

**Georgia Regular Selectboard Meeting
Via ZOOM Web Conferencing
Monday September 14, 2020 7:00 pm**

Approved: **Approved**

Present: Selectboard: 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; Kent Henderson, Friends of Northern
Lake Champlain; Karrie Garvey, Watershed Consulting.

Steve Lamos opened the regular Selectboard meeting for September 14, 2020 for the Town of Georgia via ZOOM at 7:01 p.m. to discuss regular business.

Additions, Changes or Deletions:

Amber presented the Selectboard with the following

Add: Warrants for review AP58 and PR38.

Add: Discussion on Highway Foreman's question on spending limit for a snow pusher.

All additions and changes accepted

Public Appearances:

Kent Henderson provided the Selectboard with information on their new stormwater study for the Town of Georgia. This study will complement the study completed in 2012 by covering two areas not covered by the 2012 study, the shoreline and Georgia Shore Road. Watershed Consulting was the winning bid to perform the new study and they have been tasked with providing the final study, three 30% design plans for submission to the state for funding and help with public meetings and public outreach. Kent also assured the Selectboard that the Town will incur no expenses or funding requirements.

Kerrie Garvey of Watershed Consulting informed the Selectboard that they have completed their initial drive through survey and have met with Road Foreman Todd Cadieux, who provided them with information on Georgia Shore Road problem areas. They are now beginning the desktop portion of the study which will help them develop the areas in which the field work will occur. The field work will include viewing the shoreline by boat. This will develop priority areas of concern which Watershed Consulting will then develop at least three 30% design plans for state and federal grants and funding. Once completed the Town will also receive a final report.

Discussion followed on; the past studies, past major projects, adding links to the Selectboard's SharePoint, providing Watershed Consulting local knowledge to help find areas of concern, what HOAs exist in the studies areas, public outreach, public meeting dates (est Feb 2021), funding derived from state and federal grants and how the Town of Georgia not yet being MS4 qualified and how this study

will help.

Kent thanked the Selectboard and the Town for all the help that has been provided throughout the years.

Kent and Kerrie departed at 7:24 p.m.

Review of Past Minutes:

Motion to approve the August 24, 2020 regular meeting minutes with changes as discussed, by Scott, seconded by Jason, all in favor.

Discussion followed motion prior to vote on changing some wording in regard to the Recycle Shop fuel tank.

Motion to approve the September 4, 2020 special meeting minutes by Scott, seconded by Jason, all in favor.

Review of Warrants:

Motion to approve PR36, PR37, AP55 and AP56 by Scott, seconded by Tara, all in favor.

Motion to approve AP57 by Jason, seconded by Scott, all in favor.

Discussion following the motion prior to the vote. Tara asked for clarification on the Parks and Recreations \$7,500 budget. Amber informed her that they still have plenty of funds available at this time. She also asked about the \$1,265 annual testing bill. Amber stated that this was for the extrication tool. Tara also asked when the Selectboard can expect to see the new contract with St. Albans City Police Department for dispatching services. Amber informed the Selectboard that it will appear at the next regular Selectboard meeting.

Motion to approve PR38 and AP58 by Jason, seconded by Scott, all in favor.

Selectboard Concerns:

Steve showed the Selectboard the finished plaque for presentation to Matt Crawford during the next regular selectboard meeting.

Tara asked when the applications for a replacement Selectboard member will be provided. Amber informed the Selectboard that the chance to apply closes on 22 September. On 23 September she will provide all Selectboard members copies of all applications for their review prior to the regular selectboard meeting on 28 September 2020. During this meeting the Selectboard members will vote in a new member and will elect a vice chair at the October 12th meeting.

Administrators Report to Selectboard:

Unfinished Business:

1. COVID-19 Updates: No new update at this time.
2. Lazy lady Island: Amber informed the Selectboard that the owner never responded to the Town's

request to allow the state to work on the cormorant issue. She also provided the Selectboard a copy of an email from the Watershed Association stating that they will be seeking legal action at this time.

Discussion followed on; are there other areas in the Town of Georgia that has a cormorant issue (no), The islands trees are all dying and turning white and what can the town do at this time (nothing).

3. PIKE Industries Paving Contracts: Amber informed the Selectboard that she is still withholding the final payment and that she has informed them that the Town is done with them for the year.

She also informed the Selectboard that PIKE has been added to the Town's new non-preferred vendor list.

4. Employee Appraisal Forms: Only Steve has some changes he wishes to see so he will work directly with Sam on his revisions.

5. Highway Bond Ballot: Amber informed the Selectboard that she is just waiting on the final ballot proof printing. Printing will take approximately a week and the ballots will be sent out in the next two weeks if all goes as planned. Cheryl is also waiting on the final mailing quote.

Discussion followed on; folding machine and when will the Selectboard know more.

6. Recycle Shop Fuel Tank: The Selectboard discussed the possibility of a future move to one of the old town garage bays if the ballot passes, the condition of the current building, what happens to unheated buildings, any future uses of the buildings land, merging the land with the new town garage land and using space heaters until after the November ballot vote.

The Selectboard is in concurrence to table this subject until after the November ballot vote.

8. Building Donation: Amber informed the Selectboard that there is an errors and omissions issue with the building due to it being over appraised as the building was unable to get an upgraded wastewater permit. She also informed the Selectboard that the Historical Society is still aware that they will have to cover all the costs not the Town.

New Business / Action items:

1. Draft Financial Statements 2019: Amber informed the Selectboard that she is very pleased as both the Town Administrator and the Town Treasurer with the report. Most of the issues found are minimal and due to short timelines so they are very easy fixes. The biggest issue is still tax delinquencies due to parsing out the Town and Schools portions.

Discussion followed on; major issues found (none), ready for approval, interdepartmental loans are not an issue and that the report is part of the bond application process.

Motion to approve the 2019 draft financial statements by Scott, Tara, all in favor.

2. Brooks Field Service Standby Generator Preventative Maintenance Agreement: Amber informed the Selectboard that the quote is less than last year but that next year will include a \$1,500 battery replacement.

Motion to approve the agreement and to allow Amber to sign the agreement by Tara, seconded by Scott, all in favor.

3. American Tower Site Lease Payment Options: The offer amount has dropped due to the merger of T-Mobile and Sprint. This merger further reduces the number of carriers using the tower to three. Originally there were seven carriers using the tower.

Discussion followed on; the current contract expiring in 2052 with 5 year renewals, do we stay with the contract, this offer is not special as they present one at the midpoint of all contracts, the budget impact if the buyout is accepted, what are our courses of action available, can the monthly payments fluctuate (yes, up and down) and what is in the best interest of the Town's taxpayers.

4. 2021 Budget: Amber asked the Selectboard to provide her guidelines for the 2021 departmental budgets so the departments can begin providing her their budgets.

Discussion followed on; maintaining level funding, taking into account the upcoming bond request, small increases to cover the growing costs of goods and services, the costs and savings due to COVID-19, last year's budget increase amount (2%) and how will Amber work the process this year.

All Selectboard members are in consent with a 2% departmental budget increase.

5. Selectboard Public Appearance Letter: The Selectboard members all provided some of their concerns with the current letter; too harsh, too wordy, make it simpler, what was its initial intent.

Steve asked all Selectboard members to provide Sam their recommendations so he can develop a new letter for presentation at the next regular Selectboard meeting.

6. Northeast Benefits-Cafeteria Plan Testing: Amber informed the Selectboard that the Town passed.

7. Cleaning Estimates: 802 Cleaning Solutions, LLC & Above Par Cleaning Services LLC: Amber informed that bids were obtained for cleaning services. The two quotes that received for cleaning services are in between \$40.00 and \$50.00 an hour, almost double that amount and beyond the Town's current budget.

Discussion followed on; what is currently being cleaned and who is providing the cleaning, accepting a quote will increase the Admin Line but the other lines (janitorial & payroll) will decrease, increasing the line in the 2021 budget, funds exist for intermediate cleaning, why clean the library when it is closed, any COVID-19 savings that can be used, signing a temp contract until the 2021 budget is completed.

Motion to accept Above Par LLC quote as discussed by Tara, seconded by Jason, all in favor.

Administrator's Correspondence and Tasks:

Treasurer's Correspondence: No discussion

General Correspondence: No discussion.

State of Vermont Correspondence: None.

Brochures/Newsletters/Workshops: None.

Executive Requirements: None.

Other Business Found Necessary:

Amber informed the Selectboard that as of today the Highway Department is up to four employees and that equipment rental of the large roadside mower has arrived and will working as many daylight hours as possible to clean up the brush along the roadside. She also brought forward Todd's request to purchase a snow pusher and what the cost limit is. He has found snow pushers available from \$1,600 to \$3,000 so far. The snow pusher will be for use at the school, fire department and town offices.

Jason informed the Selectboard that he is not in support of this plan as he believes it will not be a good use of the Towns new loader and that the loader does not have tires for snow and ice. He further explained that the Highway Department has been able to provide the plowing for years without a loader with a pusher.

Discussion followed on; using the tandems to plow, the one-ton truck, what Todd wants versus the Selectboard, using impact fees for the purchase, what to set as the cost not to exceed amount, and the altering of equipment.

Todd has \$2,500 in his budget and that is what his limit is set at.

Motion to allow Amber to cut a check, not to exceed \$2,500 by Scott, Tara, all in favor.

Town Administrator Tasks review:

Motion to adjourn by Scott, seconded by Jason, all in favor

Regular Selectboard meeting ended at 8:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Samuel Gould.