

Greensboro Selectboard

May 14, 2014

Meeting Minutes

SELECTBOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Bridget Collier, Marsha Gadoury, Peter Romans, Susan Wood, Warren Hill, Jr.

SELECTBOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Valdine Hall, Josh Karp, Chief Erwin Salls, Jr., Gina Jenkins, Tom Anastasio, Ed LeClair, Officer Chris Tatro, Officer Darren Barber, June Cook, Nat Smith, Craig Dezell

CALLED TO ORDER: 7:00 PM

MINUTES

Minutes from April 9, 2014 approved as amended.

PUBLIC CONCERNS

There were no public concerns this evening.

CIRCUS SMIRKUS – Ed LeClair

Circus Smirkus Executive Director Ed LeClair came before the Board to request tax stabilization and use of Greensboro's municipal bond capacity.

Tax Stabilization. Full taxes would be paid on the Circus Rd. property, and the current taxes would be paid on the recently purchased Breezy Ave. property. A multi-million dollar construction project is being planned for the Breezy Ave. property, and Ed requested that no additional property tax be paid on these improvements for five years while the project gets up and running. After this time, the town could extend, or end, the tax stabilization.

Warren expressed concern that the property tax payers in town would have to pick up the tab on the tax stabilization due to the statewide education tax.

Bridget said that such a tax stabilization question must go before the voters.

Discussion of whether Smirkus could get tax exempt status as a non-profit, which would take the tax burden off the town taxpayers. Sue Wood noted that Sen. Rodgers and Rep. Kitchel were very helpful with the Caspian Beach property tax issue. Ed will do further research. Valdine observed that the state is now requiring property values on tax exempt properties, and may be moving towards collecting taxes on what are now tax exempt properties.

Municipal Bond Capacity. Towns are allotted municipal bond capacity every year. Ed requested that Smirkus be able to use a portion (1/3) of that capacity. After discussion, the Board said it was open to further discussion, but needed more information. Ed will ask a representative from VEDA to come in and explain the process to the Board.

POLICE

- Officers Chris Tatro and Darren Barber were present, and reviewed the April police report with the Board.
- Discussion of vandalism at the Community Park in Greensboro Bend. Discussion of putting up a ‘closed after dark’ sign. The HPD will keep a closer eye on the Park.

ROADS

- Road Supervisor Dan Tanner was not present. The Board reviewed his written Roads Report.
- **Wilson St. Sidewalks.** Nat Smith (representing the Fire District #1) reported that an anonymous donor wants to contribute \$20k so that concrete sidewalks – instead of asphalt – can be put back on Wilson St. The overall cost to the town would be approx. \$7k. (for 5 ft. sidewalks). Discussion of 5 ft. sidewalks vs. 4 ft. Changing to 4 ft. sidewalks should save on site work and reduce concrete use by 20% but the actual cost savings are not known.

The old sidewalks were 4 ft. wide; discussion of whether a 5 ft. sidewalk would extend into the traveled way one foot. It was thought not, due to road width and town right-of-way. Valdine felt that Greensboro is a retirement community, and the town should have a 5 ft. sidewalk that is fully ADA compliant and easy for everyone to use. Peter thought 5 ft. sidewalks are designed for larger towns and busier streets and that 4 ft. would be adequate in Greensboro. Peter made the following motion:

The Board accepts the \$20k gift, to be used for concrete sidewalks on Wilson Street. 4 foot wide concrete sidewalk w/ truncated domes will be installed. It is assumed there will be a cost savings of approx. \$5k by going with 4 foot sidewalks. This savings includes approx. \$1700 in prep work and a 20% reduction in concrete costs.

If the cost reduction of going with the narrower sidewalk is less then anticipated, Peter and Bridget will decide whether 5 foot sidewalks make more sense for the money.

Warren seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Nat will ask Cort Perry of Munson’s to come up with a 4 ft. price.

Perry’s will be notified that their services will not be needed.

- **Mowing Bids.** Two sealed bids were opened. Patenaude (Newport): \$10,800. Mitchell (Lyndonville): \$6500. Warren made the following motion:

The Board accepts Mitchell’s bid. Dan will inspect the mowing job and payment will not be made until the job is performed to town specifications. Mitchell will be told when to schedule his work for the town.

Peter seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

- **Paving.** Discussion of whether the roads dug up for the water line project will be patched, or fully paved by the Fire District. It was unknown at this time; no decision was made on paving priorities.
- The Board signed the Vtrans bridge report.
- **Old Road Crew Trailer.** Someone has offered \$200 for an old trailer that was used by the road crew. Discussion tabled.

FIRE STATION COMMITTEE – New Fire Station Update

- Chief Erwin Salls, Jr. believes the occupancy permit is in hand.
- Efficiency VT took a long time to get back to the GFD about which fixtures/lights are eligible for rebates. Now, the Dept. has to go back and try to get original invoices from contractors in order to get rebate payments.
- The generator grant has been applied for, but receipt of the grant may be delayed until hazard mitigation paperwork is completed.
- **Extra Topsoil & Recycling Center.** Chief Salls reported that someone is interested in purchasing any extra topsoil left over after landscaping is completed. Discussion of whether the town might need topsoil for reclamation at the gravel pit, and if not, whether topsoil should be put out to bid.

A new recycling building was included on the fire dept.'s site plan (filed with the State), and site work could be done now to prepare the area for a new recycling center. After discussion, it was decided to leave the recycling site as is – to leave it stripped of topsoil and not put back any material at this time.

Any extra topsoil could be stored at the gravel pit. Perhaps the site work contractor could move extra topsoil to the gravel pit when they're headed up there anyway to get gravel. Not having to do site work at the recycling center site, or stockpile topsoil, should save the contractor time. Warren made the following motion:

The Fire Station Committee will negotiate with the site work contractor regarding:

- 1) time saved by not working on the recycling center site or stockpiling topsoil, and*
- 2) trucking extra top soil up to the gravel pit when they're hauling gravel from there anyway.*

Marsha seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

- **Funky Fourth / New Fire Station.** On the Funky Fourth, there will be an open house at the new fire station, and the parade will start there as well. There also might be big rigs at the fire station site for kids to check out.
- **Old Fire House.** There are parties interested in purchasing the building. Bridget suggested moving the old firehouse up to the new firehouse site to serve as a recycling center. The Board will solicit community input on the future of the old fire house, on the town web site, etc. Warren thought that any decision should ultimately be made by the voters, at either March town meeting or a special town meeting.

TOWN CLERK

- **FY 2014 Budget.** The Board reviewed the FY '14 budget, YTD.

OTHER BUSINESS

- **Caspian Beach.**
 - 1) Geese. Peter Romans reported that Canada geese have been making a mess of the beach in recent years. Groundskeeper Earl Caspar has been cleaning up after them for free; should the town earmark funds for this problem? Discussion of goose feces as a public health issue. Peter will discuss this problem with the Beach Committee.

2) Electricity. The Beach Committee received an electric bill from the Hardwick Electric Dept. for an unknown use. When asked, H.E.D. said it was for the beach security light, but further research pointed to the bath houses and milfoil wash point. The electric bill will be paid, but Valdine will keep an eye on this.

- **Policy for Projects that Affect Town Property & Roads.** Bridget said that the town has dealt with projects that affect town property and roads on an ad hoc basis, and that the town has been in court in the past for certain incidents. A town policy would specify a process to be followed; Bridget presented a draft policy for the Board to review.
- **Assistant Auditor Update.** The ad will be in the paper next week.
- **Tax Sale.** The Board unanimously approved Marsha to represent the town at the tax sale.
- **Authority for Emergency Approval to Act.** Bridget made the following motion:
The Board approves and will sign the Authority for Emergency Approval to Act.
Peter seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
- **Town Committee Updates.** The Board reviewed committee reports from the Caspian Lake Beach Committee, the Planning Commission, and the Emergency Planning Committee.
Discussion of inviting those involved with the Bend Community Park to join the town's Recreation Committee.
- **Village Center Designation:** Robbie Hurst (of Willey's Store) asked Peter if the town would look into having downtown Greensboro designated a 'village center' by the State. Warren wondered if there might be any downsides to the designation, which must be renewed every five years. Warren made the following motion:
Peter will further research the State's Village Center program and report back to the Board.
Marsha seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Bridget made the following motion:

The Board will enter Executive Session at 9:05 PM to discuss a personnel issue.

Marsha seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

The Board left executive session at 9:45 PM. Bridget made the following motion:

Marsha and Warren are authorized to speak with Dan regarding road personnel issues.

Peter seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

ADJOURNED: 9:47 PM

Respectfully Submitted: Josh Karp, Selectboard Clerk

AMENDED 6/13/14 J.K.