

Greensboro Selectboard

July 22, 2015

Meeting Minutes

SELECTBOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Susan Wood, Peter Romans, Ernest Machia, Sean Thomson, Marsha Gadoury

SELECTBOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

OTHERS PRESENT: Pat Sullivan, Lenny Schiavone, Diane Cloutier, Nancy Sullivan, Christine Armstrong, Jill O'Brien, Bill Merrylees, Alain McMurtrie, Fiona McMurtrie, John O'Brien, Tom Anastasio, Gena Jenkins, Josh Karp, Chief Aaron Cochran, Chief Dave Brochu, Jr.

CALLED TO ORDER: 6:30 PM

MINUTES

Minutes from the 7/8 regular meeting and the 7/14 special meeting unanimously approved as written.

PUBLIC CONCERNS

1. Lenny Schiavone & Nancy Sullivan – Noise. Lenny told the Board that two recent events at the Lakeview Inn were so noisy their house was unlivable. Nancy asked the Board what progress has been made to deal with this ongoing problem, and observed that the Board has the authority to enact a noise ordinance. Sue replied that the Board formed a noise ordinance committee and brought the question of an ordinance to the voters at town meeting, with the non-binding vote being a resounding 'no'. Sue stated that this issue is now a civil matter. Nancy noted that the people who voted 'no' don't have a noise problem. Lenny added that the problem exists because the town Zoning Board made a mistake years ago when it issued the Inn's conditional use permit. Back in June, Sue agreed to discuss the noise issue with the owners of the Inn; they were not interested in having a conversation.

Discussion about whether enforcement of the existing state noise statute would help Lenny and Nancy. Sean has done research and discussed the issue with Orleans County States Attorney Jennifer Barrett; the existing statute is from the 19th century, vaguely written and open to interpretation. Barrett has not given a specific opinion on the matter, and Chief Cochran said she wouldn't likely hear a case based on statute if the noise was prior to 10 or 11 PM – much too late, according to Lenny.

Sue told Lenny and Nancy that the Selectboard understands there's a problem, but that most Board members have reservations about enacting a noise ordinance. Ernie said he'd vote for one if it would actually work. Lenny asked Sue: if the noise at his home were occurring at her home, would she then be in favor of a noise ordinance? She replied that she probably would be in favor.

Chief Cochran used to work in Morrisville, where a noise ordinance was enacted due to 5 AM lawn mowing. Few tickets were ever written; the police would generally ask folks to quiet down and not actually issue a ticket. Chief Cochran added that it's unclear whether a noise ordinance would actually solve Lenny and Nancy's specific problem.

Jill O'Brien owns a house across from the Inn, and observed that noise is only a problem when amplified music occurs outside.

2. **Christine Armstrong – Signage on Village Green.** Christine is concerned about large, semi-permanent signs on the Village Green, advertising G.A.A.R. events and others. These signs will be up all summer, she said, and requested that the Board allow signs to be up for no more than four days. If the poster board on the corner was actually used, she said, signs would have to be smaller and thus less intrusive. The Board agreed unanimously to form a signage policy committee, perhaps using other towns' policies as a template. Christine offered to join the committee.
3. **Diane Cloutier – Speeding on Main St. in Greensboro Bend.** Diane submitted a letter to the Board, expressing her concern about speeding on Main St. in the Bend. She proposed closing the North end of the street; after discussion this was discounted as an option, since this would impact emergency vehicle response time. Discussion of lowering the speed limit from 35 to 25; a speed study would be required, which Sue will look into. Discussion of putting up 'slow, children' signs; Chief Cochran recollected that VLCT does not recommend them, as the signs may create a liability issue.

POLICE

1. The Board reviewed the June police report.
2. Sue asked Chief Cochran if foot patrols in the Bend would be possible. The Chief said he would look into it.

GREENSBORO FIRE DEPT. – Chief Dave Brochu, Jr.

Chief Dave Brochu, Jr. reported that the Dept.'s 1982 tanker is on the fritz, and needs \$5,000 of repair work. Danville has a 1989 tanker for sale with only 16k miles, for \$10,000. This used truck could be purchased with funds from G.F.D.'s capital budget, which has about \$60k in it. The Board agreed that purchasing this truck would be a good plan if the road test goes well.

ONGOING BUSINESS

1. **Sidewalks – Greensboro Bend.** Ernie discussed the Bend sidewalk project with Dan Tanner, who said that the road crew can do most, if not all, of the site work. Jeff Perry gave Ernie an estimate of \$38/lineal foot for a four-foot sidewalk. Ernie will put specs together for the Board to review at its next meeting, after which the project will be put out to bid. Bids will be opened at the Board's August 26 meeting.
2. **Wilson St. Drainage Issues.** Peter is planning to meet with environmental/water consultant Michael Lew-Smith.
3. **Willey Beach Park.** Work is ongoing; the area has been seeded. Ernie will be installing the sign next week.
4. **Water Line to Town Garage.** Peter reported that John Mackin estimated \$500-\$750 for a new water line to the town garage, with the town crew doing the ditching. The new line will be re-routed so it doesn't run under the parking lot.

5. **Town Hall – Outside Lights.** Peter said the installation of new L.E.D. streetlights around town is moving ahead very slowly, and suggested the Board forget about using streetlights to light up the outside of the Town Hall. The Board agreed unanimously to put the installation of exterior lighting out to bid.
6. **Circus Smirkus, Industrial Revenue Bond (I.R.B.) – Bill Merrylees.** Bill reminded the Board that they approved the Smirkus I.R.B. last year. Bonding was delayed, and Smirkus is now ready to move ahead; due to federal regulations the Board needs to re-approve the bond in this calendar year. Peter made the following motion:

The Board approves Circus Smirkus' Industrial Revenue Bond request. The Circus serves the public as a non-profit organization, and will be using \$2.3 million of the town's \$10 million I.R.B. allocation. There have been no requests to use the Town's remaining \$7.7 million allocation, and the Town is not responsible for paying back the funds borrowed by the Circus.

Marsha seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. The Board agreed unanimously that Sue will sign the Smirkus paperwork.

7. **Bend Community Park / Town Rec. Committee.** Ernie reported that Laurie Hislop and Della Hall have volunteered with park-related projects in recent years, but that the park has been badly vandalized and that very little volunteer activity is currently taking place. Della told Ernie she would think about joining the town rec. committee.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. **Greensboro Planning Commission – Request to Join.** David Miltenberger sent the Board a letter, expressing interest in joining the Planning Commission. It was unclear whether there is an opening, and the Board would like to discuss the request with G.P.C. chair Phil Gray. The request was tabled until the Board's next meeting.
2. **Kingdom Games.** Kingdom Games director Phil White requested permission to hold a swim meet at Caspian Lake on August 16. The Board unanimously approved his request.
3. According to Valdine, the Planet Aid boxes are being removed from the Recycling Center.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Marsha made the following motion:

The Board will enter executive session at 7:50 PM to discuss the sale of town real estate.

Ernie seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

The Board left executive session at 8:05 PM.

Sean made the following motion:

The Board makes a counteroffer of \$59,500 to Jenkins & Anastasio for the purchase of the old fire station.

Ernie seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

ADJOURNED: 8:07 PM

Respectfully Submitted: Josh Karp, Selectboard Clerk

AMENDED 8/12/15 J.K.