

**Georgia Selectboard Meeting
Chris Letourneau Meeting Room
Monday, May 14, 2018
6:00 p.m.**

Approved: June 11, 2018

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

Absent: Deb Woodward

Public Present: Michael Frett – St. Albans Messenger, Mark Peloquin, Carl Rosenquist, Dick McAvenia, Bretton Gardner, Jim Harrison, Peter Pembroke, David Burke, Kent Henderson, Rob Meader, Bill Melanson, and Suzanna Brown

Matt called the budget meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

The Selectboard reviewed the status of the 1st quarter 2018 budget.

The Selectboard had a general discussion regarding a Tax Anticipation Note (TAN), with the Treasurer.

It is the general consensus of the Selectboard for the Treasurer to move forward and going out to bid for a Tax Anticipation Note.

Motion made to adjourn the budget meeting, made by Tara, second by Steve. No further discussion. All in favor.

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

It is the general consensus of the Selectboard to amend the agenda to open 2018 Paving Bids as the first order of business.

Matt opened the following paving bids for 2018:

J. Hutchins - \$64/per ton
Pike - \$61.20/per ton
S.D. Ireland - \$62.29/per ton
Whitcomb - \$65.11/per ton

Pike was awarded the bid for \$60.34/per ton in 2017.

Motion made to accept the paving bid for Pike for \$61.20/per ton, made by Ric, second by Steve. No further discussion. All in favor.

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

1. Add Check Warrant Reports PR #20 and AP #30.

2. ADA Grants. The Planning Coordinator submitted a presentation. Ryan Bell was instructed to see what grants are available. Mike will work with Ryan to make sure we apply for any of the grants that we qualify for.
3. Volunteers replacing roof. Mike was contacted by a volunteer who is interested in replacing the roof on the Rummage Sale Building.
4. Letter of Interest from Steven Rabideau for being on the Planning Commission.
5. Two requests to waive the beach rental fees from BFA-CIP and the Cub Scouts.
6. Letter from Jim Bryce, Yankee Corp.

Public Appearance:

Peter Pembroke – Planning Commission Chair. Peter and the Selectboard had a general discussion regarding the Town changing from the Planning Commission to a Developmental Review Board (DRB). The challenges of finding board members was one of the motivators for going to a DRB because we have a hard time staffing the Planning Commission and the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

It seems like more and more towns are moving in this direction. Most of the neighboring towns have DRB's. This would have to go to the voters for approval. We would need to figure out what it would look like, staff wise, duties, responsibilities, etc. The administrative portion of the DRB definitely needs to be explored further. The fees will also need to be looked at. Peter believes that turning a blind eye to what is in place right now and imagine what it would look like with a DRB and then write administrative job descriptions to reflect that would be the best way to look at it. Then you have the discussion down the road with administrative staff, how does it work. The goal should be as little as staff as we need to do the job, yet making the positions attractive enough to keep people.

It is the general consensus of the Selectboard and Peter Pembroke to continue to move forward exploring the information that we need to present to the voters to switch from a Planning Commission to a Developmental Review Board, which would probably not happen until 2020.

While Peter is here, Matt asked Peter, "How many open positions are there on the Planning Commission?" Peter states that there is only one. We know that Ryan went out and recruited Greg Drew, who was previously on the Planning Commission, but didn't run, but now we have another letter from a resident stating interest on being on the Planning Commission. Peter will have him come and talk to the Planning Commission and then make a recommendation to the Selectboard.

Peter also wants the Selectboard and Planning Commission to get back on the schedule of having joint meetings again. The way we used to do it was every other time, one of the Boards would host it and we would try and do it at least twice a year and to have a joint agenda for the meeting. A joint meeting was scheduled for July 9, 2018 and October 23, 2018. July 9th will be a Selectboard meeting and the October 23 meeting will be a Planning Commission meeting. The Selectboard thanked Peter for coming in and meeting with them.

Jim Harrison and David Burke regarding a Class 4 Road on Georgia Mtn. Rd. On January 23rd we came to the Planning Commission and the proposal at sketch was three lots on the north side and one lot on the south side for a total of four lots utilizing the existing right of way for the Class 4 Rd. The Sketch plan decision

was received and it stated that we needed to come to the Selectboard before we go back to the Planning Commission with their full design. This is the informal step, this is informing the Selectboard of what is going on and asking the Board for us to keep moving forward utilizing the existing right of way. We would have to upgrade it, per your policy. It would ultimately include a T-turn around somewhere near the southwest side of lot 3.

There was a general discussion regarding Class 4 Roads. The Town's policy is that we don't do any maintenance on Class 4 Roads. Ric will take a look at the culvert that Jim says has failed on the Class 4 portion of the Road.

It is the general consensus of the Selectboard that Jim Harrison can move forward with the plan to upgrade the road. The Selectboard thanked Jim and David for coming in.

Georgia Conservation Commission – Rob Meader, Suzanna Brown, Kent Henderson. Kent Henderson sent in a letter a couple of weeks ago. This is a follow up visit to our appearance in March. There was a discussion regarding the communications between the Commission and the Selectboard. We would like to make a few proposals. One is to be contacted by the Selectboard Chair via written or electronic communication to the GCC Chair and Vice Chair to alert GCC about matters affecting the local environment and natural resources of the municipality which are managed by the commission and to be added to the Selectboard agenda by the Selectboard Chair, on a quarterly basis, to discuss progress of GCC activities and Selectboard concerns. We are looking for ways to get more direct communication.

The Selectboard is amendable to meeting quarterly. Matt did start communicating with the GCC after the last meeting when he reached out directly regarding hunting on town property. We believe that the improved communication process has already taken place. The Selectboard welcomes these requests and looks forward to working together. We will set up a joint meeting sometime in June for the GCC and Selectboard to meet; June 25, 2018 will be the joint meeting.

Has the Conservation Commission talked to St. Albans City about Silver Lake, what the usage restrictions are at Silver Lake? Kent spoke to them informally a couple of years ago and they were very interested in hearing that we were thinking about working in that area. Are there usage restrictions? Officially it is not ours to police either. There are people that fish up there already.

We got a letter from Jim Bryce today that may affect your trails at the Russell Greene Natural Area. The letter states "After reviewing comments made by the Conservation Commission members and Ken Minck regarding the property line and right of way issues which are now interfering with our project, I have decided to move our eastern fence line back onto the property line."

There was a general discussion regarding the fence. The Conservation Commission would need to see a map to figure out exactly which area Jim is referring to. They will investigate this further and see what kind of impact this will make on the Russell Greene Natural Area. It might mean that the trail will have to be re-established, probably up against the fence. There are some pieces where it does drop down. It depends on how much of the fence gets moved. Hopefully there is a "work around" for the fence. It will have to be investigated.

Ken Minck stated that he was not representing the Conservation Commission at the meeting he attended, but only himself as a resident of Georgia. Jim Bryce has reached out more than once to help us.

The Selectboard and the Conservation Commission had a general discussion regarding hunting on Town property.

Kent talked about the Silver Lake parking lot. They are still investigating where the parking lot should go. The Highway Foreman suggested moving the parking lot. The Conservation Commission will discuss this further and bring back the decision at their next meeting. Kent will present this proposal to the Conservation Commission at their next meeting.

Matt also showed the Conservation Commission the trash that was left at the parking lot at the end of Mill River Rd. Suzanna suggested that we put cameras down there. The Selectboard put up a camera there in the past and someone shot it/destroyed it. If anyone has information about illegal dumping, please contact the Town Office at (802) 524-9794.

Bill Melanson lives at 2343 Georgia Shore Road, a year round resident. Bill is here to discuss the problem with traffic speeding by his house. This area is 25 mph and people are flying by his house. Bill would like to request extra patrols in his area. Mike will contact the Sheriff and VSP for extra patrol on Georgia Shore Rd.

Review of Minutes:

Minutes of the April 23, 2018, regular meeting were reviewed and discussed.

Motion made to approve the 4/23/18 regular meeting minutes, with changes discussed, made by Tara, second by Ric. No further discussion. All in favor.

Review of Warrants:

Previously approved Check Warrant Report PR#17, PR #18, PR #19, AP #26, AP #27 and AP#28 were reviewed. It is the general consensus to accept the previously approved check warrants.

Motion to approve Check Warrant Report PR #20 and Check Warrant Report AP #30, made by Tara, second by Ric. No further discussion. All in favor.

Motion to approve Check Warrant Report AP#29, made by Ric, second by Tara. No further discussion. All in favor.

Selectboard Concerns:

1. Letter received from Jim Bryce. Since the Planning Commission meeting last week, it appears someone has contacted the Agency of Transportation and now though Mr. Bryce had a five year timeline to move the fence, he has to move the fence before he can build. This has put the project in jeopardy.

Motion made to have the Selectboard direct the Town Administrator to speak with Agency of Transportation representative regarding the reason for their very abrupt change of opinion in regards to the placement of the fence fronting 104A on Mr. Bryce's property and we would like to know if the person who contacted them was a private citizen or were they representing the Town in some way, made by Ric, second by Steve. No further discussion. All in favor.

2. Chainsaw Course. The training was helpful. All of our Highway guys attended and really learned a lot.

Unfinished Business Report:

None

New Business/Action Items:

1. Rummage Sale Building. The Town Administrator was approached by someone, she and a group of volunteers experienced in building, have volunteered to put a roof on the rummage sale building at no cost to the Town, if the Selectboard is inclined. Mike thanked her for the offer but we don't know what the future of the building is at this point in time. It is the general consensus of the Selectboard to table this until the Selectboard reviews the VIS Building report that was received today.

The Selectboard scheduled a meeting to review town properties on June 4, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. The Selectboard will meet at Gordons Mill first and then end up at the Town Hall. There was a general discussion regarding the report that was received from VIS regarding all Town properties. Mike to send out a reminder email.

2. Dumping at Georgia Shore Rd./Mill River fishing access parking lot. This is becoming a real problem. Mike has had no success with Fish & Wildlife or ANR. This was discussed earlier with the Conservation Commission.

3. Veterans Memorial rain damage repairs. Mr. Colburn was up today to take a look at the damage done. He recommends putting in some plantings to hold the soil and then mulch on top.

4. Open and review paving bids. Vote to accept or decline. The agenda was changed to do this at the beginning of the meeting.

5. Act upon recommendation of Fire Chief Keith Baker to accept Curtis Boudreau as a member of the Georgia Fire Department. Application info in your packet.

Motion made to accept the recommendation of the Fire Department to accept Curtis Boudreau as a member of the Georgia Fire Department, made by Ric, second by Steve. No further discussion. All in favor.

6. Act upon recommendation of Planning Commission to appoint Greg Drew to fill unexpired term vacancy until Town Meeting day. It is the general consensus of the Selectboard to table this action until June 11, 2018, as the Planning Commission received another request to join the Planning Commission.

7. Review of Conflict of Interest Policy issue. With the new policy, Krissy cannot be on the ZBA. Section "E" last sentence. The Selectboard had a general discussion regarding the Ethics Policy.

Motion made to strike Zoning Board of Adjustment from Section "E". It will read as follows: "A Town Selectman or Planning Commission shall not be an employee of the Town of Georgia," made by Matt, second by Ric. No further discussion. All in favor.

8. Act upon recommendation of Georgia Public Library Trustees to appoint Cindy Rutkowski to fill vacant position on the trustee board. Email confirmation of Trustee's action in your packet.

Motion made to accept the recommendation of the Library Trustees to appoint Cindy Rutkowski as a Library Trustee until Town Meeting, made by Ric, second by Steve. No further discussion. All in favor.

9. Request from BFA Community Integration Program to waive the beach rental fees for May 24th and the Cub Scouts for May 18th.

Motion made to waive the beach rental fees for BFA and the Cub Scouts, made by Steve, second by Tara. No further discussion. All in favor.

It is the general consensus of the Selectboard to authorize Krissy to waive the beach rental fees for the school's end of year parties during the week, but to still require the deposit.

Administrator's Correspondences and Tasks:

1. Georgia South Village Transportation Master Plan meeting. The meeting went really well. We were able to open up some dialogue on other ideas to look at.

Treasurer's Correspondence:

1. 2018 Legal Expenses as of May 1, 2018.
2. Georgia employees accrued time report through May 1, 2018.

General Correspondence:

1. Vermont League of Cities and Towns Unemployment Benefits charged statement.
2. Vermont State Policy Monthly Contract Summary for April 2018.

State of Vermont Correspondence:

1. Flyer from Agency of Commerce and Community Development economic development conference June 14, 2018.
2. Department of Taxes, FY19 General PILOT payment valuations.

Brochures, Newsletters, Workshops, and Advertisements:

1. Vermont League of Cities and Towns, Legislative update.

Signatures Needed:

None

Legal Correspondence:

None

Any Other Business Found Necessary:

1. Act as Local Liquor Control Board in review of single event liquor license application from 802 Cocktails LLC for June 23, 2018 at 1091 Georgia Mountain Rd. Private party, wedding reception.

Motion made to suspend the Selectboard Meeting and convene as the Liquor Control Board at 9:10 p.m., made by Tara, second by Steve. No further discussion. All in favor.

Motion made to approve of the single event liquor license application from 802 Cocktails, LLC for June 23, 2018 at 1091 Georgia Mountain Rd., made by Ric, second by Tara. No further discussion. All in favor.

Motion made reconvene the regular Selectboard meeting, made by Tara, second by Steve. No further discussion. All in favor.

Confidential / Executive Session Items:

1. Personnel/Legal.

Motion to go into Executive Session at 9:20 p.m., is requested at this time 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 Ric, second by Tara. No further discussion. All in favor.

Motion to come out of Executive Session made at 9:55 p.m. by Ric, second by Steve. No further discussion. All in favor.

No action taken out of Executive Session.

Motion to adjourn at 10:00 p.m. made by Ric, second by Tara. No further discussion. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted by Krissy Jenkins.

Monday, June 4, 2018 special meeting to start at Gordon's Mills and to end at the Municipal Office in the Chris Letourneau Meeting Room at 6:00 p.m.