



# SELECTBOARD SPECIAL MEETING

Tuesday, November 7, 2023 at 7:00 PM

Georgia Elementary and Middle School

## MINUTES

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### 2 1. CALL TO ORDER

- 3 • **Selectboard Present:** Devon Thomas Chair, S. Jenkins Vice-Chair, J. Comstock, C. Rosenquist
- 4 and N. Martin
- 5 • **Moderator:** Carolyn Branagan
- 6 • **Staff Present:** Cheryl Letourneau, Dawn Penney, Doug Bergstrom, April Edwards
- 7 • **Board of Civil Authority Members Present:** Jacqui Hood and Justin Holmes
- 8 • **Townpeople Present:** 105 Voting Members Present
- 9 • **7:00 p.m.** Carolyn Branagan called the meeting to order.

### 10 2. OFFICIAL WARNING

- 11 • C. Branagan went over the rules and regulations of the meeting.
- 12 • C. Branagan read Article 1. "Shall the voters, pursuant to 24 V.S.A ss 1683 ( c), approve the
- 13 Town of Georgia changing the date its fiscal year ends from December 30 to June 30?"
- 14 • C. Rosenquist makes a motion to move Article 1, seconded by N. Martin.
- 15 • Ken Minck makes a motion to allow April Edwards to speak, Michael McCarthy seconds. C.
- 16 Branagan calls for a vote, ayes carried.
- 17 • April Edwards spoke regarding the fiscal budget.
- 18 • Sean Senesac asked if taxes were paid in advance for part of the year.
- 19 • Patrick Warn asked how much we would be saving by not taking out a loan.
- 20 • Norman Gosselin asked why we moved from an elected treasurer to an appointed treasurer.
- 21 • Norman Gosselin asked if this would change the tax due date.
- 22 • Kirk Waite asked how much we have paid in interest payments in the last 10 years.
- 23 • Paul Jansen asked if they will be presented an 18-month tax bill and will we still be voting in
- 24 March.
- 25 • Kim Ashe asked if there will be twice yearly payments.
- 26 • Bette Dunsmore asked about the 18-month tax payment within one year. Will people lose their
- 27 rebate.
- 28 • Bette Dunsmore asked if this passes can the board agree to not increase percentage for cost of
- 29 living.
- 30 • Natasha Halverson asked if the Veteran's benefit will be impacted. April Edwards states it will
- 31 not be affected.
- 32 • Ken Minck states it is a great idea to have the town aligned with the state. Discussion was had
- 33 on the timing of setting a tax rate.
- 34 • Carol Jones asks if the change to the fiscal year is because of the cash flow. She asks the board
- 35 if they look at these on a regular basis. She questions if we have a \$655,000 deficit.

- 36 • Shannon Jenkins says ARPA funds need to be designated before next year.
- 37 • Natasha Halverson asked for an explanation of the restricted and non-restricted funds. It is said
- 38 that restricted funds are dedicated to that fund only.
- 39 • Fred Grimm asks if the 2024 fiscal year budget payments are in August and February, when
- 40 would the 2025 payment come due.
- 41 • Fred Grimm asks why the budget shortfall and why the reserve has been spent down.
- 42 • Kelly Bosenberg asks if taxes are paid twice a year will this make it easier for town budgeting.
- 43 • Joan Nye says this came up quickly and four members of the board have no historical knowledge
- 44 and there is a new treasurer. She asks why this did not come up at the town meeting.
- 45 • Devon Thomas apologized for it being a quick decision, saying they had to decide sooner rather
- 46 than later.
- 47 • Craig Volatile-Wood feels as though this should have been done in March.
- 48 • Debra Fraser asks if we do not move forward what will happen if we do this in March.
- 49 • Julie Poquette says they are arguing over potentially \$20,000 which is 2% interest on a
- 50 \$1,000,000 loan. She asks if there was anything negative from the last audit.
- 51 • Kathy Degento asks if taxes are not collected until August how does that affect taxes.
- 52 • Dawn Decker asks why this is being dropped on everyone so quickly.
- 53 • Suzanna Brown asks if it is possible to flip the 6-months on the other end and collect taxes in
- 54 April and October, then have July 1, 2025 as the new cycle.
- 55 • Paul Jansen asks about the financial cash flow and questions why we are in such a deficit. He
- 56 asks if the board is following the budget.
- 57 • Bette Dunsmore asks why revenue is not going up.
- 58 • Valerie Kellner asks about ARPA funds running out.
- 59 • Kristina Senna makes a motion to call for a vote. It was seconded by multiple members in the
- 60 audience.
- 61 • Carolyn Brangan asked how people wanted to vote. It was decided by paper.
- 62 • Suzanna Brown called for a point of order saying Carolyn Branagan did not ask for the Ney
- 63 votes to pass the action of voting. Carolyn Branagan clarified the motion.
- 64 • Results of **Article One: 59 Vote No and 46 Vote Yes. Article One Failed.**
- 65 • Carolyn Branagan read **Article Two**. “Shall the action taken at the meeting of the Town of
- 66 Georgia held on March 7, 2023, in spite of the fact that Article 2 in the Warning erroneously
- 67 contained an unnecessary item to elect a candidate for Library Trustee for a three-year term, and
- 68 any act or action of the municipal officers or agents pursuant thereto be readopted, ratified and
- 69 confirmed?”
- 70 • Cheryl Letourneau says there was a mistake on the ballot from last year where there was a
- 71 position for a Library Trustee for 3-years was printed on the ballot but there was not an open
- 72 position. This did not affect the election results. It is on the advice of the council that we are
- 73 asking for a floor vote to accept the results from the ballot last year through a ratification.
- 74 • Carolyn Brangan called for a vote to accept **Article Two**.
- 75 • Carolyn Brangan calls for this vote to be oral. She calls for the **Yea** Votes and she calls for the
- 76 **Nay** Votes. It is decided that **Article Two: Passed.**

### 77 13. ADJOURN

- 78 • 8:40 p.m. – C. Rosenquist makes a motion to adjourn the meeting, N. Martin seconds. All in
- 79 favor, motion carried.

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81 **Posted to the Town website, four designated places within the Town of Georgia (Town Clerk's**  
82 **Office, Georgia Public Library, Maplefields & Georgia Market), and e-mailed to the local media.**

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

84 **Phone: 802-524-3524 | Fax: 802-524-3543 | Website: [townofgeorgia.com](http://townofgeorgia.com)**

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