

**Georgia Selectboard Meeting  
Georgia Public Library  
Monday, April 23, 2018  
7:00 p.m.**

**Approved:** May 14, 2018

**Present:** Selectboard: Matt Crawford, Deb Woodward, Ric Nye, Tara Wright, Steve Lamos; Mike McCarthy, Town Administrator

**Absent:** None

**Public Present:** Michael Frett – St. Albans Messenger; Corey Parent

Matt called the 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 Representative Corey Parent as a Public Appearance.

**Public Appearance:**

Representative Corey Parent from St. Albans City. Corey is here reaching out to the citizens. With the announcement of the retirement of Carolyn Branagan, from the State Senate, Corey has decided to put his name in the hat. Corey has been going to various Selectboard meetings across the county introducing himself and trying to get a feel for the issues across Franklin County.

Corey is interested in hearing what the Selectboard has to say and any concerns from a Town Government perspective. The water quality of Lake Champlain is a big issue. Corey states, “We are seeing slow progress on that, but it is going to be one of the ones where the progress is never going to be as fast as people want.” The Selectboard had a general conversation regarding the water quality of Lake Champlain and Lake Carmi.

Matt also suggested that the State Statutes that govern Fire Departments were good post- WWII, but that the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Fire Departments operate in a very different capacity than back then, he believes those Statutes should be updated.

There was also a brief discussion regarding the funding of education. The Selectboard thanked Corey for coming in to introduce himself.

**Review of Minutes:**

Minutes of the April 9, 2018, special meeting were reviewed and discussed.

Motion made to approve the 4/9/18 special meeting minutes, with changes discussed, made by Ric, second by Steve. No further discussion. All in favor.

Minutes of the April 9, 2018, regular meeting were reviewed and discussed.

Deb doesn't believe that Check Warrant AP #20 has been approved correctly. There was some confusion as the original was lost and then missing an invoice. After a brief discussion, the Selectboard would like to see a timeline and explanation of exactly what happened with the Check Warrant AP#20.

Motion made to approve the 4/9/18 regular meeting minutes, with changes discussed, made by Deb, second by Tara. No further discussion. All in favor.

### **Review of Warrants:**

Previously approved Check Warrant Report PR#15, PR #16, and AP#24 were reviewed. It is the general consensus to accept the previously approved check warrants.

Motion to approve Check Warrant Report AP#25, made by Deb, second by Ric. No further discussion. All in favor.

### **Selectboard Concerns:**

1. Ric has a question regarding the uniforms. The Highway Department is going on five weeks without uniforms, we were told that it would be two weeks. Todd asked the question of the company when are we going to get our uniforms and he was told probably 3 or 4 more weeks. We have dropped the ball. We will be 7-9 weeks without uniforms when we were told it would be two weeks. Not to mention the office and the library have been without rugs for that same amount of time. Mike states that they should have been here three weeks ago and he will contact them.
2. Deb asked if a joint meeting has been scheduled with the Fire Chief and Officers. Krissy scheduled the meeting for the June 11, 2018 joint meeting with the Selectboard.
3. Deb requested a copy of the Conservation Commissions Mission Statement. Mike will forward a copy to the whole board.
4. Ethic Policy Signatures. Have we reached 100% on getting these back with signatures. Mike says no, it is going slowly. He has gotten a number of them back, but it is a work in progress.

Deb suggests that at the next re-organization to actually put some language in there about, "have they signed the Ethics Policy" as part of the action taken that night. Make it a part of being appointed; part of running is that they get a copy of the Ethics Policy.

### **Unfinished Business Report:**

1. Georgia Mountain Wind Agreement. Deb would like to task the Town Administrator to work with Green Mountain Power to shed some light, as they are the ones the power is being funneled to, get some answers. Have them look at the agreement and the formula. Why was it so important in 2012 that it took up a month's worth of meetings to have it basically negated by the new owner, mid-way through the contract and essentially being told the calculation doesn't work. They don't understand the significance of the calculation, they are just turning it into a flat rate. Are we leaving money on the table? Show GMP a copy of the contract, they might have the numbers to plug into the formula. We need to keep asking the question until we get the answer.

Mike will contact GMP and bring back the information to the Selectboard. Perhaps a phone call to the Town of Lowell would shed some light on the formula.

2. Truck Driver laborer position. Mike and Todd reviewed the applications. The ad has been out there for while. We got 12 or so to date; none of them have really met our requirements. Todd asked if we could run the ad one more time in the paper. There was a general discussion regarding where to place the ad, we need to be creative. Tara suggests talking to the Tech Center, for possible “on the job” training. Steve suggests posting it at Vt. Department of Employment & Training. What about online with Seven Days? It is the general consensus of the Selectboard for Mike to post the ad with the above suggested places.

### **New Business/Action Items:**

1. Review for approval of Fire Chief Baker’s information regarding tank replacement and other work on Tanker #3. This was previously discussed and put in the budget, as it was previously approved in the Capital Budget. The tank replacement was already included in the formula and the cost was included in the overall price.

Motion made to approve the request of the Fire Chief to replace the tank on Tanker #3, made by Deb, second by Ric. No further discussion. All in favor.

2. Review for approval new road name request “Cota Road” off from Red Barn Hill Rd. Request, site plan and aerial view in your packet. This request is out of sync with the proper process.

Motion made to table this request until the subdivision is approved with the Planning Commission, based on proper procedure and the Zoning Administrator’s recommendation, made by Ric, second by Deb. No further discussion. All in favor.

### **Administrator’s Correspondences and Tasks:**

1. Correspondence from VLCT PACIF representative regarding loss control site information. This means the Town gets a credit on their Workers Comp so costs are going down for this year. They are also very pleased with our low workers comp claim. It is the general consensus of the Selectboard to share this information with all departments and give them Thanks.

2. Notice from GMP of tree cutting to occur in right of way near 292 Cedarwood Terrace for electrical transmission right-of-way. No action taken.

### **Treasurer’s Correspondence:**

None

### **General Correspondence:**

1. Georgia Conservation Commission meeting minute from March 19, 2018 and April 16, 2018.

Deb asked, “When is the next semi-annual joint meeting scheduled with the Conservation Commission.” Matt talked to Kent Henderson this morning and he and Rob Meader are coming up with a list of communication options. Rob would like to come in to the Selectboard in June.

The Selectboard had a general discussion regarding the Conservation Commission Minutes dated April 16, 2018. In the minutes there is some discussion regarding hunting on town owned properties. The Commission wants to make the Russell Greene Natural Area exempt from hunting even though the Selectboard made it very clear that specific groups shouldn't be excluded from using Town owned properties.

It is the general consensus of the Selectboard for Matt to email the Conservation Commission, in the spirit of communication, stating their concerns with banning hunting at the Russell Greene Natural Area. There is no support from the Selectboard to ban hunting. In fact, when we agreed to the money for Silver Lake, the Selectboard was very clear that hunting and trapping would remain in perpetuity as uses of the property. Everything is allowed except motorized access. These lands belong to the Town of Georgia, not the Conservation Commission.

2. Georgia Public Library meeting minutes from March 19, 2018 and April 16, 2018.
3. Georgia Planning Commission meeting agenda for April 24, 2018.

**State of Vermont Correspondence:**

None

**Brochures, Newsletters, Workshops, and Advertisements:**

1. Insurance information from PACIF. This is the background information for what PACIF actually does for the Town, etc.

**Signatures Needed:**

None

**Legal Correspondence:**

None

**Confidential / Executive Session Items:**

1. Personnel/Contractual/Legal.

Motion to go into Executive Session at 8:15 p.m., is requested at this time to discuss legal, 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 8:45 p.m. by Deb, second by Steve. No further discussion. All in favor.

The Selectboard directed the Town Administrator to have the Town Planner investigate the availability of any grant money for the purpose of construction of a new handicap accessible entry at the Georgia Town Library.

Motion to adjourn at 9:05 p.m. made by Ric, second by Deb. No further discussion. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted by Krissy Jenkins.

Monday, May 14, 2018 budget meeting to be held at the Municipal Office in the Chris Letourneau Meeting Room at 6:00 p.m.

Monday, May 14, 2018 regular meeting to be held at the Municipal Office in the Chris Letourneau Meeting Room at 7:00 p.m.