

(draft only – unapproved by Selectboard)

Greensboro Selectboard

July 11, 2012 – Meeting Minutes

PRESENT: Marsha Gadoury, Anne Stevens, Warren Hill, Jr., Susan Wood, Peggy Lipscomb, Josh Karp, Valdine Hall, Dan Tanner, Thauna Kromash, Aaron Kromash, Erwin Salls, Jr., Warren Hill, III, Warren Hill, IV, H.P.D Chief Aaron Cochran, Rob Lewis, Mike Wichrowski, Virginia Jenkins, Thomas Anastasio

CALLED TO ORDER: 7:00 PM

MINUTES: Minutes from June 27, 2012 approved as amended.

PUBLIC CONCERNS

- *Aaron Kromash – Tasers.* Aaron spoke about two recent incidents in Vermont where Tasers were used by police. In June, a Thetford man died after being shot in the chest with a Taser; in May a Hardwick man was also shot in the chest with a Taser.

Aaron expressed concern that there is no way to know if officers are using these devices properly, and that there needs to be public reporting when they are used. He noted that the problem is not just about shortcomings of the H.P.D.'s Taser policy, but the way Tasers were adopted by the Dept. in the first place. Previous H.P.D. Chief Laporte obtained grant funds to purchase the devices, and a public hearing lasted only 13 minutes, during which community input was not asked for, according to Aaron. Laporte was never asked to justify the need for the Tasers.

Aaron told the Board that the City of Montpelier, in trying to decide whether to acquire Tasers for their police department, went through a six month review process. Doctors, attorneys, law enforcement and the public were all brought to the table, and explored all the pro- and anti- Taser arguments. The result was an excellent report (available on line) that concluded the devices were not appropriate for Montpelier.

Aaron suggested that a public discussion about Tasers take place in Hardwick and Greensboro, using Montpelier's report as a starting point.

Marsha felt a good first step would be to get the Hardwick and Greensboro Selectboards together to discuss Tasers. Sue Wood and Anne Stevens are willing to represent Greensboro; it is unknown at this point if the Hardwick Selectboard is willing to take part.

- *Virginia Jenkins & Thomas Anastasio – Fire Station.* Jenkins and Anastasio told the Board that if the current fire station ever comes up for sale, they would like to be notified.

POLICE – Chief Aaron Cochran

- *Monthly reports & Inconsistent Coding of Incidents.* Chief Cochran told the Board that the same type of incident is often coded differently due to different dispatchers choosing slightly different codes.

- *False Alarms.* False alarms remain a problem. It was noted that a mouse or squirrel can set off alarms.
- *Consumption of Alcohol at the Public Beach: Ordinance or Rule?* Underage drinking and D.U.I.s have been ongoing problems at the public beach for many years. One possible solution to this problem, according to Chief Cochran, would be for Greensboro to pass an ordinance prohibiting the consumption of alcohol in public. Another possibility would be for Hardwick to make a rule of no alcohol consumption at the beach (which it owns). It was noted that in terms of enforcement, a 'rule' is weaker than an 'ordinance'. Chief Cochran gave Board members ordinances from Newport City and Morristown to review.

There was concern that an ordinance would affect the entire town, which is not desirable. Chief Cochran thought exceptions could be made, but that in general, ordinances are town-wide.

Peggy made the following motion:

The Greensboro Selectboard encourages the Hardwick Selectboard to create the following rules for the Public Beach: 1) No alcohol allowed; and 2) the beach closes one hour after sunset.

Anne seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

- When asked whether there have been reports of problems at any of Hill Farmstead Brewery's special events, Chief Cochran said there haven't been.

LONG POND ACCESS – Mike Wichrowski, VT Dept. of Fish & Wildlife.

Wichrowski explained that the State owns a tiny piece of land on the shore of Long Pond, and is considering improving the very rough Class 4 town road that provides public access to the pond. There is only \$7-10k earmarked for the project, which would allow only minimal improvements to the ½ mile access road, which would remain accessible only by 4WD vehicles.

Wichrowski said that because the access is a town road, the town could perform the improvements and be reimbursed by the State; or, the state could pick a contractor to perform the work.

Anne read a letter from Clive Gray, who is concerned that improved access would lead to increased use of the pond, including partying on the shore. Clive feels that the difficult access helps preserve the wildness of the place, and proposed that the Selectboard downgrade the Class 4 road to a trail, with a gate to restrict vehicle access.

Warren Hill Jr., as well as Wichrowski, agreed that it wasn't right to limit access to physically abled users.

Wichrowski said that an alternative to improving the access road would be widening the shoulder (of T.H.#8) to create a safe pull-off, but that this wouldn't do anything to make the pond more accessible, and access would still be difficult for many users. The pond is a public resource belonging to all Vermonters, he added, and access should be improved so more people can enjoy the pond.

Warren Hill III said that although his vehicle can get to the pond on the rough road, he would rather see the access improved than gated, even though increased use of the pond might come with some negatives.

ROADS

- Crushing is scheduled to begin August 1st.
- Roadside mowing is finished. Dan noted he wasn't 100% happy with the job.

- *Black's Point road.* Residents have complained about the condition of the road, but because the road is so narrow, Dan can't get much equipment in there. Dan said either the road should be widened and brought up to Class 3 spec. – which would involve cutting trees and angering residents – or lowered to a Class 4 and minimally maintained. Residents need to be asked what they'd prefer.
- *Town Pickup.* Discussion of the pickup's transmission problems. Marsha made the following motion:

The pickup's transmission will be fixed for \$1500 with a 90 day warranty. An extended warranty will be purchased if available and reasonably priced.

Warren seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Discussion of selling the pickup ahead of schedule and purchasing a larger truck (¾ or 1 ton) with a plow and sander. Warren observed that having a smaller truck so equipped might save money over time by reducing use of the big town trucks.

Warren and Marsha will research larger pickups and plow/sander packages. Valdine will look at the H.E.R.F. numbers and ask V.L.C.T. if it is appropriate for the Selectboard to modify the H.E.R.F. schedule.

- *Town hall lower parking lot – sinkholes.* This problem could be due to leaking water lines, and further investigation is needed. Marsha will look into this, and check with Nat Smith (of the Fire District) about water line locations.

GREENSBORO FIRE DEPT.

- *Building Committee.* Discussion of forming a building committee to provide input on the new fire station. Jr. Salls noted that a lot of money has been spent on the current design, and that making big changes at this point is questionable. He noted that the Selectboard approved funding for all the design work and related expenses to date.

It was observed that an earlier building committee had nothing to do with the plans, but helped with finding a site. Jr. said that the members of the fire dept. helped with the building plans.

Discussion about a 'formal' committee which would have binding votes, vs. an 'advisory' committee, who's job would be to provide non-binding input. It was agreed that any committee must have a short timeline and a clear mandate. Anne made the following motion:

The Selectboard reconstitutes an advisory committee to the Greensboro Fire Dept. The committee will provide input on the energy efficiency and aesthetics of the new fire station design. It's work will be completed, and a written report submitted to the Selectboard, by September 12, 2012.

Peggy seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

The committee will be open to those interested, including Sally Lonergren, Erwin Salls, Jr., Erika Karp, Anne Stevens, Clive Gray, Mark Snyder, Nat Smith, John Mackin, and Peter Romans.

- *Financing of fire station water line extension.* Discussion of financing for the new fire station's water line, and how it relates to the financing of the fire station project overall. Valdine will

research Bonding timeline and process. A special meeting is tentatively scheduled for July 25 to discuss financing of the water line and/or the overall fire station project.

TOWN CLERK – Valdine Hall

The Hill Farmstead Brewery has requested special event permits for the following dates:

1. July 25-28, 11 AM – 7 PM
2. Aug 1-4, 11 AM – 7 PM
3. Aug 15-18, 11 AM – 7 PM
4. Aug 22-25, 11 AM – 7 PM
5. Aug 29 – Sept. 1, 11 AM – 7 PM

Sue made the following motion:

The Board approves the special event permits for the Hill Farmstead Brewery, and notes that there have been no negative issues reported to date.

Anne seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

OLD & ONGOING BUSINESS

- Town hall roof work will start soon. Josh noted that it had been discussed earlier that the painting contractor should be asked to paint the recycling center’s trailers for an extra fee.
- The Board decided to solicit bids for diesel fuel and heating oil.
- *Event permits for catered events where alcohol is served.* According to the state, such events need a permit. It was agreed that permits should be required for events held on town-owned properties such as the Grange; however, the Board wasn’t so sure about the town going out of its way to tell private property owners about the permit requirements. Further discussion was tabled.
- *Willey Beach.*
 - The Willey Beach access will be mowed.
 - According to Leach Engineering, the water lines that run across the Willey Beach access point (on Wilson St.) will not be moved. Any culvert installed by the town will have to put over the water line(s).
- The Board signed the updated G.H.S. lease.
- *Town Hall centennial celebration.* It was decided to celebrate the Town Hall’s centennial at the March 2013 town meeting.
- Sue has gotten no response to date from Stannard on the updated Fire Contract.

OTHER BUSINESS

- *Grange - Historic Preservation.* The State Dept. of Historic Preservation has suggested that the Grange building be assessed to determine the condition of the building and what work is needed, with a focus on historic preservation. Half of the assessment’s \$500 fee would be paid by the town; once the assessment is completed the town would be eligible for historic preservation funds.

Peggy made the following motion:

The town will pay \$250 for the Historic Preservation assessment, with the funds coming out of the Buildings & Grounds budget.

Warren seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Marsha made the following motion:

The Board will enter Executive Session at 9:40 PM to discuss a personnel issue, with Valdine Hall present.

Anne seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

The Board left Executive Session at 9:48 PM.

Warren made the following motion:

Up to \$1350 will be given to Pace & Hawley to complete the reconciliation of the town's books.

ADJOURNED: 9:50 PM

Respectfully submitted, Josh Karp, Selectboard Clerk