

**Georgia Selectboard Meeting  
Chris Letourneau Meeting Room  
Monday, September 23, 2019  
7:00 pm**

**Approved:** Approved

**Present:** Selectboard: Matt Crawford, Steve Lamos, Tara Wright, Jason Burt, Scott St. Onge. Town Administrator/Treasurer: Amber Baker. Selectboard Clerk: Samuel Gould.

**Absent:** All members present and on time.

**Public Present:** Todd Cadieux, Highway Foreman/Road Commissioner; Suzanna Brown, Georgia Conservation Commission; Lillian Gamache, Citizen.

Matt Crawford opened the regular Selectboard meeting for September 23, 2019, for the Town of Georgia in the Chris Letourneau Meeting Room at 7:00 p.m.

Matt asked the Town Administrator if there are any additions, deletions or changes to the meeting agenda. The following additions were noted.

A public appearance at 7:30 p.m. by Suzanna Brown to talk more about the condition of Silver Lake Rd.

Addition of the town library September 23<sup>rd</sup> Trustee meeting agenda.

**Public Appearances:**

Sally Ryan did not attend the meeting to discuss her sidewalk request.

Matt invited Lillian Gamache to the table to talk to the board on the possibility of the town implementing a waste container ordinance to help reduce the amount of trash laying on the ground.

Amber talked about the St. Albans ordinance and how they will enforce their 48-hour rule, how long a waste container can be out by the road. She also mentioned that Georgia would have no way to enforce an ordinance like St. Albans can.

Discussion followed on, ordinances and how they work, who can enforce them, roll-off containers, how trash all over the place looks, affect on the environment; neighborhoods vs main roads and raising awareness.

Matt stated that public awareness is the key and with the media present at the meeting, Lillian bringing the subject up is a great start.

The board thinks an ordinance of some kind maybe viable; it would bring up public awareness, but we would still have no real way to enforce it.

Amber will call Paul Lambert to gather more information.

Lillian departed the meeting at 7:16 p.m.

Matt invited Todd and Suzanna to the table to talk to the board about the Silver Lake road. The road is not safe for vehicular traffic. Todd will clean out the water bar and try to ditch on one side of the road. He will use the materials removed from ditching to fill in the culvert. The Conservation Committee voted

to pay up to \$800 to stone line the culvert ditch. This will all be temporary fixes. Todd is planning on completing this by next week.

Jason mentioned that he visited the site and the culvert is in bad shape.

Suzanna stated that it may be more appropriate to convert the road from Class IV to legal trail at this time. Todd then stated that the road is blocked by some large stones. They were placed a long time ago and no one knows who placed them or when. He will have to remove the stones to do the work, the issue is that it is illegal to block a Class IV road. He wants to know if the town wants him to place the stones back.

Discussion followed on, safety concerns, cost to bring the road up to Class IV standards, vehicles traveling up the road, move the stone to the end of the road, four-wheeler trails all over at the end of the road, what is the liability to the town, legal trail versus Class IV, State Act 64, and what is the process to re-classify a road.

All board members agree that the road should be re-classified, but more research must be done to make a final decision. Jason and Todd will attend the next GCC meeting on 21 October 2019 to discuss Silver Lake re-classification with them.

Suzanna departed the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

#### **Review of Past Minutes:**

Unapproved minutes from September 9, 2019 meeting. Motion to approve with minor change by Steve, seconded by Jason, all approve.

#### **Review of Warrants:** Minimum discussion.

AP65, AP66 & PR39: Motion by Jason to approve, Seconded by Steve, all in favor.

PR38, AP62, AP63 & AP64: Motion by Jason to approve, Seconded by Steve, all in favor.

#### **Selectboard Concerns:**

Matt brings up that Cindy is the only person appointed to issue Certificates of Occupation and that there is no one to cover this action when she is out.

Discussion followed on, how do we appoint a person, how do inspections work, any training requirements, if we appoint Amber how long do we make the appointment for.

Motion to appoint Amber as Assistant Zoning Administrator for the purpose of issuing Certificates of Compliance and Certificates of Occupancy until reorganization in March 2020 at which point it will be revisited by Tara, seconded by Steve, all approve.

Tara brings up the tracking of Ambers hours. This subject was moved to the executive session.

Scott brings up the request of the Chair for six month and one-year goals. This subject was moved to the executive session.

#### **Administrators Report to Selectboard:**

## **Unfinished Business:**

Update on Gilmond Property Purchase: All document sent to the state on 13 September 2019. This was returned by the state asking for detailed information of all property abutters, existing farm septic design and lister card information. All information was gathered and sent back to the state on 16 September 2019.

2019-2020 Capital Budget: Amber and Todd presented their finalized Highway Department plan. Discussion followed on, buying or renting a tractor for mowing, plans replacement cycle, increased yearly funding, should a future new highway department building maintenance be programed in this budget and the removal of a new grader.

All members approve of the plan which will now be added to the capital budget plan. Once this has been completed the plan must be posted for five days before the board can vote on approving it.

State of Vermont FY2020 highway structures grant – Mill River box culvert: Letter sent to state stating that we are not accepting the grant at this time.

Highway heating and ventilation improvements: The COI has been obtained, tax-exempt forms have been submitted and all the parts have been ordered. Todd has taken the lead on this project and he has confirmed that the roof insulation will be 5.2 inches.

## **New Business / Action items:**

VTRANS public hearing request: They wish to talk with the board about repairs and bridge replacement on Rt 104A. Board agrees that VTRANS should have their own meeting which the board will attend.

Paving Update: Pike has not yet completed the paving and informed the town they will carry over the 2019 pricing and finish all uncompleted work in the spring of 2020.

Discussion followed on, the reliability of Pike, not always selecting the lowest bidder (quality and reliability over cost), ensuring future contracts have some type of recourse for noncompliance.

Chief Bakers request to add Will Jones to the department roster: Todd is ok with this and all parties understand that snowplowing may override his FD duties. Motion to approve request by Tara, seconded by Jason, all approve.

**Administrator's Correspondence and Tasks:** Covered in the executive session.

**Treasurer's Correspondence:** Some discussion on the FY2020 preliminary cash flow.

## **General Correspondence:**

Georgia Fire Department draft meeting minutes from 09/05/19. Start adding their minutes to the town website.

Planning Commission draft meeting minutes from 09/10/19. No discussion.

Conservation Commission agenda from 09/16/19. No discussion.

FEMA letter regarding Missisquoi River study. No discussion.

PACIF Claims Cost details. No discussion.

Town library September 23<sup>rd</sup> Trustee meeting agenda. No discussion.

**State of Vermont Correspondence:** None

**Brochures/Newsletters/Workshops:**

Reasonable Suspicion Testing Training. Amber and Rob will attend the Waterbury session.

**Executive Requirements:** None.

**Other Business Found Necessary:** none

**Executive Session:**

Motion by Tara to enter executive session under 1 VSCA 313 to discuss contracts and labor relations agreements with employees with Amber attending, seconded by Steve, all approve.

Executive session entered at 8:14 p.m.

Motion to pay Amber Baker for 52 hours worked as interim Town Administrator made by Tara, seconded by Steve, all in favor.

Motion have personnel appeal hearings on Monday, October 7, 2019 made by Steve, seconded by Scott, all in favor.