

Greensboro Selectboard

December 14, 2011 – Meeting Minutes

PRESENT: Marsha Gadoury, Peggy Lipscomb, Jefferson Tolman, Anne Stevens, Warren Hill, Jr., Valdine Hall, Josh Karp, Erwin Salls, Jr., Dan Tanner, Sgt. Aaron Cochran, John Broadhead, June Cook

CALLED TO ORDER: 7:00 PM

MINUTES: Minutes from November 9, 2011 approved as amended.

PUBLIC CONCERNS

- *John Broadhead, Craftsbury Center.* The 31st annual Craftsbury Ski Marathon will be held on January 28, 2012, from 9 AM – 3 PM, starting at the Highland Lodge and ending at the Craftsbury Center. John Broadhead asked the Board for permission to construct three temporary road crossings on race day, on Skunk Hollow Rd., Rocking Rock Rd., and the Craftsbury Rd. A small amount of snow will be shoveled onto the road for the crossing, and motorists will be warned. The Board approved the road crossings.

Broadhead also asked permission to park 15-20 buses near the Lodge from 8-9:30 AM on Gebbie Rd. or Craftsbury Rd, so high school students can unload and prepare for the race. After discussion, the Board decided this could be a major safety hazard, and requested instead that the buses, in staggered fashion, drop the students off at the Lodge and immediately head to Craftsbury to park.

H.P.D. Sgt. Aaron Cochran agreed with the Board, calling the initial proposal a ‘recipe for disaster’. Whichever approach the Board approved, he recommended cones and signs on both ends of the unloading zone.

Broadhead agreed to the staggered drop-off approach.

- *Town Christmas Tree.* Warren congratulated Nat Smith and his crew for a well-decorated tree this year. The Board tabled discussion about the future of the tree, located on Willey’s Green.

ROADS

- *Plowing Lake Rd.* Perry’s is willing to plow and sand Lake Road for \$3500; the Board unanimously agreed to this figure. Perry’s services are necessary because town trucks can’t plow the road safely, and a residence is being constructed on the road. Perry’s is also willing to try plowing Lapoint’s new driveway, but it may not be feasible.
- *Spring road damage.* Dan reported that the town will soon be receiving reimbursement from the state for repairs made in the spring.
- *C.D.L. Physicals.* These are not required for municipal road crew members, and as such are not covered by the town’s health insurance, and the town will not pay for them.
- *Driveway sanding policy.* Discussion of current sanding policies. It was noted that contractors using free town sand on private drives should not be permitted to charge their customers for that sand.

The Board decided that the sanding policy contained within the 'Private Roads and Driveways' policy, amended August 2011, shall supercede all earlier sanding policies.

- *Weight Limits on Town Roads.* No action taken by the Board.

POLICE

- *H.P.D. Budget Meeting.* Jefferson and Warren reported on their recent meeting on policing with the Hardwick Selectboard. The C.O.P.S. grant (funded by federal stimulus funds) has expired, and according to the grant agreement the position must be funded for an additional year, increasing the total police budget. Another budget increase will be space rental on the new Rinker tower. Initial budget numbers were discussed, with Greensboro's current budget share of \$152k increasing to \$170k or more.

Hardwick has proposed a three-year police contract with Greensboro, with a 5% annual increase cap for years two and three. The Greensboro Selectboard may make a counter-proposal.

- *Patrol Hours.* Discussion of patrol hours and how they are tabulated.
- *Narrow Band Radios.* Sgt. Cochran reported that H.P.D. has applied for a Homeland Security grant for narrow band radio equipment, and the Dept. has met with dispatch provider Roger Marcoux to discuss narrow band equipment and infrastructure.
- *2011 Holiday Campaign.* Sgt. Cochran reported that in cooperation with other area law enforcement agencies, extra holiday police coverage will be in place soon, which will include police 'saturation' as well as checkpoints.
- Additional H.P.D. staff have been hired.

GREENSBORO FIRE DEPT.

- *Contract with Stannard.* Peggy read a draft reply to Stannard's counter-proposal. After discussion, Jefferson made the following motion:

Peggy's letter, as amended, is approved by the Board and will be sent to Stannard.

Warren seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

- *Insurance.* The G.F.D. is switching insurance carriers.
- *Storage for equipment:* Jr. Salls reported that additional storage for fire dept. equipment and supplies is no longer needed.
- *New Fire Station.* Jr. Salls will get a letter from the state, which will confirm that a variance from the sprinkler requirement will be obtainable. Jr. noted that there won't be a bond vote in March 2012, as the current plans need to be changed to remove the holding tank and related systems.

OTHER BUSINESS

- *Town Meeting Warning.* Four additions to the warning were discussed:
 1. Raising the Veterans' Tax Exemption from \$20k to \$40k. After discussion, the Board voted unanimously to add the following to the warning:

To see if the Town will vote to increase the disabled veterans exemption amount from \$20,000 of real estate appraised value to \$40,000 of real estate appraised value, in accordance with 32 V.S.A. 3802 (11), first effective for the April 1, 2012 tax year.

2. Moving “Use or Agency” appropriations to Australian Ballot. After discussion, Jefferson made the following motion:

The following will be added to the town meeting Warning: “To see if the Town will vote to change voting for the ‘Use or Agency’ appropriations list to voting by Australian ballot, beginning with the March, 2013 town meeting.”

Warren seconded the motion, which carried (W.H., M.G., J.T., P.L. in favor; A.S. opposed).

3. Selectboard Terms. After discussion, the Selectboard voted unanimously to add the following to the Warning:

To see if the Town will vote to change the Selectboard seat now with a one-year term to a two-year term, beginning immediately.

Followed by

To see if the Town will vote to change the Selectboard seat now with a two-year term to a one-year term, beginning with the March, 2013 town meeting.

4. Town Budget Surplus. After discussion, the Selectboard voted unanimously to add the following to the warning:

To see if the Town will vote to apply any surplus from the current fiscal year to reduce taxes in the next fiscal year.

- *School Expenses at the Town Hall.* The Board agreed unanimously to remove school-related Town Hall expenses from the Town budget. Such expenses include cleaning services for the school’s rooms, and janitorial supplies.
- *Liquor and Tobacco License, Smith’s Store.* The Board unanimously approved Smith Store’s Liquor and Tobacco license.

OLD BUSINESS

- *Outside Audit.* The result so far from the town’s R.F.P. is one response. Discussion of looking for additional auditing firms to solicit proposals from.
- *Selling Old Town Equipment.* Peggy will write the first draft of a policy.

EMPLOYEE HEALTH PLAN

Jefferson requested that the Board revisit its town employee health plan decision of last month, noting that he needed more time to look into the numbers; Warren agreed. Jefferson said that it’s standard practice today for employees to pay 10-15% or more of their health insurance costs.

Peggy said that the plan approved last month was indeed generous, but that town employees would not be receiving any pay increases this year, as the plan amounted to a de facto raise.

Discussion about the appropriateness of re-voting on a decision made just one month ago.

Jefferson made the following motion:

*The Town will use the Blue Care \$2500/\$5000 H.S.A. plan, with a 90/10 split for premiums.
The Town will pay deductible costs.*

Warren seconded the motion, which carried (J.T., W.H., A.S. in favor; P.L. opposed; M.G. abstained).

EXECUTIVE SESSION #1

Jefferson made the following motion:

The Board will enter executive session at 9:52 PM to discuss personnel matters.

Warren seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

The Board left executive session at 10:25 PM.

Warren made the following motion:

Lorelei Wheeler falls under the direction of the Selectboard, and Marsha will be the liaison.

Jefferson seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION #2

Jefferson made the following motion:

The Board will enter executive session at 10:30 PM to discuss a legal matter, as well as a real estate transaction.

Warren seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

The Board left executive session at 10:52 PM.

Marsha made the following motion:

The Board authorizes Valdine to make an offer of \$8000 for the Grange building on behalf of the Town, utilizing Recreation funds for the first \$7000.

Anne seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

ADJOURNED: 10:55 PM

Respectfully submitted, Josh Karp, Selectboard clerk

AMENDED 1/16/12 J.K.