



SELECTBOARD REGULAR MEETING

Monday, November 13, 2023 at 6:00 PM

Chris Letourneau Meeting Room and via Zoom

MINUTES

Zoom Details:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6165843896?pwd=STduU2JzTmptVmE1MXZSaWZWLzVadz09>

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

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

- **Selectboard Present:** Devon Thomas Chair, Jamie Comstock, Carl Rosenquist and Nicholas Martin
- **Selectboard Zoom:** Shannon Jenkins Vice-Chair
- **Staff Present:** Cheryl Letourneau, Doug Bergstrom, April Edwards
- **Public Present:** Todd Cadieux, Stuart Bigelow, Tony Heinlein, Heather Dunsmore, Heather Grimm, Frank Gore, John Chagnon, Marty Jansen, Logan Grimm
- **Public Zoom:** Jana Thuesen, Sara Savich, Lori Hobart

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

- Presentation by Logan Grimm
- Good evening neighbors. I am Logan Grimm, a Life Scout with Troop 42 here in Georgia Vermont. The U.S. flag stands for our freedoms which are defended by our Veterans. Tonight, I would like to speak about the great country we live in, our flag, and those veterans who have served to protect us all and our freedoms.
- The United States declared its independence on July 4, 1776.
- Vermont was established on March 4, 1791, and Georgia was organized in 1788.
- This past weekend we celebrated Veterans Day.
- Veterans Day was originally known as Armistice Day in 1918.
- President Woodrow Wilson, in his proclamation, expressed,
- "To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in this country's service and with gratitude for the victory both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations."
- In 1954, Congress passed a bill recognizing November 11 as Veterans Day to honor all of those who have served our country in war and peace.
- Next, I would like to talk about our flag.
- This flag has 13 stripes which represent the 13 original colonies.

- The stripes are resting side-by-side to represent the struggle for independence, the red signifies valor, the white purity, and the blue represents loyalty.
- These 50 stars represent our 50 states.
- This flag is a symbol of freedom and liberty and has been defended by our veterans.
- The meaning of the pledge:
- "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America"
- I promise myself to America
- "and to the republic for which it stands"
- run by the people
- "One nation, under God"
- we are all in this together and under the care of God
- "indivisible, with liberty and justice for all"
- we cannot be divided, we won't have restrictions on how we want to live, and we will
- all be treated fairly
- The pledge is meant to unite us and to offer us security and confidence in our country.
- We also remember that this pays respect for those who paid the ultimate price for our freedoms.
- When we say the pledge tonight please stand at attention, facing the flag, remove any
- non-religious headdress and put your right hand over your heart.
- Those in uniform should render the military salute during the pledge.
- I remind you all to thank your Veterans and remember what they and their families have
- gone through while defending our flag and our freedoms.
- D. Thank you for your time, could you all please rise and join me in the Pledge of
- Allegiance?

3. CHAIR UPDATE

4. ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, OR CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

5. SELECTBOARD MINUTES AND WARRANTS

A. Approval of Selectboard Regular Meeting Minutes for 10.23.2023

- C. Rosenquist makes a motion to approve the minutes of 10.23.2023 with certain adjustments, J. Comstock seconds.
- J. Comstock wants the line numbers added.
- C. Rosenquist would like to see the following corrections:
 - Page 2, it says, 'school budget' and he wants it to say, 'taxes due to the school'.
 - H. Grimm called for a point of order, and he wants it added to what the point of order was.

B. Approval of Warrants #25, 26, 27, 28, and 29

- N. Martin makes a motion to accept Warrant #25, J. Comstock seconds.
- A. Edwards says there was a true up that needed to happen.
- All in favor, motion carried.
- N. Martin makes a motion to accept Warrant # 26, C. Rosenquist seconds. All in favor, motion carried.
- N. Martin makes a motion to accept Warrant # 27, C. Rosenquist seconds.
- J. Comstock asks why they are being listed out. A. Edwards says that is how the auditor asked for it to be done.
- All in favor, motion carried.
- N. Martin makes a motion to accept Warrant #28, S. Jenkins seconds.

- N. Martin questions the work on the new garage. T. Cadieux says it was Premier Paving topcoat. A. Edwards asks if the money should come out of the highway or ARPA. A. Edwards will review it.
- All in favor of with revisions, motion carried.
- N. Martin makes a motion to accept Warrant #29, J. Comstock seconds.
- J. Comstock asks if these are overpayments. A. Edwards says yes.
- All in favor, motion carried.

C. Approval of all special committee meeting minutes

- N. Martin makes a motion to accept the minutes of the special committee meetings with any revisions, C. Rosenquist seconds.
- All in favor, motion carried.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT (For items not on agenda)

All participants must clearly state their names. Appropriate actions will be considered once the Selectboard has reviewed the information provided and necessary subsequent research.

- H. Dunsmore addresses the board saying they go back and forth using Robert's Rules. D. Thomas says that they are, for the most part. They are following Robert's Rules. H. Dunsmore says Robert's Rules say a debate must address issues not personalities nor is one permitted to make personal attacks or question the motives of other speakers. D. Thomas says in the future they will. N. Martin says they will do a better job in the future. He acknowledges it happened in the past and says it will not happen in the future.
- C. Rosenquist says at the last GIDC meeting it was brought up that we have not responded from a piece of correspondence from Tim Smith. C. Rosenquist says he was asked to get an answer. C. Letourneau says that it was assigned to J. Comstock and T. Cadieux. T. Cadieux says he spoke with Dan Ryea, about access to use that road and we could not just use fill it with dirt. C. Rosenquist asks if you can get a cost and says that T. Heinlein can give T. Cadieux directions as to where and how much is needed.
- T. Cadieux asks the role of GIDC in this matter. C. Rosenquist says it was a recommendation from GIDC. C. Rosenquist says he and J. Comstock will look into this. J. Comstock asks T. Cadieux to look into this and email himself and C. Rosenquist.
- S. Jenkins asks if there was email correspondence from Terry. D. Thomas says it may be something better left to Executive Session as it would fall into the category of complaint.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

From Terry Cleveland to be read in executive session per Selectboard Chair

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

A. Town Cemeteries

- D. Thomas asks if they are going to make a motion for discussion anymore. N. Martin asks if they need to make the motion. C. Rosenquist says you need a motion for an action item but not for discussion.
- D. Thomas says Suzanna Brown brought up maintaining the town's cemeteries and he asks what they want to do about this. J. Comstock says they will not have to worry about it now but should investigate it again in the spring. C. Rosenquist thinks it was brought up because the town used to have a cemetery committee. J. Comstock says he will make a motion in the

future to have Suzanna Brown head that committee. She is not here to speak for herself, so he will wait. Discussion was had on the money available.

B. Time Clock

- T. Cadieux says they are having trouble punching in and out with the clock. A. Edwards says it has been suggested that you turn off the tablets frequently for updates. She is also talking with Paychex about fixing these issues. T. Cadieux says they have had issues for a year. S. Jenkins asks if there is a way for a rep to come help. C. Letourneau said they have been working with Paychex to solve this problem. It only appears to be happening at the Town Garage.

C. Firefighter Application approval – Action

- C. Rosenquist made a motion to approve Michael Cook's application for the Georgia Fire Department by the Fire Chief, J. Comstock seconds. All in favor, motion carried.

D. Jamie Cota as advisor for GFRD - Action

- S. Jenkins makes a motion to accept J. Cota in this role, N. Martin seconds. All in favor, motion carried.

E. Comcast – Action

- N. Martin makes a motion to accept Comcast contracts with N. Martin's review, seconded by C. Rosenquist. All in favor, motion carried.

F. Pacif - uninsured motorist policy – Action

- C. Rosenquist makes a motion to accept a contract with a standard fee for \$10,000,000 policy, seconded by N. Martin. All in favor, motion carried.

G. MVP insurance – Action

- Discussion was had on offering a different plan for one employee and the consequences if everyone else wanted to do the same.
- J. Comstock says that they made the motion last meeting to move forward with BlueCross Blue Shield regardless. D. Thomas says he just wants to explore the option.

H. Results of the Special Meeting

- D. Thomas says it would have been better to have done this in March. N. Martin agreed and said that is what people wanted. F. Gore said there was a bigger turnout there than are usually at town meetings. C. Letourneau clarifies that if it comes back in March, it still must be a floor vote. D. Thomas says he wants to shift to Australian ballot. C. Letourneau says that there has to be a floor vote to get it too Australian. H. Grimm asks about the voters making an article and having the article appear on the ballot. C. Letourneau says she will have to clarify with the lawyer on how the articles can appear if submitted that way. Discussion was had on how to present for a floor vote and an Australian ballot.

10. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR, TREASURER AND SELECTBOARD SUB COMMITTEES REPORTS

A. Town Administrator

Set up date to discuss Amcare Contract

- C. Letourneau asks if N. Martin and C. Rosenquist would like to be involved in this. They confirm.

reimbursement of sales tax on purchases

- C. Letourneau reports an employee purchased something for the town and was going to be reimbursed but was charged sales tax. She asks how they want to deal with this. J. Comstock says he wants an e-mail to go out and tell departments to use cards when making purchases.

Request for department heads to meet to go over budgets again.

Debit card for the library

- S. Jenkins makes a motion to get a debit card for the library, J. Comstock seconds.
- A. Edwards says it is up to the board if they accept this or not. If they do they need to decide whose name to put on the card. It was decided to have the Library Director's name on it.
- All in favor, motion carried.

Request for Department Head to go over Budget again (Addressed during this part of the meeting)

- A. Edwards asks who wants to go again. C. Letourneau says the library.

Amazon prime - renewal \$180.00

- C. Letourneau says the library uses it more than others. T. Cadieux says he uses it. S. Jenkins asks if we have previously had it. C. Letourneau says we had it one year. D. Bergstrom says the office bundles to get free shipping. N. Martin asks if it is something we need. C. Letourneau says she does not need it currently and we can budget into next year.

B. Treasurer

- A. Edwards says \$6,600 of the Veteran's Fund went into the Administration Reserve Fund. She asks how they would like to move forward. D. Thomas asks A. Edwards what she would do. She says it could be a subsidiary of the general fund. S. Jenkins wants to make sure it does not get confused again. A. Edwards says this is part of cleaning things up. D. Bergstrom explains why it was probably put in the reserve. Discussion was had on setting up a reserve fund for the Veterans as a line item. It is decided to put it to the voters on the ballot.

C. Buildings - updates/action on attached letter

- T. Cadieux wanted to know about how to advertise for hiring the new position. N. Martin asks where we are with that. C. Letourneau says they were waiting to hear if the position was going to be changed. S. Jenkins says we need to expand how we advertise. N. Martin says they will advertise. C. Letourneau asks what they are advertising for. Discussion was had on the school plowing and contracting. N. Martin says T. Cadieux should reach out to C. Letourneau.

D. Budget and Finance

- Still working

E. Personnel

- Still working

F. Public Works/Grounds/Recreation

G. Committees at the direction of the chair

- D. Thomas says the DEI is meeting November 15 and a follow-up meeting on December 4.

11. OTHER

12. PLAN NEXT MEETING AGENDA

A. Budget Meeting 11.15.2023

B. Regular meeting 11.27.23

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION (if needed, pursuant to 1 V.S.A sec 313)

A. Incident at the Town Office

- Discussion was had about a letter from Terry and if it should be entered into Open Meeting or Executive Session.
- N. Martin says he will read the letter provided to the board in Executive Session, S. Jenkins seconds. C. Rosenquist abstains because he has not read the letter, D. Thomas, S. Jenkins, J. Comstock, and N. Martin vote yes, motion carried.
- N. Martin makes a motion for John Chagnon to meet with the board in Executive Session, J. Comstock seconds. All in favor, motion carried.
- 8:00 p.m. – C. Rosenquist makes a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters and other things where premature disclosure could put the board or members of the town at risk, J. Comstock seconds.
- C. Rosenquist invites John Chagnon and C. Letourneau into the meeting for the first item. He invites D. Bergstrom and C. Letourneau to discuss the incident at the town office.
- 9:25 motion to exit executive session by C. Rosenquist, seconded by N. Martin all in favor.
- Motion out of executive session to allow Doug and Cheryl to have access to viewing and programming the security videos and key cards. By N. Martin, seconded by C. Rosenquist. All in Favor.

14. ADJOURN

- 9:25 p.m. – D. Thomas makes a motion to adjourn the meeting, J. Comstock seconds. All in favor motion carried.

TABLED ITEMS:

Posted to the Town website, four designated places within the Town of Georgia (Town Clerk's Office, Georgia Public Library, Maplefields & Georgia Market), and e-mailed to the local media.

Signed: Cheryl Letourneau, Town Administrator

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