



# GEORGIA VERMONT

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## Selectboard Regular Meeting

Monday, February 26, 2024 @ 6:00 p.m.

Chris Letourneau Meeting Room and via Zoom

### Minutes

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#### Zoom Details:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6165843896?pwd=STduU2JzTmpiVmE1MXZSaWZWLzVadz09>

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Meeting ID: 616 584 3896 | Passcode: 5243524

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

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#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

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- **Selectboard Present** – Devon Thomas Chair, Shannon Jenkins Vice-Chair, Jamie Comstock, Carl Rosenquist, Nicholas Martin
  - **Staff Present** – Cheryl Letourneau, April Edwards, Dawn Penney
  - **Public Present** – Suzanna Brown, Kim Asch, Karen Lehr, Carolyn Branagan, Terry Cleveland, Robert Giroux, Heather Dunsmore, Bridget Stone, Sara Nye-Vester, Marty Jansen, Heather Grimm, Fred Grimm, Malcolm Baker, Sue Baker, Emily Johnson, Mary Chiapinelli
  - **Public Zoom** – Jana Thuesen, Todd Cadieux, Sue Webster
  - At **5:57 p.m.** – D. Thomas called the meeting to order.

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#### 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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#### 3. CHAIR UPDATE

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- D. Thomas said this is the last meeting of this board.

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#### 4. ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, OR CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

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- C. Rosenquist made a motion to add an elevator discussion, N. Martin seconded. All in favor, motion carried. It is decided to add it to the agenda as item I.
  - C. Rosenquist made a motion to postpone Ethics and DEI. This motion was not seconded and failed on the floor. It is noted that Ethics is just a discussion.

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#### 5. SELECTBOARD MINUTES AND WARRANTS

- 31
- A. Approval of Selectboard Regular Meeting Minutes for 02.12.2024, 01.17.2024

- 32           • C. Rosenquist made a motion to approve 02.12.2024 minutes with corrections, N.  
33           Martin seconded. All in favor, motion carried.
- 34           • C. Rosenquist made a motion to approve 01.17.2024 with corrections, J. Comstock  
35           seconded. It is determined they are addressing the second set of draft minutes with  
36           lines 102-127 removed.
- 37           • C. Rosenquist removed his motion to determine the motion out of executive session. It  
38           was decided to bring the minutes back at the next meeting.

39           B. Approval of Warrants #4, #5 and payroll warrants

- 40           • C. Rosenquist made a motion to approve Warrant #4, S. Jenkins seconded. All in  
41           favor, motion carried.
- 42           • N. Martin made a motion to approve Warrant #5, S. Jenkins seconded. Discussion was  
43           had. All in favor, motion carried.
- 44           • C. Rosenquist made a motion to approve payroll, J. Comstock seconded. All in favor,  
45           motion carried.
- 46           • C. Rosenquist made a motion to add the hire to the public works department out of  
47           Executive Session to the 01.17.2024 meeting minutes, N. Martin seconded. All in  
48           favor, motion carried.
- 49           • N. Martin made a motion to approve the 01.17.2024 revised minutes with the  
50           corrections J. Comstock seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

51           **6. PUBLIC COMMENT (For items not on agenda)**

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

- 54           • C. Branagan asked the board what they want her for 02.28.2024. Discussion was had  
55           on running the meeting, zooming in, and the date of the school informational meeting.
- 56           • C. Branagan asked about a meeting with the board before the town meeting.  
57           Discussion was had. C. Rosenquist recommended meeting with C. Branagan at 9:00  
58           a.m. before the town meeting. It is determined that meeting is to be warned.

59           **7. CORRESPONDENCE**

60           **8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

61           **9. BOARD BUSINESS (Public comment on agenda items limited to 5 minutes)**

62           A. Library Grant - discussion on how to use the grant and action item to sign support letter  
63           for grant.

- 64           • B. Stone presented saying she met with D. Thomas and S. Jenkins and had another  
65           meeting with T. Cadieux and S. Brown earlier that day. She requested a letter  
66           saying the library will remain there until 2031. C. Letourneau said there was a  
67           letter from legal included in the packet. There was a discussion about plans if  
68           awarded \$300,000 grant and how they would change if awarded \$1.4 million. It  
69           was reported that the Waite's came and met with the library from an engineering  
70           point of view and their input, and everyone was thankful for that.
- 71           • A. Edwards asked for a copy of the grant application to be sent to her, it was  
72           confirmed they will. B. Stone said the grants are awarded this spring.

- 73                   • S. Jenkins made a motion to commit a letter of support to the library, J. Comstock  
74                   seconded. All in favor, motion carried. N. Martin said he would draft the letter.  
75                   Discussion was had on getting a letter from legal and recording it in the land  
76                   records.
- 77           B. Sara Nye Vester - animal nuisance
- 78                   • S. Nye-Vester said the cows next to her are a public nuisance and a safety issue.  
79                   They stop at her house and destroy her property. There is a fence that had been left  
80                   unfixed for months where the cows would escape from. After the State Police got  
81                   involved, the fence was fixed. S. Nye-Vester showed pictures. Discussion was  
82                   had on the language of livestock in town ordinance, what is covered in state  
83                   ordinance and the ability to impose a fine. Discussion was had on safety and  
84                   people almost hitting the cows that are loose on the road.
- 85                   • C. Rosenquist made a motion to have a letter drafted to J. Boissoneault, N. Martin  
86                   seconded. All in favor, motion carried. N. Martin said he will draft the letter.
- 87           C. Ethics Policy – Discussion
- 88                   • C. Rosenquist said he wanted to merge the document from the community and  
89                   recommendations from legal.
- 90                   • D. Thomas said he would be happy to take this on moving forward.
- 91                   • Discussion was had on full-time and part-time jobs, elected and appointed  
92                   positions and how many people would be affected. It was also brought up who  
93                   would track this and who would alert the selectboard.
- 94                   • Discussion was had on the compatibility of offices.
- 95                   • Discussion was had on how to move forward with ethics.
- 96           D. Town Meeting preparation - Go over what to expect at Town meeting.
- 97                   • C. Letourneau said she sent out an email containing information and expectations  
98                   of the selectboard for town meeting.
- 99                   • Discussion was had on who will be on stage, who will speak, and defend the  
100                  budget.
- 101          E. DEI Committee - Action decide how to create a DEI committee.
- 102                  • D. Thomas said he recognizes that the charge has been different for each  
103                  committee. Discussion was had on how this will work moving forward.
- 104                  • D. Thomas wants to ask the new Library board how they feel about this.
- 105                  • \*\*\*Motion made to give Carl approval to authorize the change in line 104 to  
106                  clarify it was library board, by P. Jansen seconded by K. Senna, all in favor.
- 107          F. Job Descriptions
- 108                  • Discussion was had on how long it has taken to complete this, the importance of  
109                  wording, and the importance of their accuracy.
- 110          G. Local Contractors
- 111                  • C. Letourneau said they were presented with a letter by T. Cadieux asking local  
112                  contractors about their equipment and cost in case of emergencies.

- 113                   • C. Rosenquist made a motion to approve T. Cadieux to send the local contractor  
114                   letter, J. Comstock seconded. All in favor, motion carried.
- 115       H. The Associated General Contractors of VT - to approve and sign.
- 116                   • N. Martin made a motion to approve membership to the Associated General  
117                   Contractors of Vermont at a cost of \$300, C. Rosenquist seconded. All in favor, motion  
118                   carried.
- 119       I. Elevator – Addition
- 120                   • C. Rosenquist made a motion to authorize the chair to sign renewal contract the letter,  
121                   N. Martin seconded. All in favor, motion carried.
- 122       **10. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR, TREASURER AND SELECTBOARD SUB-**  
123       **COMMITTEES' REPORTS**
- 124       A. Town Administrator
- 125       B. Treasurer
- 126                   • A. Edwards recommended looking at the information she sent to them in preparation of  
127                   the town meeting. She asked if there was anything they had questions on. Discussion  
128                   was had.
- 129                   • Discussion was had on the Audit, saying that Audit represented 2022 and had nothing  
130                   to do with A. Edwards.
- 131       C. Buildings
- 132       D. Budget and Finance
- 133       E. Personnel
- 134       F. Public Works/Grounds/Recreation
- 135                   GCEC update
- 136                   • C. Letourneau said they will have a May 18 Memorial Day Parade and Concerts on  
137                   the Green. She said they are still welcoming help.
- 138       G. Committees at the direction of the chair
- 139       **11. OTHER**
- 140       **12. PLAN NEXT MEETING AGENDA**
- 141       A. 02/28/2024
- 142       **13. EXECUTIVE SESSION (if needed, pursuant to 1 V.S.A sec 313)**
- 143                   • At **8:39 p.m.** - C. Rosenquist made a motion to go into Executive Session where  
144                   premature disclosure could put the town or people at risk, J. Comstock seconded.  
145                   All in favor, motion carried.
- 146                   • At **8:40 p.m.** - C. Rosenquist made a motion to invite the board and C. Letourneau  
147                   to Executive Session, S. Jenkins seconded. All in favor, motion carried.
- 148       A. EMS Contract
- 149       B. Payroll - union

150 C. Fairfax request

151 D. Personnel - Fire Dept.

152 • At **9:30 p.m.** - N. Martin made a motion to exit executive session; C. Rosenquist  
153 seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

154 • It is noted there were no motions out of executive session.

155 **14. ADJOURN**

156 • At **9:30 p.m.** – N. Martin made a motion to adjourn, S. Jenkins seconded. All in favor,  
157 motion carried.

158 **TABLED ITEMS:**

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160 **Posted to the Town website, four designated places within the Town of Georgia (Town Clerk's**  
161 **Office, Georgia Public Library, Maplefields & Georgia Market), and e-mailed to the local**  
162 **media.**

163 **Signed: Cheryl Letourneau, Town Administrator**

164 **Phone: 802-524-3524 | Fax: 802-524-3543 | Website: [townofgeorgia.com](http://townofgeorgia.com)**