



GEORGIA

VERMONT

Selectboard Regular Meeting Monday, July 22, 2024 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** – Carl Rosenquist Chair, Brian Dunsmore, Kristina Senna
- **Selectboard Absent** – Devon Thomas Vice-Chair, Paul Jansen
- **Staff Present** – Lori Hobart, Dawn Penney, Doug Bergstrom
- **Staff Present Zoom** – Cheryl Letourneau
- **Public Present** – Heather Dunsmore, Carolyn Branagan
- **Public Present Zoom** – Ken Minck
- At 6:00 p.m. – C. Rosenquist called the meeting to order.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. CHAIR UPDATE

4. ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, OR CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

- C. Letourneau asked if they could talk about the fee for digging across the road and an approval of an Emergency Services Personnel application.
- K. Senna asked for those items to be added under Town Administrator business. C. Rosenquist agreed.

5. SELECTBOARD MINUTES AND WARRANTS

A. Approval of Selectboard Regular Meeting Minutes for 07.08.2024

- B. Dunsmore made a motion to approve the minutes of 07.08.2024, K. Senna seconded.
- Discussion was had on corrections that need to be made.

- B. Dunsmore made a motion to amend his motion to approve the 07.08.2024 minutes with corrections, K. Senna seconded the amendment. All in favor, amendment and motion carried.

B. Approval of Warrant #22

- K. Senna made a motion to approve Warrant #22 which includes payment to Lesley Combs, B. Dunsmore seconded.
- K. Senna began to speak about appropriation payments but decided to wait until later when it appears on the agenda.
- 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.

- C. Branagan spoke on two topics. She asked if the tax rate was going to be voted on this evening. It was confirmed the vote was to happen this evening. C. Branagan said there was no need for her to speak about that seeing it was already an agenda item. C. Branagan spoke on the local 1% option tax. She warned it may not be helpful for our town. D. Bergstrom said that he was already charged the 1% due to having a St. Albans zip code. He said he had to call and have it removed.
- C. Branagan spoke of our town having two separate voting districts, where the lines were, and which races were contested.
- K. Minck spoke of emailing L. Hobart, C. Letourneau, and the selectboard regarding the Conservation Commission Project Funds (that he called ARPA) wanting to know why they were deposited into the line-item account. L. Hobart said as she gets to know the system better, she will take care of him. It will be fixed, and he will be corrected as soon as she understands all the ramifications of making that change. K. Minck asked if we were going to set up a septate account for those funds. L. Hobart said as soon as she has more information, she will come up with a way to take care of it. K. Senna advised K. Minck that he cannot call them ARPA funds because there are no more ARPA funds available. K. Minck said he knew the name was changed but he is still calling them ARPA funds. K. Minck asked where the money had been placed for the other people that had funds given to them. K. Minck thanked L. Hobart.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. 1% Local Sales Tax

B. Personnel Policy

C. Ethics Policy

- C. Rosenquist reported that D. Thomas is currently working on a draft.

D. Bovat Road

E. Sherwood Forest 3-acre Rule

F. Town Electronic Signs

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

A. Falls Gully - revised document to sign

- C. Rosenquist signed the revised document on behalf of the board.

B. Grants in Aid - FY 25. Action signatures needed

- K. Senna made a motion for the chair to sign the Grants in Action for FY 25 and to fix the spelling of T. Cadieux's name, B. Dunsmore seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

C. Animal Control - Action to update policy

- C. Letourneau reported that the Town of Georgia can now update the Animal Control Ordinance document because the state has made changes to the classification of animals.
- B. Dunsmore requested to know why the state made these changes.
- There was a discussion on the procedure that must be followed in order to change an ordinance. It was said that changing an ordinance is a minimum 45-day procedure.

D. Tax Rate - Action to Approve the Tax Rate

- K. Senna pointed out an error in the math of the tax rate packet.
- K. Senna made a motion to approve 2.1036 as the tax rate for homestead and 2.3903 as the tax rate for non-homestead, B. Dunsmore seconded. All in favor, motion carried.
- L. Hobart reported \$134,000 refund for overpayment to the school district and they should see it next week.

E. Appropriations - Action to set a date of payment for all appropriations.

- K. Senna asked for clarity on when appropriation payments are made and to whom.
- K. Senna made a motion to pay the Historical Society appropriation when the budget is approved and pay all others in December, B. Dunsmore seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

F. Junk Ordinance Officer - Action to appoint an Officer and complete paperwork

- K. Senna made a motion to authorize the Zoning Administrator to enforce the Junk Ordinance and be the Junk Ordinance Officer, B. Dunsmore seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

10. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR, TREASURER AND SELECTBOARD SUB COMMITTEES' REPORTS

A. Town Administrator

- Dig Rate – Addition
 - K. Senna made a motion to approve the fee increase from \$1,000 to \$5,000 for digging across the road. B. Dunsmore seconded.
 - B. Dunsmore amended the motion to have half of the money reimbursed 12-months after the project is completed and the other half reimbursed 24-months after the project is finished.
 - All in favor of the motion and the amendment, amended motion carried.
- Approve Emergency Medical Service Personnel Application - Addition

- K. Senna made a motion to approve the Emergency Medical Service Personnel application for Nicole J. Marden, B. Dunsmore seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

- Human Resources

- There was discussion on the need for Human Resources services. Options that were discussed were: Fairfax employed a retired person, other companies used an online service, Gallagher-Flynn, VLCT, and the use of the town attorney. This will be brought back to the next meeting with more information.

- Mill River Rd- Bridge #28

- There was discussion on the easement that is needed to move forward. Contact will be made with property owners. This will be brought back to the next meeting.

- Pacif Grant

- C. Letourneau reported she was awarded a grant of \$2,477.13 to go toward the payment of the lockdown button and camera at the town office. The monitors for the library was not covered.

- Emergency Call List

- C. Letourneau reported D. Penney was working on this and should have something completed by next week.

- Culvert on Old Stage Rd

- C. Letourneau reported on hearing from T. Cadieux that the culvert on Old Stage Rd has started to fail due to the rain. T. Cadieux reported concrete was added as a temporary fix. C. Letourneau suggested adding this to the Hazard Mitigation Grant application she is currently working on. T. Cadieux reported the culvert may need to increase in size and an estimate of \$100,000 - \$200,000 to complete the project.

- Hazard Mitigation Grant for Highbridge and Culvert

B. Treasurer

C. Buildings

- It was cautioned to have Lesley Combs wait on beginning his work until after the Rockets Softball tournament that is happening this upcoming weekend. The hope is this work will be completed before FallFest.

D. Budget and Finance

E. Personnel

F. Public Works/Grounds/Recreation

- B. Dunsmore reported the possibility of having 3 or 4 sections of docks further out in the lake and having a walkway placed to reach out that far. It was reported the fencing is finished.
- B. Dunsmore made a motion to have a Porta-Potty placed at the Georgia Beach until the work is completed, K. Senna seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

G. Committees at the direction of the chair

11. OTHER

12. PLAN NEXT MEETING AGENDA

A. 08.12.2024

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

A. Escrow Agreement

B. American Tower - SB to decide next step

- At 7:45 p.m. – B. Dunsmore made a motion to go into Executive Session, K. Senna seconded.
- B. Dunsmore made a motion to have the Town Administrator, Zoning Administrator, and the Treasurer join them in Executive Session; K. Senna seconded. All in favor, motion carried.
- At 8:25 p.m. – K. Senna made a motion to exit Executive Session, B. Dunsmore seconded. All in favor, motion carried.
- K. Senna made a motion to have the Town Attorney negotiate a contract settlement with American Tower, B. Dunsmore seconded. All in favor, motion carried.
- B. Dunsmore made a motion for the Zoning Administrator in reference to Reno Vermont, the Escrow for driveway to get three quotes. If quotes are within 10% of each other to allow Zoning Administrator to move forward with Escrow. If the quotes are higher the Zoning administrator needs to go with the highest, K. Senna seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

14. ADJOURN

- At 8:28 p.m. – K. Senna made a motion to adjourn, B. Dunsmore seconded. 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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