

Greensboro Selectboard

October 21, 2025

FY27 Budget Meeting – Minutes

MEETING LOCATION: Town Hall meeting room (in-person only)

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

SELECTBOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: none

OTHERS PRESENT in person: Peter Romans, Kim Greaves, Brett Stanciu, Christine Armstrong, Josh Karp

CALLED TO ORDER: 1:05 PM

Peter asked what the procedure is for getting an item on the selectboard meeting agenda. MacNeil said Kim and Josh compile requests for agenda items, which are added to the final agenda at the board's discretion. Peter requested that the road crew union contract be added to the agenda for discussion at the board's November meeting.

FY27 BUDGET

Appropriations. Discussion of a new appropriation request form drafted by Tim. New and existing appropriation requestors would be asked to fill out this form. Mike moved that the board approve the form by unanimous consent, and there were no objections. Judy asked whether the form could be burdensome for small organizations. After discussion, it was agreed that all sections of the form will be required for appropriation requests of \$500 and above. For requests less than \$500, Section H of the form will not be required (financial statements, organizational summary, letters of support).

Brett said the rescue squad appropriation request has increased, and historical society and recreation committee requests are unchanged from last year. There is a new request of \$1,000 from the energy & climate action committee.

Road crew union contract. Brett said she needs to clarify how step increases are calculated under the road crew union contract. Peter said he's concerned about cost increases due to the contract and asked how much this will cost the town. He felt that the selectboard doesn't fully understand the contract.

Ellen said when the road crew asked to join the union, the town had to negotiate in good faith or could have been sued. While other union contracts were reviewed during negotiations, Ellen said in retrospect it was asking too much for two selectboard members to negotiate the union contract and the town should have perhaps hired an attorney with union experience.

It was agreed that Brett and Tim and/or Ellen will discuss the interpretation of the union contract with the town attorney.

Health officer stipend. The board agreed to leave the health officer stipend unchanged (Judy recused herself).

Town meeting. Kim said with town officers now elected by Australian Ballot, many positions open every year and the possibility of multiple candidates for each position, it will be too onerous to hand-count ballots. She estimated it will cost about \$1000 to program the tabulator and print the ballots.

Discussion about going back to a pot luck lunch for town meeting. Judy suggested the community meal organizers could put on town meeting lunch.

Christine suggested the town report be sent to everyone who pays taxes, not just registered voters.

Legal costs. It was agreed to break out legal costs between general legal costs and costs incurred for the road crew union contract renegotiation.

Town staff. Christine said transparency is key, and the town report should present a complete picture of who the town staff members are, their job descriptions, and compensation including benefits. Christine said while she fully supports access to health insurance for town employees, costs have escalated and perhaps the employee contribution should be increased as was done in the school system 20 years ago. If we have a pot of money to spend on town staff let's spend it as efficiently as possible, she said, and asked whether a town manager position should be considered. Tim said compiling job descriptions is a good idea and agreed that transparency is important, but that due to current board priorities and workload it will take some time to complete this.

The Highland Center is exempt from municipal and education taxes. Christine suggested that the HCA be asked to contribute a payment in lieu of taxes to the town, as HCA indicated they would do in their Act 250 permit application.

Christine said while Chief Brochu made a great FY27 budget proposal, she found the road crew's budget proposal lacking.

Tim made the following motion:

The board will enter executive session at 2:06 PM to discuss town employee compensation.

Judy seconded the motion which carried (Celnik, Brennan, Metcalf, Carpenter in favor; MacNeil not voting as chair).

The board left executive session at 2:28 PM and took no action.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 2:28 PM

Respectfully Submitted: Josh Karp

AMENDED 11/13/25 J.K.