



SELECTBOARD REGULAR MEETING

Monday, October 23, 2023 at 6:00 PM

Chris Letourneau Meeting Room and via Zoom

MINUTES

Zoom Details:

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

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

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

Selectboard Present: Carl Rosenquist, Devon Thomas, Nick Martin, Jamie Comstock, and Shannon Jenkins

Staff Present: Cheryl Letourneau

Public Present: Heather Grimm, Fred Grimm, Martha Jansen, Heather Dunsmore, Ken Minck, and Brian Dunsmore

Zoom Present: Dawn Penney, Karen Heinlein-Grenier, John Chagnon, Jana Thuesen, and Frank Gore

1. CALL TO ORDER at 6:00 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. CHAIR UPDATE

4. ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, OR CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

- Motion to include Covid on the agenda by N. Martin, seconded by S. Jenkins. All in favor.

5. SELECTBOARD MINUTES AND WARRANTS

A. Approval of Selectboard Regular Meeting Minutes for 10.9.2023

- C. Rosenquist makes a motion to approve the 10.9.2023 minutes with changes, J. Comstock seconds. C Rosenquist asks about line 48 and if we need to clean up the language.
- K. Minck says that the agenda for today says 10.29.2023 and it should say 10.23.2023. S. Jenkins makes a motion to have the agenda for today corrected, N. Martin seconds. All in favor, motion carries.
- C. Rosenquist questions line 65 but it seems like it was clarified later. He questions line 88. He then speaks of Line 181 - 182, K. Minck asks about DEI going into Executive Session.
- J. Comstock says line 31 and 73 C. Branagan, and D. Thomas needs to have their names spelled correctly.
- C. Letourneau asks the board about an email from T. Cleveland.
- There is a discussion on how to show a conversation that was had in an open meeting. The board would like to have the names of the people listed who were invited into Executive Session.
- All in favor, motion carried.

32 **B. Approval of Warrant # 23**

- 33 • J. Comstock asks about the Canon and the other printer on the warrant. C Letourneau says she
 34 can go and pull the invoice. He asks about the other printer.
 35 • H. Dunsmore asks about Erika's Diner. D. Thomas responds saying it was from the Selectboard
 36 to the Highway for their good work.
 37 • N. Martin makes a motion that we approve the warrant with the removal of the Canon printer in
 38 which a new warrant will be printed tomorrow for all to sign, J. Comstock seconds. All in favor,
 39 motion carried.
 40 • D. Thomas asks for a motion to add Warrant #24 to the agenda for today.
 41 • N. Martin makes a motion to add Warrant #24, C. Rosenquist seconds. All in favor, motion
 42 carried.
 43 • D. Thomas adds it as item D.
 44 • C. Rosenquist says it is the tax payment to the school.
 45 • S. Jenkins makes a motion to approve Warrant #24, N. Martin seconds. H. Dunsmore clarifies
 46 this is the money that was approved at the town meeting. C. Letourneau confirms it was.
 47 • All in favor, motion carried.
 48

49 **C. Approval of all special committee meeting minutes – moved to November 13th meeting.**

- 50 • S. Jenkins makes a motion to move the special meeting minutes to the next meeting. H.
 51 Dunsmore asks what they are. S. Jenkins reads out the list. N. Martin seconds. All in favor,
 52 motion carried.
 53

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

- 55 • K. Minck says the 11.01 budget meeting is not correct and should be updated.
 56 • J. Chagnon wants to express concerns to the DEI committee. He has been working in public
 57 health for 10 years and has seen the challenges. He questions after being in the meeting that
 58 people do not know some basic definitions. He felt it was not appropriate to have a co-chair that
 59 he felt was trying to derail the effort instead of looking at what DEI would look like for our
 60 town. H. Grimm called a point of order. D. Thomas said it was not. H. Grimm said labeling
 61 and attacking a member is a point of order. J. Chagnon said this is public comment. H. Grimm
 62 said that does not matter. D. Thomas said he thinks J. Chagnon is done with what he wanted to
 63 say and he is going to allow it and H. Grimm will be permitted her time later on.
 64 • N. Martin thanks J. Chagnon for his comment saying if there is a complaint about a certain
 65 person, they usually take that into Executive Session. N. Martin spoke about the positivity of
 66 drawing out of a hat.
 67 • D. Thomas invites a more in-depth conversation about this. J. Chagnon asks about how you
 68 chose the committee. D. Thomas says they are in the exploration state, to see if a DEI statement
 69 would be beneficial for our town. They are figuring out conversations as they move
 70 forward. The charge of the DEI committee is to explore if a DEI statement would benefit our
 71 community. He did not want an education for the board. N. Martin thanks him again.
 72 • H. Grimm wants to clarify that she joined to learn, and she has kept an open mind. She does
 73 question why, because she wants to know all sides and the long-term effects.
 74 • D. Thomas says they have no intention of becoming involved as long as the DEI committee stays
 75 focused on the charge given to them by the board.
 76

77 **7. CORRESPONDENCE**

78
79
80
81
82
83
84
85
86
87
88
89
90
91
92
93
94
95
96
97
98
99
100
101
102
103
104
105
106
107
108
109
110
111
112
113
114
115
116
117
118
119
120

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Trail Ordinance – Action

- C. Rosenquist says that K. Minck and he were not able to get together. K. Minck says he thinks it is fine how it is. C. Rosenquist says they wanted clarity, and they had issues. He said that is why he wanted to approve one trail at a time.
- K. Minck believes the way the policy is written now gives the landowner permission to use the trail. If they need something in the deed it is between the board and the owner.
- J. Comstock asks about them driving on it and changing the classification of the road. D. Thomas says that was discussed at the last meeting. He says everyone was supposed to come to this meeting ready for action and they are not.
- C. Rosenquist says he still thinks it is fine to move this to the public.
- B. Dunsmore brings up the issue of firearms. D. Thomas says that state laws trump town law.
- C. Rosenquist makes a motion to approve the trails policy for #1, #3, #4 and #5 with the understanding that it is going through the approval process, N. Martin seconds.
- H. Dunsmore asks about hunting and says you may need to talk about that with the town lawyer.
- B. Dunsmore says if you implement this then you will have to enforce this. How are we getting the police to come to answer these calls if we cannot get them here now. S. Jenkins says they can say no. C. Letourneau questions liability. D. Thomas says they can see what happens. K. Minck says yes it could be difficult.
- D. Thomas, S. Jenkins, C. Rosenquist voted yes, J. Comstock abstains, motion carried.

B. St. Albans Watershed Association - Appropriation – Action

- S. Jenkins makes a motion to pay Saint Albans what is budgeted, J. Comstock seconds.
- D. Thomas says they requested \$2,500 for work that has already been completed when they only budgeted \$1,500.
- J. Comstock says they just did the work. They did not give us the heads up. S. Jenkins says it is difficult to have a delineation to where Georgia is versus Saint Albans in the water. Kids are getting sick; we have a lot of houses along the shore. D. Thomas says we did not budget the full amount.
- N. Martin thanks them, and we will do what we can to budget more in the future.
- K. Minck says that the Conservation Commission may be able to talk about this to help. D. Thomas asks if they want to make a payment then they can do it as a gift.
- All in favor, motion carried.

C. Bovat Rd. update

- C. Letourneau says she spoke with the people involved and they have decided not to move forward.

D. ARPA Funds update

- C. Rosenquist says they have a meeting next week. He thinks they will have a budget meeting and then see. These will all be warned meetings.

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

122 **A. Junk Ordinance**

- 123 • J. Comstock makes a motion to go into discussion, N. Martin seconds.
- 124 • K. Minck calls for a point of order. He states when an item is warned you should not need to
- 125 make a motion to discuss. No action was taken on the point of order.
- 126 • D. Thomas says he will look into it.
- 127 • K. Minck says if you make a motion you must vote on it. C. Rosenquist says the same and says
- 128 he said it earlier.
- 129 • D. Thomas says the motion was to discuss.
- 130 • N. Marin says they will contact VLCT to get the process for discussion.
- 131 • All in favor of close discussion, motion carried.
- 132 • J. Comstock retracts his motion to discuss junk ordinance.
- 133 • C. Rosenquist makes a motion to approve the junk ordinance seconded by S. Jenkins. All in
- 134 favor
- 135 • J. Comstock withdraws his motion.

136

137 **B. Special Meeting 11.07.2023 Letter/Video**

- 138 • D. Thomas says there is a video that was put out on Article 1. They will also have to put one
- 139 out about Article 2 and the library. Discussion was had on how to let everyone know. C.
- 140 Letourneau explains the library vote is a ratification. The board would like to put it out publicly
- 141 in simple terms.
- 142 • K. Minck and C. Letourneau explain what a floor vote is, what is Australian Ballot and why the
- 143 difference.
- 144 • D. Thomas asks about C. Brangan coming to the meeting. C. Letourneau explains she is the
- 145 moderator, it was voted on by the town and C. Branagan will be there.
- 146 • Discussion was had on the draft letter to put out to the public informing them of the meeting with
- 147 N. Martin doing punctuation checks. It is decided that the letter going out to the public should be
- 148 enough. C. Letourneau is to send the letter via email to N. Martin for his review.

149

150 **C. Health Insurance – MVP or BCBS**

- 151 • C. Letourneau says the employees have BlueCross and Blue Shield currently. She did
- 152 calculations with employees and staying with them will save both the town and the employees
- 153 money for this upcoming year.
- 154 • J. Comstock makes a motion to move this to the next meeting. N. Martin asks if we can email all
- 155 staff and ask them what they think.
- 156 • J. Comstock makes a motion to move this to the next meeting. It is pointed out the next meeting
- 157 date is after the open enrollment. J. Comstock withdraws his motion.
- 158 • D. Thomas makes a motion to go ahead with BlueCross and Blue Shield when C. Letourneau has
- 159 heard from the employees. D. Thomas amends the motion to go ahead regardless. N. Martin
- 160 seconds the amendment.
- 161 • F. Grimm asks if there are any glaring issues now. S. Jenkins and N. Martin have had people
- 162 come forward to them.
- 163 • C. Rosenquist says both the town and employees save money in this situation.
- 164 • All in favor, C. Rosenquist clarifies the motion is to move forward, motion carried.
- 165 • N. Martin welcomes feedback on this.

166
167
168
169
170
171
172

D. COVID ADDITION

- N. Martin asks what was done previously and if we have an alert. He says he knows of employees who have had it. There is value in raising awareness on the website.
- C. Letourneau asks what about employees who test positive. It is stated to follow state guidelines.

173
174

9. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR, TREASURER AND SELECTBOARD SUB COMMITTEES REPORTS

175
176
177

- A.** Town Administrator
- B.** Treasurer
- C.** Buildings

178
179
180
181
182

- Zamboni update
 - S. Jenkins says there is nowhere to put it. She says that T. Cadieux wants it out of the way. J. Comstock asks about auctioning it off. Discussion was had. No motions were brought forward.
- D.** Budget and Finance

183

- E.** Personnel

184
185
186

- C. Rosenquist says both he and N. Martin are more than ½ way through the Personnel Policy and are working towards having it done for the next meeting.
- F.** Public Works/Grounds/Recreation

187

- G.** Committees at the direction of the chair

188

10. OTHER

189
190

11. PLAN NEXT MEETING AGENDA

192
193

- A.** 11.02.2023 Budget meeting
- B.** 11.13.2023 Selectboard meeting

194
195
196
197
198
199

- D. Thomas states he wants this to be done correctly. It is questioned why they are going into Executive Session about public funds. S. Jenkins says it is a person paying back the library.
- N. Martin says the other issue for Executive Session was taken care of during the public comment even though it was intended to be in Executive Session.

200

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

201
202
203
204
205

- C. Rosenquist makes a motion to go into Executive Session where premature disclosure may be detrimental to the town or the person or people involved in discussing personnel, J. Comstock seconds. C. Rosenquist moves to invite C. Letourneau and the Selectboard. All in favor, motion carried at 7:50 p.m.

206

- A.** Personnel
- B.** Personnel - library reimbursement

- 207 • There were no motions made from Executive Session.
208 • C. Rosenquist makes a motion to adjourn Executive Session, J. Comstock seconds. All in favor,
209 motion carried.
210

211 **13. ADJOURN**

- 212 • C. Rosenquist makes a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m., seconded by N. Martin. All
213 in favor, motion carried.
214

215 **TABLED ITEMS:**

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

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

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

Approved