

**Georgia Regular Selectboard Meeting
Via ZOOM Web Conferencing
Monday June 22, 2020 7:00 pm**

Approved: **Approved**

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

Absent: Tara Wright

Public Present: Buddy Meilleur, LCATV Production Manager; Todd Cadieux, Town Highway Foreman; David Vincent, concerned citizen.

Matt Crawford opened the regular Selectboard meeting for June 22, 2020 for the Town of Georgia via ZOOM at 7:01 p.m. to discuss regular business.

Additions, Changes or Deletions:

Addition: New Business #5, Vermont Rockets COVID-19 Safe Return to Play Summer, 2020.

Addition: New Business #6, Request to purchase new fire hose.

Addition: Unfinished Business #3, building donation inspection report provided.

Addition: Unfinished Business #5, 2020 private road and driveway proposed recommendations.

Change: Amber asked that all action items are discussed first as Tara is out and Steve will have to depart early due to an appointment.

The selectboard agreed with the changes and additions.

Public Appearances:

None

Review of Past Minutes:

Motion to approve the June 8, 2020 Regular meeting minutes by Steve, seconded by Scott, all in favor.

Review of Warrants:

Motion to approve check warrant AP40 by Jason, seconded by Steve, all in favor.

Selectboard Concerns:

Matt brought up his concern over a Facebook posting by the rummage sale looking for a dumpster.

Discussion followed on; why do they need one, how to secure it and would this make us a bad neighbor.

It seems that some individuals donating clothing also on occasion, leave bags of trash at the rummage sale and they need a dumpster to dispose of it.

Amber will talk with the rummage sale workers to see what is going on.

Administrators Report to Selectboard:

Amber added an addition to her report. Matt, Steve and herself attended the new sign dedication ceremony for the town recreation area.

Note from the Selectboard Clerk: To help ensure readability the minutes are written in our normal format and order rather than the actual order discussed.

Unfinished Business:

1. Hazard Mitigation Plan Update: Amber informed the Selectboard she is still awaiting state approval.
2. COVID-19 Updates: Amber asked the Selectboard if they were now ready to re-open the recreation area pavilion. There are rental requests starting to come in.

The Selectboard is in consensus that the pavilion can be re-opened per the state guidelines and that all state gathering guidelines must be met.

3. Building Donation: Amber asked the Selectboard members if they were able to view the digital footage of the building and property using the link provided earlier, all replied yes.

Discussion followed on; should we take on a new project at this time, the costs to bring the building and property up to a usable condition and up to code, what would we use the building for (do we have a purpose for it) and is there a decision timeline requirement.

Motion to decline the kind offer to donate the old town hall to the Town of Georgia as we currently have no purpose for its use or the ability to take on another project at this time by Steve, seconded by Scott, all in favor.

4. Lazy lady Island: Amber informed the Selectboard that research has identified a state archology site on the island. She called the state to see if that would allow them to help control the cormorant population and the answer was no. The state still requires the owner's permission and the cormorants may destroy the trees and groundcover but will have no effect on the archeological site.

Amber will continue to try and contact the owner and Matt will talk with the St. Albans Messenger about writing a story.

Matt and Amber will be drafting a letter to the land owner this week to ask for permission to control the cormorant population.

5. Purposed Road Standards Changes: The town Fire Chief would like to see the standard be 60' rather than the 35'. Matt asked why we would do this if our goal is to match the state standards and we need

to check with Lary if this is in fact a State guideline.

Todd also asked that we ensure that language is included that clearly defines that culverts are owned and maintained by the landowners and not the town.

Discussion followed on; who would be responsible if the culvert was installed properly but still fails, ensuring there is more onus on the landowner and following the state standards.

Selectboard members tabled this item until the next meeting to allow for further clarification and information gathering prior to a decision.

New Business / Action items:

1. Silver Lake Road: Amber informed the Selectboard that the Conservation Commission requested that the Highway Department remove the culvert.

Discussion followed on; leaving the culvert alone, pulling it out at a later date, Todd's suggestion to reclassify the road from a Class IV to a trail, current safety issues (none noted), why does the Conservation Commission want it removed, future logging plans and reclassifying the road before having to comply with the state's new erosion control requirements.

Motion to deny the Georgia Conservation Commissions request to have the Georgia Highway Department remove the culvert on Silver lake Road by Scott, seconded by Steve, all in favor.

2. Annual Financial Plan: Amber informed the Selectboard that the plan is required by the state for the release of state highway funding aid. It will require their approval and signatures.

Motion to accept the annual financial plan by Jason, seconded by Steve, all in favor.

Matt, Steve and Jason will stop by and sign the document tomorrow.

3. Stormwater Annual Inspection Report: Amber informed the board that the report had no major issues and that there were no questions for the state at this time.

4. Beaver Dam Repairs; Handling Human –Beaver Conflicts: Amber informed the Selectboard that this issue is being brought to their attention as Todd denied a private landowners request that the town provide a load of stone to fix his driveway due to a flooding issue on Old Stage Rd. This flooding occurred on Old Stage Rd to the interstate and across and may have occurred due to a beaver dam. Todd has installed a beaver block since the flooding occurred.

Motion to back Todd's decision not to provide stone to the landowner as the Town of Georgia is not responsible for repairs to privately owned property by Jason, seconded by Steve, all in favor.

5. Vermont Rockets COVID-19 Safe Return to Play Summer, 2020: The Selectboard is in consensus that this event can occur based on the current state COVID-19 guidelines.

6. Request to Purchase New Fire Hose: Amber informed the Selectboard that the Fire Chief is requesting permission to purchase 700' of 4" hose to replace hose that recently failed inspection. The estimate to replace the hose is for \$6,321.

Motion to approve the Fire Chiefs request to replace 700' of 4" hose not to exceed \$6,500 by Steve, seconded by Jason, all in favor.

Treasurer's Correspondence: None.

General Correspondence: Amber provided the Selectboard a brief synopsis of all general correspondence.

All questions asked by the Georgia Conservation Commission have been answered at this time.

Discussion followed on the Planning Commissions regulation review timeline. Amber informed the Selectboard that the Planning Commission has been working hard and is expecting the documents to send the documents to legal mid-July. They are behind schedule and she is expecting the review to be completed by Fall.

State of Vermont Correspondence: None.

Brochures/Newsletters/Workshops: None.

Executive Requirements: Personnel.

Other Business Found Necessary:

Todd informed the Selectboard that he has been trying to have a gate installed in the fence to allow him access to the town's new town garage land. Two months ago, he physically talked with the individual leasing the land and Amber has also worked on this during the past two months but to no avail.

Discussion followed on; why is a gate needed at this time, pushing the fence line back, presenting the leasers a formal request letter, do we use the sheriff's office to deliver the letter, what are the current liability issues the town is open to, will this cause the town more work -mowing, if we have the cows pushed back and do we need a new legal agreement with them.

Todd stated that he just needs part of the land at this time to reposition equipment and stone piles.

The selectboard has empowered Amber to work on this issue and has requested that she provide all of them a copy of the current agreement for their review.

Town Administrator Tasks review: Stated within the minutes above.

Motion to enter executive session under 1 VSCA §313 with Todd Cadieux and Amber Baker to discuss contracts, labor relations agreements with employees, arbitration, mediation, grievances, civil actions, or prosecutions by the state, where premature general public knowledge would clearly place the state, municipality, other public body, or person involved at a substantial disadvantage by Jason, seconded by Scott, all in favor.

Executive session entered at 7:50 p.m.

Todd departed executive session at 7:59 p.m.

Executive session ended and meeting adjourned by Matt at 8:12 p.m.