

Georgia Selectboard Regular Meeting
Chris Letourneau Meeting Room & via Zoom
Monday, May 23, 2022
7:00 p.m.

Approved: Approved

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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; Suzanna Brown, DRB & PC Chair; Emily Johnson, Zoning Administrator

Public Present: Karen Grenier; Doug Bergstrom; Jamie Cota; Carl Rosenquist; Paul Jansen; Bretton Gardner; Dick McAvenia; Heather Grimm

Gary Wright, Interim Chair, opened the Regular Selectboard Meeting at 7:04 p.m.

Gary Wright informed the Selectboard that he can no longer be the interim Chair and resigns as the interim Chair of the Selectboard. His own personal business as well as his family responsibilities are too consuming, and he does not have time to be Interim Chair.

Gary then nominated Carolyn Branagan as Chair of the Selectboard and called for a vote. The results were unanimous.

Carolyn Brangan thanked Gary Wright for his attention to the Town's business, as well as his time on the Schoolboard and previous positions to help the Town.

Carolyn asked Interim Town Administrator, Cheryl Letourneau, to explain the need to ratify this vote for Chair at next meeting. Cheryl responded that at the next meeting, the action would be warned and voted again. The Selectboard would have to elect for the Chair seat and vote again.

Carolyn reminded the board that Chairs prerogative allowed the Chair to move down the agenda to act on items listed on the agenda. moved the Business item Selectboard Vacancy higher in the agenda so that the new member could be elected & sworn in right away and take part in the meeting.

Carolyn asked for motion to fill the Selectboard Vacancy. Sara Nadeau nominated Carl Rosenquist. Gary Wright seconds. No other nominations were made. All were in favor. No further discussion.

Carl Rosenquist was sworn in by the Town Clerk and took his seat.

Next, Carolyn explained that the Public Forum part of the agenda would allow 5 minutes per topic tonight but wanted to reduce it down to 2 minutes per topic starting June 13, 2022. There were no public comments.

Additions, Changes or Deletions: 2022 Paving Bids

Public Appearances:

- Paul Jansen, Friends of Northern Lake Champlain – Paul explained to the Selectboard that the stormwater retention assessment at Georgia Beach shoreline assessment is near completion. All work done thus far on the assessment has been paid for using grants. Gary Wright made a motion to approve the continuing assessment of the Georgia Beach shoreline. Sara Nadeau second. No further discussion. All were in favor.
- Suzanna Brown, GCC – Suzanna informed the Selectboard that the GCC is looking for approval to build a footbridge and trail extension at the Russell Greene Natural Area. The GCC will be working with Rabbit Tracks, whom they have worked with in the past, on the projects. General discussion was had the footbridge, trail, and insurance of the bridge. Gary made the motion. Carl Rosenquist second. Dawn Penney asked when the work would be finished. Suzanna said that Rabbit Tacks has us on his schedule already, pending approval, so it would be finished by fall. Suzanna also mentioned that this links to the South Village improvement. Carolyn asked about liability insurance. The motion is approved pending the insurance needed for this project/footbridge. Cheryl Letourneau will look into the insurance coverage. All were in favor.

Review of Past Minutes:

- Motion to approve both the Selectboard Special Meeting Minutes for 05/05/22 and Selectboard Regular Meeting Minutes for 05/09/22 with corrections made by Gary Wright. Second by Sara Nadeau. All were in favor. No further discussion. Carl Rosenquist abstains.

Review of Warrants:

- AP#17 – Gary informed the board that the warrant was very straightforward. Gary made the motion to approve AP#17. Sara second. All were in favor. Carolyn asked if Gary would still remain the point person on reviewing warrants. Gary confirmed he would.

Business:

Highway Garage Update – Cheryl informed the Selectboard that the ad for the General Manager position of the Town Garage project needed three bids. This will come back to the next meeting for review.

Black Walnut Road Request – Dave Rough, Town Attorney, reviewed the Black Walnut documentation. Black Walnut would like to know if the paving of the road can be done as the building takes place/in sections or if it needs to be done all at once. Gary pointed out that if it is done in sections, it would keep a turnaround from being built right away. Discussion was had on the road being built in sections or all at

once with the Selectboard, Zoning Administrator, Emily Johnson & Road Foreman, Todd Cadieux. Cheryl will invite Dave Rough to the next Selectboard meeting so that questions can be answered.

Todd stated that the Town will not take over this new road until it is connected to something. He also stated that he never received a dollar amount for the cost of the construction of the road.

Fairbanks Memorial Request – No update.

Selectboard Vacancy – see above

Assistant Zoning Administrator – Emily Johnson, Zoning Administrator, informed the Selectboard what this position entails. The person in this position will only be signing Certificate of Occupancy documents when Emily is out of the office. It was asked by Carolyn why these documents are so urgent, and Emily explained that they are used during closings of home purchases by realtors. Discussion was had on if there was to be training involved in this position. Sara asked if this is something the Assistant Town Clerk's could do. Gary asked why not appoint the Town Clerk as the backup Zoning Administrator and then she could delegate if needed. Gary recommended to Emily to keep a spreadsheet of any violations so that if needed, the backup could access them. Gary makes the motion for Town Clerk, Cheryl Letourneau to be the backup Zoning Administrator. Carl Rosenquist seconds. Dawn Penney abstains. Sara Nadeau, Gary Wright and Carl Rosenquist were in favor.

Deputy Health Officer – Cheryl explained that Amber Baker resigned as Deputy Health Officer and a new one needed to be appointed. Discussion on this position was had with Emily Johnson, Health Officer. Gary made the motion to nominate Ashley Sterling as Deputy Health Officer. Sara second. All were in favor. Carolyn asked Emily to work with Ashley to get her trained.

Route 7 Corridor – Emily explained that she is watching this project very closely. This is a great opportunity for community members to be heard. VTrans has put out a survey asking what the concerns or needs the community has. The Corridor runs from Route 7 between exit 17 in Colchester and exit 18 in Georgia. VTrans will then review the information collected and evaluate next steps and partnerships.

Georgia Beach Pavilion Rental – Cheryl informed the board that GEMS (end of school year field trips), NCSS Camp Rainbow, the Lions Club and the Cub Scouts have the Pavilion rented in the upcoming summer months. Cheryl asked if the fee for the rental would be waived for the groups as it has in the past. Gary asked when the beach would make revenue as other groups have been waived as well. Cheryl responded that groups outside of Georgia do pay the full amount to rent the pavilion (\$200.00). Carolyn asked if the water had been turned on at the beach yet. Discussion for this was had during the next topic. Sara made the motion to waive the rental fee for GEMS (end of school year field trips), NCSS Camp Rainbow, the Lions Club and the Cub Scouts. Dawn second. All were in favor. No further discussion.

Georgia Beach/Georgia Beach Employee(s) – Cheryl informed the Selectboard know that they received an application from Josh Bergstrom for lawn mowing at the beach. Cheryl went on to say that she would like to contact him to see if he would be interested in more than just the lawn mowing and taking on the beach position as a whole. Bob Larose is still available to help Josh out and train him in the position. Cheryl also stated that the salary was a little high for the position and compared to what the previous person had made. A brief comparison of salaries was discussed. Heather Grimm wrote in on zoom that this should be taken to Executive Session as it is a salary discussion to a specific position. Cheryl will

contact Josh to see if he is interested in taking on more of the role. Cheryl will also contact Bob to see if he is available to work with Josh.

Ashley Sterling informed Gary and the rest of the board that Amber would be at the first meeting in June to discuss the budget and that she would inform the board during that meeting how/when she will attend meetings going forward. This was an item discussed at the previous Selectboard meeting.

Town Administrator Position – Cheryl and Ashley will work together to create a job description for this position to start advertising. Ashley will update the job description to reflect the Assistant Zoning Administrator as part of the Town Administrators duties.

Animal Control Officer – Cheryl received an application from resident Deanna Never, interested in the Animal Control Officer position. Cheryl will reach out to Deanna.

2022 Paving Bids – The board will hear a recommendation from Todd Cadieux, Road Foreman, at the June 13, 2022, meeting. 3 bid offers came in. FW Whitcomb, Pike, and S.D. Ireland. (need to confirm dollar amounts)

Rick Nye Road Naming – Rick would like to name the road in his subdivision Tessemma Lane or Sunshine Road. The Selectboard had a discussion on the two names and Gary made the motion for Sunshine Road. Carl second. All were in favor. No further discussion.

Barrett's Tree Service – The invoice for the removal of the Poplar tree on the corner of Route 7 & Ballard Road came in. The Town, during the January 10, 2022, meeting, agreed to pay half the price of the removal, with property owners, the Lang's paying the other half. Todd informed the Selectboard the tree is in the Town's right away and past practice has been to pay half. Payment for this invoice was approved.

American Tower Overpayment – A check was received from American Tower that was made out for more than it was supposed. Cheryl asked how the Selectboard would like to go forward with the check. Would they like it to be deposited and have the Treasurer reissue a check for the overpayment or send the check back. Gary made the motion to deposit the check from American Tower and have a check from the Town of Georgia issued to American Town for the amount of the overpayment. Sara second. All were in favor. No further discussion.

NorthEast Benefits Management – Cheryl informed the Selectboard that the Town of Georgia passed the discrimination test.

Consent Agenda:

- DRB Minutes
- NWSWD Minutes & Agenda

Selectboard Interest:

Gary stated that he wanted to get the discussion going as to what the Town will be doing with the incoming ARPA money. Carolyn stated that the conversation needed to start with the board, as there is now a full Selectboard. Sara commented that there also needs to be public input. Gary stated that a few

years back, the Town paid to have studies done on the Town buildings and it showed what they needed for updates. Some small updates were done but not a lot. This money could be used towards that. ARPA will be added to the next agenda.

Carolyn stated that she would like the money left in the Selectboard salaries to go for landscaping at the Town Hall and Fire Station. Cheryl explained that there were volunteers from BFA St. Albans coming to help with weeding the gardens at the Town Hall.

Gary informed the Selectboard of the Winchester Rifle in the vault and that he would like it to be displayed. Discussion was had on placement. Cheryl will research the history on how the rifle came to the Town of Georgia.

Motion to end the regular Selectboard Meeting at 9:05 p.m. made by Sara Nadeau. Second by Gary Wright. All were in favor.