



GEORGIA VERMONT

Selectboard Regular Meeting Monday, February 26, 2024 @ 6:00 p.m. Chris Letourneau Meeting Room and via Zoom Minutes

Zoom Details:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6165843896?pwd=STduU2JzTmпиVmE1MXZSaWZWLzVadz09>

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, Shannon Jenkins Vice-Chair, Jamie Comstock, Carl Rosenquist, Nicholas Martin
- **Staff Present** – Cheryl Letourneau, April Edwards, Dawn Penney
- **Public Present** – Suzanna Brown, Kim Asch, Karen Lehr, Carolyn Branagan, Terry Cleveland, Robert Giroux, Heather Dunsmore, Bridget Stone, Sara Nye-Vester, Marty Jansen, Heather Grimm, Fred Grimm, Malcolm Baker, Sue Baker, Emily Johnson, Mary Chiapinelli
- **Public Zoom** – Jana Thuesen, Todd Cadieux, Sue Webster
- At **5:57 p.m.** – D. Thomas called the meeting to order.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. CHAIR UPDATE

- D. Thomas said this is the last meeting of this board.

4. ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, OR CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

- C. Rosenquist made a motion to add an elevator discussion, N. Martin seconded. All in favor, motion carried. It is decided to add it to the agenda as item I.
- C. Rosenquist made a motion to postpone Ethics and DEI. This motion was not seconded and failed on the floor. It is noted that Ethics is just a discussion.

5. SELECTBOARD MINUTES AND WARRANTS

- A. Approval of Selectboard Regular Meeting Minutes for 02.12.2024, 01.17.2024

- 32 • C. Rosenquist made a motion to approve 02.12.2024 minutes with corrections, N.
33 Martin seconded. All in favor, motion carried.
- 34 • C. Rosenquist made a motion to approve 01.17.2024 with corrections, J. Comstock
35 seconded. It is determined they are addressing the second set of draft minutes with
36 lines 102-127 removed.
- 37 • C. Rosenquist removed his motion to determine the motion out of executive session. It
38 was decided to bring the minutes back at the next meeting.

39 B. Approval of Warrants #4, #5 and payroll warrants

- 40 • C. Rosenquist made a motion to approve Warrant #4, S. Jenkins seconded. All in
41 favor, motion carried.
- 42 • N. Martin made a motion to approve Warrant #5, S. Jenkins seconded. Discussion was
43 had. All in favor, motion carried.
- 44 • C. Rosenquist made a motion to approve payroll, J. Comstock seconded. All in favor,
45 motion carried.
- 46 • C. Rosenquist made a motion to add the hire to the public works department out of
47 Executive Session to the 01.17.2024 meeting minutes, N. Martin seconded. All in
48 favor, motion carried.
- 49 • N. Martin made a motion to approve the 01.17.2024 revised minutes with the
50 corrections J. Comstock seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

51 **6. PUBLIC COMMENT (For items not on agenda)**

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

- 54 • C. Branagan asked the board what they want her for 02.28.2024. Discussion was had
55 on running the meeting, zooming in, and the date of the school informational meeting.
- 56 • C. Branagan asked about a meeting with the board before the town meeting.
57 Discussion was had. C. Rosenquist recommended meeting with C. Branagan at 9:00
58 a.m. before the town meeting. It is determined that meeting is to be warned.

59 **7. CORRESPONDENCE**

60 **8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

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

62 A. Library Grant - discussion on how to use the grant and action item to sign support letter
63 for grant.

- 64 • B. Stone presented saying she met with D. Thomas and S. Jenkins and had another
65 meeting with T. Cadieux and S. Brown earlier that day. She requested a letter
66 saying the library will remain there until 2031. C. Letourneau said there was a
67 letter from legal included in the packet. There was a discussion about plans if
68 awarded \$300,000 grant and how they would change if awarded \$1.4 million. It
69 was reported that the Waite's came and met with the library from an engineering
70 point of view and their input, and everyone was thankful for that.
- 71 • A. Edwards asked for a copy of the grant application to be sent to her, it was
72 confirmed they will. B. Stone said the grants are awarded this spring.

- 73 • S. Jenkins made a motion to commit a letter of support to the library, J. Comstock
74 seconded. All in favor, motion carried. N. Martin said he would draft the letter.
75 Discussion was had on getting a letter from legal and recording it in the land
76 records.
- 77 B. Sara Nye Vester - animal nuisance
- 78 • S. Nye-Vester said the cows next to her are a public nuisance and a safety issue.
79 They stop at her house and destroy her property. There is a fence that had been left
80 unfixed for months where the cows would escape from. After the State Police got
81 involved, the fence was fixed. S. Nye-Vester showed pictures. Discussion was
82 had on the language of livestock in town ordinance, what is covered in state
83 ordinance and the ability to impose a fine. Discussion was had on safety and
84 people almost hitting the cows that are loose on the road.
- 85 • C. Rosenquist made a motion to have a letter drafted to J. Boissoneault, N. Martin
86 seconded. All in favor, motion carried. N. Martin said he will draft the letter.
- 87 C. Ethics Policy – Discussion
- 88 • C. Rosenquist said he wanted to merge the document from the community and
89 recommendations from legal.
- 90 • D. Thomas said he would be happy to take this on moving forward.
- 91 • Discussion was had on full-time and part-time jobs, elected and appointed
92 positions and how many people would be affected. It was also brought up who
93 would track this and who would alert the selectboard.
- 94 • Discussion was had on the compatibility of offices.
- 95 • Discussion was had on how to move forward with ethics.
- 96 D. Town Meeting preparation - Go over what to expect at Town meeting.
- 97 • C. Letourneau said she sent out an email containing information and expectations
98 of the selectboard for town meeting.
- 99 • Discussion was had on who will be on stage, who will speak, and defend the
100 budget.
- 101 E. DEI Committee - Action decide how to create a DEI committee.
- 102 • D. Thomas said he recognizes that the charge has been different for each
103 committee. Discussion was had on how this will work moving forward.
- 104 • D. Thomas wants to ask the new board how they feel about this.
- 105 F. Job Descriptions
- 106 • Discussion was had on how long it has taken to complete this, the importance of
107 wording, and the importance of their accuracy.
- 108 G. Local Contractors
- 109 • C. Letourneau said they were presented with a letter by T. Cadieux asking local
110 contractors about their equipment and cost in case of emergencies.
- 111 • C. Rosenquist made a motion to approve T. Cadieux to send the local contractor
112 letter, J. Comstock seconded. All in favor, motion carried.
- 113 H. The Associated General Contractors of VT - to approve and sign.

- 114 • N. Martin made a motion to approve membership to the Associated General
 115 Contractors of Vermont at a cost of \$300, C. Rosenquist seconded. All in favor, motion
 116 carried.
- 117 I. Elevator – Addition
- 118 • C. Rosenquist made a motion to authorize the chair to sign renewal contract the letter,
 119 N. Martin seconded. All in favor, motion carried.
- 120 **10. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR, TREASURER AND SELECTBOARD SUB-**
 121 **COMMITTEES' REPORTS**
- 122 A. Town Administrator
- 123 B. Treasurer
- 124 • A. Edwards recommended looking at the information she sent to them in preparation of
 125 the town meeting. She asked if there was anything they had questions on. Discussion
 126 was had.
- 127 • Discussion was had on the Audit, saying that Audit represented 2022 and had nothing
 128 to do with A. Edwards.
- 129 C. Buildings
- 130 D. Budget and Finance
- 131 E. Personnel
- 132 F. Public Works/Grounds/Recreation
- 133 GCEC update
- 134 • C. Letourneau said they will have a May 18 Memorial Day Parade and Concerts on
 135 the Green. She said they are still welcoming help.
- 136 G. Committees at the direction of the chair
- 137 **11. OTHER**
- 138 **12. PLAN NEXT MEETING AGENDA**
- 139 A. 02/28/2024
- 140 **13. EXECUTIVE SESSION (if needed, pursuant to 1 V.S.A sec 313)**
- 141 • At **8:39 p.m.** - C. Rosenquist made a motion to go into Executive Session where
 142 premature disclosure could put the town or people at risk, J. Comstock seconded.
 143 All in favor, motion carried.
- 144 • At **8:40 p.m.** - C. Rosenquist made a motion to invite the board and C. Letourneau
 145 to Executive Session, S. Jenkins seconded. All in favor, motion carried.
- 146 A. EMS Contract
- 147 B. Payroll - union
- 148 C. Fairfax request
- 149 D. Personnel - Fire Dept.

- 150 • At **9:30 p.m.** - N. Martin made a motion to exit executive session; C. Rosenquist
151 seconded. All in favor, motion carried.
152 • It is noted there were no motions out of executive session.

153 **14. ADJOURN**

- 154 • At **9:30 p.m.** – N. Martin made a motion to adjourn, S. Jenkins seconded. All in favor,
155 motion carried.

156 **TABLED ITEMS:**

157
158 **Posted to the Town website, four designated places within the Town of Georgia (Town Clerk’s**
159 **Office, Georgia Public Library, Maplefields & Georgia Market), and e-mailed to the local**
160 **media.**

161 **Signed: Cheryl Letourneau, Town Administrator**

162 **Phone: 802-524-3524 | Fax: 802-524-3543 | Website: townofgeorgia.com**