



GEORGIA VERMONT

Selectboard Special Meeting - Informational Wednesday, April 17, 2024 Fire Station Community Room and via Zoom Minutes

Zoom Details:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6165843896?pwd=STduU2JzTmpiVmE1MXZSaWZWLzVadz09>

Meeting ID: 616 584 3896 | **Passcode:** 5243524

Dial by your Location: 1 929 205 6099 (New York)

1. CALL TO ORDER 6:00 p.m.

Meeting called to order by C. Rosenquist at 6:00 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Brian Dunsmore, Paul Jenkins, Carl Rosenquist, Kristina Senna and Devon Thomas

STAFF PRESENT: Douglas Bergstrom, April Edwards and Cheryl LeTourneau

PUBLIC PRESENT: Bridget Alexander, Lori Bachand, Gene & Shelly Bonnett, Suzanna Brown, Jim Champion, Lee Carson, Terry Cleveland, Charles Cross, Bette Dunsmore, Heather Dunsmore, Robert Gockel, Karen Heinlein Grenier, Kyle Grenier, Heather Grimm, Monica Hill, Alex Hsieh, Shannon Jenkins, Kay Krul, Richard Lagro, Ken Mink, Tracy Morgan, and Bridget Stone.

PUBLIC VIA ZOOM: C. Branagan, Karen Conger, Bethany Langevin, Noah Lavallee, Brad Lewis, Nick Martin, Dawn Penney, Rosemarie Racine, Craig Volatile-Wood and Kirk Waite.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. BOARD BUSINESS (Public comment on agenda items limited to 5 minutes)

A. Public Informational Meeting on the Budget

- C. Rosenquist gave an overview of the budget highlights. C. Rosenquist explained the ARPA funds are now called Work Force Retention.
- The Work Force Retention has now paid off truck loans and the Georgia Public Library's budget was increased by \$17,000.00.
- S. Brown asked when the library will increase their hours. Once the budget is approved, they are hoping by June if they can hire another person.

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- S. Jenkins asked about the ARPA funds that had previously been allotted. P. Jansen said the money set aside for bridge repair is not needed and the money was used to pay off truck loans.
 - K. Waite expressed concern with using the ARPA funds for debt service.
 - K. Minck asked for more information on the Work Force Retention funds. K. Senna explained this was a recommendation from VLCT.
 - S. Jenkins wanted to know if the funding for previous project were still in the budget. K. Senna said it was.
 - K. Minck wanted to know what the changes are made to the ARPA list: Turnout gear was now paid for out of impact fees, and the beach budget was reduced from \$80,000 to \$40,000.
 - K. Waite wanted to know if the new budget will show the funds coming in and going out. The response is that it will.
 - S. Brown wanted to talk about paving. There are 42 miles of paved roads, and we are paving less than 3 miles. There is \$308,000.00 in paving funds this year.
 - K. Minck stated the voters approved to put the surplus into the taxes and it's not in the budget. K. Minck would like to know where it is in the budget.
 - K. Waite said it is used to reduce the tax rate in October. You need to show it as a revenue. This is how it has been done in previous years.
 - B. Dunsmore stated we have gone from a 9% to 4% then the money has been used. K. Minck said the rate is down because the budget has been cut. The voters approved to have the \$120,000 put back to the voters. K. Minck believes this should be shown in the new budget.
 - N. Martin commented he was happy to see the paving budget and paying off the loans. He does agree that the surplus was something the voters approved and that should have been one of the first things put in the budget.
 - K. Minck asked about the conservation budget. B. Dunsmore wants to know what the \$20,000 being spent on. P. Jansen said the conservation fund has over \$122,000 in their reserve fund.
 - H. Grimm has said the public wants to see more conservation in town. Wants to know why the budget for the FD office supply line is being increased to \$6,000.00. K. Senna explains that this is for new computer equipment for fire trucks and other office supplies.
 - Discussion on the benefits and how they have been moved to each department instead of its own category.
 - H. Grimm wants to know what the reserve funds are used for? P. Jansen said he would have to look back to see what was written up for each department.
 - S. Jenkins suggested that H. Grimm makes a motion at the vote to put the \$5,000.00 back into the Georgia Conservation Commission reserve account.
 - K. Minck wants to know why the school can recognize the impact fees in their budget but the town cannot. P. Jansen explained the impact fees are recognized as they are used and K. Senna explained where the impact fees are shown in the budget.
 - K. Minck wanted to know what the figure would be for Article 1. The amount is \$4,632,378 (\$3, 267,279 expenses + \$1,365,099 transfers).
 - C. Branagan asked about the appraisal money. C. Letourneau said the state will be taking over the assessment of property. We do not know when this will be as the state is basing the assessments on a COD vs CLA.

- 79 • K. Grenier had a question regarding law enforcement. K. Senna said there is \$50,000.00
80 in the budget for law enforcement; and we do have the chance to have FCSD for 40hrs a
81 week, but at the cost of \$180,000.00. P. Jansen said we are hoping for a discussion on
82 4/20 to see what the public would like to do. If we agree to the \$180,000 our budget
83 increase would be 8.7%.
84 • Discussion was had regarding Article 2 and the budget going to Australian Ballot.
85 • S. Brown stresses that people should attend the meetings and get involved.
86 • K. Grenier would like to see electronic signs at the office buildings.

87 7:45 p.m. Public Informational Meeting on the Budget adjourned.

88 **4. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

89 7:45 p.m. Motion to move into executive session by K. Senna, seconded by B. Dunsmore. All
90 in favor.

91 Motion to move into executive session with the Town Administrator and the Treasurer by K.
92 Senna, seconded by B. Dunsmore.

93 8:20 p.m. Motion to come out of executive session. by K. Senna, seconded by B. Dunsmore.
94 All in favor.

95 Motion to accept the Town of Georgia Treasurer's resignation, effective immediately, by K.
96 Senna, seconded by B. Dunsmore. All in favor.

97 **5. ADJOURN**

98 8:25 p.m. Motion to adjourn by K. Senna, seconded by B. Dunsmore. All favor.