

Greensboro Selectboard

April 22, 2026 – Minutes

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

SELECTBOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT in person: Liz Steel, John Mackin, Warren Hill III, Rachelle Miller, Erika Karp, Kim Greaves, Josh Karp, Naomi Ranz-Schleifer

OTHERS PRESENT remote: Aileen Gebbie, Bobbie Nisbet, Elissa Mackin, Gary Circosta, Renee Circosta, Janet Long, Linda Ely, Lise Armstrong, Miriam Rogers, Nathaniel Smith, Brian Titus, Kristen Leahy, Jennifer Ranz

CALL TO ORDER: 6:30 p.m.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

None this evening.

PUBLIC CONCERNS

1. **Erika Karp – jumping worms.** Erika expressed concern that jumping worms are present in Greensboro and asked if the town would be willing to educate residents about this invasive species. MacNeil and Judy questioned whether distributing this kind of information should be a town function. MacNeil suggested that the conservation commission could address this issue since they are concerned about invasive plant species.
Judy suggested that the extension service would be a source of good information. She added that the library could host a presentation about the worms.
Ellen said education is the best solution and suggested that area towns join together to educate their residents.
2. **Gary Circosta – multiple concerns.**
 - While the board intended to correct citation errors on the town meeting warning, the corrections it made at its last meeting were not accurate.
 - Regarding the possible purchase of the Caspian beach and dam property: be sure to involve the public from the outset.
 - Regarding the planning commission’s idea to donate 7.5 acres of Greensboro’s gravel pit to the town of Glover to be used for affordable housing: be sure to involve the public from the outset.
 - The town website needs to be updated to include the newly-adopted selectboard rules of procedure. Also, there’s a ‘basic parliamentary procedure’ document on the website that appears to be no longer necessary and thus should be repealed.

 - The fund balance policy approved at the board’s last meeting, which was created from a VLCT model template, should have been better customized for Greensboro.

Gary noted specific instances where he felt the policy was lacking, and asked that it be either reworked or repealed.

- 3. Paving projects.** Liz Steel said Wilson St. is rough and asked whether it might be paved this season. MacNeil said the town is currently sorting out paving priorities.

Naomi asked how the board decides when it's time to grind down paved roads in town, as repeated pavings over the years have raised the height of most roads including Breezy Ave.

Mike said Breezy Ave. was ground down completely around 40 years ago.

Josh said the town is exploring improvements to sidewalks and storm drains on Breezy Ave. and although the road is in rough shape now, it may make sense to delay road reclamation until these other projects are scheduled.

ACTION ITEMS

- 1. Planning Commission appointment.** Tim made the following motion:

The board appoints Bob Youngman to the planning commission.

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

- 2. Liquor and tobacco license - Smith's Store.** Mike made the following motion:

The board approves a liquor and tobacco license for Smith's Store.

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

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 1. Fire Districts.** MacNeil said the selectboard and Fire District #1 (FD1) and Fire District #2 (FD2) are discussing what kind of future relationship there could be between the districts and town. This could be mergers between one or both of these districts and the town, or another kind of relationship.

Judy said Megan Young at ANR told her that while the state regulates public water systems for water quality and other compliance issues, the governance structure of water systems are local decisions.

John said FD1 is fully staffed now but this won't last long "because we're all old". John does the testing for FD1 and has a license to do so for 35 years. He also assists in maintenance of the system and would be difficult to replace.

Warren said since Ernie Machia left, FD2 has had to hire out their water testing, which is expensive. FD2 is looking to join forces in some way with another entity, he said.

Ellen said it's amazing what the fire districts have done with volunteers over the years, but it seems that merging and/or sharing resources could be the way to go at this point.

Megan Young suggested that a member of the road crew could get certified to test water, Judy said.

John said if the town takes over a fire district, or if a district is dissolved and sold to a for-profit operator, the voting members of the district would have to approve.

FD#1 serves the equivalent of 200 homes. This number is based on average water use of seasonal and year-round dwellings plus larger entities such as Willey's Store and the Nursing Home.

FD#2 serves around 22 residences, plus the sawmill and the Four Seasons of Early Learning. The district is not in a position to expand its user base at this time, partially due to its wells needing maintenance.

Elissa said that grant funding is one of the only ways these small fire districts can operate, and finding help with grant writing is very important. John said FD1 received a \$250k Emergency Community Water Assistance Grant through USDA to drill well #4. Rachele said grant writing is daunting and is made more difficult because regulations keep changing.

She thanked the town for plowing FD2's access road.

Elissa suggested that FD2 reach out to the East Hardwick Fire District, as it appears they are using the same testing service and perhaps some efficiencies can be found. She said if FD1 had to hire out their testing, the added costs could make water rates unreasonably high.

Naomi said while the fire districts are separate entities from the town, they serve critical community facilities and businesses and should be supported by the town in some way. She added that NVDA is aware that small towns often need assistance managing their water systems and the board should reach out to them. Mike said he would do so.

- 2. Act 181 - Peter and Sandy Gebbie.** Peter and Sandy sent a letter to the selectboard requesting that the board express their opposition to Act 181 by writing a letter to the legislature. As an example, they included a letter written by Panton resident Ken Sullivan. Tim said implementation of Act 181 has been delayed and parts of it may be repealed, and asked if sending such a letter is now a moot point. MacNeil said the town should still send a letter as requested, to respect the wishes of a number of people in town. Opponents of Act 181 believe that pressure needs to be kept on the legislature on this issue. Mike made the following motion:

Ken Sullivan's letter will be adapted to Greensboro, signed by the board, and sent to the legislature.

Ellen seconded the motion.

Tim said he doesn't understand the issues well enough and will abstain from the vote.

Judy said while she may not fully understand all the issues, the letter talks about the need for clearer regulations, which she can support.

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

- 3. Petition received at 4/8 selectboard meeting – next step.** MacNeil said within 60 days of receiving the petition a special town meeting must be held, for a discussion and vote. He said the board will pick a date for the special town meeting at its next regular meeting.

- 4. Appealing education tax rate – update.** Tim reported that David Kelley talked to Barb at the Dept. of Taxes. She said the timeframe for the town to appeal the education tax rate is past: the appeal must be filed within 35 days of the receipt of the equalization study results, which are typically received by towns in early January.

A completed reappraisal should help lower the tax rate. Greensboro's reappraisal is scheduled to begin this coming July.

- 5. Mountain View Union – budget vote.** Erika said an informational meeting about the Mountain View Union third budget vote will be held on Thursday May 14 at Hardwick Elementary. The vote will be held on Wednesday May 20 by Australian ballot. Kim said absentee ballots for this vote are now available.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Judy made the following motion:

The board will enter executive session at 7:52 p.m. to discuss a legal issue.

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

Mike made the following motion:

The board will exit executive session at 8:15 p.m.

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

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted: Josh Karp, Selectboard Clerk