



GEORGIA VERMONT

Selectboard Meeting Monday, January 06, 2025 at 5:00 PM Fire Station Community Room and via Zoom Minutes

Zoom Details:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6165843896?pwd=STduU2JzTmpiVmE1MXZSaWZWVLzVadz09>

Meeting ID: 616 584 3896 | Passcode: 5243524

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

1. CALL TO ORDER: C. Rosenquist called the meeting to order at 5:01pm

SELECTBOARD PRESENT

Brian Dunsmore, Paul Jansen, Carl Rosenquist, Kristina Senna

STAFF PRESENT

Doug Bergstrom, Kollene Caspers, Lori Hobart, Stacy Katon, Cheryl Letourneau (via Zoom)

PLANNING COMMISSION PRESENT

Jared Waite, Heather Dunsmore, Tony Heinlein, Suzanna Brown, Chuk Cross

GUESTS PRESENT

Michael Allen, ReGrowth (via Zoom)

PUBLIC PRESENT

Ken Mink, Debbie & Ray Mann, Fred Grimm, Terry Cleveland, Robert Giroux, Dennis and Louise Abrontes, Linda Kirker, Pat King, Kay Krul, Emily Jonson, Steven Wry, Bridget Stone (via Zoom) Bethany Langevin (via Zoom), Sandy Laferriere (via Zoom), Debra Fenton (via Zoom), Karen Grenier (via Zoom)

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, OR CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

- C. Rosenquist introduced Stacy Katon as the new Town Administrator for the Town of Georgia and thanked Cheryl LeTourneau for her years of service in the position.
- C. Rosenquist stated Devon Thomas had resigned from his position as Selectboard member effective 1.06.2025 and thanked him for his service.

- S. Katon requested an addition to the agenda to discuss a personnel matter.
 - P. Jansen motioned for an Executive Session to be added to the agenda at the end of the meeting to discuss the personnel matter. Seconded by K. Senna
- Voting Yea: B. Dunsmore, P. Jansen, C. Rosenquist, K. Senna

4. SELECTBOARD MINUTES AND WARRANTS

A. Approval of Selectboard Regular Meeting Minutes for 12.30.2024

C. Rosenquest made a Motion to approve 12.30.2024 Selectboard meeting minutes.

- C. Rosenquist requested changes were made to the following line items:
 - #18/19: Staff to be listed separately
 - #33: Fill in the amount of Warrant #40 (\$16,975.35)
 - #62: Rephrase to "Cell tower allocations for GCEC and GCC were met."
 - #122: Add "Personnel: Assessor" was discussed in Executive Session.
 - #125: Add that S. Katon was invited to join the Executive Session, Motion made by K. Senna, Seconded by P. Jansen.
 - #135 & #136: Stricken from the minutes
 - K. Senna made the motion to exit executive session, P. Jansen seconded at (time)
 - No action was taken after executive session. The same parties made the motion to adjourn.

B. Dunsmore motioned to approve minutes with changes. Seconded by P. Jansen.

Voting Yea: B. Dunsmore, P. Jansen, C. Rosenquist, K. Senna

B. Approval of Warrants (None)

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

A. Selectboard Public Hearing for New Town Plan

- D. Bergstrom introduced the changes to the Town Plan that had been made since the 12.06.2024 public hearing.
- Changes included the *Future Land Use Vision* map, the location of the *Business Hamlet* zone, and the inclusion of Redeeming Grace church to the South Village zoning district.
- The new *Business Hamlet* zone was defined further to fully explain the land uses and development restrictions to that district.
- Northwest Regional Planning Commission was consulted with the presented changes.
- C. Rosenquist opened up to Selectboard for Questions/Discussion. None posed.
- C. Rosenquist opened up to the Public for Questions/Discussion:
 - The Lakeshore Zones will still be distinguished by L-1 and L-2 zones, to be further explained in the new Development Regulations.
 - Discussion over slow growth in Georgia as well as growth in designated locations to preserve the rural acreage while accommodating the need for housing.
 - Discussion on the changes to the South Village Zoning district and the addition of the *Residential Village* zone.
 - Recreation and Natural zones will be further explained in the new Development Regulations.

Motion to approve the Town Plan as presented to the Board and Public

Motion made by B. Dunsmore, Seconded by K. Senna.

Voting Yea: B. Dunsmore, P. Jansen, C. Rosenquist, K. Senna

B. 2025 Budget Discussion

- C. Rosenquist called the Budget Meeting to order at 6:00pm.
- C. Rosenquist introduced S. Katon as the new Town Administrator for anyone new joining the meeting.
- K. Senna provided an introduction and run-down of the proposed 2025 Town budget, see provided budget information in meeting Agenda Packet.
- The 2024 budget will not be included in the discussion given year end accounting has not been completed.
- The proposed budget includes a 6.58% tax increase from the 2024 budget.
- P. Jansen opened up to the Public for Questions/Discussion:
 - Increasing the law enforcement budget would increase police coverage to 20 hours a week.
 - An increase of \$57,000 in health insurance across the board is out of the control of the Town of Georgia.
 - Public Works and Roads have been underfunded for years, adding more to the budget will assist in catching up with road paving and maintenance.
 - There is \$30,000 for the interest for the bridge bond in 2025.
 - "Workforce Retention Funds" (ARPA funds) were included in the budget, as well as impact fees, reserve funds, grants, etc. were recognized while creating the budget. The 13% increase in expenses will not solely be covered by taxes.
 - Increases in administrative salaries include the new full time Town Administrator and a 3% increase in salary across Town of Georgia employees. The Selectboard has eliminated the Bookkeeper position.
 - The Town of Georgia holds the bridge bond and three loans, for the town garage, fire truck (lease) & fire station. Highway truck and firetruck are coming out of workforce retention funds.
 - Discussion over the Town distributing information to the community about the budget before Town Meeting Day.
- There are openings on the Selectboard, DRB, Planning Commission and Library Trustees. See the Town Clerk for more information on running for office. Petitions are due January 27th at 5pm. Please stop by the Town offices or library to sign petitions during open hours.

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

Motion to enter into Executive Session, to discuss a personnel matter, made by C. Rosenquist at 7:21pm. Seconded by K. Senna.

Voting Yea: B. Dunsmore, P. Jansen, C. Rosenquist, K. Senna

Motion to invite S. Katon to Executive Session made by K. Senna. Seconded by B. Dunsmore

Voting Yea: B. Dunsmore, P. Jansen, C. Rosenquist, K. Senna

Motion to exit from Executive Session at 7:39pm made by K. Senna. Seconded by B. Dunsmore.

Voting Yea: B. Dunsmore, P. Jansen, C. Rosenquist, K. Senna

No motions were made during Executive Session. No action was taken after exiting the Executive Session.

7. ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:40pm

Motion made by K. Senna. Seconded by B. Dunsmore
Voting Yea: B. Dunsmore, P. Jansen, C. Rosenquist, K. Senna

Posted to the Town website.

Signed: Stacy Katon, Town Administrator

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APPROVED