

Georgia Selectboard Meeting
Monday, July 25, 2016
6:00 p.m.

Approved: August 8, 2016

Present: Selectboard: Chris Letourneau; Matt Crawford; Ric Nye; Tara Wright; and Mike McCarthy, Town Administrator

Absent: Paul Jansen

Public Present: Abby Ledoux, Milton Independent; Dan Walters, Narda Carlson & Becky White, Library Trustees; Justin Holmes; Julie Patterson, Roger & Lucy Parent; Cindi & Jim Cota; Matt Nolin, Andrea Milne, Eric & Erin Stebbins; Jennifer Parent; Patrick King; Maurice Lamotte, VSP.

Chris Letourneau, Chair, opened the budget meeting at 6:00 p.m.

The Board had a general discussion regarding the 2016 budget and the status.

Motion to go into Executive Session at 6:30 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 Matt, second by Ric. No further discussion. All in favor.

Motion to come out of Executive Session made at 7:00 p.m. by Tara, second by Matt. No further discussion. All in favor.

No action out of Executive Session.

Mike McCarthy added the following to the agenda:

1. The Selectboard needs to review and authorize to sign the High Risk Rural Roads Agreement proposed by VT AOT for maintenance work on Skunk Hill Road. This includes removal of old signs and installation of new, removal of existing guardrails and installation of new guardrails, and installation of new pavement markings. 100% State and Federal funds used. They need the Town's authorization to work in our right of way.

Ric states that they should fill out a permit to work in the right of way. If everything is staying the same and it's just new, Ric doesn't have an issue with it. Mike states that it did not say anything new just replacing what exist with new signs.

Motion made to approve of the High Risk Rural Roads Agreement with VT AOT, with the Town Administrator signing on behalf of the Selectboard, made by Ric, second by Matt. No further discussion. All in favor.

Public Appearance:

Dan Walters, Becky White and Narda Carlson, Library Trustees. The Trustees are here to update the Selectboard with the current staff changes at the Library. The Children's Librarian and Asst. Librarian Maureen Badger is gone and then Sue Webster, our long time Librarian resigned effective July 29, 2016. We wanted to

bring the Selectboard up to speed on what we are doing about this situation and asking for some help where we need help.

We have job search underway; Narda is spear heading. We have interviews lined up this week. We had a discussion with Matt and in our next open meeting after that, we decided to make the Director position an interim position, meaning we want to be able to take the time to find the right fit, but we also know that with Sue leaving on Friday, the sooner we can get someone in there with the experience to handle Director type duties to fit our needs, the better. Our goal is to get to Town Meeting Day to have a revised budget that will take into account several different factors around our salary structure.

The other thing that we have done is we have set up coverage using our temporary worker. We are going to increase the hours of our current assistant librarian that we have. We are covered for August. We have a little bit of a hole on Wednesday's that we will need to fill. We are also going to close the Library on Friday afternoon's at 3:00 instead of 5:00, except for the one day the Lego Club meets. This is just to get us through the month of August, until the interim is hired.

Once the interim is hired, the board is going to suggest that we cut the Library hours by five hours a week somewhere in the staffing picture. What that will allow us to do is re-distribute the remaining salary money among the workers at the Library so that we can have a couple of increases and make the interim director position more attractive as a hire. Without changing the budget overall, that is our goal.

Where we need help is with the severance pay that has already been paid out and will be paid out. We have about a \$3,100 shortfall because of the accrued time paid out. We are asking the Selectboard to do what can be done to transfer funds from the Town Budget into the Library Budget.

There was a general discussion regarding funding of lines in the budget for accrued time. The Selectboard funds 50% of this in their budget, but the Library did not fund any accrued time. Moving forward, their budget is going to go up because that will be accounted for. We would like to move some additional monies into the budget for next year. Currently our staffing is not structured to have any employees with benefits and we want to keep it that way. If that situation should arise, we would want that benefits money in the Library budget so we are aware of it.

The Trustees are also looking for a little more support for the 2017 budget. They would really like to restructure their budget. They would like to equalize pay for the region. This freaked everyone out when the Librarians were leaving, but it could be a great opportunity to make some changes and get some people in who are excited and want to really own some of the programming, etc. The Selectboard thanked the Trustees for coming in and keeping them up to date. Mike will get back to the Board regarding the funding they are looking for help with in their budget.

Lucy & Roger Parent. We are here to discuss the Pattee Hill Rd. I have spoken with Ric a couple of times and he did put up signs, which was very nice. Lucy wrote some notes because she wants to make a few valid points regarding the "S" curves on Pattee Hill Rd.

With the population growing and everyone is more on the move these days that the traffic has really increased on the road. Now there are a lot of families that walk on the road, run, pushing baby strollers and the traffic is back and forth with a lot of kids in cars. There is a lot of traffic on this road and the curves are pretty dangerous. Our concern is that the curves are not wide enough, the ditches are deep and it is impossible in many places to meet a car, let alone a garbage truck. Lucy met a big log truck one day coming up the big hill and it pretty dangerous. The curbs are blinding and dangerous. Lucy is asking the town for major improvements on the curves especially.

Over the years Roger has pulled out countless cars out of ditches and snow banks. Especially the second curve as you can see where the tree is damaged from people hitting the tree. Recently our daughter-in-law and grandkids were almost killed on that corner with a head on collision and I decided that I couldn't let this go any longer. If this were any of your children you would have the same concern that we have. We are looking for the Selectboard to use some money to fix this road before something tragic happens.

There was a general discussion regarding the "S" curves. Jennifer Parent gave her account of the incident that almost took place with her. Eric Stebbins also gave his account of an accident that he had to avoid as well.

It is the general consensus of the Selectboard to have an Engineer from VT Agency of Transportation (AOT) to take a look at the road and see what they suggest we can do to fix the site distance, etc. Mike will get back with the Parent's once we find more information out regarding Pattee Hill Rd.

Pat King, Fire Department. Pat is here on behalf of the Fire Department Officers to present three quotes that the Fire Department got to purchase the air packs that the Selectboard approved in the amount of \$135,000 loan.

Pat states that they had all three companies bring their equipment and had the membership try all three of them out. The consensus was that they liked and wanted to go with MSA out of Barre, VT. Pat stated that we would buy 12 air packs and a compressor out of this money and that they would purchase an additional 2 air packs using impact fee money.

After a general discussion regarding the air packs, it is the general consensus of the Selectboard for the Fire Department to purchase the 14 air packs through MSA using the full \$135,000, if the price goes over the \$135,000 the Fire Department will cover the rest with impact fee money. The Selectboard thanked Pat and the Fire Department for their due diligence.

Lt. Maurice Lamotte, VT State Police. Lt. Lamotte just stopped in to check in with the Selectboard to see how it was going and if there was anything they would like to discuss. The Selectboard had a general discussion with Lt. Lamotte regarding the speed that cars seem to be going lately and thanked him for checking in.

Review of Minutes:

Minutes of the July 11, 2016, regular meeting were reviewed and discussed. Motion made to approve the 7/11/16 regular meeting, as presented, made by Tara, second by Ric. No further discussion. Matt Crawford recused himself, all others in favor

Review of Warrants:

Motion to approve Check Warrant Report PR #28 for period end 7/14/16; Check Warrant Report PR #29 for period end 7/21/16; Check Warrant Report AP #49 for payroll transfers to Citizens Bank and VMERS DB; and Check Warrant Report AP #50 for payroll transfers to Citizens Bank and James & Alma Gallagher, made by Matt, second by Ric. No further discussion. All in favor.

Motion to approve Check Warrant Report AP #51, for the general fund, made by Matt, second by Tara. No further discussion. All in favor.

Selectboard Concerns:

1. Matt was talking with Rob Halpert regarding the confidentiality agreement. Does the Selectboard want one that covers all town employees and a re-write for the Fire Department or if it is one with a provision for the Fire

Department and First Response. Rob expects a draft probably by the next meeting. It is the general consensus of the Selectboard that they think it should be two because a lot of the things that the office sees is public record anyway.

Unfinished Business Report:

1. Library, beach pavilion and 1891 schoolhouse renovations update. Mike states that the contract for library work has been signed; he also has a key to the Library and expects to go down when it is closed to finish the work. The beach pavilion doesn't have a contract yet, he has gone down and taken a look and just hasn't gotten me the contract. The renovations work at the Historical Building (1891 Schoolhouse) has been started as well. These projects are well under way.

New Business:

1. Library book drop damaged over the weekend. The Highway Department went over and fixed the drop box to the best of their ability. It wasn't permanently damaged, just dented.

Action Items:

1. Authorize the Town Administrator to sign Reservation of Rights Letter for VLCT/PACIF. This just authorizes VLCT/PACIF to pay for legal representation in the Federal Lawsuit. VLCT/PACIF have assigned Attorney Jim Carroll.

Motion made to approve of the Reservation of Rights Letter for VLCT/PACIF, and to have the Town Administrator sign on behalf of the Selectboard, made by Tara, second by Ric. No further discussion. All in favor.

2. Authorize Krissy Jenkins to be acting Town Administrator for July 30, 2016 – August 14, 2016, while Mike McCarthy is on vacation for two weeks.

It is the general consensus of the Selectboard to have Krissy Jenkins be acting Town Administrator for July 30, 2016 – August 14, 2016.

3. Update from Fire Department. Discussion and vote on loan for Fire Department Air Packs. Please see the public appearance of Pat King for this discussion.

Administrator's Correspondences and Tasks:

1. Report of PACIF on-site inspection on July 20, 2016. Mike states that there were no defaults. VLCT will forward a report to the Town documenting this inspection.

Treasurer's Correspondence:

None

General Correspondence:

1. Georgia Conservation Commission minutes from special meeting of July 13, 2016.

2. Georgia Library Trustees meeting minutes from July 18, 2016.

State of Vermont Correspondence:

1. Department of Environmental Conservation. Notice of Alleged Violation at Town Recreation Area. Rules for reporting changed from quarterly to monthly. Chevaliers were not aware of this so we were in violation for May. One of the requirements to correct violation is to give public notice; using Public Access TV is an acceptable method.

Brochures, Newsletters, Workshops, and Advertisements:

None

Items for Signature:

None

Legal Correspondence:

None

Confidential / Executive Session Items:

1. Legal.

2. Personnel.

Motion to adjourn at 8:35 p.m. made by Tara, second by Ric. No further discussion. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted by Krissy Jenkins.

Monday, August 8, 2016, Regular Meeting at 7:00 p.m.