

**Georgia Selectboard Meeting
Chris Letourneau Meeting Room
Monday, June 11, 2018
7:00 p.m.**

Approved: June 25, 2018

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

Absent: Amber Baker, Treasurer

Public Present: Michael Frett – St. Albans Messenger, Roger Langevin, Cathy Hickory, Bob Williams, Andrew Vincent, Michael Baker, Pat King, Jamie Cota, Keith Baker, Malcolm Baker and Carl Rosenquist.

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

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

1. Public Appearance requested by Carl Rosenquist.
2. Public Appearance requested by Roger Langevin.
3. Check Warrant AP #38 and Check Warrant PR #24.
4. Executive Session requested for Real Estate/Contractual discussion.
5. Property Maintenance Research discussion.
6. Action Item - Restroom toilets at the beach.
7. Action Item - pickle ball lines' request for the beach tennis courts.

Public Appearance:

Keith Baker – Fire Chief. Keith and the Selectboard had a discussion regarding the salvage value of the fire truck tank that is being replaced (6W3). The Selectboard had a question about the salvage value. Keith spoke to Garth, and he said there is not a lot of salvage value for the tank, basically enough to offset the cost of hiring a crane, etc., for its removal. After a brief discussion, Keith will find out if we would get a price break, and subsequently more value, if we remove the tank ourselves.

Memorial Committee. The Fire Department has created a committee to create a memorial at the Fire Station. The Committee is ready to start the preliminary ground work on the site for drainage and the concrete foundation. They are asking the Selectboard for approval to utilize the Highway Road Crew and equipment for excavation and trucking of materials, as needed. After a brief discussion, it is the general consensus of the Selectboard to approve of the request to utilize the Highway Department.

Matt has a couple of questions. First, tell us about the lighting because the electricity at the Fire Station is an issue. Will this be expanding any lighting, what is going on with that? Malcolm states that the light that is over there now is probably not the best of lighting for energy savings. They are exploring similar lighting as the Veterans Monument. They haven't gotten too deep into it, but they expect the monument lighting to actually

use less energy because the lights will be energy efficient. The Committee is also exploring solar lighting. They will be adding more lights, but the wattage used will be less.

Secondly, as we look at monuments around here, what is the long term funding plan for any repairs, etc.? The way the Committee is trying to construct it, it will outlive us all. The lower the maintenance the better, they are hoping that funds will be available for some type of reserve fund to maintain the monument.

Steve asked if they plan on doing a brick purchase? They are talking about doing that, but at this point, you can buy a brick, but the only names that will be on the bricks will be past fire fighters. Steve Lapierre's name will be the only name on the monument as that will be reserved for Line of Duty deaths only. The walk way will have engraved bricks listing all of the chiefs and their years of service. A general discussion was had regarding the construction of the monument. Taxpayer money will not be used for this monument, they are doing it all by donation and fundraising. Total cost is estimated at \$30,000 - \$40,000 total.

Matt opened the meeting up to questions for the Chief. Where are you with the progress of Standard Operating Guidelines (SOGs)? Keith stated that the Town's attorney has the final drafts, and he is waiting to hear back from the attorney. Once Keith gets them back from the attorney, he would like to have the Fire Department officers and members review and make comments on the final draft document. Once the officers and members review them and approve them, then the SOGs would be presented to the Selectboard for approval. Keith would like the fire department membership to review the guidelines first to make sure that there are no questions about them and that everyone understands the changes that were made.

Where are we with the new truck? When VTEC last talked to Keith, the original thought was that we would see it sometime in October. Right now it is scheduled to be built in August. Once we receive it, there will be some things that we need to do to it.

Deb asked about the Fire Department's meeting minutes. The Selectboard hasn't been seeing the minutes. Keith states that the Town's attorney stated that the Fire Department is not required to either keep minutes or post minutes. They are also not required to post agendas either. Keith confirmed that the Fire Department is still keeping minutes and having the membership review and approve them, but the law doesn't require them to be posted. The Fire Department also tapes all of their meetings. As this is the largest department in Town, with a large number of assets, the Selectboard requested approved meeting minutes for their files, and Keith agreed that they will begin to forward the minutes to the Selectboard.

The Selectboard had a general discussion regarding the electrical costs over at the Fire Station. The Fire Department has put all the power savers on the computers, which is what VIS recommended. The new timers and automatic shut offs may stop the users of that building leaving the lights on accidentally. The Selectboard plans to address some of the lighting issues with this year's budget and then the other half with the 2019 budget. The Fire Department is going to try to shut off a breaker for a few of the lights outside and see if that makes a difference, just to see what it does to the light bill.

The Selectboard asked if quarterly they could see the roster and how many calls department members went on, training hours, etc. The Selectboard approves the Fire Department payroll and would like to see the back up. Keith stated that Amber, as Town Treasurer, keeps track of all of that information and he will ask her to forward it to the Selectboard.

Keith would like to talk about the usage of the Community Room. The biggest problem that they are having with the Community Room is parties. The Town makes it available for birthday parties, showers, etc., in addition to committee and community meetings. Keith is not sure that it is the best thing we should be doing. They find stuff stuck to the walls and hanging from the ceiling, not picked up or carried out. Either the Town needs to start policing this better or stop allowing birthday parties, etc. There was a general discussion

regarding the Use Agreement that people are required to sign. The Agreement does state that nothing is to be taped to the walls and they are to be aware of parking as this is the Fire Station and the firefighters still need to respond to any emergencies. Access to The Community Room is a benefit to taxpayers, and the Selectboard feels that they can't take this away from the residents.

After further discussion, it is the general consensus of the Selectboard to start policing the rental of the community room better and to keep a closer eye on it. If we need to keep the deposit in response to the clear instructions not being followed, then we should.

The only other thing that Keith would like to discuss is the Conflict of Interest Policy. One of the lines states "A public official volunteer shall not supervise, hire, appoint, evaluate, and discipline a worker or employment status of an immediate family member". This creates a problem for our Fire Department as Keith is currently supervising several immediate family members. After a brief discussion, the Selectboard asked the Town Administrator to confer with the Town Attorney and get clarification on this.

Keith and the Department are still working on language for the Cadet SOGs. They will continue to work on them and bring them to the Selectboard for approval at some point in the future.

The Selectboard thanked Keith and the Officers for coming in and talking with them.

Roger Langevin. Roger is here to introduce himself and give the Selectboard a little bit of background. Roger is running for Franklin County Sherriff. Roger is a retired VT State Trooper, he was a Detective Sergeant when he retired. The last two years he was with the Intelligence Division with the State. They collected information about crimes throughout the State of Vermont. They then combined this information and sent it back out to the law enforcement agencies so they could act on that information. Currently, Roger is with the City of St. Albans, assigned to the schools to do education and training and he works as a school resource officer.

Roger is looking to make the Sherriff's department more effective. One way they are going to do that is they are going to use effective intelligence when they do patrols. Georgia has the same issues that a lot of towns have in Franklin County; there are a lot of speeding cars, ATV issues, and there is also the big drug issue in Vermont. The Selectboard had a general discussion with Roger regarding crimes taking place in Georgia.

Roger went over a few statistics that the Intel Division collects for every county. Last week, there were nineteen heroin overdoses in the State of Vermont, there were five deaths; Narcan was deployed eight times, bringing total Narcan use in the State of Vermont this year to 138 times. Last year, Vermont had 107 heroin related deaths, 61 were fentanyl related, so this is a growing issue.

The State Primary is August 14th and Roger is running unopposed. The Selectboard thanked Roger for coming in and introducing himself.

Carl Rosenquist. Carl is here to bring the Selectboard up to date on the impasse that the Legislature and the Governor are at. The conflict is that the Governor wants to buy down the anticipated tax rate increase as of July 1st with "one time" money, which is about \$35 Million. The tax bill that was passed by the House and Senate had that \$34.5 Million payment going into the teacher retirement fund to help pay down the debt that we owe. The Governor vetoed the bill, like he said he would. The Appropriations Committee and Ways and Means Committee came up with what they saw as a compromise, a proposal to essentially take that \$34.5 Million and reserve it in the general fund unappropriated and there would be a continued negotiation as to how that money is to be spent. However, as of July 1st, the non-residential tax rate would increase. The term "non-residential" rate is actually a misnomer; "non-homestead" rate is actually more accurate. Carl was just informed that the Legislature is not meeting at all this week. There have been several amendments that were

proposed and then defeated. Unless the leadership in the House and Senate moves on this issue, there isn't a lot of leverage. Carl doesn't really know what is going to happen now.

Matt asked Carl if it costs the taxpayers about \$50,000 a day for extra legislative sessions. Carl states that is correct, when everyone is there. So far they have had four additional sessions to date. Carl doesn't know what the Selectboard is hearing out and about, but these are the issues as he understands them. What Matt is hearing is that the public is tired of the legislature and governor fighting; we think that Vermont is better than Washington, so we see this deadlock over what might be solvable issues and we lose faith in the process.

The Selectboard thanked Carl for coming in and bringing them up to date.

Review of Minutes:

Minutes of the May 14, 2018 regular meeting were reviewed and discussed.

Motion made to approve the 5/14/18 regular meeting minutes, with changes discussed, made by Ric, second by Deb. No further discussion. All in favor.

Minutes of the June 4, 2018, special meeting were reviewed and discussed.

Motion made to approve the 6/4/18 special minutes, as presented, made by Deb, second by Steve. No further discussion. All in favor.

Review of Warrants:

Previously approved Check Warrant Report PR#21, PR #22, PR #23, PR #23A, AP #31, AP #32, AP #33, AP#34, AP #35 and AP#36 were reviewed. It is the general consensus to accept the previously approved check warrants.

Motion to approve Check Warrant Report PR #37, for the general fund, made by Deb, second by Ric. No further discussion. All in favor.

Motion to approve Check Warrant Report AP#38 for a payment to Citizens Bank and PR#24 for payroll ending 6/14/18, made by Deb, second by Steve. No further discussion. All in favor.

Selectboard Concerns:

Deb asks if the Town Administrator has received a recommendation to fill the vacancy on the Planning Commission. Mike states that the Planning Commission hasn't met yet; they meet on the 12th and they should make a recommendation to the Selectboard after that.

Deb stated that we had some discussion at one of the meetings in April about the status of discussions regarding Georgia Mountain Wind with the Town of Lowell, instead of Green Mountain Power. Lowell was sending their contract and billing formula. Lowell actually sends a bill to the wind company. Where are with those documents? Have we received them, has someone looked at them? Mike asked Bill Hinman to look at the contracts, and their contract is a completely different configuration for years 6+ than our contract. Milton has the same contract as Georgia. Any explanation? Mike states that he has no idea why. Mike states that the formula is not real, even the verbiage in it is wrong for the calculation: Kilowatts and Kilowatt hours are two completely different things. Mike asked three different people in the electric industry what this would mean to the Town and all agreed that the formula had no value. The Selectboard will discuss this issue further with Bill Hinman when they meet with him in July.

Deb pointed out that as a result of the joint meeting with the Planning Commission Chair, the Selectboard agreed that preparing written job descriptions, independent of current ones, is a good first step toward exploring if the Town is going to move ahead with a Developmental Review Board. Tasks would be different, people's day to day jobs would be different, staffing hours, etc. Who can we task with providing some job descriptions for what the process would look like with a DRB? We would like to have these for the joint meeting with the Planning Commission in October. This board has not made an official action on the DRB Board, either, and these job descriptions will aid in a productive discussion. Mike will work with Cindy and Ryan to get these job descriptions prepared by August.

Deb asked about the results of the batting cage discussion at the beach that had taken place after the last Selectboard meeting. Chris Messineo had informed Mike that the shed that housed the batting cage needed to be removed and replaced, and the Little League had telephone poles that they would like to set in the basic footprint of where the cage was before and remove the metal frame. They would put the netting on a pulley system so that it can be easily raised to mow under and easily removed. They made a request to the Selectboard and Bob Larose for support for the project. Was their request approved? Was the work done? Mike states that it has been done, with donated time, materials and talent.

Deb asked if we will be receiving a credit or an explanation for the six week delay in uniforms and rugs. Do we owe any employees compensation for clothing damaged, ruined? Mike states no. Everything is in place. The District representative came up and met with the Highway Department and Mike and explained what was going on. All the uniform sizes, etc., have been taken care of. Mike asked all of the guys if they are were all set, and they all said yes. Everything appears to be the way they want it. There will be no credit issued as there was no billing done.

Unfinished Business Report:

Addressed above.

New Business/Action Items:

1. Volunteer work at the Rummage Sale building roof. They started the work this past weekend. They ran out of shingles and had to mix the shingles on the side a little bit. They didn't finish the back completely as they had to order more shingles. They will complete the roof once the shingles come in. Mike will get all of the names of the people who are volunteering to replace the roof and read it into the record. Duffy's has donated a dumpster for the shingle removal. This has been a great project gifted to the Town.

2. Property Maintenance. Deb had asked to have a discussion about property maintenance. During last budget season, we started a conversation about exploring a property maintenance line instead of individual lines in every department. Do we wish to have a firm instead of a person with a 24 hour response time? This is Deb's first task from that. Deb also found a Request for Proposal (RFP) from Rochester that actually did this process. Deb just wanted this in front of everybody to start thinking about it so we can have a discussion in the future. This should be kept under unfinished business.

3. VIS Construction Consultants estimates for lighting work at Library, including an Efficiency Vermont Lighting Design Program estimate. Mike met with VIS and the folks from Efficiency Vermont to discuss this. The Lighting Design Program supports commercial (and municipal) customers in enlisting the expertise of design professionals on lighting retrofit projects. We have to get into this new program, they have to do this assessment, and then we can receive the maximum energy savings possible during our lighting upgrade, including financial rebates to reduce costs. To get the VIS folks to do the extra work, plus the lighting design

evaluation, and verification of installation, the total cost would be \$4,812.00. Mike is looking for authorization to proceed with this. We have the money in the 2018 budget to accomplish this.

Ric questions spending \$4,800 for information. Ric thinks a vendor could have answered these questions. \$4,800 is not going to buy one light bulb. Mike states that this is the way the Efficiency Vermont program works and to get the percentage of savings on the light fixtures and accessories, you have to use their program or you don't qualify for the savings. This is a new program with a high percentage of savings. The Selectboard had a general discussion regarding the costs of this study and the deliverables. The Selectboard had previously attempted working with a single vendor and the Efficiency Vermont program on our own in 2013 to replace lights at the Library and those are the same lights that are ineffective five years' later.

Motion made to approve the June 6th proposal, as presented, from VIS to work with Donna Leban of Light Space Design with an expected outcome of a design plan, proposing that we take the money out of line 136 of the approved municipal budget for our consultant services for this year, made by Deb, second by Steve. No further discussion. All in favor.

4. Review and act upon cost estimates related to a water leak at the Town Hall. Acadia Assessments was \$500, which has already been spent. The D&A Associates estimate is \$1,000.00. Mike is arguing with VLCT about the broken pipe, they are trying to say it's not covered. Steve Legacy, plumber, stated that he has never seen an installation like this happen before and he will testify to that. The bottom line is that we have to correct it one way or another. Selectboard consensus to move forward with remediation.

5. Toilets at the Beach. Bob, the Beach Supervisor, states that we are having toilet issues in the women's bathroom. Bob asked if he could have a plumber come in and take a look at them and replace the insides or the whole toilet. There is a line item in the budget. It is the general consensus of the Selectboard to call a plumber and have them look at the toilets.

6. Pickle Ball Lines. Gail Wolff of the Recreation Committee asked if we could have pickle ball lines painted on the tennis court. We can use impact fees for this, as we have in the past. It is the general consensus of the Selectboard to have pickle ball lines painted at the beach as the re-surfacing has already taken place.

Administrator's Correspondences and Tasks:

Discussion regarding salvage value of fire truck tank that is being replaced. This was discussed under Public Appearance section with Keith Baker, Fire Chief.

Treasurer's Correspondence:

2018 legal expenses as of May 30, 2018. Informational.

General Correspondence:

1. Georgia Conservation Commission Agenda and minutes from May 21, 2018. Deb has a question regarding their minutes. The Conservation previously made a request to keep the lines of communication open and we have our Chair keeping them informed of what is being discussed. They had some discussion at their April meeting that the Selectboard felt should be clarified promptly. The Selectboard tasked the Chair with following up with the GCC Chair and explaining our position. Matt sent an email on April 23, 2018 explaining the Town's position. This did not make it into their May meeting minutes. The discussion that was had in April remains unresolved according to their minutes. The public should see some acknowledgement that the Selectboard did indeed respond and that the public should understand that anything conserved for Town property has hunting and there aren't going to be certain selected properties that will be carved out as no

hunting after the fact. This item should be addressed in their minutes, or appended to ours; specifically that hunting in the Russell Greene Natural Areas is allowed.

2. Georgia Public Library Trustees meeting minutes from April 16, 2018 and May 21, 2018.
3. Vermont State Police monthly activity report for May 2018.
4. Georgia Planning Commission, public hearing notice for June 12, 2018.

State of Vermont Correspondence:

1. I-89 culvert project. This project is complete.
2. Department of Environmental Conservation, Municipal Roads Storm Water Discharge General Permit fee schedule for towns. First one of the “fees” to work on our own roads.

Brochures, Newsletters, Workshops, and Advertisements: None

Signatures Needed: None

Legal Correspondence: None

Confidential / Executive Session Items:

1. Contractual.
2. Real Estate

Motion to go into Executive Session at 9:15 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 Tara, second by Deb. No further discussion. All in favor.

Motion to come out of Executive Session made at 9:50 p.m. by Deb, second by Steve. No further discussion. All in favor.

No action taken out of Executive Session.

Motion to adjourn at 9:52 p.m. made by Ric, second by Deb. No further discussion. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted by Krissy Jenkins.

Wednesday, June 13, 2018 special meeting with the Historical Society @ 7:00 p.m.

Monday, June 25, 2018 regular meeting @ 7:00 p.m.