

**Georgia Selectboard Meeting
Georgia Fire Station Community Room
Monday, January 28, 2019
7:00 p.m.**

Approved: February 11, 2019

Present: Selectboard: Matt Crawford, Deb Woodward, Tara Wright, Ric Nye, Steve Lamos; Mike McCarthy, Town Administrator; and Amber Baker, Treasurer

Absent: None

Public Present: Suzanna Brown, Gary Wright, Michael Frett – St. Albans Messenger.

Matt called the regular meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Matt asked for any additions or deletions or comments to the agenda. Mike added the following to the agenda:

1. Authorize and approve moving the public posting location for town notices from the former Center Market to the Georgia Elementary School main bulletin board.
2. Review and approve the 2019 Annual Warning.
3. Georgia Planning Commission meeting minutes from January 8, 2019 and January 22, 2019.
4. Review and act upon proposed sugar bush lease agreement for the Silver Lake Wood property.
5. Executive Session item from Tax Collector Kevin Webster under legal.

Public Appearances:

Suzanna Brown, Chair of the Conservation Commission. Suzanna is here to discuss with the Selectboard the proposed Sugarbush Lease to Use Agreement for the Silver Lake Wood property. There were a couple of areas of concern that Suzanna and the Conservation Commission suggested be changed. One was where it talks about thinning of maple trees for sugarbush improvement; this should just say trees instead of maple trees. Also where it says sugar wood harvesting shall be allowed, it should just say wood harvesting.

The Selectboard and Suzanna had a general discussion regarding this agreement. Once the Selectboard approves this agreement, Suzanna will forward the document to the Land Trust for their approval.

Motion made to approve of the Sugarbush Lease to Use Agreement, with the recommendation of the Conservation Commission, with the Town Administrator signing on behalf of the Selectboard, made by Deb, second by Steve. No further discussion. All in favor.

Gary Wright. Mr. Wright is here to complain that the Town is in violation of its Purchasing Policy by allowing another company to sell and haul gravel when he could be bidding on it.

Gary states, "What I have come across is there were a couple of instances where the Town has gone outside to buy services and I think in your purchasing policy it says where possible it is to be kept in town and our business happens to do both of those and we were never even told."

Ric asks what Gary did on his property. Gary lives at 3400 Ethan Allen Hwy. Gary states they do trucking and they do heavy maintenance. They have a garage that they work on vehicles. At one point in time; Gary stated that he offered at Town Meeting to build trucks and that particular one was the tanker for the Fire Department. Gary quoted them \$100,000, the Town paid \$180,000. They do heavy maintenance, they do fabrication and they do trucking as well as other stuff. They have never had the opportunity to address any of those services with the Town. Gary's question is how come?

Ric asked Gary if he had a permit for this business, and Gary stated that he did. The Selectboard would like to see the permit. Ric recommends that Gary go in and speak with the Zoning Administrator regarding the correct, legal permit for the business he is actually running.

Gary is just looking to be given the opportunity to bid like everyone else. The Selectboard thanked Gary for coming in and they will take this under advisement and Gary will make an appointment with the Zoning Administrator.

Review of Minutes:

Minutes of the January 14, 2019, regular meeting were reviewed and discussed.

Motion made to approve the 1/14/19 regular meeting minutes, with changes discussed, made by Tara, second by Ric. No further discussion. All in favor.

Review of Warrants:

Motion to approve Check Warrant Report PR #4 for payroll ending 1/24/19 and Check Warrant Report AP #5 for a payroll transfer to Citizens Bank, made by Steve, second by Ric. No further discussion. All in favor.

Motion to approve Check Warrant Report AP #6 for the general fund, withholding the payment for FirePro Tech for the Highway and the Sullivan and Powers invoice for further clarification on both of these invoices, made by Deb, second by Steve. No further discussion. All in favor.

Motion to approve Check Warrant Report PR #5 for payroll ending 1/31/19 and Check Warrant Report AP #7 for a payroll transfer to Citizens Bank, VMERS DB and VT Department of Taxes, made by Deb, second by Steve. No further discussion. All in favor.

Selectboard Concerns:

1. Capital Budget. Is there any place in the meeting this evening where we will be talking about the Capital Budget? There isn't any, but we can discuss now.

We still have a capital budget for 2019, but we want to address a capital budget program for six years (2020-2025) and an opportunity to look at rewriting the Municipal Impact Fee Ordinance as well.

Motion to direct the Town Administrator to reach out to Abbey of VLCT and notify her of the board's desire to reset the capital budget process with Brendan Kelleher and with Mike at the helm, assisted by Amber, made by Deb, second by Steve. No further discussion. All in favor.

2. Thank Kelly Viens. The Selectboard wanted to publicly thank Kelly Viens and the numerous other volunteers for their efforts in attempting to garner enough signatures for a petition for the St. Albans Recreation Department for Georgia participation. Though their quest was unsuccessful, and the deadline passed without the requisite signatures coming in, we just wanted to thank everyone for trying and thank Kelly for reaching out to the Selectboard.

3. The Selectboard would like to thank Amber Baker, Treasurer, for generating our budget. Amber has put in work on weekends and on her own time and we appreciate it. Thank you.

Unfinished Business:

1. Follow-up VIS report. Mr. Haas has provided summary reports of work performed, schematic design budget estimates and schematic design process prints. There are included in your packets.

What is the recommendation of the Town Administrator, based on talking back and forth with VIS; did they do the work we were billed for? Mikes states that based upon everything and his communications with VIS, they provided what we asked them. The only question that everyone has is, where it went off the rails, to the additional building. In talking to Brian, he indicated that that was in his discussion with the Library Trustees; there are other alternatives besides just pushing the door because pushing the door would lose space inside the main building. This other alternative was something he presented to give a second view of something that could be done. This was not the end all answer, just another alternative.

This still doesn't address the \$935 invoice for the capital budget, which Deb has no interest in paying. Deb doesn't believe he understood what he was providing or what was requested of him and he didn't provide eight buildings; we asked for eight and we got two. Deb would like to have the \$935 invoice applied to any further discussions that Mike has with Brendan Kelleher who can help him with what we are looking for moving forward. Mike feels that this will work as he feels these two gentleman will work really well together. Let's just have the invoice go on account and apply it to whatever he has to do to resolve what Brendan is looking for. Then he can submit an invoice, and with Brendan's blessing, we will pay it. Mike will speak with Brian and Brendan tomorrow and get this going.

Steve feels that everything else they billed us for is valid as we will need what they created for the grant, etc. There was a general discussion regarding the remaining two invoices for VIS that haven't been paid to date.

Motion made to pay the two invoices for VIS in the amount of \$2310.00 and \$3428.00, made by Steve, second by Deb. No further discussion. All in favor.

2. Confirmation of Georgia South Transportation District Master Plan community meeting scheduled for February 20, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. at Georgia Elementary School in the little gym. Informational.

3. Confirm: not enough signatures were obtained to put Recreation Program proposal from St. Albans City on the ballot.
4. AmCare contract signed. Mike and Walter of AmCare met and spoke regarding the contract. The contract was signed and it is now in force.
5. Auditors report that the number of printed town reports will be reduced as requested. They are reducing it by 400.
6. Department of Corrections Work Agreement signed and in place. Informational.

New Business:

1. Approve 2019 Budget. The budget is generally done, we are just trying to come up with one number for a real estate purchase.

Administrator's Correspondences and Tasks:

See Report attached.

Treasurer's Correspondence: None

General Correspondence:

1. Georgia Conservation Commission Agenda from January 21, 2019 meeting. They are working on a management plan, further process on the sugar woods, and trail signage and maintenance.

State of Vermont Correspondence: None

Brochures, Newsletters, Workshops, and Advertisements: None

Signatures Needed: None

Legal Correspondence: None

Additions Added to Agenda:

1. Authorize and approve moving the public posting location for town notices from the former Center Market to the Georgia School main bulletin board.

Motion made to approve moving the public posting location from The Center Market to the Georgia School, made by Deb, second by Tara. No further discussion. All in favor.

2. Annual 2019 Town Warning. This is in draft form, just waiting for a number to finalize it. The Selectboard will go into Executive Session to discuss this further.

Confidential / Executive Session Items:

1. Legal.

2. Real Estate

See the 1/28/19 Georgia Selectboard Budget Minutes for Executive Session action.

2019 Budget. Total to be raised by taxes is 1,836,880.00, which represents an 8% increase over last year's actual budget. This should be about a \$20 raise per \$100,000 of appraisal for the next tax year. 8% seems a little high, but we have some library staffing increases, some corrosion control taking place at the Fire Department and the big ticket items are a roof and some drainage at the Highway, which are onetime costs.

Motion to approve the 2019 Budget in the amount of \$1,836,880.00, made by Deb, second by Steve. No further discussion. All in favor.

The Selectboard would like to thank Amber, all the department heads, and everyone who came out for 100% attendance at the budget meetings. We are really grateful to everyone that worked really hard in this town to make magic with a small amount of money.

Motion made to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:45 p.m., made by Deb, second by Steve. No further discussion. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Krissy Jenkins.