ONGOING BUSINESS

1. **Library MERP Grant – Beth Meachem.** Beth said the post in the basement has been stabilized, this turned out to be a minor project and the library paid for the repairs.

Upcoming projects paid for by the MERP grant include ventilation work, heat pump installation, some new windows and possibly a battery backup. Beth found contractors she'd prefer to work with, but put out RFPs as required by the town's purchasing policy. No additional responses were received and the board approved the contractors.

Further discussion. Liz said Beth has been working for many months on the MERP grant and asked that the board support the projects she's presented. The board thanked Beth for all her efforts.

- 2. Wilson Street Drainage Improvements.** Dan said Alternatives #1 and #2, as discussed at the February 12 selectboard meeting, are the only options that will be considered for funding based on FEMA's cost benefit analysis. The project proposal is due to FEMA on April 30, and the amount being applied for is approx. \$420k which is expected to be enough funding to complete the project. Dan said FEMA will be covering the town's match. The town should hear about the grant by June.

Dan said KAS Engineering did a great job on the project, and he felt these two solutions should solve the drainage problem. The project report will be put on the town website.

Chad said even if the grant funds are received, he'll still need to take steps to protect his property from summer flooding events since the project may not get underway for some time. Peter said by the time RFPs are solicited and a contractor selected, there might not be enough time left to complete the project this season.

Gary asked whether the installation of catch basins on the Village Green would be compatible with the septic easement RuralEdge would hold, assuming that project moves forward. Tim said there's an engineer's report stating that the Village Green is not suitable for the RuralEdge septic system.

Ellen thanked Dan and Peter for their work on this project.

OTHER BUSINESS

- 1. Greensboro Conservation Commission – appointment.** Clive Gray and David Kelley have stepped down from the GCC. Chair Chris Steel notified the board that JoAnne Hanowski is interested in serving. Ellen made the following motion:

The board appoints JoAnne Hanowski to the Conservation Commission.

Mike seconded the motion which carried (Celnik, Brennan, Metcalf in favor; MacNeil abstained as chair). There is still one opening on the GCC.

- 2. Caspian 'Loop the Lake' run.** The board reviewed the event proposal, presented by Eric Hanson. The run will be held on July 27 and is sponsored by the Greensboro Association. Ellen made the following motion:

The board approves the Loop the Lake Run as presented.

Mike seconded the motion which carried (Celnik, Brennan, Metcalf in favor; MacNeil abstained as chair).

- 3. Greensboro Planning Commission (GPC).** Chair Kent Hansen updated the board on planning commission activities.
- Work on the zoning bylaw continues. The GPC hopes to have a draft version of new floodplain maps incorporated into the bylaw in June.
 - The GPC is taking a look at the extended village district. Currently if someone owns ten acres in this district, they can't take advantage of the new two-acre minimum lot size if their property extends into the 10-acre rural lands district. Possibly, minimum lot sizes in the Rural Lands district could be changed to eight acres.
 - The GPC is also looking at further expansion of the Village Districts.
 - The GPC expects to hear in May whether the town has received a municipal planning grant for assistance with updating the town plan.
 - The GPC currently has three openings. Kent has heard of two people who may be interested in serving.
 - GPC meetings are held the first Tuesday of the month at 6 PM.
- 4. LVRT lease.** Dan said the Bend Revitalization Initiative asked VTrans to lease a 60'x60' parcel across the street from the new trailhead parking lot, for a restroom, bike rack, and picnic table. The lease has been approved by Vtrans and needs to be signed by MacNeil.
- 5. Easter egg hunt.** Greensboro United Church has requested to use the Village Green for an Easter egg hunt on Saturday 4/19. Ellen made the following motion:

The board approves the Easter egg hunt on the Village Green.

Mike seconded the motion which carried (Celnik, Brennan, Metcalf in favor; MacNeil abstained as chair).

Kim asked that participants don't park near the recycling center since it will be open that morning.

6. NEK Broadband reps. Ellen made the following motion:

The selectboard reappoints Mary Metcalf as primary and John Stone as secondary representatives to the NEK Broadband board.

Tim seconded the motion which carried (Celnik, Brennan, Metcalf in favor; MacNeil abstained as chair).

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MacNeil made the following motion:

The board will enter executive session to discuss contracts and personnel at 8:25 PM, with Bobbie Nisbet, Kim Greaves and Josh Karp also present.

Tim seconded the motion which carried (Celnik, Brennan, Metcalf in favor; MacNeil abstained as chair).

The board left executive session at 9:22 PM and took no action.

ADJOURNMENT

The board voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:22 PM.

Respectfully Submitted, Josh Karp, Selectboard Clerk