



Town of Georgia

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Georgia Moves Forward on Garage Project

Land purchased, committee formed and RFP issued

GEORGIA, VT – The Town of Georgia is pleased to announce three significant steps toward construction of a new highway garage. As part of a coordinated effort, the town closed on the purchase of a 5.4-acre parcel that is the preferred site for the new facility, announced the formation of a Garage Oversight Committee and issued a "Request for Proposal" for project management services.

The 5.4-acre real estate closing is the first step in the process. In March, Georgia voters gave overwhelming approval for an \$80,000 appropriation to purchase a parcel owned by Olive and Gary Gilmond. Located just south of the current Georgia Highway Garage, the property has already been engineered for stormwater and sewer. The purchase was completed Dec. 18.

The Garage Oversight Committee has also been established and seeks members of the public to serve on it. The initial members of the Oversight Committee are Amber Baker (Town Administrator), Todd Cadieux (Road foreman and Road Commissioner) and Selectboard members Jason Burt and Scott St. Onge.

"Ideally we'll add 3-5 Georgia residents to the committee to assist us in making some of the decisions on the project," said St. Onge, who has a professional background in construction management and civil engineering. "We know this project will require community support, and by including members of the public in the earliest stages we hope to identify and address concerns our taxpayers may have."

Members of the public interested in serving are urged to call Baker at (802) 524-3524 before Jan. 10, 2020. Members must be Georgia residents. The Selectboard will make final determination on the committee makeup.

Additionally, the Town of Georgia has issued an RFP for project management services. Copies of the RFP are available by contacting Baker at administrator@townofgeorgia.com

"The RFP timeline is purposefully aggressive," said Baker, who also serves as the town treasurer. "We need a hard number to include in the 2020 budget and we'd like to approach voters with a bond request late in 2020. Choosing the right project manager will be a crucial task of the Oversight Committee."

The current Georgia Town Garage was built in 1978, when Georgia's population was under 3,000 people. With Georgia's population at about 5,000, significant deficiencies in the building have been identified.

"A new town garage will be a critical component in providing the services this growing community demands," said Baker. "In the past, this community has been tremendous in approving requests for infrastructure upgrades and we hope that support continues when we present a reasonable and cost-effective way forward for a new garage."