



GEORGIA VERMONT

Selectboard Regular Meeting Monday, August 12, 2024, at 6:00 PM Chris Letourneau Meeting Room and via Zoom Minutes

Zoom Details:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6165843896?pwd=STduU2JzTmpiVmE1MXZSaWZWVadz09>

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, Paul Jansen, Kristina Senna
- **Selectboard Zoom** – Devon Thomas Vice-Chair (arrived 7:26 p.m.)
- **Staff Present** – Cheryl Letourneau, Lori Hobart, Dawn Penney
- **Public Present** – Ken Minck, Dan Albrecht
- **Public Zoom** – Andres Torizzo
- **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

- It was decided to add Water tanks, FY Audit, Request from Al Mosher, and Letter from Governor Scott.
- K. Senna made a motion to add these items to the agenda, B. Dunsmore seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

5. SELECTBOARD MINUTES AND WARRANTS

A. Approval of Selectboard Regular Meeting Minutes for 07.22.2024

- B. Dunsmore made a motion to approve the minutes from 07.22.2024, K. Senna seconded. All in favor, motion carried.
- K. Senna made a motion to add 07.30.2024 meeting minutes to the agenda for approval, B. Dunsmore seconded. All in favor, motion carried.
- Approval of Selectboard Regular Meeting Minutes for 07.30.2024 – Addition

- K. Senna made a motion to approve the minutes of 07.30.2024, B. Dunsmore seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

B. Approval of Warrant # 23

- The board thanked L. Hobart for the new formatting with the warrant. They said it was much easier to read and easier to understand.
- B. Dunsmore made a motion to approve Warrant # 23 for \$94,739.47, K. Senna seconded.
- L. Hobart said the Warrant should be \$450 less because Carol Ann Jones concert was cancelled due to weather. The board wanted to thank Carol Ann Jones for not charging the town. This changes the warrant amount to \$94,289.47.
- B. Dunsmore made a motion to update the warrant to \$94,289.47, K. Senna seconded. All in favor, motion carried.
- All in favor of the warrant, motion carried.

Approval of Warrant # 24 – Addition

- L. Hobart explained the second warrant was for two items; payment for Bad Horsey, the band for the concert for next week and a reimbursement to the Loomis' for permit fees that totaled \$1505.
- K. Senna made a motion to approve the warrant, P. Jansen seconded. 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.

- K. Senna wanted everyone to know the Town of Georgia employs an Assessor and they do not have any listers. She wanted everyone to know the Town of Georgia does not use drones or employ anyone who uses drones for the purpose of assessments.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

A. Emails to Selectboard Chair

- C. Rosenquist reported he received word that people liked the paving on Decker Rd.
- C. Rosenquist said he had heard from Janet Harrison who was asking about paving Carpenter Hill Rd. She reported she was informed the road was to be paved after the development was completed. He asked if there was a plan for that to be completed. No one knew.
- C. Rosenquist said he had heard from the Army Corps of Engineers. They plan to work along Sand Hill Rd in the wetlands by the power lines.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. One percent local tax

- K. Senna, B. Dunsmore, and P. Jansen decided they did not want to add any more taxes to Georgia residents. They requested this be taken off the agenda.

B. Personnel Policy

C. Ethics Policy

- It was requested to move this to the first meeting in September.

D. Bovat Rd

- It was requested to take this off the agenda.

E. Sherwood Forest 3-Acre Rule

- C. Rosenquist said he has a meeting set up for Wednesday at the town office with C. Letourneau, Doug Bergstrom.

F. Town Electric Signs

- C. Rosenquist said he was waiting to hear from D. Bergstrom about quotes. It has been decided to keep this on the agenda and it will later be delegated to the budget committee.

G. Brick School House – upgrades

- C. Rosenquist said the Historical Society came to the board informing them of work that they would like to see done. They will be working on a way to fundraise.

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

A. Dan Albrecht - Action to approve - Hiring of Watershed Consulting Associates

- Action to approve receipt of Construction Grant from Northern Lake Champlain Clean Water Service
- Action to approve permit to operate a motor vehicle on Falls Road Trail
- Falls Road Trail Project Agreement
 - D. Albrecht explained this to the board.
 - K. Senna made a motion to approve the receipt of Construction Grant from Northern Lake Champlain Clean Water Service in the amount of \$57,000, B. Densmore seconded. All in favor, motion carried.
 - K. Senna made a motion to hire Watershed Consulting Associates in the amount of no more than \$15,000, B. Dunsmore seconded. All in favor, motion carried.
 - K. Senna made a motion to approve the use of motorized vehicles on Falls Rd trail to complete the work on the Falls Rd trail gully repair stormwater improvements on a temporary basis until the completion of the project, B. Dunsmore seconded. All in favor, motion carried.
 - K. Senna made a motion to have the chair sign the Falls Rd Trail agreement, B. Dunsmore seconded. All in favor, motion carried.
 - The board thanked Dan Albrecht and Andres Torizzo for attending the meeting. They also thanked Ken Minck for all his work.

B. School refund money - discussion on usage

- L. Hobart said the town received the money that was due from the school in the amount of \$134,588.19. K. Senna asked if they were getting interest from the money. It is believed the school was notified of the money being owed to the town in April. L. Hobart asked the board where they wanted the money for them to keep track of it. K. Senna suggested putting it in the 'project fund' and adding a note. The board agreed.

C. Georgia Highbridge - Bridge #10

- P. Jansen reported he spoke to Tyler. Tyler said there may not be as much funding available this year because of all the flooding the state has seen. He also spoke of a potential to save \$40,000 during this repair if the bridge could potentially be fully shut down for 2-4 weeks versus having to keep one lane open. K. Senna asked for the work to be completed outside of the school calendar. C. Rosenquist suggested having a meeting with the people affected.

D. Pre-buy propane for Library

- B. Dunsmore made a motion to prebuy propane for the library at \$3,741.10, P. Jansen seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

E. Winter Salt and Sand – discussion

- B. Dunsmore said we have Harrison Concrete located here in town. He will investigate the costs that we are currently paying for sand and compare it to Harrison.

F. Old Stage Rd Culvert - possible purchase

- Discussion was had on the culvert on Old Stage Rd and future repair. It is temporarily fixed and there are discussions happening about practical solutions. This will come back again.

G. Mill River Rd and Highbridge update

- P. Jansen spoke with Tyler Billingsley regarding Bridge #28 and Tyler said it will be \$1,000,000 for the bridge work. We have paid him \$25,000 and will give him another \$25,000 before the end of the year. L. Hobart is working on an anticipation note of \$50,000. A meeting is being set up with Babcock's, Pipe, and Tyler regarding easements needed for construction.

H. Hazard Communications DRAFT Policy - review and discuss

- There was a discussion on the draft policy of the Hazard Communication. There was discussion on what are the requirements and potentially have an overarching policy and what the OSHA requirements are.
- It was suggested to bring this to the executive session.

I. Cemetery Sign - Acton to approve cost sharing with Fairfax

- K. Senna made a motion to approve the cost sharing for a sign with Fairfax, P. Jansen seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

J. ERAF Payment - Signature needed.

- ERAF money that was not received for Bovat Rd repair in 2019. FEMA will send us \$19,834.24.
- K. Senna made a motion to have C. Rosenquist sign the letter for the ERAF payment, P. Jansen seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

K. FY 23 Audit – Addition

- D. Thomas joined the meeting at this point.
- K. Senna said there was a concern about checks issued in the month of January 2023 which were dated December 31, 2022. K. Senna reported there were two options. It was the suggestion of the budget committee to take the qualified opinion option.

- B. Dunsmore made a motion to take the finance committees' suggestion, C. Rosenquist seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

L. Request from Al Mosher – Addition

- C. Letourneau reported Al Mosher has requested a sign to make traffic aware of his driveway on Cline Rd.
- D. Thomas made a motion to approve the sign; P. Jansen seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

M. Water Tanks – Addition

- T. Cadieux wanted to know if we could send water tanks to the auction in Swanton.
- K. Senna made a motion to allow the road commission to send the two tanks to the action, P. Jansen seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

N. Letter from Governor Phil Scott – Addition

- C. Letourneau reported Governor Scott would like us to sign an agreement resolution for the 250-year anniversary of Vermont and plan activities around that. C. Letourneau will send it to the board.

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

A. Town Administrator

- Philo update on install for Library and Town Office
 - C. Letourneau said Philo has finished all the work, everything is working, and everyone is happy.
- AED, CPR and Stop the Bleed training.
 - C. Letourneau said she spoke with Fairfax Rescue, and they will be coming to the Georgia library on August 19 to train the staff with AED, CPR, and stop bleeding.
 - The town office will close from 9:15 a.m.– 2:15 p.m. for this training.
- HR
 - C. Letourneau said she has been trying to touch base with Mary Lee who does Human Resources, they have had trouble because she was out of town on vacation. C. Letourneau will update the board.

Animal Ordinance - response from Steve Collier - Agency of Agriculture.

- The Agency of Agriculture is on board with the state's new policy. There is a plan to update our ordinance to comply with the state.
- D. Thomas said he is happy to help with this.

Pavement Damage

- Todd informed the TA that Whitcomb did damage to Sodom Rd. when they were drawing materials for paving, but they have fixed it. Everything is all set.

Sherwood Forest meeting with residents and Dave Rugh

- C. Rosenquist, C. Letourneau, and Dave Rugh met with two homeowners from Sherwood Forest regarding the stormwater. Discussion was had regarding what

needs to happen. The first being Sherwood Forest needs to put together an HOA before moving forward.

Fire Dept. Kiosk for payroll – update.

- This was moved to the Executive Session.

Water in the Garage

- The board was made aware of water found in the garage on the floor. It only happened once. T. Cadieux would like to investigate getting alarms for all the buildings.

FCSD- Monthly update and report

- There will be monthly reports moving forward. There was no report yet as they only began patrolling in mid-July.

B. Treasurer

Taxes

- L. Hobart reported getting the tax bills done and out.

C. Buildings

D. Budget and Finance

E. Personnel

- D. Thomas said he sent the board a draft of his final edits. It is requested that it be pushed two meetings out, when everyone will be present.

F. Public Works/Grounds/Recreation

- Beach progress
 - B. Dunsmore reported that one bathroom has been started and then he will begin on the second.
- Beach Survey - Documents are being reviewed and fieldwork is being scheduled.
 - C. Letourneau said they were hoping to be doing it this week.
- Dock Discussion
 - Discussion was had, P. Jansen and B. Dunsmore will visit the beach again and see if they can produce a solution.

G. Committees at the direction of the chair

11. OTHER

12. PLAN NEXT MEETING AGENDA

A. 08.26.2024

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

A. American Tower – update

- At 7:53 p.m. - K. Senna made a motion to go into Executive Session, B. Dunsmore seconded.

- K. Senna made a motion to have the town administrator join the board in the Executive Session. All in favor, motion carried.
- At **8:30 p.m.** – K. Senna made a motion to exit Executive Session, B. Dunsmore seconded. All in favor, motion carried.
- It is noted there were no motions out of Executive Session.

14. ADJOURN

- At **8:31 p.m.** – P. Jansen made a motion to adjourn the meeting, K. Senna 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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