



SELECTBOARD REGULAR MEETING

Monday, November 13, 2023 at 6:00 PM

Chris Letourneau Meeting 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

- **Selectboard Present:** Devon Thomas Chair, Jamie Comstock, Carl Rosenquist and Nicholas Martin
- **Selectboard Zoom:** Shannon Jenkins Vice-Chair
- **Staff Present:** Cheryl Letourneau, Doug Bergstrom, April Edwards
- **Public Present:** Todd Cadieux, Stuart Bigelow, Tony Heinlein, Heather Dunsmore, Heather Grimm, Frank Gore, John Chagnon, Marty Jansen, Logan Grimm
- **Public Zoom:** Jana Theusen, Sara Savich, Lori Hobart

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

- Presentation by Logan Grimm
- Good evening neighbors. I am Logan Grimm, a Life Scout with Troop 42 here in Georgia Vermont.
The U.S. flag stands for our freedoms which are defended by our Veterans.
Tonight I would like to speak about the great country we live in, our flag, and those veterans who have served to protect us all and our freedoms.
- The United States declared its independence on July 4, 1776.
- Vermont was established on March 4, 1791, and Georgia was organized in 1788.
- This past weekend we celebrated Veterans Day.
- Veterans Day was originally known as Armistice Day in 1918.
- President Woodrow Wilson, in his proclamation, expressed,
“To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in this country's service and with gratitude for the victory both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations.”
In 1954, Congress passed a bill recognizing November 11 as Veterans Day to honor all of those who have served our country in war and peace.
- Next, I would like to talk about our flag.
- This flag has 13 stripes which represent the 13 original colonies.

- 36 • The stripes are resting side-by-side to represent the struggle for independence, the red signifies valor, the
- 37 white purity, and the blue represents loyalty.
- 38 • These 50 stars represent our 50 states.
- 39 • This flag is a symbol of freedom and liberty and has been defended by our veterans.
- 40 • The meaning of the pledge:
- 41 • “I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America”
- 42 • I promise myself to America
- 43 • “and to the republic for which it stands“
- 44 • run by the people
- 45 • “One nation, under God“
- 46 • we are all in this together and under the care of God
- 47 • “indivisible, with liberty and justice for all“
- 48 • we cannot be divided, we won’t have restrictions on how we want to live, and we will
- 49 • all be treated fairly
- 50 • The pledge is meant to unite us and to offer us security and confidence in our country.
- 51 • We also remember that this pays respect for those who paid the ultimate price for our
- 52 • freedoms.
- 53 • When we say the pledge tonight please stand at attention, facing the flag, remove any
- 54 • non-religious headdress, and put your right hand over your heart.
- 55 • Those in uniform should render the military salute during the pledge
- 56 • I remind you all to thank your Veterans and remember what they and their families have
- 57 • gone through while defending our flag and our freedoms.
- 58 • D. Thomas says thank you for your time, could you all please rise and join me in the Pledge of
- 59 • Allegiance?

60 3. CHAIR UPDATE

61 4. ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, OR CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

62 5. SELECTBOARD MINUTES AND WARRANTS

63 A. Approval of Selectboard Regular Meeting Minutes for 10.23.2023

- 64 • C. Rosenquist makes a motion to approve the minutes of 10.23.2023 with certain
- 65 adjustments, J. Comstock seconds.
- 66 • J. Comstock wants the line numbers added.
- 67 • C. Rosenquist would like to see the following corrections:
 - 68 ○ Page 2, it says, ‘school budget’ and he wants it to say ‘taxes due to the school’.
 - 69 ○ H. Grimm called for a point of order, and he wants it added to what the point of
 - 70 order was.

71 B. Approval of Warrants #25, 26, 27, 28, and 29

- 72 • N. Martin makes a motion to accept Warrant #25, J. Comstock seconds.
- 73 • A. Edwards says there was a trueup that needed to happen.
- 74 • All in favor, motion carried.
- 75 • N. Martin makes a motion to accept Warrant # 26, C. Rosenquist seconds. All in favor,
- 76 motion carried.
- 77 • N. Martin makes a motion to accept Warrant # 27, C. Rosenquist seconds.
- 78 • J. Comstock asks why they are being listed out. A. Edwards says that is how the auditor
- 79 asked for it to be done.
- 80 • All in favor, motion carried.
- 81 • N. Martin makes a motion to accept Warrant #28, S. Jenkins seconds.

- 82 • N. Martin questions the work on the new garage. T. Cadieux says it was Premier Paving
- 83 topcoat. A. Edwards asks if the money should come out of the highway or ARPA. A.
- 84 Edwards will review it.
- 85 • All in favor with revisions, motion carried.
- 86 • N. Martin makes a motion to accept Warrant #29, J. Comstock seconds.
- 87 • J. Comstock asks if these are overpayments. A. Edwards says yes.
- 88 • All in favor, motion carried.

89 C. Approval of all special committee meeting minutes

- 90 • N. Martin makes a motion to accept the minutes of the special committee meetings with any
- 91 revisions, C. Rosenquist seconds.
- 92 • All in favor, motion carried.

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

94 All participants must clearly state their names. Appropriate actions will be considered once the

95 Selectboard has reviewed the information provided and necessary subsequent research.

- 96 • H. Dunsmore addresses the board saying they go back and forth using Robert's Rules. D.
- 97 Thomas says that they are, for the most part. They are following Robert's Rules. H.
- 98 Dunsmore says Robert's Rules say a debate must address issues not personalities nor is one
- 99 permitted to make personal attacks or question the motives of other speakers. D. Thomas
- 100 says in the future they will. N. Martin says they will do a better job in the future. He
- 101 acknowledges it happened in the past and says it will not happen in the future.
- 102 • C. Rosenquist says at the last GIDC meeting it was brought up that we have not responded
- 103 from a piece of correspondence from Tim Smith. C. Rosenquist says he was asked to get an
- 104 answer. C. Letourneau says that it was assigned to J. Comstock and T. Cadieux. T. Cadieux
- 105 says he spoke with Dan Ryea and he will see if we could just use fill. C. Rosenquist asks if
- 106 you can get a cost and says that T. Heinlein can give T. Cadieux directions as to where and
- 107 how much is needed.
- 108 • T. Cadieux asks the role of GIDC in this matter. C. Rosenquist says it was a
- 109 recommendation from GIDC. C. Rosenquist says he and J. Comstock will look into this. J.
- 110 Comstock asks T. Cadieux to look into this and email himself and C. Rosenquist.
- 111 • S. Jenkins asks if there was email correspondence from Terry. D. Thomas says it may be
- 112 something better left to Executive Session as it would fall into the category of complaint.

113 **7. CORRESPONDENCE**

114 **8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

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

116 A. Town Cemeteries

- 117 • D. Thomas asks if they are going to make a motion for discussion anymore. N. Martin asks
- 118 if they need to make the motion. C. Rosenquist says you need a motion for an action item
- 119 but not for discussion.
- 120 • D. Thomas says Suzanna Brown brought up maintaining the town's cemeteries and he asks
- 121 what they want to do about this. J. Comstock says they will not have to worry about it now
- 122 but should investigate it again in the spring. C. Rosenquist thinks it was brought up because
- 123 the town used to have a cemetery committee. J. Comstock says he will make a motion in the

124 future to have Suzanna Brown head that committee. She is not here to speak for herself, so
125 he will wait. Discussion was had on the money available.

126 B. Time Clock

127 • T. Cadieux says they are having trouble punching in and out with the clock. A. Edwards
128 says it has been suggested that you turn off the ipads sometimes. She is also talking with
129 PayChex about fixing these issues. T. Cadieux says they have had issues for a year. S.
130 Jenkins asks if there is a way for a rep to come help. C. Letourneau says they have done
131 everything, and it is only the garage that has issues. It was said they may need to shut things
132 down and start them back up.

133 C. Firefighter Application approval – Action

134 • C. Rosenquist made a motion to approve Michael Cook’s application for the Georgia Fire
135 Department by the Fire Chief, J. Comstock seconds. All in favor, motion carried.

136 D. Jamie Cota as advisor for GFRD - Action

137 • S. Jenkins makes a motion to accept J. Cota in this role, N. Martin seconds. All in favor,
138 motion carried.

139 E. Comcast – Action

140 • N. Martin makes a motion to accept Comcast contracts with N. Martin’s review, seconded
141 by C. Rosenquist. All in favor, motion carried.

142 F. Pacif - uninsured motorist policy – Action

143 • C. Rosenquist makes a motion to accept a contract with a standard fee for \$1,000,000 policy,
144 seconded by N. Martin. All in favor, motion carried.

145 G. MVP insurance – Action

146 • Discussion was had on offering a different plan for one employee and the consequences if
147 everyone else wanted to do the same.
148 • J. Comstock says that they made the motion last meeting to move forward with BlueCross
149 Blue Shield regardless. D. Thomas says he just wants to explore the option.

150 H. Results of the Special Meeting

151 • D. Thomas says it would have been better to have done this in March. N. Martin agreed and
152 said that is what people wanted. F. Gore said there was a bigger turnout there than are
153 usually at town meeting. C. Letourneau clarifies that if it comes back in March, it still must
154 be a floor vote. D. Thomas says he wants to shift to Australian ballot. C. Letourneau says
155 that there has to be a floor vote to get it to Australian. H. Grimm asks about the voters
156 making an article and having the article appear on the ballot. C. Letourneau says she will
157 have to clarify with the lawyer on how the articles can appear if submitted that way.
158 Discussion was had on how to present for a floor vote and an Australian ballot.

159 **10. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR, TREASURER AND SELECTBOARD SUB COMMITTEES**
160 **REPORTS**

161 A. Town Administrator

162 Set up date to discuss Amcare Contract

163 ○ C. Letourneau asks if N. Martin and C. Rosenquist would like to be involved in this.
164 They confirm.

165 reimbursement of sales tax on purchases

166 ○ C. Letourneau reports an employee purchased something for the town and was going
167 to be reimbursed but was charged sales tax. She asks how they want to deal with
168 this. J. Comstock says he wants an e-mail to go out and tell departments to use cards
169 when making purchases.

170 Request for department heads to meet to go over budgets again.

171 Debit card for the library

172 ○ S. Jenkins makes a motion to get a debit card for the library, J. Comstock seconds.
173 ○ A. Edwards says it is up to the board if they accept this or not. If they do they need
174 to decide whose name to put on the card. It was decided to have the Library
175 Director's name on it.
176 ○ All in favor, motion carried.

177 Request for Department Head to go over Budget again (Addressed during this part of the
178 meeting)

179 ○ A. Edwards asks who want to go again. C. Letourneau says the library.

180 Amazon prime - renewal \$180.00

181 ○ C. Letourneau says the library uses it more than others. T. Cadieux says he uses it.
182 S. Jenkins asks if we have previously had it. C. Letourneau says we had it one year.
183 D. Bergstrom says the office bundles to get free shipping. N. Martin asks if it is
184 something we need. C. Letourneau says she does not need it currently.

185

186 B. Treasurer

187 • A. Edwards says \$6,600 of the Veteran's Fund went into the Administration Reserve Fund.
188 She asks how they would like to move forward. D. Thomas asks A. Edwards what she
189 would do. She says it could be a subsidiary of the general fund. S. Jenkins wants to make
190 sure it does not get confused again. A. Edwards says this is part of cleaning things up. D.
191 Bergstrom explains why it was probably put in the reserve. Discussion was had on setting
192 up a reserve fund for the Veterans as a line item. It is decided to put it to the voters on the
193 ballot.

194 C. Buildings - updates/action on attached letter

195 • T. Cadieux wanted to know about how to advertise for hiring the new position. N. Martin
196 asks where we are with that. C. Letourneau says they were waiting to hear if the position
197 was going to be changed. S. Jenkins says we need to expand how we advertise. N. Martin
198 says they will advertise. C. Letourneau asks what they are advertising for. Discussion was
199 had on the school plowing and contracting. N. Martin says T. Cadieux should reach out to
200 C. Letourneau.

201 D. Budget and Finance

202 • Still working

203 E. Personnel

- 204 • Still working
- 205 F. Public Works/Grounds/Recreation
- 206 G. Committees at the direction of the chair
- 207 • D. Thomas says the DEI is meeting November 15 and a follow-up meeting on December 4.

208 **11. OTHER**

209 **12. PLAN NEXT MEETING AGENDA**

- 210 A. Budget Meeting 11.15.2023
- 211 B. Regular meeting 11.27.23

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

213 A. Incident at the Town Office

- 214 • Discussion was had about a letter from Terry and if it should be entered into Open Meeting
215 or Executive Session.
- 216 • N. Martin says he will read the letter provided to the board in Executive Session, S. Jenkins
217 seconds. C. Rosenquist abstains because he has not read the letter, D. Thomas, S. Jenkins, J.
218 Comstock and N. Martin vote yes, motion carried.
- 219 • N. Martin makes a motion for John Chagnon to meet with the board in Executive Session, J.
220 Comstock seconds. All in favor, motion carried.
- 221 • 8:00 p.m. – C. Rosenquist makes a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel
222 matters and other things where premature disclosure could put the board or members of the
223 town at risk, J. Comstock seconds.
- 224 • C. Rosenquist invites John Chagnon and C. Letourneau into the meeting for the first item.
225 He invites D. Bergstrom and C. Letourneau to discuss the incident at the town office.

226 **14. ADJOURN**

- 227 • 9:25 p.m. – D. Thomas makes a motion to adjourn the meeting, J. Comstock seconds. All in
228 favor motion carried.

229 **TABLED ITEMS:**

230

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

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

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