

Greensboro Selectboard

January 14, 2026 – 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: Beth Meachem, Davis Barnett, Maria Amador, Chris Roy, Liz Steel, Stew Arnold, Erika Karp, Brett Stanciu, Kim Greaves, Josh Karp

OTHERS PRESENT remote: Brian Titus, Chief Brochu, Janet Long, Jennifer Lucas, Melissa Moffatt, Peter Romans, Christine Armstrong, Aileen Gebbie, Paul Brierre, Dede Stabler, Nancy Riege, Lise Armstrong

CALLED TO ORDER: 6:30 PM

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

None this evening.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. ~~December 9, 2025 budget meeting minutes~~ (removed)
- B. December 10, 2025 regular meeting minutes
- C. December 16, 2025 budget meeting minutes
- D. January 7, 2026 budget Q&A meeting minutes
- E. Sheriff's report
- F. Treasurer's report
- G. Road foreman's report
- H. Fire chief's report
- I. FY26 budget reports and check warrants

Mike made the following motion:

The board accepts the consent agenda, less the December 9 budget meeting minutes.

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

The board unanimously approved the December 9 budget meeting minutes as amended.

Peter said the minutes are unclear if the Town Meeting Warning will include a vote on the local option tax. MacNeil apologized for any confusion and said the board has yet to decide on this issue.

PUBLIC CONCERNS

Communications Working Group (CWG). CWG member Beth Meachem said the group has been actively reaching out to members of the community to encourage people to run for open town positions. They've had a 99.5% negative response rate, mostly due to people not having the time, not being in town enough, or due to concerns about ongoing communication issues with the selectboard.

Candidate petitions for town officers must be filed by 5 PM on Monday, January 26, and Kim said the consent of candidate form and the nominating petition are available on the town website. Beth suggested the board hold a meeting prior to that date, and actively invite residents to step up and run for open positions.

Beth asked if the town will be mailing out ballots for the town officer election to all registered voters. MacNeil said the board decided against doing this. Janet said she would be concerned about the cost of mailing ballots. Kim said as soon as she receives the ballots from the printer, she'll notify the public that absentee ballots can be requested. The town report will make it clear that there is now an Australian Ballot election for town officers. Beth said the town needs to figure out new ways to engage the community, and that not everyone sees official town notices posted in the typical ways. She asked about an email list of registered voters; Kim said such a list does not exist. Judy suggested that creating this list could be a project for the CWG. Mike suggested running ads in local papers or letters to the editor. Beth said the CWG could write letters to the editor, and members of the selectboard supported this action.

Ellen said Vermont towns have held Town Meetings for over 100 years. If someone is new in town and interested in how things work or interested in running for a town position, they should take the initiative and educate themselves.

Mike said electing officers by Australian Ballot is a significant change; he heard from someone who was interested in running for a town position but didn't want to deal with a petition. Ellen felt that someone who won't take the time to get seven signatures probably isn't ready to commit to serving in a town position.

Liz suggested that members of the selectboard or CWG could discuss the change to Australian Ballot voting at next week's community meal.

Davis asked whether any petitions been submitted. Kim said one petition each has been received for town clerk, selectboard member, cemetery commissioner, collector of delinquent taxes, and library trustee.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Energy and Climate Action Committee (ECAC): Climate Catalyst Innovation Fund grant program.

MacNeil said when this came up last month, there was a question about the propriety of Liz applying for this grant as a member of the ECAC, and then hiring her communications company Campwell Connexions to manage the grant.

Liz said she was planning to recuse herself from ECAC work for the duration of the grant, but the selectboard felt there was still a conflict of interest and suggested she step down from the committee for the duration of the grant, which is six months. Mike made the following motion:

The board accepts the Climate Catalyst Innovation Fund grant.

Tim seconded the motion. Further discussion.

Judy asked if the grant required any kind of bidding process to select a consultant. Liz said this is only a \$2,000 grant and does not require competitive bidding. She added that she'll be working closely with NVDA and others, so the work of Campwell Connexions will be monitored by people outside the ECAC.

Tim said in his mind, the conflict of interest has been resolved.

The vote was held and the motion carried (Brennan, Metcalf, Carpenter in favor; Celnik abstained; MacNeil not voting as chair).

2. Adopt FY27 Budget. Brett said the capital fund transfer was increased from \$135k to \$150k. The total budget is \$2,492,999.27. Tim made the following motion:

The board adopts the FY27 budget in the amount of \$2,492,999.27.

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

Chris Roy asked how this figure compares to the current year's budget and what the largest increase is. Brett said the increase is about 4.5% over FY26 and the largest increase is a proposed town administrator position. Chris asked if residents can vote specifically on the town administrator position. MacNeil said no, as it is included in the budget and not as a separate article.

3. Adopt Warning for 2026 Town Meeting.

- Local Option Tax. MacNeil felt that a vote on this issue should be included in the Warning and asked what other board members think. Tim felt that there should not be a town vote, but the issue could be discussed under other business.

Mike said the earlier non-binding vote was basically a tie, and that there needs to be more community discussion prior to holding a binding vote.

Judy agreed that holding another vote prior to more discussion doesn't make sense.

Ellen said while this issue has been discussed for years, she didn't want people voting on something they aren't familiar with.

Beth said it was obvious that businesses had not been contacted for input prior to the non-binding vote.

MacNeil said the consensus is that a vote on the local option tax should not be included on the Town Meeting Warning.

- Emergency reserve fund. After discussion, it was agreed that the article would read "Shall the Town of Greensboro move \$50,000 from the 2023 FEMA grant funds to the Emergency Reserve Fund."
- Purchasing Caspian Beach property. The board agreed that this is not the time to include an article in the Warning asking voters whether they support pursuing a purchase of this property from Hardwick Electric. The background research that would inform the voters about this question has yet to be completed.

The board adopted the Town Meeting Warning as amended.

4. Set date for Australian Ballot informational meeting for election of town officers. Kim said the Secretary of State confirmed that the informational meeting must be held at least 30 days prior to Town Meeting. With petitions due on Jan. 26, she suggested the meeting be held on Wednesday Jan. 28.

Liz questioned whether the meeting must be held at least 30 days prior to Town Meeting.

The board agreed that the informational meeting, which could be thought of as a candidate forum, will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 28 at 6:30 PM in the Town Hall meeting room.

FIRE DEPARTMENT – Chief Dave Brochu, Jr.

Chief Brochu said the new fire truck has been paid for; delivery is expected in February.

The Firehouse boiler is undersized, has recurring issues, and needs to be replaced this winter. He is getting quotes for a larger boiler.

Liz suggested that the GFD work with the Energy and Climate Action Committee to ensure that energy efficient heating appliances are purchased.

ORLEANS COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPT.

No discussion or public comment.

ROADS

No discussion or public comment.

TOWN CLERK

No discussion or public comment.

TREASURER – Brett Stanciu

No discussion or public comment.

ONGOING BUSINESS

1. **Caspian Lake Dam Task Force – updated charter.** Stew said he worked with Judy on a revised charter. Judy said the task force has a lot of work ahead of it. She noted that task force membership doesn't include a representative from Hardwick, and also that the task force is not charged to undertake any formal negotiations.

Stew said the task force would report back to the board on a regular basis, and would be following open meeting law requirements. Tim thanked Stew and Judy, and made the following motion:

The board accepts the revised Caspian Lake Dam Task Force charter and will establish the task force.

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

Stew said a slate of seven task force members will be presented to the selectboard for approval.

2. **Town Hall Meeting Room – process for use.** Groups in town have expressed interest in using the Town Hall meeting room. A use protocol needs to be created; Ellen noted that it's important to have good security measures for the Town Hall building.

Kim said it's not appropriate for multiple building keys to be handed out, and suggested that room users could pick up the key in the Town Clerk's office and return it the next day.

Davis suggested that an electronic lock be considered. Tim said this is a good idea but may take some time to research and install. Beth noted that these can be programmed with a one-time use code, and offered to research these locks.

Kim said a calendar showing meeting schedules can be posted to the town website and will be managed by town staff. Judy noted that official town business, such as selectboard meetings, would take precedent.

It was agreed that the Town Hall meeting room should be a space for town-related groups and committees, not for private enterprises or private events.

Kim said while the meeting Owl will be available for use, a laptop will not be provided.

Josh and Kim will draft a room use policy.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. **Request for Greensboro Community Meal to become an official town activity.** Tabled; MacNeil suggested that discussion wait until the new selectboard is seated after town meeting.

Nancy said she's not clear why the community meal would be considered an official town activity.

2. **Public Comment**

- Liz asked if the Greensboro Community Trust can make a presentation under "Other Business" at Town Meeting. MacNeil said this would be fine.
- Beth said that over the years, she's seen things fall by the wayside as selectboard membership changes. Ideally there would be process for outgoing board members to share their knowledge with new board members.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:24 PM

Respectfully Submitted: Josh Karp, Selectboard Clerk