

**Georgia Selectboard Meeting
Chris Letourneau Meeting Room
Monday, October 8, 2018
7:00 p.m.**

Approved: October 22, 2018

Present: Selectboard: Matt Crawford, Deb Woodward, Tara Wright, Ric Nye, Steve Lamos; Mike McCarthy, Town Administrator; and Amber Baker, Treasurer

Absent: None

Public Present: Mike Frett – St. Albans Messenger; Adam & Janelle Eisel, Kent Henderson, Carrie Lewis, David McWilliams.

Matt called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Matt asked for any additions, deletions or comments to the agenda. Mike added the following to the agenda:

1. Add under New Business, a discussion about a citizen's request asking the Selectboard to consider requesting the State to lower the speed limit on Route 104A near the high/low bridge area. That individual asked that Mike bring it to the attention of the Selectboard.
2. Check Warrant AP #67 has changed. This change is a reduction of the Unifirst invoice of \$11.73, which should have been charged to the Library, not Admin.
3. Additional Check Warrants AP #68 and PR #41 that need to be approved.
4. Informational. The new lighting installation at the Library began today. The installation should take about a week.

Review of Minutes:

Minutes of the September 24, 2018, regular meeting were reviewed and discussed.

Motion made to approve the 9/24/18 regular meeting minutes, with changes discussed, made by Deb, second by Tara. No further discussion. Ric abstained, all others in favor.

Review of Warrants:

Previously approved Check Warrant Report PR#40, AP#65 and AP#66 were reviewed. It is the general consensus to accept the previously approved check warrants.

Motion to approve Check Warrant Report AP #67 for the general fund, withholding the VLCT payments for the Capital Update consulting, until he can come in and talk with the Selectboard, made by Deb, second by Steve. No further discussion. All in favor.

Motion to approve Check Warrant PR #41, for payroll ending 10/11/18 and Check Warrant AP #68, for a payroll transfer to Citizens Bank, made by Deb, second by Steve. No further discussion. All in favor.

New Business:

1. Mike received a request from a citizen requesting the State to lower the speed limit on Route 104A near the high/low bridge. The current speed limit is 50 mph. The citizen is requesting the State to determine what they should lower the speed limit to. Ric states that we have made this request in the past, and the State declined our request.

Tara asks if we could add this request to our current letter to the State regarding the bridge repair on 104A. After a brief discussion, it is the general consensus of the Selectboard that they don't have enough information right now to make any requests to the State. Mike will contact Agency of Transportation and ask them what their plans are, while the bridge is under construction, and if this request would receive a positive review.

2. Resolution authorizing the Town Clerk to approve special events liquor permits. This came as a result of the special event down at the beach. This is common practice in many other communities as well.

Motion made to authorize and sign the Resolution for the Town Clerk to approve special events liquor permits, made by Ric, second by Deb. No further discussion. All in favor.

The Selectboard recessed the regular meeting and moved into the Vicious Dog Hearing at 7:15 p.m.

Adam and Janelle Eisel. David McWilliams, Animal Control Officer and Carrie Lewis, Assistant Animal Control Officer, are in attendance as well. Mike put the timeline with this situation in the packets. The Town received the first notification on Monday, October 1, 2018. The incident happened on Saturday, September 29, 2018. We received the information the following day from the male individual that was bitten.

The individual did go to the emergency clinic and was treated for the dog bite. Mike spoke with him and he asked that we proceed on the hearing, so Mike filed the paperwork. David went to the residence and left a door tag for the owners of the dog to contact us. Mr. Eisel contacted us the next day and came in and registered the dog and also provided proof that the dog was vaccinated. Mike spoke with the individual who had been bitten because he was very worried about the possibility of rabies. When Mike called him he was very relieved that the dog had been properly vaccinated. He still has some concerns about controlling the dog, though.

The Eisels are here. They have been very responsive to all of the requests and needs of the Town. They received a ticket for allowing their dog to run at large, in violation of the Animal Control Ordinance and they understand that. They also asked that the Selectboard be provided with a letter from a dog handler that they have taken their dog to have assessed and evaluated as far as the dog's temperament. There was also an email from the dog's vet regarding the temperament as well, all of which indicate that the dog is a pretty decent animal and not prone to doing this kind of thing.

Adam Eisel: This is our first time in one of these meetings. Charlie is our bloodhound's name, he is our baby. He is 2 ½ years old and we have never had any issues. He is not an angry dog but he is a big dog; he weighs about 150 pounds. Adam was working outside on Saturday and had the dogs out with him when the incident happened. They continue to bring him to training to try to get him to walk down the road and not react to other dogs, so they can take him out in public a little more.

After the incident, Adam spoke with the wife of the gentleman that was bitten or scratched, and she assured us that they were fine with it. Adam offered to give them all of the paperwork and even offered to pay, out of pocket, hospital bills.

Is there a request for what the people want the Selectboard to do? Their request is that there be assurances that the Eisels are going to control the dog, and not let him wander.

Matt asked if there were any other instances with this dog. David McWilliams, Animal Control Officer, said that he heard of another complaint, but a formal complaint was never made. David did issue two tickets, one for running at large and the other for an unlicensed dog.

Deb asked if either one of our Animal Control Officers have a recommendation? David states that because there has never been prior written history of a complaint, he believes the Selectboard's decision that the Eisels keep him on leash is appropriate. This is the first time David has met Adam and he feels that the Eisels will be more responsible moving forward. David says that if there is ever another instance, the next step would be to put in a fenced in area. Carrie feels the same way as David does.

Mike states that will all of the dog instances that we have had, the Eisels have been absolutely the most responsive to this. They have been very responsible to the community and the neighborhood attempting to gain control of the dog.

Motion made to issue a verbal order to direct the owners of the dog to keep him on some type of restraint at all times whenever it is outside. Upon recommendation of our Animal Control Officer, if there is a second incident we will require a physical barrier around the property, made by Ric, second by Deb. No further discussion. All in favor.

Motion to close the Vicious Dog Hearing at 7:30 p.m., made by Ric, second by Deb. No further discussion. All in favor.

The Selectboard reconvened the regular Selectboard meeting.

New Business Continued:

1. Draft Timeline for Georgia South Village Master Plan. Steve attended the meeting with the State and went over the timeline for moving forward. The intent is to have a non-binding ballot question during Town Meeting in March. Then the Selectboard would consider the results from the question and put together an official map of what it would look like, based on the outcome of the ballot question.

There was a general discussion regarding whether the question would be on the ballot; does that mean that the presentations cannot be inside the voting area? Would it be different if it is a non-binding question? The idea is to have some kind of mechanism in which the residents could vote on their opinion of what they would like to see. Krissy will research this further to see the proper procedure would be. Matt would like to see this question on the ballot.

Steve stated that we will need to create a line item in the budget so that as the land becomes available, and we may want to put a park in, if that is indeed what comes out of this, then we have funds to do so. Amber states that we have the Admin Reserve Fund that we haven't funded in a long time; perhaps we could use this one. There was a general discussion regarding this line item and the timeline to get this on the ballot or as an article in the warning in March.

Unfinished Business:

1. Kent Henderson joined the Selectboard for discussion on the Silver Lake Management Plan review. The Selectboard reviewed the Management Plan and had a general discussion regarding the plan. This plan was in line with what the Selectboard expected. The Conservation Commission has been really careful along the way

to get public comment and to really get the issues out in front and talk about them. The Conservation Commission is appreciative of the efforts that the Selectboard has put forward.

There was a discussion regarding the use of motorized vehicles. Ric has looked at the parking lot plan and doesn't have any problems with it.

Kent inquired if the Town crew would be able to do the parking lot this year? Ric stated that he thought so as they are nearing the end of drawing sand. Kent stated that if the Town crew didn't have time to do the work, they could look into hiring someone. Ric believes that the Town crew can do it soon; he will let Todd know and they can schedule this in.

Motion to approve the Silver Lake Management Plan, per the discussions regarding changes that may have happened through the course of this evening, and to authorize the Chair to sign on behalf of the Selectboard, made by Deb, second by Steve. No further discussion. All in favor.

2. Trash removal bids – review. The Selectboard reviewed the two bids received for trash removal.

Motion made to approve the Myers bid, provided that locks are included in the price, made by Deb, second by Ric. No further discussion. All in favor.

Administrator's Correspondences and Tasks:

1. Fire Department repeater on Bovat Road. The repeater is in the capital budget, it is not in the insurance line. Mike will get the ID number and get it on the insurance. Mike will let the Fire Chief decide the long term future of the repeater.

Treasurer's Correspondence:

1. Town of Georgia employees Accrued Time Report as of October 1, 2018. Informational.

General Correspondence:

1. Vermont State Police – September 2018 Monthly Activity Summary.

The next regular Selectboard meeting is scheduled for October 22, 2108. There is also a joint meeting with the Planning Commission on October 23, 2018. Deb would like to make sure that all of the information that the Selectboard has, the Planning Commission get before this meeting, like the job descriptions, Cindy's recommendations in a memo, etc. Please make sure that the Planning Commission gets these in their packets so that they have the same information that the Selectboard does.

Selectboard Concerns:

1. Deb asks that we make sure that every department head mentioned in the capital budget chart, which would be our Town Administrator, Fire Chief, Highway Foreman and Road Commissioner, Chair of the Library Trustees, Chair of Parks and Rec, and the Chief of the Georgia First Response, all get a copy of the capital budget that is sun setting. Deb would like them to pay attention to Table 2, which is what we intended to do in this capital plan and Appendix A, which is all of their active assets. We are adding First Response this year because they now have some assets that they will be carrying. Deb would like to request that all of these are back in by the first meeting in December.

2. Matt requests that Mike ask Andrew of First Response to send the Selectboard their approved meeting minutes.

State of Vermont Correspondence: None

Brochures, Newsletters, Workshops, and Advertisements: None

Signatures Needed: None

Legal Correspondence: None

Confidential / Executive Session Items:

1. Personnel.
2. Contractual.

Motion to go into Executive Session at 8:10 p.m., is requested at this time to discuss contracts, labor relations agreements with employees, arbitration or mediation, grievances, other than tax, pending or probable litigation, or confidential attorney-client communications made for the purpose of providing professional legal services to the Town of Georgia involving the Town, specifically finding that premature general public knowledge of the subject matter would clearly place the Town at a substantial disadvantage, made by Deb, second by Tara. No further discussion. All in favor.

Motion to come out of Executive Session made at 9:05 p.m. by Deb, second by Tara. No further discussion. All in favor.

No action out of Executive Session.

Motion to adjourn at 9:10 p.m. made by Ric, second by Deb. No further discussion. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted by Krissy Jenkins.