

**Georgia Regular Selectboard Meeting
Via ZOOM Web Conferencing
Monday August 10, 2020 7:00 pm**

Approved: **Approved**

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

Absent: All Present

Public Present: Buddy Meilleur, LCATV Production Manager; Kyle Grenier, Highway Oversight
Committee; Carolyn Branigan, Highway Oversight Committee; Greg Drew, Planning
Commission

Matt Crawford opened the regular Selectboard meeting for August 10, 2020 for the Town of Georgia via ZOOM at 7:06 p.m. to discuss regular business.

Additions, Changes or Deletions:

Amber present the Selectboard with the following

Change: Move new business #4, American Tower Payment Options, to executive session for contractual purposes.

Add: An additional contractual and personnel item to executive session.

Add: A discussion on blue/green algae blooms at Georgia Beech (New business #4)

All additions and changes accepted

Public Appearances:

Matt informed Greg Drew of the Planning commission that each department within the town will be appearing before the Selectboard in order to keep all departments informed on the new town garage project.

Amber then updated everyone on the current status of the \$3 million dollar project and that the proposal is on schedule to be brought before the public and to appear on the November ballot.

Discussion followed on; setting up and locations of the public displays (Georgia Public Library and Center Market Provisions), informational postings on the website, informational public meetings, how the public will be able to ask questions and receive answers, the informational letter that will be sent out with all tax bills.

Matt further explained that the cost of \$3 million dollars is substantial, but it would cost the upwards of six figures to bring the old garage up to full compliance and that the building is at the end of its life. The new garage would have an expected lifespan of 50-60 years.

Carolyn Branigan departed the meeting at 7:24 p.m.

Review of Past Minutes:

Motion to approve the July 27, 2020 budget meeting minutes by Scott, seconded by Matt, all in favor.

Motion to approve the July 27, 2020 regular meeting minutes by Steve, seconded by Scott, all in favor.

Review of Warrants:

Amber informed the Selectboard that Steve has signed PR39 and AP49 and that someone will need to come in and sign AP50. Steve will stop by Wednesday to sign AP50.

Selectboard Concerns:

Tara presented her concern to the Selectboard about a recent emergency meeting vote by the newly formed Communications Union Districts (CUD) on grant monies provided by the CARES Act to fix communications dead spots within the involved towns. She informed the Selectboard that those towns who had proposals ready to be voted on did not seem to have any say on what was proposed as the proposals basically came from the internet or cellular companies. She does not want this to happen to the Town of Georgia as well and would like to ensure that the Town is prepared to provide a proposal that fits what the Town wants rather than the internet or cellular companies. The funds provided by the CARES Act must be spent by December so the Towns CUDs representatives (Amber and Tara) would like to begin gathering the necessary data on communication dead spots. Greg has some of the data they will need and will pass this on to Tara and Amber.

Greg Drew departed the meeting at 7:41 p.m.

Matt presented to the Selectboard his concern about having employees not connected with the election process occurring at Town Hall tomorrow working at the office. He suggested that Amber, Cindy, Lary and Sam all work from home tomorrow. All Selectboard members agree with Matt's suggestion.

Administrators Report to Selectboard:

Unfinished Business:

1. Hazard Mitigation Plan Update: No new update at this time.
2. COVID-19 Updates: No new update at this time.
3. Lazy lady Island: Amber has completed the letter and is ready to be sent via certified mail this week.
4. Proposed Road Standards changes and Silver lake Road Culvert: Issues have been completed and will be removed from unfinished business.
5. Silver Lake Road Culvert: Selectboard approved the work being performed by an outside vendor at the last meeting.
6. PIKE Industries Paving Contracts: Tara asked that this issue is re-added to unfinished business. Amber informed the Selectboard that both her and Todd are also working with PIKE on fixing issues with the

Bradely Hill Road paving that is still under warranty.

New Business / Action items:

1. November Ballot: Amber informed the Selectboard that the language for the Town Highway Garage proposal needs to be completed by August 21, 2020. This will ensure that the ballots are printed by the state saving the Town the cost of printing.

Motion to approve the language for the Town Highway Garage proposal for the November ballot by Steve, seconded by Scott, all in favor.

2. BSA Merit Badge Citizenship in the Community: Logan Grimm a member of BSA Troop 42 asked the Selectboard how the Town is planning on dealing with the trash he has been seeing on the side of the road. Matt publicly thanked Logan for his interest in his town and the trash issue. The Selectboard asked Amber to place Logan in contact with Paul Lambert for more in-depth information and to ask Logan what ideas he may have to help the Town with the trash on the side of the road.

3. Town Garage Letter to Residents: Matt publicly thanked Kyle for his work on the letter and asked Amber to send him an editable copy so he can tweak it some.

Discussion followed on, who will be answering questions residents have and what is the expected reply time frame and setting up an auto response to let individuals know that the message has been received and that an answer will be forthcoming.

Amber asked the Selectboard if they wish to send the letters out in color for an additional \$100 or black and white. The color printings will better show the pictures of the project. The Selectboard all agreed to send the letter in color.

Motion to include the new Town Garage proposal letter in the tax bill by Scott, seconded by Steve, all in favor.

4. Algae Blooms at the Georgia Beech: Amber informed the Selectboard that she was notified as the health officer of some blooms in the vicinity of the beech and that appropriate signs have been posted by Bob Larose.

5. Matt Crawford Letter of Resignation: Amber informed the Selectboard that Matt has been a dedicated Selectboard member for 7 and a half years.

Matt asks that residents interested in becoming a Selectboard member should contact the Town and that this is posted to the Town website tomorrow.

Amber will check with VLCT to see if the Selectboard will be required to hold a reorganizational meeting as Matt was the chair or if vice chair automatically becomes chair.

Administrator's Correspondence and Tasks:

Treasurer's Correspondence: No issues at this time noted by Amber.

General Correspondence:

Discussion on the Planning Commissions interim zoning by-laws and the necessity for them at this time due to the large multi-year expansion of Perrigo and anticipate growth in the South Village. The interim by-law changes are being proposed also due to the DRB not being completed and this will bridge the gap of this occurring in the next six months. This expansion will bring ~ 400 jobs to Georgia and is supported by the Planning Commission.

Tara brought up that Matt will also need to be replaced on the Georgia Industrial Development Board.

State of Vermont Correspondence: None.

Brochures/Newsletters/Workshops: None.

Executive Requirements: None.

Other Business Found Necessary: None.

Town Administrator Tasks review:

Motion by Tara to enter executive session under 1 VSCA §313 with Amber Baker to discuss contracts, labor relations agreements with employees, arbitration, mediation, grievances, civil actions, or prosecutions by the state, where premature general public knowledge would clearly place the state, municipality, other public body, or person involved at a substantial disadvantage, seconded by Steve, all in favor.

Executive session started at 8:13 p.m.

Executive session ended at 8:53 p.m.

Motion out of executive session: Motion to task the Town Administrator with seeking 3 bids for professional cleaning services for the Town Offices, Library and Fire Station made by Scott, seconded by Matt. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Samuel Gould.