



GEORGIA VERMONT

Selectboard Special Informational Meeting on Bond and Town Meeting Wednesday, February 28, 2024 Georgia Fire Station 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)

Board Present: Devon Thomas, Nick Martin, Carl Rosenquist and Jamie Comstock

By Zoom: Shannon Jenkins

Staff Present: Cheryl Letourneau and April Edwards

Public Present: Suz Brown, Bridget Stone, Linda Kirker, Lorie Bachand, Paul Jansen, Martha Jansen, Karen Heinlein-Grenier, Kyle Grenier, Robert Giroux, Ken Minck, Frank Gore, Gilles Rainville, Sr., Heather Dunsmore.

Public by Zoom: Patrick Warn, Sandy Laferriere, Lori Hobart, Veronica Fallon, Carolyn Branagan Jeannette Warn and DB

1. **CALL TO ORDER** by Devon Thomas 6:00 pm
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **BOARD BUSINESS (Public comment on agenda items limited to 5 minutes)**
 - A. Information on the Bond and Town Meeting

D. Thomas gave a brief overview of the 9.13% percent and how the board produced that amount.

C. Rosenquist spoke about the use of the ARPA funds and N. Martin talked about the importance of a full-time treasurer and how the board asked D. Bergstrom to help with the budget process.

P. Jansen asked if it was not for the million dollars in ARPA funds, we would be looking at a much larger increase in taxes. D. Thomas said before the Selectboard used the ARPA fund the increase was around 16 percent. Further discussion on how the ARPA funds got used to offset some of the expenditures for the department, s and an amount set aside for the townspeople to decide how they would like to see the money spent.

P. Jansen asked why impact fees are not in the budget. A. Edwards said this is because each department can use the impact fees to make purchases with the money that is already in that department's line item.

Discussion on the paving of roads in town. C Letourneau said paving all the roads that are on Todds current list would cost the town around \$900,000.00. That is beyond our \$300,000.00 budget.

A question on why Rugg Brook Bridge needed to be repaired this year. The selectboard felt it was time to put the option out the townspeople as the bridge repair cost will keep increasing. Several years ago, we had an estimate of \$200,000.00 to fix the bridge and now it is \$1.5 million. K. Grenier said there are grants the town can apply for to help with the bridge cost. C. Letourneau said the town had been awarded grants in the past for the repair, but the town never had the money to match the town portion of the grant.

G. Rainville, Sr., said the bridge should have been paved when Mill River Rd was done.

Local Police coverage is still a critical issue, and the town is doing all they can to get additional coverage. C. Letourneau has reached out to many agencies and will continue to explore all avenues available.

EMS Coverage – The contract with Fairfax Rescue is in its final phase.

S. Brown spoke up regarding the Library Staff and how this can be improved moving forward.

7:45 motion to enter executive session by C. Rosenquist seconded by J. Comstock

Motion to invite the Town Administrator and Selectboard by C. Rosenquist seconded by J. Comstock. All in favor.

9:20 Motion to exit executive session by N. Martin seconded by D. Thomas all in favor.

No motions made in executive session.

9:20 Motion to adjourn by C. Rosenquist seconded by D. Thomas.