

**Georgia Selectboard Meeting
Chris Letourneau Meeting Room
Monday, December 9, 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: Todd Cadieux, Highway Foreman; Paula Ralston, Library Trustee, Ken Minck, Town Citizen; Mark Blanchard, VIS.

Matt Crawford opened the regular Selectboard meeting for December 9, 2019, for the Town of Georgia in the Chris Letourneau Meeting Room at 7:04 p.m.

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

PR50 and AP51 in front of you as they were online but not in your packet, Bill Hinman will not be present to appear in front of the board and the November 25, 2019 special meeting minutes are also in front of you.

Public Appearances:

Matt invited Matt Blanchard of VIS and Paula Ralston, Library Trustee the table to talk about the ADA alterations for the library. He informed the board that the average cost for this type of work is \$300k.

Paula talked about how the library not being in ADA compliance has been a long standing issue but that the issue is being worked and they have some ideas as to what needs to be done so plans can be developed and ADA grants applied for.

Matt asked the Library so maximum library board when they would be looking to put something forward to the board. The current plan estimate is for \$305k. This does not include all the extra ideas he has seen, loop road, additional parking, new entrance, food shelf and possibly acquiring some additional land. In order to fully develop a plan the scope of the job needs to be set. Defining the scope is the first step, followed by hiring an architect.

Grants are available; Matt has seen them for \$75k - \$125k. Paul Simon of VIS is a good landscaping architect at VIS but interior work will require another architect.

Paula is the point of contact for the library at this time and her goal is to keep the process going and to move forward towards the next step. The library trustees want to follow the town's vision and they are working through this. The main thing that needs to occur is the upgrading of the entrance way. There are so many issues it is hard to determine where to start.

Discussion followed on; when to present a plan to the voters, buying additional land, moving the library to the south village, the current estimate and what it covers.

Matt informed the board that the fall elections would be a better time to present a plan to the voters for the \$300k. He also suggested the town hire a grant writer for ~\$5k as this will help the town get the best

ADA grant possible.

The \$305 estimate is pretty much bare bones and is just enough to make the library ADA compliant.

More discussion on; land acquisition to improve the parking lot and add a loop road, developing a clear plan to present to the voters, hiring an architect to build the plan, do we sell the building and build a new library.

Decision on moving forward with spending funds moved to the December 18, 2019 budget meeting with the library trustees in attendance.

Review of Past Minutes:

Motion to approve unapproved minutes from November 25, 2019 meeting with changes as described by board members by Steve, seconded by Scott, All approve.

Motion to approve unapproved budget minutes from November 25, 2019 meeting with changes as described by board members by Scott, seconded by Steve, All approve.

Motion to approve unapproved special meeting minutes from December 2, 2019 meeting with changes as described by board members by Steve, seconded by Jason, Matt and Scott approve, Tara abstained as she was not present at the special meeting.

Review of Warrants: Minimum discussion.

Motion to approve PR50, & AP84 by Tara, Seconded by Scott, all in favor.

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

Selectboard Concerns: None

Administrators Report to Selectboard:

At this time Matt asked Ken Minck, town citizen, if he had anything he wished to discuss with the board.

Ken Asked what the current status of the Mill River Rd Bridge is as he has heard that the project had been set aside. He talked at length about the 2008 study on water quality improvements which showed that the bridge abutment was in bad shape.

Todd informed the board and Ken that the town did receive a grant to fix the bridge from the state for \$175k and that the town had been saving for this fix. The original estimate was for ~\$225k for a box culvert. When it was time to get the project underway the town was informed that a box culvert fix would now cost the same amount as a bridge increasing the overall cost to ~\$1m which the town cannot afford. The grant was returned to the state but not lost.

Ken asked, what is the next step, do we ask the voters for a bond to get this fixed before the current culvert fails?

Matt informed Ken that the town is looking at additional water quality grants and continuing to save funds each year to close the ~\$900k gap between the estimated cost and the state grant. Ken responded that he would like to see a bond put forward as soon as is possible.

Unfinished Business:

Update on Gilmond Property Purchase: We do have the right-of-way on our own property; Matt will send an email out to the planning commission on this subject. The land use process will not affect the sale but the lien will not go away until the Gilmond's pay it as stated in the contract. The town will have to pay the state of Vermont the \$250 for the 11.11 permit this is required to complete the closing next Wednesday December 18, 2019. This will appear in the warrant, the board approves this.

Motion to approve Amber Baker, Town Administrator to sign closing documents on behalf of the Town of Georgia for the Gilmond land purchase by Jason, seconded by Steve, all approve.

2019-2024 Capital Budget: We are where we need to be and there has been no feedback at this time. Ordinance dates will be adjusted and reposted to the web.

Highway heating and ventilation improvements: AC Hawthorne had to return once again for cleanup but the highway department still had to go around and clean up. The roof seems to wave when the roof blows, Scott states this is normal for this type, mechanical fasteners, of roofing and AC Hawthorne may eventually have to add more fasteners in the future. This is not unusual. The heating and ventilation is ongoing and Todd states that the building temperature has been good so far.

New Business / Action items:

2020 Proposed Selectboard Schedule: There are no holiday conflicts with the 2020 schedule for normal Selectboard meetings. Steve asked that a separate column be added to show all other Selectboard meeting dates (Special, Budget, etc).

Motion to approve the proposed 2020 selectboard schedule by Steve, seconded by Jason, all approve.

Request from citizens to consider also adding Wilcox name to the Mallet Recreation Area: A resident made a request to Jason Burt to add the Wilcox name as they believe that Edmond Wilcox donated the land to the town. Current research shows the land was purchased from Colin Smith back in 1973.

Discussion followed on; formalizing this type of naming process, ensuring that those who know the town history are the ones who collect these requests and verify them, Setting timelines, getting public opinions and responsibilities.

Additional Omissions and Errors: Motion to approve additional omissions and errors by Tara, seconded by Scott, all approve.

2020 Kenworth truck purchase and trade in: Matt invited Todd to the table to talk about his request to keep the 2004 truck as a backup until May 2020 then send it off to the state auction. Todd stated the new Kenworth will be available sometime in January 2020, The 2004 is scheduled to be traded in for this purchase for \$8k. He believes that the 2002 will be problematic this winter as it is already having issues.

Discussion followed on; what issues the 2002 is having, do we keep it through the winter and hope to get more than \$8k at the state auction in May, what is the effect on the town budget and do we really need two backup trucks.

Motion to keep to the original plan and trade in the 2004 for the 2020 Kenworth by Steve, seconded by Jason, all approve.

Removal of tree on the town green: Todd suggested that we remove the dying tree on the town green while he has the tree service in town.

Discussion followed on; the condition of the tree – bad, effect on the budget – minimal, would the state

remove it – not likely. Board approves the town clerk to approve the expense.

Advertisement for per diem driver: We have someone and the town administrator with this process.

Motion to table this subject until a later date by Jason, seconded by Scott, all approve.

School Board update: Matt and Amber attended the last school board meeting, they have no pending bond requirements at this time. They were informed that the town cannot continue to plow for them at the current rate of \$7k. They are putting it out to bid and we can place a bid. If we win we could use those funds to add an additional highway employee. The employees plowing priorities would be the school and all other roads secondary. This would help increase our turn-around-times for plowing where we are currently below average as the town has more roads and fewer employees than most.

Administrator's Correspondence and Tasks: No major discussion.

Treasurer's Correspondence: No major discussion.

General Correspondence:

Some discussion on the new Animals in municipal buildings policy and the library Narcan procedure policy.

State of Vermont Correspondence: None.

Brochures/Newsletters/Workshops: None.

Executive Requirements:

Other Business Found Necessary: None

Town Administrator Tasks review:

- Work on RFP for the garage. Send to VIS, Cross and Assent.
- Send Paula, Bridget and Cindy the Public Appearance email.
- Follow up with Ken Henderson on Mill River grants.
- Change dates on the 2019 – 2024 Capital Budget Ordinance and repost.
- Call AC Hawthorne and request more roof fasteners.
- Update the 2020 meeting dates with the additional meeting column.
- Develop a procedure for naming a property, building or other town asset.
- Work on Kenworth loan bid.
- Table the CDL driver advertisement for now.
- Reformat the Library Narcan Policy to the new format.

Motion by Tara to enter executive session under 1 VSCA §313 with Amber 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, seconded by Steve, all approve.

Executive session entered at 8:35 p.m.