



GEORGIA VERMONT

Selectboard Regular Meeting Monday, June 09, 2025 at 6:00 PM Chris Letourneau Meeting Room and via Zoom Minutes

Zoom Details:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6165843896?pwd=STduU2JzTmpiVmE1MXZSaWZWVadz09>

Meeting ID: 616 584 3896 | **Passcode:** 5243524

Dial by your Location: 1 929 205 6099 (New York)

CALL TO ORDER 6:00PM

SELECTBOARD PRESENT

Chair Kristina Senna, Vice Chair Brian Dunsmore, Kellie Bosenberg, Paul Jansen, Carl Rosenquist

STAFF PRESENT

Keith Baker, Doug Bergstrom, Todd Cadieux, Lori Hobart, Stacy Katon, Terri Sabens

GUESTS PRESENT

Sheriff John Grismore, Josh Serpe with Friends of Northern Lake Champlain

PUBLIC PRESENT

Jamieson Barber, Michael Cook, Eric Couture, Pat King, Cristy Monty, Carolyn Branagan (via Zoom), Bill Kimball (via Zoom) and Noah Lavalley (via Zoom)

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. CHAIR UPDATE

- (i.) Chair Senna congratulated Bill Hinman on his retirement, the Town recognizing his retirement with a luncheon last Friday.
- (ii.) Kudos to the road crew from Howard and Sue Webster, thank you for cleaning up Conger Road and Oakland Station.
- (iii.) Congratulations to the Georgia Public Library for being awarded two grants.

3. ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, OR CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

4. SELECTBOARD MINUTES AND WARRANTS

- A. Approval of Minutes May 20, 2025 Special Meeting
Motion to approve minutes from May 20, 2025 Special meeting with minor changes.

Motion made by C. Rosenquist, Seconded by Vice Chair Dunsmore.

Voting Yea: Chair Senna, Vice Chair Dunsmore, K. Bosenberg, P. Jansen, C. Rosenquist

- B. Approval of Selectboard Regular Meeting Minutes for May 28, 2025
Motion to approve May 28, 2025 Regular Meeting minutes with minor changes.
Motion made by C. Rosenquist, Seconded by Vice Chair Dunsmore.
Voting Yea: Chair Senna, Vice Chair Dunsmore, K. Bosenberg, P. Jansen, C. Rosenquist

- C. Approval of Warrants #2517
Motion to approve Warrant #2517

L. Hobart answered questions on the warrant from the Selectboard.

Motion made by C. Rosenquist, Seconded by Vice Chair Dunsmore.

Voting Yea: Chair Senna, Vice Chair Dunsmore, K. Bosenberg, P. Jansen, C. Rosenquist

5. **PUBLIC COMMENT (For items not on agenda)**

All participants must clearly state their names. Appropriate actions will be considered once the Selectboard has reviewed the information provided and necessary subsequent research.

- A. Carolyn Branagan- Visit with Legislative Update
- C. Branagan explained the legislature has not adjourned yet, the education bill is keeping them at work, and legislators are not getting paid for this additional time in session. She hopes to have an update another time.
 - N. Lavallee requested updates on American Tower. There is a potential offer by email from a company who may want to take over the lease. This information is currently at the Town's attorney.

6. **CORRESPONDENCE**

- A. To whom it may concern,

Every year, the Lake Champlain International fishing tournament takes place on fathers day weekend, ending on that Monday every year. Specifically, this year it is from 6/14 thru 6/16.

Because there is so much boating activity that weekend, all the boat access ramps become very busy and crowded. It is for this reason that I would request that Georgia consider **opening the Beach Park gate at 4am** to allow town residents like me and my fishing partners to launch earlier than the normal park hours.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this matter.

Alan Parent

Motion to open the gates at Georgia Beach at 3:30am during the Lake Champlain International fishing tournament weekend.

Motion made by Vice Chair Dunsmore, Seconded by C. Rosenquist.

Voting Yea: Chair Senna, Vice Chair Dunsmore, K. Bosenberg, P. Jansen, C. Rosenquist

7. BOARD BUSINESS (Public comment on agenda items limited to 5 minutes)

A. Bid Opening for 75ft Aerial Ladder Truck for Fire Department

- The first bid is from Desorcie Emergency Products, LLC for \$1,565,655 (quoted price, with list price at 1,898,925).
- The second bid is from Allegiance Fire & Rescue in the amount of \$1,658,591.
- The third bid is from Dingee Machine Company in the amount of \$1,762,095.

Motion to take these bids under advisement and allow the Fire Department review.

K. Baker was present to answer questions from the Selectboard. The Fire Department may be present at the next Regular Selectboard Meeting to discuss their choice, or a special meeting will be called before the bid deadline.

Motion made by C. Rosenquist, Seconded by Vice Chair Dunsmore.

Voting Yea: Chair Senna, Vice Chair Dunsmore, K. Bosenberg, P. Jansen, C. Rosenquist

B. Josh Serpe of Friends of Northern Lake Champlain-Project Update and Discussion -Mill River Southeast Clean Water Project

- J. Serpe introduced himself and the Mill River Southeast Clean Water Project. This project is to reduce the amount of sediment and other run-off materials from Lake Champlain. Grant funding has allowed for preliminary and final design over the last three years, and they are now in the implementation phase.
- Changes to the initial design include a change in the right-of-way (ROW), to include 25 feet on both sides of the center of Mill River Road. Four (4) three (3) foot posts will be installed along the road.
- J. Serpe requested the Selectboard to renew and update a letter of support for the project, to be included with project materials for abutting property owners' information.
- There is no date scheduled yet for the project, it may go out to bid this Fall.
- J. Serpe explained the maintenance of the project which would be paid for by Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC) and maintained by the Town of Georgia.

Motion to renew the letter of support for the project by the Selectboard.

J. Serpe will draft the letter and send it to S. Katon for review prior to Selectboard signature.

Motion made by C. Rosenquist, Seconded by P. Jansen.

Voting Yea: Chair Senna, Vice Chair Dunsmore, P. Jansen, C. Rosenquist

Voting Abstaining: K. Bosenberg

C. Sheriff John Grismore will join the Selectboard to provide an update on law enforcement activity and community safety in the Town. He will share his perspective on the current contract, the impact of increased patrol hours, and any observations or concerns regarding local trends. The Board will also have an opportunity to discuss ongoing collaboration and ask questions.

- Sheriff J. Grismore gave an introduction, shared his background and ties to the Georgia community. He provided an update on the services to Georgia, most specifically arrests for drug distribution in the area. The Sheriff Department is aware of the drug activity in Georgia and are using their resources to control the situation.
- Sheriff Grismore is advocating for community involvement, asking the public to call the Sheriff and share information or ask questions. If it's not an emergency, contact the Sheriff during business hours or email anonymously with information.
- For the Georgia Community, if drug paraphernalia is found on the side of the road, call the Sheriff department or state police to remove the paraphernalia safely.
- The Sheriff's Department can assist with Town ordinance enforcement, with certified copy of the ordinance.
- T. Cadieux asked about increased patrols for speeding around town, including the Industrial Park during peak times, and checking in around the "Park and Ride" area for vagrancy.
- D. Bergstrom and other residents informed the Sheriff on speeding on Georgia Shore Road and four-wheeler riders.
- Sheriff Grismore gave the rundown on services to Georgia, including ticketing speeding and excessive speeding (30 mph or more) motorists, the arrests for drug activity and other on-call activities.

D. Bridge # 10 (Highbridge)-Update on Road Closures/Bridge Replacement Construction-

We have received an update from Tyler Billingsley regarding the upcoming replacement of **Bridge #10 (Highbridge).**

Construction is scheduled to begin on June 30, 2025, with an estimated completion date of September 8, 2025.

Please note:

☐ **The bridge will be fully closed to all traffic beginning Monday, June 30 at 8:00 AM through Monday, September 8 at 5:00 PM.**

☐ **The bridge is expected to reopen to traffic on Tuesday, September 9, 2025.**

We are currently coordinating with surrounding towns to finalize an emergency response plan during the closure and are working to notify all relevant agencies, residents, and stakeholders in advance.

Further updates will be shared as they become available. Thank you for your patience and cooperation during this important infrastructure improvement project.

- S. Katon gave an update on bridge repairs, construction is scheduled to begin on June 30th. The bridge will be closed from June 30th to September 8th.
- Notice has been sent out to the community by Facebook, Front Porch Forum, and posted to the Town of Georgia website. Contingent on weather but the project may be completed sooner.
- T. Cadieux has been in communications with Milton Fire and Rescue for emergency services due to potential delays with detours for Town of Georgia services.

Motion for Chair Senna to sign the Town of Georgia Road Closure notice.

Motion made by P. Jansen, Seconded by Vice Chair Dunsmore.

Voting Yea: Chair Senna, Vice Chair Dunsmore, K. Bosenberg, P. Jansen, C. Rosenquist

Letters will be sent to residents of Georgia Mountain Road, Falco Road and Arrowhead Lake Road with closure information.

- E. 2025 Local Emergency Plan-Action To Approve
Motion to approve the 2025 Local Emergency Plan

Motion made by P. Jansen, Seconded by K. Bosenberg.

Voting Yea: Chair Senna, Vice Chair Dunsmore, K. Bosenberg, P. Jansen, C. Rosenquist

- F. Update from Public Works Director-Todd Cadieux

- T. Cadieux gave an update on the road crew activities, including mowing and planning with Tyler for potential bridge work. Paving is in process for this week and next week. Weather has been wet for grading, the road crew will regrade again to keep up with road shaping.
- Water shut off for the library will have to go through Chevallier for permitting, given it is drinking water. Ditching and cutting the weeds in the area was discussed, including state recommendations for July/August. T. Cadieux will call the state and ask about cutting the ditch in the meantime.
- Generator work for the town garage is near complete. Work on the fire station, bird issue, is in process. Town Beach courts will still be resurfaced, weather dependent. The Town will keep the existing tennis courts and include four pickleball courts. Players will need to bring their own nets. Divot in the corner of the tennis court will need attention during repaving for safety.

- G. Terri Sabens Incoming Town Assessor-Request to Issue RFP for Townwide Reappraisal--
Discussion and request for Selectboard approval to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a full townwide reappraisal.

- T. Sabens was present to answer questions on request for proposals (RFP) for townwide reappraisal. Tyler Technologies is one option for reappraisal in 2027/2028, sooner than NEMRC who is bidding out to 2031.
- Her recommendation was to get started soon to prepare bids for September 2025. Estimate on cost will be close to \$200,000, and state funds are allocated for the process. The bid process was discussed.

Motion for T. Sabens to open the bids for the project and bring them to Selectboard with her recommendation.

Motion made by Vice Chair Dunsmore, Seconded by P. Jansen.

Voting Yea: Chair Senna, Vice Chair Dunsmore, K. Bosenberg, P. Jansen, C. Rosenquist

Motion for T. Sabens to go out for RFP for Town Reappraisal.

Motion made by C. Rosenquist, Seconded by Vice Chair Dunsmore

Voting Yea: Chair Senna, Vice Chair Dunsmore, K. Bosenberg, P. Jansen, C. Rosenquist

- H. Personnel Policy-Action To Approve

Motion to accept the Personnel Policy as resubmitted 6/5/2025 with changes.

Motion made by Vice Chair Dunsmore, Seconded by P. Jansen.

Voting Yea: Chair Senna, Vice Chair Dunsmore, K. Bosenberg, P. Jansen, C. Rosenquist

- I. Cell Phone Policy-Action To Approve
Motion to approve the cell phone policy.

Discussion on the policy and how it affects employees who use personal cell phones for Town business. Clarification was given that the policy covers possibly disruptive personal cell phone use during work hours and in Town vehicles.

Motion made by P. Jansen, Seconded by Vice Chair Dunsmore.

Voting Yea: Chair Senna, Vice Chair Dunsmore, K. Bosenberg, P. Jansen, C. Rosenquist

- J. Rules of Procedure for the Town of Georgia Selectboard Policy-Action To Approve Updates
This policy is intended to be approved annually. This will be added to the reorganization meeting yearly.

Motion to accept the Rules of Procedure for the Town of Georgia Selectboard Policy.

Discussion on audio/video recordings for Open Meeting Laws and what happens when technical issues arise.

Motion made by Vice Chair Dunsmore, Seconded by P. Jansen.

Voting Yea: Chair Senna, Vice Chair Dunsmore, K. Bosenberg, P. Jansen, C. Rosenquist

- K. Electronic Sign-Placement Decision
- C. Rosenquist moved that the electronic sign be placed at the Town offices, due to difficulties reading the sign at the Georgia Public Library location due to traffic and highway signs.

Motion made by C. Rosenquist, Seconded by K. Bosenberg.

Voting Yea: Chair Senna, Vice Chair Dunsmore, K. Bosenberg, P. Jansen, C. Rosenquist

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Closing Of Perrigo-Discussion Regarding Amazon Distribution Center Ideas

- C. Rosenquist and P. Jansen discussed their meeting with Tim Smith of Franklin County Industrial Corp. and the potential for Amazon to locate in Georgia.

- B. Bridge # 28 (Mill River Bridge)
No updates.

- C. N.E. Archaeology Research Center-Artifact from VELCO Line K80 Project
No updates.

- D. Beach Bathrooms Renovations
- Vice Chair Dunsmore suggested the Town purchase the siding for buildings at the Town Beach, from the Beach renovation fund. T. Cadieux will work with the vendor to order the materials.

- E. Velco-ROW-SLW-Easement Deed for Permanent Access--Draft Easement still under review with attorney. Attorney will be out of the office for a few weeks starting June 12th.
- F. Parcel ID 1122600000-TOG Lot-Awaiting new regulations
No updates.
- G. American Tower
No updates.
- H. Boat Docks
 - There is one quote submitted from Dock Doctor, waiting for revision. Vice Chair Dunsmore will reach out for an additional quote.
- I. Georgia Public Library Building Revitalization
 - P. Jansen said the Committee is meeting with another engineer on June 17 at 4pm.
- J. ACO-Boarding Options @ Old Town Garage
 - Zoning regulations for the old Town garage were discussed, use for a boarding facility would have to be reviewed by the Development Review Board (DRB).

9. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR, TREASURER AND SELECTBOARD SUB COMMITTEES REPORTS

- A. The Town Administrator will present spreadsheets outlining the current Town policies, procedures, and ordinances. The presentation will include questions for the Selectboard regarding the evaluation of internal controls and protocols related to office operations, training, human resources, finance, and safety. The Selectboard will be asked to provide input on priority areas and the preferred order for review, with the goal of identifying improvement opportunities, ensuring compliance, and strengthening organizational practices.
Discussion regarding Ordinance for ATV/Dirt bikes, motorized vehicles in public places.
 - S. Katon gave an update on the Town policies and ordinances, she created a spreadsheet to organize the Town policies.
 - The Selectboard went through the list of policies to discuss updating, combining and eliminating specific policies.
 - Any policies that reference Town roads cannot be updated, changed or eliminated without the Town attorney review.
 - Procedures for eliminating policies were discussed. The Selectboard will review the spreadsheet of policies, send suggestions to S. Katon and revisit this at the next Selectboard meeting. No changes will be made to Town ordinances.
 - ATV/Dirt bikes, motorized vehicles in public places: Without a Town ordinance, Sheriff, VSP or any other officers cannot enforce individuals using ATV/Dirt bikes, motorized vehicles in public places.
- B. Treasurer
 - L. Hobart heard from the Auditor, who will visit next Wednesday to gather materials needed to finish the audit.
 - She is preparing for Tax and Budget seasons. We are waiting on the school to learn tax rate.

C. Buildings
No updates.

D. Budget and Finance
No additional updates, see Treasurer's report.

E. Personnel-Vacation Approval for TA

- S. Katon is requesting two weeks out of office to represent Vermont in two pool world championships in Las Vegas, August 4-15th. She has accrued one week of vacation and will work remotely to cover the rest of her time.

F. Committees at the direction of the chair

10. OTHER

11. PLAN NEXT MEETING AGENDA

A. June 23, 2025

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION (if needed, pursuant to 1 V.S.A sec 313)

A. Grievances, other than tax grievances. 1 V.S.A 313 (a)(1)(D), to include personnel errors

Chair Senna would entertain a motion to enter into executive session to discuss Grievances other than Tax Grievances, to include personnel errors which premature disclosure or discussion may be detrimental to the board in itself and/or individuals involved.

Chair Senna would entertain a motion to enter into executive session to discuss the above with Town Administrator S. Katon and Zoning Administrator Doug Bergstrom under the provisions of Title 1, Section 313(a)(1)(A) of the Vermont Statutes.

Motion to Move into Executive Session at 8:51pm

Motion made by C. Rosenquist, Seconded by Vice Chair Dunsmore

Voting Yea: Chair Senna, Vice Chair Dunsmore, C. Rosenquist, K. Bosenberg, P. Jansen

Motion to invite S. Katon and D. Bergstrom to join the Executive Session

Motion made by P. Jansen, Seconded by K. Bosenberg

Voting Yea: Chair Senna, Vice Chair Dunsmore, C. Rosenquist, K. Bosenberg, P. Jansen

Motion to exit from Executive Session at 9:18pm

Motion made by K. Bosenberg, Seconded by C. Rosenquist

Voting Yea: Chair Senna, Vice Chair Dunsmore, C. Rosenquist, K. Bosenberg, P. Jansen

Action taken outside of Executive Session:

Motion to give D. Bergstrom the authority to utilize the old impact fee schedule for Kevin Blaisdell's proposed ADU.

Motion made by C. Rosenquist, Seconded by P. Jansen

Voting Yea: Chair Senna, Vice Chair Dunsmore, C. Rosenquist, K. Bosenberg, P. Jansen

13. ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:21pm

Motion made by Vice Chair Dunsmore, Seconded by K. Bosenberg.

Voting Yea: Chair Senna, Vice Chair Dunsmore, K. Bosenberg, P. Jansen, C. Rosenquist

Agendas are posted to the Town website, four designated places within the Town of Georgia (Town Clerk's Office, Georgia Public Library, Maplefields & Georgia Market), and e-mailed to the local media.

Minutes and meeting videos are posted on the Town of Georgia website.

Signed: Stacy Katon, Town Administrator

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