

Georgia Selectboard Budget Meeting
Chris Letourneau Meeting Room
Monday, January 6, 2020
6:00 pm

Approved: **Approved**

Present: Selectboard: Matt Crawford, Steve Lamos, Tara Wright, Jason Burt, Scott St. Onge. Town Administrator/Treasurer: Amber Baker.

Absent: All Present

Public Present: Todd Cadieux, Town Highway Foreman; Kelly Veins, St. Albans Parks and Recreation Department

Matt Crawford reconvened the Selectboard budget meeting on January 6, 2020, for the Town of Georgia in the Chris Letourneau Meeting Room at 6:04 p.m.

Matt invited Kelly Veins to the table to discuss the St. Albans Parks and Recreation Departments future plans and what it would cost to allow Georgia residents access to the St. Albans programs at the resident rates rather than non-resident rates.

Kelly stated that Georgia can pay the St. Albans Parks and Recreation department a flat fee of \$7,500 for a one year contract and that this can be paid quarterly. Each year this contract would be renegotiated to reflect the trend of Georgia residents participating in the programs. She provided the board a chart that showed the growing trend of Georgia residents participating in the St. Albans programs and how the fee of \$7,500 was derived. She also stated that St. Albans is going to be voting on a proposed year round outdoor pool in March 2020.

Board discussion followed on; the number of residents that have come before the board in the past few years and the numbers of letters received this year asking the board to consider this; how would St. Albans get all the program information out to all Georgia residents; what it would cost Georgia taxpayers to have their own matching programs; The budget of the St. Albans Parks and Recreation Department (\$500k) versus the Town of Georgia's and the savings to the Georgia taxpayers.

At 6:33 p.m. Kelly Veins departed.

Matt brought up the request for new hires that the departments have asked for; part-time clerk, full-time firefighter and a road crew member.

The firefighter and clerk are currently in the budget and the road crew member is something being worked based on the possibility of receiving the plowing contract for the school. The board requires more information on all of the hires from the department heads except for the road crew addition.

Discussion followed on the road crew addition; which lines would cover the remainder of the cost after the school plowing contract; what is the benefit and cost savings; dedicated winter plowing for the school, town hall and library; internal mowing capabilities; meeting flagging safety requirements; additional equipment requirements; overall town plowing turn-around times; possible maintenance and firefighter support.

It was determined that this would be a win/win for the town and the board tasked Amber to begin negotiations with the school to acquire the plowing contract.

Todd then came forward to discuss fixing the current trucks to save more money and what it would entail.

Discussion followed on; body swaps; welding classes; what is the value; buying used versus new and can the fixes be done safely for under \$8k.

Fire Department

Line 92 Fire Dept. Current Year Loan: They have asked for \$125k to replace engine 2 with a sudden opportunity, this is not in the capital budget. Fire Chief will explain his proposal at the next budget meeting.

Selectboard

Line 138 Admin Legal Expenses: Set at \$30k.

Line 139 Admin Consultant Services: Set at \$55,750.

Line 147 Community Events Expenses: Delete and move funds to line 324.

Municipal Offices

Line 198 Admin Money to Reserve Fund: Set at \$5k.

Fire Department

Line 257 Fire Dept. Money to Reserve Fund: Set at \$90k as part of the capital budget plan.

First Response

Line 270 First Response Money to Reserve Fund: Set at \$2k.

Contracted Assessor

Line 286 State Appraisal Money to Reserve Fund: Set at \$16k, state aid and not taxpayer funds.

Town Boards

Line 305 Zoning & Planning Legal Expenses: Set at 10k

Parks and Recreation

Line 324 Parks/Rec Programs: Set at \$12.3k add new line for 5k from line 147 and \$7.5k for the St. Albans Parks and Recreation Department and fall fest.

Library

Line 365 Library Money to Reserve Fund: Set at \$10k.

Conservation

Line 390 Conservation Money to Reserve Fund: Set at \$5k.

Bridges

Line 436 Bridge/Culvert Money to Reserve Fund: Set at \$20k.

Appropriations

Line 501 Franklin/Grand Isle Restorative Justice Center: Set at \$705

Amber was tasked by the board to begin negotiations with the school on a plowing contract and to explain to the Conservation Committee why their reserve funds were reduced.

At 9:00 p.m. the selectboard budget meeting ended and will be reconvened January 13, 2020 @ 6:00 p.m.