

**Georgia Selectboard Meeting
Chris Letourneau Meeting Room
Monday, January 13, 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 Present

Public Present: Judith St. Hilaire, Citizen; Rochelle Shidler, Citizen; Ted Kenney, attorney; PJ Laporte, Citizen; Andrew Pelcher, attorney; Marlene Wry, Citizen; Dakota Wry, Citizen; Dave Wry, Citizen; David McWilliams Town of Georgia Animal Control Officer; Jeremy Grant, Citizen; Cheryl Letourneau, Town Clerk; Dawn Penney, Asst. Town Clerk; Todd Cadieux, Town Highway Foreman; Bill Hinman, Town Assessor.

Matt Crawford opened the regular Selectboard meeting for January 13, 2020 for the Town of Georgia in the Chris Letourneau Meeting Room at 7:05 p.m.

Public Appearances:

Matt informed everyone that the regular meeting was going to start with a vicious dog hearing.

A description of how the hearing was provided and all those providing testimony were sworn in.

At this time Matt invited Judith St. Hilaire, complainant, to present her case and testimony against Gator the dog. Judith provided the board with her case against Gator and a detailed description of the events as they occurred that day. She also provided additional evidence which was added to the evidence file.

Matt then reminded everyone that this is a public hearing and asked if the board had any questions at this time.

Matt next invited the Wry's, Gators owners, to present their testimony. Mr. Pelcher read a statement on behalf of Marlene and Dave to provide a detailed description of the events as they occurred that day. They also provided additional evidence which was added to the evidence file.

Matt then informed everyone to ensure that their attorneys received copies of all new evidence presented. He also informed both parties that the road is not a class 4 road and asked if the board members had any questions at this time.

At this time Judith reiterated that she is concerned about future unprovoked attacks by Gator and her attorney Ted Kennedy also provided testimony and support.

Matt reminded everyone that the hearing was not about dog on dog attacks as that does not fall within the purview of the selectboard.

At this time Dakota Wry, the Wry's son, spoke up in favor of Gator. He informed the board that a state trooper was present after the incident.

Mat invited David McWilliams to come forward and provide his testimony as the towns Animal Control Officer. David provided the board with his step by step investigation of the incident. He also informed

them that Tanneberger Veterinary confirmed Gator was up to date on his rabies vaccination and that he found no past incidents involving Gator. David did issue the Wry's two tickets, one for Gator not being licensed in the Town of Georgia and one for Gator running free on town roads. David also provided His final thoughts that it was a bad thing to happen but he didn't place the blame on either party.

Matt then stated that there was nothing left to introduce and asked for a motion to close the hearing and go into deliberation.

Motion to close the hearing at 7:58 p.m. and go into deliberation by Scott, seconded by Steve, all in favor.

All parties associated with the vicious dog hearing depart.

Matt re-opened the regular select board for January 13, 2020 at 8:10 p.m. Bill Hinman is present and Matt asks to go into executive session to talk about contracts.

Motion to go into executive session with Bill Hinman and Amber Baker to talk about contractual proceedings at 8:09 p.m. by Steve second by Tara, all in favor.

Returned from executive session at 8:34 PM.

Review of Past Minutes:

All budget meeting minute approvals postponed until all budget meetings have been completed.

Motion to approve 9 Dec minutes with Scotts changes by Jason, seconded by Scott all in favor.

Motion to approve 18 Dec minutes with Scotts changes by Jason, seconded by Scott all in favor.

Review of Warrants: Minimum discussion.

Motion to approve AP52A by Steve, seconded by Scott, all in favor.

Motion to approve AP82 by Jason, seconded by Scott, all in favor.

Motion to approve AP83 by Steve, seconded by Scott, all in favor.

Motion to approve AP1 by Jason, seconded by Scott, all in favor.

Motion to approve AP2 by Steve, seconded by Scott, all in favor.

Motion to approve AP3 by Jason, seconded by Steve, all in favor.

Motion to approve AP4 by Jason, seconded by Steve, all in favor.

Selectboard Concerns: None

Administrators Report to Selectboard:

Unfinished Business:

Update on Gilmond Property Purchase:

2019-2024 Capital Budget: Amber is ready to complete the Capital Budget at the Selectboard's next meeting. Hearing will be held on January 27, 2020.

Highway heating and ventilation improvements: Ventilation is almost done once they finish JFS Electric will complete the final electrical connections to the heating system. Todd stated that the current indoor temperatures will work until the heating system is on line.

Silver Lake Culvert: Ken informed Amber that Lee Simard (ANR) recommends the removal of the existing culvert and not replacing it. Plan is to move forwards with reclassifying the road to a trail. Amber will inform the GCC of this decision.

Sidewalk Responsibilities: For the selectboards awareness, the Town can maintain or adopt an ordinance to make owner, occupant or abutter clear the Sidewalks. VLCT has a bulletin on sidewalks that will give the selectboard ideas on sidewalk ordinances. Some discussion followed on providing landowners a good document and any expenses.

New Business / Action items:

Highway Building Committee appointments: looking for approval of the following individuals for the development of the Gilman land; Todd Cadieux, Scott St. Onge, Jason Burt, Amber Baker, Donald Dean, Gilles Rainville Sr., Kyle Grenier and Carolyn Branagan.

Motion to appoint; Todd Cadieux, Jason Burt, Donald Dean, Gilles Rainville Sr., Kyle Grenier and Carolyn Branagan to the new Highway Building Support Committee with Amber Baker as the chair and Scott St. Onge as the second chair by Steve, seconded by Tara, all in favor.

Stitzel, Page & Fletcher rate increases: For the selectboards awareness.

Town Highway Garage Consultant RFP's: At this time four bids received. The 2020 budget needs to include Phase 1 and 2. The new Highway Building Support Committee will be tasked with providing recommendation to the Board for their February 3, 2020 meeting. Mr. Barden did not submit a bid as he's working on a very large \$60 million project elsewhere at this time.

Discussion followed on; the town budget, how bids are graded, what we can finance this budget year versus next budget year, that we have to have this done by the third so we can have it ready for town meeting day and Ensuring we have a decision matrix that is published.

Well's Tax Sale: Property tax sale that occurred on December 30th was found to be void. A new tax sale is set for February 25, 2020. Amber recommends the Board appoints someone to attend the Sale to represent the Town to possibly purchase the property. This will help the town at least make sure that the taxes owed are covered.

Motion to have Amber attend as the town representative to possible purchase the property with a bid not to exceed \$16k by Scott, seconded by Steve, all in favor.

NEMRC Software & Support Agreements: Motion to approve Amber to sign the software and end user agreements by Tara seconded by Steve all in favor.

Administrator's Correspondence and Tasks: No major discussion.

Treasurer's Correspondence: No major discussion.

General Correspondence:

State of Vermont Correspondence:

Motion to accept our certificate of the Towns 2020 certificate of highway mileage ending by Scott

seconded by Jason, all in favor.

Brochures/Newsletters/Workshops: None.

Executive Requirements:

Other Business Found Necessary: None

Town Administrator Tasks review:

Inform the GCC of the selectboards decision on Silver Lake road reclassification.

Decision letter on vicious dog attack.

Send Tara the 2020 budget meeting notes.

Start the process of standing up the Highway Building Support Committee

Motion by Tara to enter executive session under 1 VSCA §313 with Amber and Todd 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 Tara, seconded by Steve, all in favor.

Executive session entered at 9:35 p.m.

Motion out of executive session. Approval for Todd to pursue Co-op opportunities with Northwestern Technical Center, all were in favor.

Meeting ended at 10:34 p.m.