

**Georgia Selectboard Meeting
Chris Letourneau Meeting Room
Monday, December 10, 2018
7:00 p.m.**

Approved: December 19, 2018

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

Absent: None

Public Present: Troy McBride, Michael Frett, Kelly Viens, Michael Anderson, Linda Hemond, Justin Hemond, Melissa Lavery, Andrew Dunsmore, Jordan Valyou, Chelsea Dubie, Damon Blanchard, Steve Pontbriand, Gary Deziel, Brian Haas, and Todd Cadieux.

Matt called the regular meeting to order 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. Check Warrant Report PR #50 and AP #81.
2. Letter of interest from David Vincent for position on Planning Commission.
3. Letter, petition and e-mail from residents of McKinlee Lane, Mason Drive, Maple Drive and Reynolds Road regarding concerns about the condition of Reynolds Rd.
4. Note from Conservation Commission regarding VT Rt. 104A Bridge.
5. Approve 2019 Holiday Schedule.
6. Town Holiday lunch schedule.
7. Auditors submission deadline for 2018 Annual Report is January 8, 2019.
8. Executive Session – Personnel.
9. First Response – Personnel.

Public Appearance:

Troy McBride. Troy is here to discuss a potential solar project on Ethan Allen Highway. They are looking to potentially put a community solar array on 3 acres of land at 3128 Ethan Allen Highway. Troy went over the site plan with the Selectboard. Troy is ultimately looking for a Letter of Support for the project from the Selectboard, Planning Commission and Regional Planning to allow the project to go forward to the permitting process. This is a new step in the process that started in 2017.

In Georgia, the Planning Commission is an elected, peer board. The Selectboard is more comfortable with the Planning Commission looking at this first to make sure that it falls within the purview of our current regulations and the goals for this site in Georgia.

It is the general consensus to table this decision until they receive a written response from the Planning Commission so the Selectboard can take that under advisement. It would be appropriate for the Selectboard to make their decision based on the Planning Commission's suggestions and review. The Selectboard thanked Troy for coming in.

Kelly Viens - St. Albans City Recreation Department. Their programs have been growing and they have had requests from some Georgia residents regarding the resident discount, which is about a 30% discount. The Recreation Department has made an agreement with area towns so they can get the discounted rate, and then the municipality pays that difference, which is about 30%, on a quarterly basis. Kelly is bringing the Selectboard this same arrangement that she has with other Towns.

Kelly went over some of the programs that the Recreation Department offers. After a general discussion, it is the general consensus of the Selectboard to table this discussion further until they can have some general budget discussions. There are a lot of things to look at. The Selectboard will reach out to Kelly and let her know of their decision.

Brian Haas - VIS Construction Consultants. Brian is here to present two items: the Library ADA Accessibility access/cost estimate, and the capital needs that relate to some buildings in Town, which VIS did the inspection and report on.

Brian started with the ADA Accessibility first. Brian passed out a chart to the Selectboard and stated he didn't go any further until he gets some direction from the Selectboard. It is a high priority for the Library Trustees to get ADA access to the Library, and the second project being the Town garage, which has had continued roof leaks.

The Town Garage project entails a new building. Ric states, "We have a building that needs a new roof right, I am not sure that we have the funds to do all of these projects." VIS was asked as part of our facilities report to cost estimate what would be the cost of a new facility of similar size to the current garage. This plan is slightly enlarged and we did build in a septic field and suitable parking. There is no procurement of land that is part of this plan.

At first, looking at 2019, we can't swallow both of those projects. That is not even realistic. Brian states that he can separate the projects out. We have a \$2.3 million budget and you just quadrupled it. We are going to have to dial back. Brian doesn't know anything about the Board's funding sources. It has always been understood that the ADA project at the Library was going to require a grant. It is just money that we don't have laying around.

The Selectboard still has to have the discussion if we are going to replace the garage and if we are, that is going to have to be bonded. This needs to be broken down into steps. Brian asked the Selectboard to tell him their priorities and then they can break it down into pieces. What are the achievable tasks in a four year timeline that gets us the right decision? These two things are too big to move through the capital budget. There are pieces of this that we can move through our regular budget. The Selectboard will

review the chart at their budget meeting. VIS's intention is to give the Selectboard a document that is as comprehensive as they were led to believe we wanted. Brian's understanding is that the Selectboard wanted it spread out to show how much money you will spend each month of each year. Brian will revise the spreadsheet after the Selectboard has their budget meeting tomorrow where they can further discuss. The Selectboard thanked Brian for coming and speaking with them.

Library Trustees. Gary Deziel and Paula Ralston are here to discuss the Library budget. Paula went over the Library Trustees 2019 Draft Budget numbers. The Trustees are constantly trying to figure how to make the Library a great resource for the Town of Georgia. In doing some comparisons to other Towns in Vermont, they believe that they are underfunded comparably speaking per capita. Which poised them to ask for certainly more than 2% of what they typically ask for to make the Library function for our Town. The Library Trustees are asking for a 28% increase to their 2019 budget.

There are a couple of improvements that they want to make in the Library. One is the adoption of a new system to run the Library called KOHA. This is a \$500 increase to the current budget, so it is not a huge increase but it will offer a new way to run the Library.

One big increase, really the bulk of this year increase, is staffing hours to increase opportunities for programming, to allow for additional meetings as we go through the renovation project. To put the Library Director into 40 hours a week would help cover a lot of these extra meetings.

Tara asks, "With the Librarian going full time, how many additional hours would the Library be open?" Paula states, "We are looking to increase a little bit of hours with the lead assistant librarian. The Trustees haven't figured out exactly what the increase to the hours will be yet. We definitely see some increase in hours but we couldn't really flush that out until we get the actual budget approved. The Trustees also did a little give and take with the books for adults."

There was a general discussion regarding the 2019 budget. The Selectboard thanked the Trustees for coming in. The Selectboard now has some solid feedback and will get back with the Trustees after the Selectboard has a budget meeting.

Reynolds Road Community. Michael Anderson, Melissa Lavery, Damon Blanchard, and Steve Pontbriand. Todd Cadiuex, Highway Foreman, also joined the conversation.

Melissa Lavery spoke on behalf of the group. The Selectboard received a letter from the residents and a petition. In speaking with the residents it was very evident that all of the people that use Reynolds Rd. every day have varying opinions about how the road needs to be changed or maintained more effectively to accommodate the increased traffic from all of the additional houses that have been built over the last 10 years. It seems as though when we do have fixes, they are half fixes, they are band-aid fixes. They are resolving the issues for a very short period of time. We are tired of having to call or email and then be met with either no response to our call or emails or a hostile response.

As taxpayers we should not have to request that our road be maintained, it should just be done anyway. We expect the Town and the Road Commissioner to take it seriously. We are asking the board to make sure that this does happen. There have been several occasions most recently, as was mentioned in the letter, around that December 1st time frame and that week leading up to that where the road was to the point where you couldn't even step on the gas on your vehicle, you were idling for several hundred yards

at several sections of the road. The road is narrow and when you are dodging potholes and someone is coming in the opposite direction it is dangerous. Wear and tear on the vehicles is that much greater, commute time is longer, it is definitely not safe for anyone walking on the road. It's not safe for kids on the school bus, if we need emergency response, it can be delayed. We are really wanting it taken seriously.

Ric asks, "How is the road today?" Melissa says, "I will start by saying when I called on December 1st, I was told that the only maintenance that we do on the road in the winter is plowing and sanding, thank you for your time ma'am, goodbye. It was graded then on Monday and I think it is because of all of the people that I spoke with, basically called in also."

Ric states, "I have never gotten a phone call, and I am the Road Commissioner. Ric gave Melissa his phone number. Ric and Todd talked last week. As soon as possible, Todd went down and tried to fix the problem. Melissa says as a tax payer she is calling the Administrator, essentially she is calling the Road Commissioner. Wouldn't he have the duty to communicate that to the appropriate people? Ric would like Melissa to make him the first call.

Melissa says, "It's a band aid fix, because the problem is that ever since that road was graded that day, it was a lot better, but I can tell you right now we are supposed to get some warm weather this weekend, drive it Monday, it is a constant problem." Ric states, "That is part of a dirt road, this has been the worst year that we have had in many years for maintaining dirt roads because when it is very hot and dry, like it was most of the summer, it is almost impossible to grade because the roads are so hard, you can't cut the road to where you should. Then when it did get to where we could grade it, it rained every day. But we do the best we can."

Ric states, "There is no permanent fix, you have to keep grading the road constantly." There are a total of 42 parcels on Reynolds Rd. Now we have to figure out, going forward, how to better maintain this road.

Steve Pontbriand. Steve states, "I think it's plain and simple. When you say you can't fix the road, it's impossible, it's a dirt road. When putting gravel down, it creates so much dust. I saw a little girl last year, she jumped out of the way. Put the calcium down right after you put the gravel down, it will keep the dust down. The road crowning isn't there, it instantly goes right back to pot holes in three days. Truthfully it is not our problem, we are taxpayers and I am sick of it."

Damon Blanchard says, "It's just the basic service we are asking for. I have lived there nine years now, the road gets bad, the grader comes out, it does a good job. My one observation is when a pothole is 8 inches deep and the grader goes through and cuts it down to 2 inches, it just puts dirt in the rest of the hole, it is just fluffy dirt. There is still the hard bottom of the rest of the pothole. You are not getting down to the bottom of the pothole. I am no road expert, it is just my observation."

There was further discussion regarding the condition of the road and the communication problem. Part of the problem is the communication problem. The Selectboard can make the communication problem better. It is the general consensus of the Selectboard to look at what the Town can do to improve the condition of the road in the spring.

Todd states that every other dirt road in Town is in the same condition. Part of the problem is that they all get bad at the same time. When you get constant rain, we can't grade when the mud puddles are full, so we had a long period where they couldn't get graded. It takes the Highway Department five days to get all of the dirt roads graded once. There are approximately 24 miles of dirt roads and 40+ miles of pavement.

There was a general discussion regarding the paving budget and Class 3 roads. The Selectboard is not going to be able to fix the road this week, but maybe we could start looking around if there is someone else doing it better than us. This winter, we are just going to have to triage the road. We will take a look this spring to see what we can do to improve the conditions of the road.

The Selectboard thanked everyone for coming in and sharing their concerns with them.

Todd Cadieux – Highway Foreman. Todd is here to discuss the 2019 highway budget. Todd, Ric and Amber have been working on the budget. There are no payroll figures to date. There was a general discussion regarding the 2019 highway budget.

We need to get some estimates on the roof repair. We have only one estimate at this time, so we need to get at least two more. The estimate that Mike received was to pitch the roof and it was for \$85,000. We need to get a couple of bids to replace what we have with both a flat roof and a pitch.

If we are replacing the building in two years, is it worth spending \$5,000 on a roof now. There was a general discussion regarding if the building would be replaced or repaired. It would make more sense to get the estimates for repair before we decide what to do moving forward. The Selectboard would like to get these quotes for the December 19, 2018 meeting.

Todd also states that he is having issues with the floor drainage in the garage not draining. Todd tried to snake it and the snake wasn't long enough. He is going to have to get someone else to look at it. It is the general consensus of the Selectboard for Todd to call Paul Carroll and have him come look at the drainage issue.

The Selectboard thanked Todd for coming in and meeting with them.

First Response. Andrew Dunsmore, Chelsea Dubie and Jordan Valyou. They are here today to ask the Selectboard to appoint Jordon Valyou to the First Response.

The First Responders met in November. Jordon approached First Response; he has successfully completed his EMT, both State and National Certified. His ultimate goal is to become a full time firefighter/EMS with full time service somewhere in Vermont. He is currently a member of the Fire Department as well. First Response has multiple members that are both Fire and First. There are currently 9 members on First Response. Seven respond to calls, soon to be six.

Motion made to appoint Jordan Valyou to the First Response, made by Ric, second by Deb. No further discussion. All in favor.

The Selectboard had a general budget discussion with Andrew for the 2019 year. Andrew and Chelsea have been working on the budget over the past few months. Right now they are not looking to increase

their regular budget at all. They are trying to create a capital budget for First Response. Chelsea will forward their budget to Amber in the morning. Thanks for coming in.

Review of Minutes:

Minutes of the November 26, 2018, regular meeting were reviewed and discussed.

Motion made to approve the 11/26/18 regular meeting minutes, with changes discussed, made by Deb, second by Tara. No further discussion. All in favor.

Review of Warrants:

Previously approved Check Warrant Report PR#49, and AP#79 were reviewed. It is the general consensus to accept the previously approved check warrants.

Motion to approve Check Warrant Report AP #80 for the general fund, made by Deb, second by Steve. No further discussion. All in favor.

Motion to approve Check Warrant Report PR#50 and Check Warrant Report AP#81, noting that Selectboard members are listed on Check Warrant PR #50, made by Deb, second by Ric. No further discussion. All in favor.

Selectboard Concerns:

1. Deb asked that Mike, to get ready for December 19th, please contact Bill Hall and Abigail Freedman to confirm, beyond all reasonable doubt, that paving has been removed from all historical reports and current capital budget projections. Please cc: the Chair and Deb on their response.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: None

Administrator's Correspondences and Tasks:

1. Department of Corrections Community Service Team contract for 2019. The Department of Corrections has been doing a lot of work for the Highway Department cutting wood.

Motion made to approve of the Corrections Community Service Team Contract for 2019, with the Town Administrator signing on behalf of the Selectboard, made by Deb, second by Ric. No further discussion. All in favor.

2. Approve 2019 Holiday Schedule.

Motion made to approve of the 2019 Holiday Schedule, made by Tara, second by Deb. No further discussion. All in favor.

3. Note from Conservation Commission regarding VT Rt. 104A Bridge. The Conservation Commission would like to be part of the discussions regarding the bridge replacement. Matt emailed the Chair of the Conservation Commission and told her when VTrans comes in, we will notify the Conservation Commission.

4. Letter of Interest from David Vincent for a position on Planning Commission. Normally the Planning Commission makes a recommendation to the Selectboard of whom to appoint. Mike will forward this letter to the Planning Commission as they are meeting tomorrow night.

5. Town Holiday lunch schedule. It is the general consensus of the Selectboard for the meal to be 12/20/18 at the Fire Station and to purchase as much as possible in Town.

Treasurer's Correspondence:

1. Employee accrued time report as of 12/2/18.
2. General Ledger Checking Account Balance Worksheet as of 11/30/18.

General Correspondence:

1. Vermont State Police – November 2018 monthly activity summary.
2. Georgia First Response – meeting minutes from November 19, 2018 meeting.
3. Northwest Solid Waste District – meeting minutes from November 7, 2018.

State of Vermont Correspondence:

1. Right-of-way information request regarding VT Rte. 104A bridge construction. Mike will forward this information to the State.
2. Notice from Department of Housing and Community Development – Planning Grant NOT funded. This Grant was to re-write the Development Regulations. There are numerous changes that need to be made to these regulations. The dollar amount for the re-write will have to be considered for the 2019 municipal budget.

Brochures, Newsletters, Workshops, and Advertisements: None

Signatures Needed: None

Legal Correspondence: None

Confidential / Executive Session Items:

1. Real Estate.
2. Personnel.

Motion to go into Executive Session at 9:30 p.m., is requested at this time, with the Treasurer present, to discuss contracts, labor relations agreements with employees, arbitration or mediation, grievances, other than tax, pending or probable litigation, or confidential attorney-client communications made for the purpose of providing professional legal services to the Town of Georgia involving the Town, specifically finding that premature general public knowledge of the subject matter would clearly place the Town at a substantial disadvantage, made by Tara, second by Deb. No further discussion. All in favor.

Motion to come out of Executive Session made at 10:00 p.m. by Ric, second by Tara. No further discussion. All in favor.

Motion out of Executive Session to memorialize action taken by the Road Commissioner to run a help wanted ad in both the St. Albans Messenger and Milton Independent with second by Deb, via email. No further discussion. All in favor.

Motion out of Executive Session to prepare a Selectboard policy regarding turnaround response of next business day for response to public inquiries via email or voicemail, made by Steve, second by Deb. No further discussion. All in favor.

Motion out of Executive Session to add both the Town Clerk and Town Administrator to the info@townofgeorgia.com email address, made by Steve, second by Deb. No further discussion. All in favor.

Motion to adjourn at 10:02 p.m. made by Deb, second by Ric. No further discussion. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted by Krissy Jenkins.