



GEORGIA VERMONT

Town Informational Meeting Monday, March 02, 2026 at 6:00 PM Fire Station Community Room and via Zoom Minutes

Zoom Details:

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

Meeting ID: 616 584 3896 | Passcode: 5243524

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

1. CALL TO ORDER 6:00PM

SELECTBOARD PRESENT

Chair Kristina Senna, Vice Chair Brian Dunsmore, Kellie Bosenberg, Judith Nasca, Carl Rosenquist

STAFF PRESENT

Doug Bergstrom, Todd Cadieux, Kollene Caspers, Lori Hobart, Stacy Katon

PUBLIC PRESENT

Heather Dunsmore, Suzanna Brown, Nancy Volatile-Wood, Jessica Batin, Traci Osterhoudt, Lorie Bachand

PUBLIC PRESENT VIA ZOOM

Karen Heinlein Grenier, Carolyn Branagan, Buddy from LCATV, Brian LeClair, Jessica Denton and Bethany L.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. TOWN INFORMATIONAL MEETING

- Selectboard and Staff Introductions.
- Traci and Jessica with VNA & Hospice were present to discuss Article 7 and answer questions from the public. This article for appropriations will be voted on the floor at Town Meeting Day.
- Chair Senna gave an explanation on the 2026 budget, with focus on the increases that cannot be avoided that include the bridge bond payment and interest, financial audit, loan payments, contracts that have increased and the Franklin County tax.

- Additional increases include raises for Town employees, increase in salary for the Town Health Officer and the Zoning Administrator, increase for recreation events, an increase in paving and law enforcement budgets, and purchasing mapping software.
- Additional revenue includes an increase in Zoning fees and expecting additional activity due to new zoning regulations, plowing revenue, cell tower, as well as a decrease in audit fees.
- Chair Senna explained Article 3, which would allow any surplus funds the Highway Department and Fire Department have at the end of each year to fund their separate capital expenditures reserve funds for future public improvements.
- The Selectboard gave an explanation to level-funding the library, focusing on essential services to the community. The Selectboard asked all departments to bring forth 3.5-4.5% increases for the 2026 budget, and the library requested a 12% increase. Over the past three years, the library has seen budget increases of 32% and 38%. Concerns were raised about the salary for the library director, which increased by 17% one year and then 7% the next year, while other Town employees received 3%. The Selectboard increased the library's allocation of Impact Fees in 2025, and the library director had secured grants that increased revenue for programming.
- Article 5, changing the Town from a calendar year to a fiscal year, was explained. This change would be consistent with the State of Vermont, Georgia Elementary and Middle School, and most grants. Contracts for law enforcement, dispatch services, VEMRS and others also run on a fiscal year (July 1-June 30) calendar. This change will also avoid the Town operating for over two months without an approved budget.
- If approved, there would be a transitional budget to be set at the March 2027 town meeting and March, 2028 will set the first fiscal year budget. This change is only the Town portion of taxes, the school is already operating on a fiscal calendar. All current exemptions will remain in place.
- Article 6, increasing law enforcement services for public safety for an additional \$50,000. Together with the \$25,000 already added to the budget, this will be a \$75,000 increase in law enforcement services for the Town of Georgia. The Town has a contract with Franklin County Sheriff Department, who just hired a new deputy to increase coverage.

4. ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn at 6:50pm

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

Voting Yea: Chair Senna, Vice Chair Dunsmore, K. Bosenberg, J. Nasca, 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. Meeting videos are posted on the Town of Georgia website.

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

Signed: Stacy Katon, Town Administrator

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