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Georgia Selectboard Regular Meeting
Chris Letourneau Meeting Room & via Zoom
Monday, May 9, 2022
7:00 p.m.

Approved: Approved

Unapproved Minutes are subject to revision and corrections from the town of Georgia Selectboard Members. The contents herein represent the notes and recollections of the Selectboard Clerk, Town Administrator, and representatives, and may not have captured the true intent of all statements made by the participants. Meeting Minutes are corrected when necessary and voted upon for Approval by the Board at the next Regular Selectboard Meeting. For clarification of any details of these notes please contact the Town of Georgia Selectboard Chairperson or the Selectboard Clerk.

Board Members Present: Carolyn Branagan, Dawn Penney, Sara Nadeau, Gary Wright

Board Members Absent: None

Staff & Other Board Members Present: Ashley Sterling, Selectboard Clerk; Cheryl Letourneau, Town Clerk & Interim Town Administrator; Todd Cadieux, Road Foreman; Jamie Cota, Firehouse; Suzanna Brown, DRB & PC Chair; Nick Martell, Planning Commission

Public Present: Karen Grenier; Jamie Comstock; Holley Cadieux; Will Duane, VT Depart. Of Fish & Wildlife; Frederick & Gail Hoenke; Doug Bergstrom

Gary Wright, Interim Vice Chair, opened the Regular Selectboard Meeting at 7:05 p.m.

Additions, Changes or Deletions: None

Public Appearances:

- Will Duane, VT Dept. of Fish & Wildlife & Fritz & Gail Hoenke, Lazy Lady Island – The VT Dept. of Fish & Wildlife will be acquiring the 4 acres of Lazy Lady Island and will be conducting environmental and archeological reviews of the island over the next few months. The State will close on the Island in the Fall of 2022. The goal is to restore the island to its natural state and raise it up. Once the restore of the island is completed, the island will be open to the public and visitors will be able to hunt, fish, ski, snowshoe, etc., on the island. The VT Dept. of Fish & Wildlife is aware of the wildlife that currently lives on the island, including Cormorants, and informed the Selectboard that they plan to gently remove the Cormorants and the oils left behind from the island. It will take about 3 years for this process. Fritz Hoenke introduced himself as one of the current family members that own the island. He is the Representative of the Trust. His uncle & aunt who owned the island, have since passed away. Discussion was had on taxes paid (school & municipal). Will informed the Selectboard that once they approve it, the information will then be passed on to Montpelier for the Governor to approve. Carolyn Branagan made the motion to approve the reviews of Lazy Lady Island with the upcoming sale. Sara Nadeau second. All were in favor. No further discussion.

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- Nick Martin & Suzanna Brown – Planning Commission, Historic Village Overview – Nick Martin explained that the Planning Commission would like to designate a Historic Village in Georgia. This would range from just past Carpenter Hill Road/Plains Road to the Georgia Elementary & Middle School/Reynolds Road. The designation of the Historic Village is good for 8 years and the Town of Georgia will be eligible for Technical Assistance from the State of Vermont to support local village revitalization and planning efforts, Downtown and Village Center Tax Credits that are broken up into a tier system to make updates to specific interior and exterior parts of buildings, Priority Consideration for Grants and Initiatives, and Neighborhood Development Area Eligibility. The Planning Commission is looking for support from the Selectboard to go ahead with the application process for a Historic Village Center. Carolyn Branagan asked who could use the grant money. Nick responded that it is for Municipality use. Sara Nadeau made the motion to approve the application process for the Historic Village Center. Carolyn Branagan seconded. All were in favor. No further discussion.
 - Reverend Devin Thomas – Reverend Thomas is a Georgia resident and informed the Selectboard that he is running for State Representative in our area and is looking for signatures on his petition. Reverend Thomas is the Reverend in Jeffersonville, Hyde Park & Bakersfield. Reverend Thomas passed around his clipboard and asked that any taxpayer in the Town of Georgia who supports him could sign their name.
 - Alan Maynard – Al explained that he is here for the same reason. He is a Fairfax resident running for State Representative in our area and looking for signatures. Al is a professor at UVM and is also involved very heavily with the sports program at BFA Fairfax. Al passed around his petition as well for signatures.

73 **Review of Past Minutes:**

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- Motion to approve Selectboard Regular Meeting Minutes for 04/25/22 with the corrections made by Carolyn Branagan. Second by Sara Nadeau. All were in favor.

78 **Review of Warrants:**

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- AP#15 – Gary Wright informed the Selectboard that he had questions on a couple of items when reviewing the warrant with Selectboard Clerk/Bookkeeper, Ashley Sterling and Todd Cadieux, Road Foreman. Gary asked for clarification on the SBHS scholarship. Suzanna Brown let Gary know it is an annual Scholarship award that the Conservation Committee gives out to a high school student and this year it was awarded to a student at South Burlington High School.

85

86 Ashley Sterling let Gary know that she received information on the ESO invoice from Chief Baker. ESO Solution is the Fire Departments record keeping software and the software used to report the National Fire Incident Reporting System.

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90 Motion to approve AP#15, made by Dawn Penney. Second by Sara Nadeau. All were in favor.

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- Motion to approve AP#16 for Connor Contracting received by Dawn Penney. Second by Sara Nadeau. No further discussion. All were in favor.

95 Carolyn Branagan asked Gary if he was the only one preapproving the warrants before the Selectboard
96 meetings. Gary informed Carolyn and the rest of the Selectboard that he is currently the only board
97 member doing it right now and it needs to be addressed. He asked for it be addressed now. Discussion
98 was had on if this should wait till there is a full board, if the Selectboard Vacancy topic can be moved up
99 in the agenda and if Cheryl Letourneau, Town Clerk, could swear in the new Selectboard member right
100 away. Cheryl told the Selectboard she could take the new member aside and do it once appointed.

101
102 Gary stated that there were 3 candidates interested in the open Selectboard Vacancy. Doug Bergstrom
103 (present), Jamie Cota (present) and Carl Rosenquist.

104
105 Dawn Penney made a statement (see attached) stating that she feels the choice should be left up to the
106 voters and hold an election. (see attached statement from Dawn Penney). Carolyn asked about the
107 upcoming primary election this fall and asked Cheryl what the cost would be to add in the Selectboard
108 Vacancy. Cheryl stated it would have to be a separate ballot and \$500-\$1000. Carolyn asked if there
109 would be an additional cost for workers and Cheryl stated yes. It will be more work and money to hold a
110 special election and it will push the 4 person Selectboard out to August. Sara Nadeau asked if the
111 question be asked was to appoint now till August, hold vote in August and appoint that person till
112 March. Suzanna Brown spoke and said that state law says you appoint till next Town Meeting Day.

113
114 Jamie Cota commented that the Town precedent has always been that the Selectboard has appointed
115 the next member. He asked why that does not work and if there was a specific example that the board
116 has made of a person that does not meet the criteria.

117
118 Dawn Penney responded that she does not feel this way at all but feels that the more democratic way
119 for the Town is to have them choose the next member rather than the Selectboard speaking for 4.000
120 residents.

121
122 Gary, pointing at Doug Bergstrom, stated that he ran, earned votes, and fundamental road map for
123 meeting that objective and that Doug was an option.

124
125 Jamie informed the Selectboard that he has had numerous people ask him to vote. Doug stated the
126 same.

127
128 Gary stated that the Selectboard needed to hear from the candidates themselves.

129
130 Jamie Cota introduced himself as a lifelong member of the Town for over 50 years. He has been a big
131 supporter of the Town. He does numerous community service things to give back to the Town. He is a 5-
132 time award member given by the Fire Department for his community service. He is a quality auditor
133 working as a sub-contractor for the Federal Government working for the past 13 years. Gary asked him if
134 he has ever been in business. Jamie said no, not my own but has a 4 year business degree and worked as
135 a Finance Auditor at a car dealership.

136
137 Doug Bergstrom introduced himself as a lifelong member to the Town as well. He was on the
138 Schoolboard for many years, has an in home business. Has multiple years experience on other boards as
139 well.

140
141 Carl was not in presence.

142

143 Discussion continued on the way the vacancy should be voted. Democracy and voters were continued to
144 be discussed.

145
146 The Selectboard voted twice to fill the vacancy. 2 votes for Mr. Bergstrom, 2 votes for Mr. Cota. The
147 vacancy will be brought back to the next meeting and it will be reposted to see if any more letters of
148 interest come in.

149
150 **Business:**

151
152 Highway Garage Update – Cheryl stated they are about 1-2 days ahead of schedule. Some footings have
153 been poured. Gary stated there was no conversation with legal. He is going to talk with Mr. Connor &
154 Mr. Roy about what to do next as Matt Young is no longer with us. Todd asked if there was a conflict of
155 interest with Dave becoming the head of the garage project as his business helped to design it. Gary said
156 he is trying to figure that out currently. Sara asked if anyone had reached out to Matt Young to see if he
157 would put another member of his team on the contract. Gary said he got no response from Matt.

158
159 Karen Grenier asked if something happened with the project manager of the garage project. Gary
160 answered that he breached his contract and is no longer working the job.

161
162 Black Walnut Road Request – No new update.

163
164 Fairbanks Memorial Request – No new update.

165
166 Emergency Management Plan – Ashley Sterling, Selectboard Clerk went through the entire document
167 and updated all information that was outdated.

168
169 Georgia Beach – Todd met Chevalier’s on 5/4/2022. All water issues need to be taken care of before the
170 system can be tested. There are multiple pipes that have cracks and leaks that have been being
171 replaced. At this point, the bathrooms wont be opened till the next week. Sara stated the porto-potty is
172 there. Gary asked who the contractor for the porto-potty was and Todd and Dawn both responded that
173 little league is paying for it. Gary asked if the Town paid for the beach to be winterized last winter.
174 Cheryl said yes by Bob and Stephen’s Plumbing and during that time a pipe had broke. Gary asked why
175 we weren’t using them now. Todd said he was unaware this had been done until after the highway crew
176 had started replacing them. Gary stated that a discussion needed to be had with the plumber.

177
178 Sara stated that an email was sent out from Bob Larose stating that he would help out for the months of
179 May and June. Dawn asked Todd if he had been working with them. Todd stated that Bob told him no
180 one got back in touch with him and he is not sure where he stands with helping out. Cheryl stated that
181 an hourly wage needed to be talked about for payment to Bob. Gary stated that we need to get through
182 the summer and start to think about a Maintenance Department or Public Work Department as Todd
183 and the highway crew have now been assigned non highway duties. Gary would like this to be discussed
184 at an upcoming meeting.

185
186 Georgia Beach Employee(s) – Bob Larose has stated that he will help the Highway Crew with the beach
187 from the months of May & June. As stated above, an hourly rate needs to be discussed. Sara mentioned
188 asking the boy scouts or high school student that needs community service to help with mowing.
189 Members mentioned that there may be liability issues with that.

190

191 Highway Laborer Position – The ad for this position will be updated and reposted. Discussion was had on
192 where to post. Carolyn stated this would be discussed during Executive Session.

193
194 2022 Paving Bids – Todd and Ashley met to update the paperwork for the 2022 Paving bids. Ashley will
195 add Hungerford Paving, Premier Paving & Rox to the list. Carolyn asked why it hadn't gone out yet. Todd
196 stated he was out for part of April for a period of time and things were delayed. Carolyn Brangan made a
197 motion to approve the request for paving bids for 2022. Sara Nadeau second. No further discussion. All
198 in favor.

199
200 Stone Donation – A Town resident reached out to Todd stating they are moving and they have some
201 stone they would like to donate to the Town. Discussion was had on placement of stone on residents'
202 property and if the highway crew could easily remove it. Gary stated there needs to be a document
203 signed off on stating that if any damage is done to the property, the Town is not liable.

204
205 Fill Donation – Todd received a call from the State asking if they could dump some fill in the sand pit.
206 Sara Nadeau approved the fill delivery pending the restriction of what it can be used for. Dawn Penney
207 second. No further discussion. All in favor.

208
209 Mill River Right of Way Access – Todd explained that someone is looking to put power to there sugar
210 house and VELCO needs permission. It is just a formality and signature from the Selectboard. Sara
211 Nadeau made the motion. Dawn Penney second. All in favor. No further discussion.

212
213 Update ARPA Second Contract – Sara Nadeau stated that Amber is still the first contact. Carolyn
214 Branagan is now the second contact for ARPA.

215
216 Assistant Zoning Administrator – Discussion was had on what this person would need to do. The
217 Selectboard is asking that Emily Johnson, Zoning Administrator, attend the next meeting to answer
218 questions.

219
220 DRB Appointments – Emily Johnson, Zoning Administrator, informed the Selectboard the Glenn Sjoblom
221 & Jamie Comstock are interested in joining the DRB and they would fill the current open positions.

222
223 Budget Status Report - Discussion was had on the budget and inviting Amber Baker, Treasurer, to a
224 meeting once a month.

225
226 Dumping of Trash – Cheryl explained that a report has come in about dumping of trash happening again
227 on Arrowhead Lake Road. Discussion was had on NWSWD being able to investigate this as long as no
228 one has gone through the trash.

229
230 Sara asked if the Milton Police Department has given a report lately as the Selectboard has not seen one
231 yet. Cheryl replied that she reached out and asked for an updated schedule and will ask them to patrol
232 that area as well.

233
234 Selectboard Letter of Interest Vacancy – Discussed earlier in meeting. Please see above.

235
236 Town Administrator Position – Ashley updated the job description for this position and presented it to
237 the Selectboard. Next step is to have an ad written up. Grant writing is huge for this position. This item
238 will come back to the next meeting.

239
240 A thank you was given to Cheryl Letourneau for stepping up and doing a great job as the interim Town
241 Administrator. Gary amended it to include the team.
242

243 **Consent Agenda:**

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 - GCC Agenda
 - DRB Agenda
 - Library Agenda
 - GCEC Agenda248

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250 **Selectboard Interest:**

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252 Sara Nadeau would like to try having the information in the packets visible for those who are attending
253 the Selectboard meeting via zoom. This would be done with a screen share. Ashley will look into the way
254 the Schoolboard did there's during the informational meetings.
255

256 Gary Wright entertained a motion that would find that premature general public knowledge pertaining
257 to Casella Waste Claim and Georgia Beach, would place the Town and employee at a substantial
258 disadvantage if discussed in public.
259

260 Gary moved to enter into executive session to discuss Casella Waste Claim and Georgia Beach, with
261 Interim Town Administrator, Cheryl Letourneau and Road Foreman, Todd Cadieux, under the provisions
262 of Title 1, Section 313(a)(1)(A) of the Vermont Statutes at 10:05 p.m.
263

264 Dawn Penney approved. Carolyn Branagan second. No further discussion. All in favor.
265

266 Motion to exit Executive Session at 10:54 p.m. made by Carolyn Branagan. Second by Sara Nadeau. All in
267 favor.
268

269 Motion to end the regular Selectboard Meeting at 10:55 p.m. made by Carolyn Branagan. Second by
270 Sara Nadeau. All were in favor.