

**Georgia Selectboard Budget Meeting
Via ZOOM Web Conferencing
Monday October 5, 2020 6:00 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: None.

Steve Lamos opened the Selectboard Budget meeting for October 5, 2020 for the Town of Georgia in person and via ZOOM at 6:12 p.m. to discuss some regular and budget business.

Additions, Changes or Deletions: None.

Public Appearances: None.

Review of Past Minutes: None.

Review of Warrants:

Motion to approve PR41, AP61 and AP62 by Jason, seconded by Scott, all in favor.

Amber informed the Selectboard that AP62 includes the postage for the mailing of the November ballots.

Motion to approve PR40 by Scott, seconded by Jason, all in favor.

Selectboard Concerns: None.

Administrators Report to Selectboard: None.

Unfinished Business:

1. New Selectboard Member appointment: Amber provided the Selectboard a copy of VLCT's response to her query on what their recommendations are for selectboards who need to fill a vacated position between elections and a draft copy of a new town policy "Rules of Procedure For Municipal Boards, Committees, and Commissions" that is also based on VLCT guidance for their review prior to adoption.

Discussion followed on; selecting the proper wording to meet the towns requirements, the requirement for a second to a motion, trying a revote again, interviews if no consensus, the nomination process and how to move forward.

At this time Steve asked for nominations to fill the vacant selectboard seat.

Jason nominated David Vincent to fill the vacant selectboard position.

Scott nominated Kyle Grenier to fill the vacant selectboard position.

Steve asked if there were any other nominations, there being none, Steve moved the board to the voting process.

Steve asked the following.

All in favor of Kyle Grenier for selectboard. Scott – Yea.

All in favor of David Vincent for Selectboard. Jason -Yea, Tara – Yea.

At this time Steve presented his vote for Kyle Grenier for Selectboard.

The vote is a tie, Jason and Tara for David Vincent and Scott and Steve for Kyle Grenier.

Both motions fail.

Discussion followed on; how do we move forward, the possibility of in person discussions with individual nominations, VLCT's recommendations on how to break a tie vote, what is better for the town, in person discussions with individual nominations and open meetings, do we wait for more nominations, what courses of action are available to fill the vacancy.

The Selectboard determined that they have three courses of action available.

1. Setup in person discussions with individual nominations.
2. Do nothing at all and remain a four-person Selectboard until after the March 2021 elections.
3. Call another open meeting to gather more nominations.

Steve asked the Selectboard what they would like to do. At this point Jason informed the Selectboard that he would be willing to change his vote, as it is best for the town to have a full five-member selectboard because the next five months will be extremely busy as it is time to build the 2021 budget and the Selectboard is presenting the taxpayers with a large bond call.

At this time Steve asked for nominations to fill the vacant selectboard seat.

Tara nominated David Vincent to fill the vacant selectboard position.

Scott nominated Kyle Grenier to fill the vacant selectboard position.

Steve asked if there were any other nominations, there being none, Steve moved the board to the voting process

Steve asked the following;

All in favor of Kyle Grenier for selectboard. Scott – Yea, Jason – Yea.

All in favor of David Vincent for Selectboard. Tara – Yea.

At this time Steve presented his vote for Kyle Grenier for Selectboard.

The vote to select Kyle Grenier to fill the vacant Selectboard seat passes three to one.

The vote to select David Vincent to fill the vacant Selectboard seat fails one to three.

Steve will call both David and Kyle tomorrow.

Amber informed the Selectboard that VLCT recommends a full re-organization takes place at the next Selectboard meeting. This will include selecting a new Chair and Vice Chair, all Selectboard members agree.

The new draft board procedural policy will be added to unfinished business.

New Business / Action items:

1. Selectboard Goals for the next Five Months: Steve asked the Selectboard to discuss what the Selectboards goals should be for the next five months.

Discussion followed on; the 2021 budget, the capital budget, preparing for the November elections, developing a comprehensive Town Five Year Plan, what crosschecks are in place to ensure no duplicate voting occurs (Amber provided the Selectboard a walkthrough of the procedure and cross checks in place but she suggests that all questions that they have been asked to the Town Clerk), 2021 will have a lot of staff changes, building timelines, setting of priorities, setting up a town rainy day fund, ADA standards, building maintenance, incorporating other departments priorities and plans and continuing to update the towns policies.

At this point discussion moved to the 2021 staffing changes; Cindy's retirement in June, the role of the DRB, back fill of the administrative assistant position, setting up new offices upstairs or in the basement, moving the meeting room to the basement, the cost to add new offices and update the meeting room to include the IT required for remote meeting access and the Historical Society's items currently stored in the basement.

Amber informed the Selectboard that the Cemetery Commission will be folding soon and that the Town will be taking over the Hope Cemetery. The Selectboard asked Amber to setup a public appearance with the Cemetery Commission to allow for discussion on how the transfer of care and funds will occur.

Amber informed the Selectboard that the DRB process is moving forward and that she expects the DRB to be adopted in the February – March timeframe. She also informed the Selectboard that over the past eighteen years there have been significant changes and that there should be an overlap of time between Cindy and her replacement.

2. Volunteer Fire Department Application – Jonathan Callan:

Motion to accept the Fire Chiefs recommendation to bring Jonathan Charles Callan onboard as a volunteer firefighter by Tara, seconded by Jason, all in favor

Administrator's Correspondence and Tasks:

Treasurer's Correspondence: None.

General Correspondence: None.

State of Vermont Correspondence: None.

Brochures/Newsletters/Workshops: None.

Executive Requirements: None.

Other Business Found Necessary:

Tara asked the Selectboard if the upcoming budget meetings could be held on Mondays and when should they begin. Amber stated that the first 2021 budget meeting should be on November 16th and all Selectboard members agreed that Monday night budget meetings will work for them. The first 2021 budget meeting is set for November 16th.

Amber informed the Selectboard that she is exploring other insurance options for the Town's as the policies provided by VLCT continues to rise, expected to be ~\$100k in 2021. She has talked with other towns who have switched to private insurance companies with good savings.

Amber also informed the Selectboard that the medical rates for 2021 are not yet available.

Town Administrator Tasks review: None.

At 8:34 p.m. the Selectboard moved to the 3rd quarter budget review.

Line 5 Current Taxes: Amber informed the selectboard that this line still includes the school tax portion and that revenues are looking good. She also informed them that the Town will be looking at a total reappraisal in the near future.

Steve asked Amber how the library ADA grant process was going. Amber informed him that there has been no movement forward at this time.

Line 124 Admin Consultant Services: This line will be over budget due to the ballot process required this year due to COVID-19.

Line 167 Admin Postage: This line will be over budget due to the ballot process required this year due to COVID-19.

Tara asked Amber how COVID-19 is affecting the St. Albans Parks and Recreation budget. Amber informed her that to date only approximately \$1,200 of the \$7,500 paid to St. Albans has been used. This means that the Town will be out the remainder. Tara then asked Amber to see if St. Albans would be willing to call and see if there will be a reduction.

Line 247 First Response Stipends: This line will be over budget due to an increase in the number of responses for calls this year.

Scott asked Amber how set the Town is on storm funds. Amber informed him that the Town will have to pay any additional expenses out of pocket and that FEMA funds for past events (Halloween 2019 storm) will not arrive until late 2021 at the earliest.

Scott also asked Amber if the Selectboard needs to budget for the upcoming implementation of the state's new stormwater runoff rules. She informed him that Todd is working this with the state.

Line 456 (Highway) Equipment Money to Reserve Fund: Will be over budget this year as the truck planed for purchase next fiscal year (capital budget) was purchased this fiscal year. This will wash out next fiscal year as the planned truck purchase will have already occurred.

Discussion followed on; interdepartmental loans and fund transfers, covering the expense with a loan rather than an interdepartmental loan, the future sale of the 2007 will go against this line, the effects on "cash-on-hand" and how would an interdepartmental equipment transfer work.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Samuel Wesley Gould.