



GEORGIA VERMONT

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Selectboard Regular Meeting Monday, August 12, 2024, at 6:00 PM Chris Letourneau Meeting Room and via Zoom Minutes

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Zoom Details:

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<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6165843896?pwd=STduU2JzTmпиVmE1MXZSaWZWLzVadz09>

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Meeting ID: 616 584 3896 | Passcode: 5243524

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

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1. CALL TO ORDER

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- **Selectboard Present** – Carl Rosenquist Chair, Brian Dunsmore, Paul Jansen, Kristina Senna
 - **Selectboard Zoom** – Devon Thomas Vice-Chair (arrived 7:26 p.m.)
 - **Staff Present** – Cheryl Letourneau, Lori Hobart, Dawn Penney
 - **Public Present** – Ken Minck, Dan Albrecht
 - **Public Zoom** – Andres Torizzo
 - **At 6:00 p.m.** – C. Rosenquist called the meeting to order.

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2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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3. CHAIR UPDATE

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4. ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, OR CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

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- It was decided to add Water tanks, FY 23 Audit, Request from Al Mosher, and Letter from Governor Scott.
 - K. Senna made a motion to add these items to the agenda, B. Dunsmore seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

5. SELECTBOARD MINUTES AND WARRANTS

A. Approval of Selectboard Regular Meeting Minutes for 07.22.2024

- B. Dunsmore made a motion to approve the minutes from 07.22.2024, K. Senna seconded. All in favor, motion carried.
- K. Senna made a motion to add 07.30.2024 meeting minutes to the agenda for approval, B. Dunsmore seconded. All in favor, motion carried.
- Approval of Selectboard Regular Meeting Minutes for 07.30.2024 – Addition

- 34 • K. Senna made a motion to approve the minutes of 07.30.2024, B. Dunsmore seconded. All
35 in favor, motion carried.

36 B. Approval of Warrant # 23

- 37 • The board thanked L. Hobart for the new formatting with the warrant. They said it was
38 much easier to read and easier to understand.
- 39 • B. Dunsmore made a motion to approve Warrant # 23 for \$94,739.47, K. Senna seconded.
- 40 • L. Hobart said the Warrant should be \$450 less because Carol Ann Jones concert was
41 cancelled due to weather. The board wanted to thank Carol Ann Jones for not charging the
42 town. This changes the warrant amount to \$94,289.47.
- 43 • B. Dunsmore made a motion to update the warrant to \$94,289.47, K. Senna seconded. All in
44 favor, motion carried.
- 45 • All in favor of the warrant, motion carried.

46 Approval of Warrant # 24 – Addition

- 47 • L. Hobart explained the second warrant was for two items; payment for Bad Horsey, the
48 band for the concert for next week and a reimbursement to the Loomis' for permit fees that
49 totaled \$1505.
- 50 • K. Senna made a motion to approve the warrant, P. Jansen seconded. All in favor, motion
51 carried.

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

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

- 55 • K. Senna wanted everyone to know the Town of Georgia employes an Assessor and they do
56 not have any listers. She wanted everyone to know the Town of Georgia does not use drones
57 or employ anyone who uses drones for the purpose of assessments.

58 **7. CORRESPONDENCE**

59 A. Emails to Selectboard Chair

- 60 • C. Rosenquist reported he received word that people liked the paving on Decker Rd.
- 61 • C. Rosenquist said he had heard from Janet Harrison who was asking about paving
62 Carpenter Hill Rd. She reported she was informed the road was to be paved after the
63 development was completed. He asked if there was a plan for that to be completed. No one
64 knew.
- 65 • C. Rosenquist said he had heard from the Army Corps of Engineers. They plan to work
66 along Sand Hill Rd in the wetlands by the power lines.

67 **8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

68 A. One percent local tax

- 69 • K. Senna, B. Dunsmore, and P. Jansen decided they did not want to add any more taxes to
70 Georgia residents. They requested this be taken off the agenda.

71 B. Personnel Policy

72 C. Ethics Policy

- 73 • It was requested to move the Ethics Policy to the first meeting in September because of the
74 absence of a board member.

75 D. Bovat Rd

- 76 • It was requested to take this off the agenda.

77 E. Sherwood Forest 3-Acre Rule

- 78 • C. Rosenquist said he has a meeting set up for Wednesday at the town office with C.
79 Letourneau, Doug Bergstrom and Dean Pierce, who is a member of the Norwest Regional
80 Planning Commission.

81 F. Town Electric Signs

- 82 • C. Rosenquist said he was waiting to hear from D. Bergstrom about quotes. It has been
83 decided to keep this on the agenda and it will later be delegated to the budget committee.

84 G. Brick School House – upgrades

- 85 • C. Rosenquist said the Historical Society came to the board informing them of work that
86 they would like to see done. They will be working on a way to fundraise.

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

88 A. Dan Albrecht - Action to approve - Hiring of Watershed Consulting Associates

- 89 • Action to approve receipt of Construction Grant from Northern Lake Champlain Clean
90 Water Service
- 91 • Action to approve permit to operate a motor vehicle on Falls Road Trail
- 92 • Falls Road Trail Project Agreement
- 93 • D. Albrecht explained this to the board.
- 94 • K. Senna made a motion to approve the receipt of Construction Grant from Northern
95 Lake Champlain Clean Water Service in the amount of \$57,000, B. Dunsmore
96 seconded. All in favor, motion carried.
- 97 • K. Senna made a motion to hire Watershed Consulting Associates, not to exceed
98 \$15,000, B. Dunsmore seconded. All in favor, motion carried.
- 99 • K. Senna made a motion to approve the use of motorized vehicles on Falls Rd trail to
100 complete the work on the Falls Rd trail gully repair stormwater improvements on a
101 temporary basis until the completion of the project, B. Dunsmore seconded. All in
102 favor, motion carried.
- 103 • K. Senna made a motion to have the chair sign the Falls Rd Trail agreement, B.
104 Dunsmore seconded. All in favor, motion carried.
- 105 • The board thanked Dan Albrecht and Andres Torizzo for attending the meeting.
106 They also thanked Ken Minck for all his work.

107 B. School refund money - discussion on usage

- 108 • L. Hobart said the town received the money that was due from the school in the amount of.
109 \$134,588.19. K. Senna asked if they were getting interest from the money. It is believed the
110 school was notified of the money being owed to the town in April. L. Hobart asked the
111 board where they wanted the money for them to keep track of it. K. Senna suggested putting
112 it in the ‘project fund’ and adding a note until appropriate action can be determined. The
113 board agreed.

- 114 C. Georgia Highbridge - Bridge #10
- 115 • P. Jansen reported he spoke to Tyler Billingsley. Tyler said there may not be as much
116 funding available this year because of all the flooding the state has seen. He also spoke of a
117 potential to save \$40,000 during this repair if the bridge could potentially be fully shut down
118 for 2-4 weeks versus having to keep one lane open. K. Senna asked for the work to be
119 completed outside of the school year. C. Rosenquist suggested having a meeting with the
120 people affected.
- 121 D. Pre-buy propane for Library
- 122 • B. Dunsmore made a motion to prebuy propane for the library at \$3,741.10, P. Jansen
123 seconded. All in favor, motion carried.
- 124 E. Winter Salt and Sand – discussion
- 125 • B. Dunsmore said we have Harrison Concrete located here in town. He will investigate the
126 costs that we are currently paying for sand and compare it to Harrison.
- 127 F. Old Stage Rd Culvert - possible purchase
- 128 • Discussion was had on the culvert on Old Stage Rd and future repair. It is temporarily fixed
129 and there are discussions happening about practical solutions. This will come back again.
- 130 G. Mill River Rd and Highbridge update
- 131 • P. Jansen spoke with Tyler Billingsley regarding Bridge #28 and Tyler said it will be
132 \$1,000,000 for the bridge work. We have paid him \$25,000 and will give him another
133 \$25,000 before the end of the year. L. Hobart is working on an anticipation note of \$50,000.
134 A meeting is being set up with Babcock's, Pipe, and Tyler regarding easements needed for
135 construction.
- 136 H. Hazard Communications DRAFT Policy - review and discuss
- 137 • There was a discussion on the draft policy of the Hazard Communication. There was
138 discussion on what are the requirements and potentially have an overarching policy and
139 what the OSHA requirements are.
- 140 • It was suggested to bring this to the executive session.
- 141 I. Cemetery Sign - Acton to approve cost sharing with Fairfax
- 142 • K. Senna made a motion to approve the cost sharing for a sign with Fairfax, P. Jansen
143 seconded. All in favor, motion carried.
- 144 J. ERAF Payment - Signature needed.
- 145 • ERAF money that was not received for Bovat Rd repair in 2019. FEMA will send us
146 \$19,834.24.
- 147 • K. Senna made a motion to have C. Rosenquist sign the letter for the ERAF payment, P.
148 Jansen seconded. All in favor, motion carried.
- 149 K. FY 23 Audit – Addition
- 150 • D. Thomas joined the meeting at this point.

- 151 • K. Senna said there was a concern about checks issued in the month of January 2023 which
 152 were dated December 31, 2022. K. Senna reported there were two options. It was the
 153 suggestion of the finance committee to take the qualified opinion option. It was also stated
 154 that back-dating checks in not appropriate and that is why they are in this situation.
 155 • B. Dunsmore made a motion to take the finance committees' suggestion, C. Rosenquist
 156 seconded. All in favor, motion carried.
- 157 L. Request from Al Mosher – Addition
- 158 • C. Letourneau reported Al Mosher has requested a sign to make traffic aware of his
 159 driveway on Cline Rd.
 160 • D. Thomas made a motion to approve the sign; P. Jansen seconded. All in favor, motion
 161 carried.
- 162 M. Water Tanks – Addition
- 163 • T. Cadieux wanted to know if we could send water tanks to the auction in Swanton.
 164 • K. Senna made a motion to allow the road commissioner to send the two tanks to the
 165 auction, P. Jansen seconded. All in favor, motion carried.
- 166 N. Letter from Governor Phil Scott – Addition
- 167 • C. Letourneau reported Governor Scott would like us to sign an agreement resolution for the
 168 250-year anniversary of Vermont and plan activities around that. C. Letourneau will send it
 169 to the board.

170 **10. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR, TREASURER AND SELECTBOARD SUB COMMITTEES'**
 171 **REPORTS**

- 172 A. Town Administrator
- 173 • Philo update on install for Library and Town Office
 174 • C. Letourneau said Philo has finished all the work, everything is working, and
 175 everyone is happy.
 176 • AED, CPR and Stop the Bleed training.
 177 • C. Letourneau said she spoke with Fairfax Rescue, and they will be coming to the
 178 Georgia library on August 19 to train the staff with AED, CPR, and stop bleeding.
 179 • The town office will close from 9:15 a.m.– 2:15 p.m. for this training.
 180 • HR
 181 • C. Letourneau said she has been trying to touch base with Mary Lee who does
 182 Human Resources, they have had trouble because she was out of town on vacation.
 183 C. Letourneau will update the board.
- 184 Animal Ordinance - response from Steve Collier - Agency of Agriculture.
- 185 • The Agency of Agriculture is on board with the state's new policy. There is a plan
 186 to update our ordinance to comply with the state.
 187 • D. Thomas said he is happy to help with this.
- 188 Pavement Damage
- 189 • Todd informed the TA that Whitcomb did damage to Sodom Rd. when they were
 190 drawing materials for paving, but they have fixed it. Everything is all set.

191 Sherwood Forest meeting with residents and Dave Rugh

- 192 • C. Rosenquist, C. Letourneau, and Dave Rugh met with two homeowners from
193 Sherwood Forest regarding the stormwater. Discussion was had regarding what
194 needs to happen. The first being Sherwood Forest needs to put together an HOA
195 before moving forward.

196 Fire Dept. Kiosk for payroll – update.

- 197 • This was moved to the Executive Session.

198 Water in the Garage

- 199 • The board was made aware of water found in the garage on the floor. It only
200 happened once. T. Cadieux would like to investigate getting alarms for all the
201 buildings.

202 FCSD- Monthly update and report

- 203 • There will be monthly reports moving forward. There was no report yet as they only
204 began patrolling in mid-July.

205 B. Treasurer

206 Taxes

- 207 • L. Hobart reported getting the tax bills done and out.

208 C. Buildings

209 D. Budget and Finance

210 E. Personnel

- 211 • D. Thomas said he sent the board a draft of his final edits. It is requested that it be
212 pushed two meetings out, when everyone will be present. He was referring to the
213 Ethics Policy.

214 F. Public Works/Grounds/Recreation

- 215 • Beach progress
216 • B. Dunsmore reported that one bathroom has been started and then he will
217 begin on the second.
218 • Beach Survey - Documents are being reviewed and fieldwork is being scheduled.
219 • C. Letourneau said they were hoping to be doing it this week.
220 • Dock Discussion
221 • Discussion was had, P. Jansen and B. Dunsmore will visit the beach again
222 and see if they can produce a solution.

223 G. Committees at the direction of the chair

224 **11. OTHER**

225 **12. PLAN NEXT MEETING AGENDA**

226 A. 08.26.2024

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

228 A. American Tower – update

- 229 • At **7:53 p.m.** - K. Senna made a motion to go into Executive Session, B. Dunsmore
230 seconded.
- 231 • K. Senna made a motion to have the town administrator join the board in the Executive
232 Session. All in favor, motion carried.
- 233 • At **8:30 p.m.** – K. Senna made a motion to exit Executive Session, B. Dunsmore seconded.
234 All in favor, motion carried.
- 235 • It is noted there were no motions out of Executive Session.

236 **14. ADJOURN**

- 237 • At **8:31 p.m.** – P. Jansen made a motion to adjourn the meeting, K. Senna seconded. All in
238 favor, motion carried.

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240 **TABLED ITEMS:**

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

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

245 **Phone: 802-524-3524 | Fax: 802-524-3543 | Website: townofgeorgia.com**