

**Georgia Selectboard Meeting**  
**Monday, November 9, 2015**  
**7:00 p.m.**

**Approved:** November 23, 2015

**Present:** Selectboard: Chris Letourneau; Matt Crawford; Tara Wright; Ric Nye, Paul Jansen, Mike McCarthy, Town Administrator; Amber Baker, Treasurer

**Absent:** None

**Public Present:** Library Trustees: Dan Walters, Gary Diezel, Jessica Denton and James Allen; Kent Henderson and Nancy Volatile-Wood; Abbey Ledoux, Milton Independent.

Chris Letourneau, Chair, opened the meeting at 6:08 p.m.

Motion to go into Executive Session at 6:00 p.m., with Mike McCarthy and Amber Baker, is requested at this time to discuss Contracts, labor relations agreements with employees, Arbitration or mediation, grievances, other than tax, pending or probable litigation, or confidential attorney-client communications made for the purpose of providing professional legal services to the Town of Georgia involving the Town, specifically finding that premature general public knowledge of the subject matter would clearly place the Town at a substantial disadvantage, made by Paul, second by Matt. No further discussion. All in favor.

Mike left Executive Session at 6:30 p.m.

Amber left Executive Session at 6:55 p.m.

Motion to come out of Executive Session made at 7:05 p.m. by Matt, second by Paul. No further discussion. All in favor.

Chris Letourneau, Chair, opened the regular meeting at 7:08 p.m.

Mike McCarthy added the following to the Agenda:

a). Check Warrant AP #92 to SD Ireland in the amount of \$196,579.41. This is for paving for 2015.

**Review of Minutes:**

Minutes of the October 26, 2015, regular meeting were reviewed and discussed. Motion made to approve the 10/26/15 regular meeting, with changes discussed, made by Matt, second by Ric. No further discussion. All in favor.

Minutes of the November 2, 2015, special meeting were reviewed and discussed. Motion made to approve the 11/2/15 special meeting, as presented, made by Matt, second by Paul. No further discussion. All in favor.

**Review of Warrants:**

Motion to approve Check Warrant Report PR #43 for period end 10/29/15; Check Warrant Report PR #44 for period end 11/03/15; Check Warrant Report AP #89 for transfers to Citizens Bank, VMERS DB and VT Dept. of Taxes; and Check Warrant AP #90 for a transfer to Citizens Bank, made by Paul, second by Matt. No further discussion. All in favor.

Motion to approve Check Warrant Report AP #92 for SD Ireland in the amount of \$196,579.41, made by Tara, second by Matt. No further discussion. All in favor.

Motion to approve Check Warrant Report AP #91 for the general fund, made by Matt, second by Paul. No further discussion. All in favor.

**Selectboard Concerns:**

a). Ric has asked to make a motion on the floor regarding the previous meeting motion made at the 11/9/15 meeting. Ric would like to make the following motion:

Motion made to rescind the motion that was adopted and acted upon at the November 2, 2015 meeting, regarding employee's health insurance and all components mentioned, made by Ric, second by Matt. No further discussion. All in favor.

b). Matt made the following motion:

Motion made that effective January 1, 2106, for the year 2016, the Town of Georgia will pay up to the following amounts for Town employees to purchase health insurance for the following categories:

Single Person	\$ 544.69
Two Person	\$1,089.38
Adult & Child(ren)	\$1,051.25
Family	\$1,530.58

Also that beginning January 1, 2016, the Town of Georgia will limit its contribution to the Health Reimbursement arrangement to \$1,000 per qualified insurance policy.

Also that effective December 1, 2105, for any new eligible employees hired after December 1, 2015, the Town will provide \$2,500 cash-in-lieu of insurance if the employee opts to not use the Town Health insurance offering. Current employees are grandfathered at their existing rates. Motion made by Matt, second by Paul. Paul, Matt and Chris in favor, Tara and Ric opposed, motion carries. No further discussion.

**Unfinished Business Report:**

a). Boiler at the Library. Inspection follow up. Valve has been relocated and insurance company advised, issue resolved. Project is complete.

b). Hiring process for Planning Coordinator. We received few applicants for this position and feel that it is appropriate to re-advertise for the position to see if we can get a broader base of candidates. It is the general consensus of the Selectboard for Mike to move forward with advertising the position further.

c). Intersection work, Georgia Shore Rd. and Cline Rd. Design concept from engineer. Color photos and sign placement suggestions included in packet. After a brief discussion, the Selectboard would like to cost this out and get it done with the 2016 budget.

d). Archaeology dig at Deer Brook easement off VT 104A. Update only. The last information that we have from Dr. Knight is that they are going to continue their work and provide a report to Mr. Bryce by January. There is nothing going to move until then. It is baffling to the Selectboard that Town, as a landowner, is not notified of anything found.

**New Business:**

a). American Tower: Notice of consent to sublease of Ground Lease 52491 and subsequent leaseback of a portion of Site 100578. Stitzel has reviewed legally and advises this is fine to sign for American Tower at this time.

Motion made to have the Selectboard Chair, sign on behalf of the Selectboard, the Notice to Consent to Sub-lease, made by Paul, second by Ric. No further discussion. All in favor.

**Administrator's Correspondences and Tasks:**

a). Brook Field Services – 2016 Preventative Maintenance Agreement, for review for 2016 budget.

b). Town Recreation Area summary e-mail from Kerry Burke.

**Treasurer's Correspondence:**

a). Town Employee Accrued Time Report through November 2, 2015.

b). General Ledger Checking Account Balance Worksheet – as of October 15, 2015.

c). Town of Georgia Legal Expenses through September 30, 2015.

**General Correspondence:**

a). Town of Georgia Fire Department – meeting agenda for November 5, 2015.

b). Northwest Solid Waste District – Executive Committee meeting minutes from September 2, 105, Board meeting minutes from October 7, 2015 and Agenda for November 4, 2015 meeting.

c). Stitzel, Page & Fletcher, September 2015 statement.

**State of Vermont Correspondence:**

None

**Brochures, Newsletters, Workshops, and Advertisements:**

None

**Items for Signature:**

a). Notice of Consent for American Tower as referenced in new business.

**Legal Correspondence:**

None

**Confidential / Executive Session Items:**

a). Attorney/Client Communications, Contracts, Personnel.

## **Public Appearance:**

### **Dan Walters, Gary Deziel, Jessica Denton and James Allen, Library Trustees.**

The Library Trustees are here to go over their requested 2016 budget. Gary presented the 2016 Proposed Budget. The bottom line is \$87,679. This is an increase of \$12,600 over last fiscal year. Payroll is a bigger increase compared to operations but the first thing that you will see is that percentage wise it is something that perhaps is unusual; it is not a 2% increase but a 16.9% increase. Payroll is increasing because we feel that we know that we are way below market on wages. So for instance a new ad from Fairfax is \$14.57 an hour and we are starting at \$11.00 an hour. We lost an employee this summer to St. Albans, \$16/per hour. We have a wage problem and it is not something we can fix in one year, so this is the first year in over a period of four or five years where we have to look payroll more carefully.

If you look at the past four years our average increase is 1.1%; since 2012 we have increased the budget just a little over \$3,000. This represents about 4.7% of the total Town budget. The Library Trustees feel very strongly that they are making the right move in asking for this kind of increase.

The Selectboard and the Library Trustees had a general discussion regarding some of the programs that the Library currently offers and how they would like to expand those programs. The Selectboard will place this in the budget file for discussion at a later date. The Selectboard thanked the Library Trustees for coming in.

### **Kent Henderson and Nancy Volatile-Wood, Conservation Commission.**

Kent and Nancy are here to discuss the Conservation Commissions 2016 proposed budget.

Kent went over his proposed 2016 budget. They are requesting \$2300 in line items (raised by taxes), anticipated general fund \$8,300 (derived from Cell Tower income) and reserve fund of \$15,000 (raised by taxes). Kent went over a few of the programs that were funded by the line item. Line item in 2015 was \$2000 and the reserve fund was funded \$12,000 in 2015, the Conservation asked for \$14,000, but the Selectboard only funded it for \$12,000. The general fund is revenue from the Cell Tower lease that is given to the Conservation Commission. Essentially the requests from the tax based funds have increased by \$1,300. Which is a \$300 increase in our request for line items and a \$1,000 increase in our request for the Conservation Reserve Fund.

Paul told Kent that in full disclosure on the reserve fund, it is very likely that there will be an article on the ballot for Town Meeting Day, to cap the reserve fund. We believe that you have about \$172,000 in the fund. This means that we would allow it to grow to a certain level (we don't know what that number is), and then beyond that, to get more input from the people of Georgia who are paying taxes. Paul has heard from a few people that it was not the intent to create a piggy bank for the Conservation Commission on tax dollars. We are not sure exactly what that will look like, but we wanted to make sure you understood that something in some sort of fashion will be on the ballot for Town Meeting Day. Kent stated, "I really thank you for giving me and the Commission for giving us that information. Now that we know that, we can do our best to let the population know how the money is being spent and what the future needs can be."

Kent has done some work regarding the parking lot. He has spoken to a general contractor and the cost to have a contractor come in and do the work would be about \$10,000, between the hauling and materials and labor. Bryce has offered his equipment to help clear for the parking lot, the Conservation would just be responsible for the materials used.

There are a few grants that Kent is researching to apply to for the parking lot construction for the Russell Greene Natural Area. Kent will continue with his research.

The Selectboard is committed to getting a curb cut for the Natural Area, the Selectboard is as committed as the Conservation to get this parking lot.

Kent, Nancy and the Selectboard had a general discussion regarding some of the Conservation projects and the archaeological dig that is happening on the Bryce Property. The Selectboard thanked Kent and Nancy for coming in.

Motion to go into Executive Session at 8:30 p.m., is requested at this time to discuss Contracts, labor relations agreements with employees, Arbitration or mediation, grievances, other than tax, pending or probable litigation, or confidential attorney-client communications made for the purpose of providing professional legal services to the Town of Georgia involving the Town, specifically finding that premature general public knowledge of the subject matter would clearly place the Town at a substantial disadvantage, made by Paul, second by Matt. No further discussion. All in favor.

Motion to come out of Executive Session made at 9:20 p.m. by Matt, second by Paul. No further discussion. All in favor.

No action out of Executive Session.

Motion to adjourn at 9:25 p.m. made by Matt, second by Paul. No further discussion. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted by Krissy Jenkins

Monday, November 23, 2015, next regular meeting @ 7:00 p.m.