

# Greensboro Selectboard

## December 10, 2025 – Minutes

**LOCATION:** Town Hall Meeting Room with remote access

**SELECTBOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** MacNeil, Mike Metcalf, Tim Brennan, Judy Carpenter, Ellen Celnik (joined remotely)

**SELECTBOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**OTHERS PRESENT in person:** Bill Chidsey, Sheriff Jennifer Harlow, Stew Arnold, Becky Arnold, Peter Romans, Naomi Ranz-Schleifer, Nick Baker

**OTHERS PRESENT remote:** Kim Greaves, Christine Armstrong, Gary Circosta, Janet Long, JoAnn Hanowski, Lise Armstrong, Kent Hansen, Paul Brierre, Robin Hardy, Beth Meachem, Ila Hunt, Davis Barnett, Aileen Gebbie, Kristen Leahy, Jennifer Lucas, Rick Lovett

**CALLED TO ORDER:** 6:35 PM

### ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Tim: approve bond anticipation note

### CONSENT AGENDA

- A. November 4, 2025 Budget meeting minutes
- B. November 11, 2025 Budget meeting minutes
- C. November 12, 2025 Regular meeting minutes
- D. November 18, 2025 Budget meeting minutes
- E. December 2, 2025 Budget meeting minutes
- F. Treasurer's report
- G. FY26 budget reports

Tim made the following motion:

*The board approves the consent agenda as presented.*

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

### PUBLIC CONCERNS

None this evening.

### GREENSBORO FIRE DEPT.

No report was available and Chief Brochu was not present.

### POLICE

Mike said he discussed policing options with both the Orleans County Sheriff's Dept (OCSD) and Hardwick Town Manager Opie Upson. Opie said the town is not currently in a position to bid on police coverage for Greensboro, though he may be interested in the future.

Mike said Greensboro has saved around \$375k since the town switched to OCSD, and he's heard many positive comments about OCSD's service.

Of all the towns that contract with OCSD, Greensboro pays the most. Sheriff Harlow said this is because Greensboro is the only town getting 24/7 coverage. MacNeil asked about reducing this level of coverage to lower the cost of the contract. Sheriff Harlow said any reduction in coverage would result in the loss of on-call service, meaning OCSD would not respond to calls on weekends or after midnight, with the town relying on the state police during those times. Sheriff Harlow said the contracts proposed by her dept. have been extremely reasonable from the beginning.

Ellen said public safety is a crucial priority, and the quick response and visibility of the OCSD is a huge value for the town.

Peter said that 24/7 police coverage has been strongly supported by the voters for years.

Gary said the board should accept the new OCSD contract and thank Sheriff Harlow for providing Greensboro with a great service.

## **ROADS**

**1. Road Supervisor's report.** Tom was not present.

**2. Chidsey curb cut.** Mike made the following motion:

*The board approves the Chidsey curb cut, contingent on Tom's approval.*

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

**3. FEMA update.** Josh said all reimbursement requests have been submitted for the 2024 flood and the town is waiting for FEMA to obligate the funds. These federal reimbursements will be enough to cover the town's \$750k loan taken out after the 2024 flooding.

## **TOWN CLERK**

**1. Ballfield lease.** The board signed a one-year lease for the four corners ballfield. Under the agreement, the town pays municipal and education taxes on the property in exchange for its use as a public sports field.

**2. Town Meeting.** Discussion of location options. Judy made the following motion:

*The 2026 Town Meeting will be held at the Highland Center, assuming the space is available.*

Mike seconded the motion which carried (Celnik, Brennan, Metcalf, Carpenter in favor; MacNeil not voting as chair). Kim will discuss with HCA executive director Keisha Luce.

**3. Authority to approve catering licenses.** Judy made the following motion:

*The selectboard authorizes the town clerk to approve special event and catering permits submitted through the Vermont Department of Liquor Control.*

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

**4. Town Clerk position.** Judy said that historically the assistant town clerk has moved up to town clerk when that position opened up. However, Kim has had a hard time finding an assistant town clerk in recent years and the town might need to consider changing how the town clerk position is filled.

Currently the town clerk is an elected three-year position and must be filled by a town resident. There are two other options, either of which would have to be approved by voters at town meeting:

- a. Change the town clerk to an appointed position, as was done with the Treasurer. Gary noted this approach would eliminate the Greensboro-residency requirement.
- b. Keep the town clerk as an elected position, but allow the position to be filled by a resident of the entire state, not just the town.

Gary felt that the position should be filled by a town resident, and that the town wouldn't have a problem finding someone.

Ellen said given the importance of the position and Greensboro's small population, it could make sense to broaden the applicant pool and perhaps find someone experienced who's held this position in another town. Tim moved that the board will add an article to the warning that would broaden the residency requirement for the town clerk to the state, as provided by statute. Judy seconded the motion. After further discussion the motion was rescinded, as some board members felt that more specific language based on the statutes needs to be crafted first.

Naomi wondered if the appointed treasurer position could be changed to make it an elected position filled by a resident of the state. This provides an option that wasn't discussed before and would restore power to the voters.

### **GREENSBORO ENERGY & CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE (GECAC) – Beth Meachem**

**Climate Catalysts Innovation Fund Grant Program.** Beth told the board that GECAC was awarded a \$3k grant to raise awareness in the NEK about the VT Residential Energy Standards, and is asking the board to accept the grant. Beth said there is no town match requirement.

Judy said the grant application implies that GECAC member Liz Steel's consulting firm Campwell Connexions would be hired to implement the grant project and be paid using grant funds. Beth said that yes, Liz's business would be managing the project and submitting expenses to the town for payment. Judy said this could be a conflict of interest and asked Beth if the GECAC has reviewed the town's conflict of interest policy.

Josh noted that in the grant application there is a budget line item of \$2,000 for 'communications consulting services'. MacNeil asked Beth to clarify whether Campwell Connexions would be paid for their consulting services. Beth said as she understands it, Liz would not be compensated for her work on the grant, but since Liz is out of town and not available to clarify this question, Beth suggested discussion be tabled.

Ellen suggested that GECAC apply for the same grant during the next round of funding, so any conflict of interest issue can be worked out in advance. Mike made the following motion:

*The board will accept the Climate Catalysts Grant, provided that the Energy and Climate Action Committee addresses the apparent violation of the town's conflict of interest policy.*

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

### **CASPIAN LAKE DAM TASK FORCE CHARTER**

Stew said the Caspian dam is in poor condition, and the Hardwick Electric Dept. (HED) is considering divesting from the beach property and may be interested in selling it to Greensboro for a nominal fee. Stew proposed the creation of a dam task force that would research all aspects of this property acquisition, including costs to repair or replace the dam and liability concerns. He presented a dam task force charter for the selectboard to review.

Naomi said this is a major question for the town and those who have been working behind the scenes on the dam issue felt that there should be a more formal, public process moving forward, with the formation of an official task force with members appointed by the selectboard.

Stew said a study is needed that could cost \$100k and take up to a year to complete. The task force is planning to ask the Greensboro Association (GA), HED and Hardwick town to contribute funds to the study, with local fundraising done as well. MacNeil said there is no money in the town budget for a study.

While there may be grants available, Stew implied that the grant process would take a while and delay the start of the study. Before committing to the study, he proposed that the task force sign a MOU with Hardwick regarding the sale of the property to Greensboro.

Tim said the task force's first step should be evaluating risks, opportunities, costs and financing, yet the charter appears to delegate substantial negotiating authority to the task force, which selectboard members seemed uncomfortable with. Tim said signing a MOU with Hardwick before the study is completed seems premature, and there shouldn't be any presumption that the purchase will happen.

MacNeil suggested that before a study is undertaken the voters could be asked whether they support acquiring the property; perhaps this could be an article on the 2026 town meeting warning. Tim said the voters will need information in order to make an informed decision.

Regarding the board's concern about the task force's authority to negotiate, Paul said the charter could simply be changed to authorize information gathering only.

Mike suggested that the task force have members from both towns.

The board agreed that a town-sanctioned task force is a good approach. Stew will work with Judy on a new draft of the charter. Tim thanked Stew for all his work on this issue.

### **GREENSBORO PLANNING COMMISSION**

**1. Planning commission appointment.** PC chair Kent Hansen requested that the board re-appoint Alexis Mattos, who's term is up. Tim made the following motion:

*The board re-appoints Alexis Mattos to the Planning Commission.*

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

**2. Bylaw hearings.** Kent asked whether the selectboard has considered dates in May 2026 for a public hearing on bylaw amendments. Since the PC hearing happens prior to the selectboard hearing, MacNeil asked Kent to propose dates for the selectboard to consider.

### **ONGOING BUSINESS**

**1. Conservation commission appointment.** Mike made the following motion:

*The board appoints Elizabeth Youngman to the conservation commission.*

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

**2. Bond bank.** Tim said the voters authorized the town to take on debt for the new fire truck. Mike made the following motion:

*The town will apply to the VT Bond Bank for \$495k of financing to be used for the purchase of a new pumper truck for the Greensboro Fire Department.*

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

**3. Bond anticipation note.** Tim said bond bank funds won't be available until March, so the town needs to take out a bond anticipation loan so the truck can be purchased sooner. Tim made the following motion:

*The board approves a bond anticipation loan with Community National Bank for \$495k, with the chair and vice chair authorized to sign the loan documents.*

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

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

**1. Glover Trailwinders Snowmobile Club - Nick Baker.** On behalf of the club, Nick asked for permission to cross Greensboro's gravel pit property with one of their trails. Judy made the following motion:

*The board approves the Glover Trailwinders Club trail crossing Greensboro's gravel pit for a period of three years, December 2025 through December 2028.*

Tim seconded the motion which carried (Celnik, Brennan, Metcalf, Carpenter in favor; MacNeil not voting as chair). The board authorized Mike to sign the agreement.

2. **FY27 budget.** The board agreed to hold a special informational meeting on the proposed FY27 budget on Wed. January 7 at 6:30 PM at the town hall community room, with remote access.
3. **Emergency Reserve Fund.** MacNeil said the budget committee has proposed the creation of an emergency reserve fund. Tim said some of the town's unallocated FEMA reimbursements could be used to start this fund, and added that the board still needs to craft specific language for the proposal. Tim made the following motion:

*The board will add an article to the 2026 Town Meeting warning that will ask the voters to approve the creation of an Emergency Reserve Fund.*

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

4. **Town Hall Meeting Room.** Naomi said the town hall meeting room could be used by a variety of town groups and asked the board to come up with a process for scheduling use of the space. The board agreed to work this out with town office staff.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 9:25 PM, Tim made the following motion:

*The board will enter executive session for a personnel matter.*

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

Tim moved to exit executive session at 9:30 PM. Judy seconded the motion which carried (Celnik, Brennan, Metcalf, Carpenter in favor; MacNeil not voting as chair).

Tim made the following motion:

*The board adopts the job description for town administrator, with a position start date of July 1, 2026.*

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

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 9:32 PM

*Respectfully Submitted: Josh Karp, Selectboard Clerk*