



GEORGIA VERMONT

Selectboard Regular Meeting Monday, March 24, 2025 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)

CALL TO ORDER 6:00PM

SELECTBOARD PRESENT

Chair Kristina Senna, Vice Chair Brian Dunsmore, Paul Jansen, Carl Rosenquist

STAFF PRESENT

Todd Cadieux, Kollene Caspers, Lori Hobart, Stacy Katon, Bridget Stone

PUBLIC PRESENT

Logan Grimm, Heather Grimm, Terry Cleveland, Deb Mann, Raymond Mann, Zev Werts, Craig Volatile-Wood, Noah Lavalley, Kellie Bosenberg

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. CHAIR UPDATE

3. ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, OR CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

- P. Jansen requested contract discussions be added to Executive Session.

4. SELECTBOARD MINUTES AND WARRANTS

A. Approval of Selectboard Regular Meeting Minutes for March 12, 2025

Motion to accept minutes with changes to individuals who wrote the letter for Webster Town Forrest land; Conservation Commission withdrawing their Grant request; and 4/4/2025 is the deadline to submit Letter of Interest for Selectboard vacancy.

Motion made by Vice Chair Dunsmore, Seconded by C. Rosenquist.

Voting Yea: Chair Senna, Vice Chair Dunsmore, P. Jansen, C. Rosenquist

- B. Action to Approve Town Meeting Minutes of March 4, 2025
Motion to approve minutes with no changes.
Motion made by C. Rosenquist, Seconded by Vice Chair Dunsmore.
Voting Yea: Chair Senna, Vice Chair Dunsmore, C. Rosenquist
Voting Abstaining: P. Jansen
- C. Approval of Warrants #2509
Motion to approve Warrant #2509
Motion made by Vice Chair Dunsmore, Seconded by P. Jansen.
Voting Yea: Chair Senna, Vice Chair Dunsmore, P. Jansen, C. Rosenquist

5. PUBLIC COMMENT (For items not on agenda)

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

- N. Lavallee thanked the Selectboard and Town staff members for coming to view the condition of Bovat Road. An estimate of \$21,000 was given for a new culvert, and 15 households will split the cost of replacement. He asked the Selectboard to consider a contribution to help finance the project.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

- A. Request for Minutes Amendment by Howard & Sue Webster--Howard and Sue Webster emailed on 3/20/25 requesting to have the March 12, 2025, minutes amended to reflect that "only one of the Webster heirs initiated contact to ask about purchasing some, or all of the Henley Webster Memorial Forest." The other heirs are content to have it remain as a natural area of recreation and conservation as Dorothy Conger Webster intended.
- March 12, 2025 Selectboard Meeting Minutes will be adjusted accordingly.
- B. Request from Howard & Sue Webster to remove "Private road sign"- this is a class IV section of Bovat Road, while this is privately maintained this is still a class IV road.
- The Selectboard instructed T. Cadieux to take the sign down.

7. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR, TREASURER AND SELECTBOARD SUB COMMITTEES REPORTS

- A. Buildings-Public Works Update from Todd Cadieux
- T. Cadieux will schedule Chevallier to test the water at Georgia Beach before opening for the season.
- B. Public Works/Grounds/Recreation-Update from Todd Cadieux
- Hot box will be purchased this week. Garage workers will test it and hopefully put it to good use soon, weather depending.
- C. Bridge 10 Bid Opening and Addendum 1 attached.
- Opening the Bids for Highbridge Road work:
 - Letourneau Civil Construction, bid was \$365,000
 - Blow and Cote, Inc General Contractors, bid was \$347,700
 - T. Cadieux and S. Katon will review the bids with Tyler the bridge engineer.

Motion for S. Katon and T. Cadieux to proceed with the bid in the best interest of the Town.

Motion made by C. Rosenquist, Seconded by Vice Chair Dunsmore.
Voting Yea: Chair Senna, Vice Chair Dunsmore, P. Jansen, C. Rosenquist

- D. Personnel--Discuss New Hire Seasonal Beach Employee--Need to discuss advertising and hiring new season beach employee, current employee gave notice.
- S. Katon will advertise for the open part-time, seasonal position as Georgia Beach caretaker.
- E. Town Administrator--Need Signatures for appointments made last Regular Meeting-- Need to appoint Andrew Dunsmore for Town Forest Fire Warden, NWSWD and NWCUD Appointment.
- Signatures made on the prior appointments to NWSWD and NWCUD.

Motion for Andrew Dunsmore for Town Fire Warden
Motion made by P. Jansen, Seconded by C. Rosenquist
Voting Yea: Chair Senna, P. Jansen, C. Rosenquist
Vice Chair Dunsmore recused himself from discussion and vote.

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

- A. Electronic Sign Presentation by Logan Grimm--Logan is joining the meeting to present the electronic sign he worked to get for Town of Georgia Elementary school. SB is interested in purchasing a similar sign with funds from ONCORE corporate donation, Logan will present that sign option and pricing quotes vendor gave him for the town sign(s).
- L. Grimm, Eagle Scout candidate from Georgia Boy Scout Troop 42, gave a demonstration of the electric sign to be installed at Georgia Elementary and Middle School.
 - He has worked with the sign company for an offer of \$13,100 per sign for the Town of Georgia. Installation and any needed electrical work is not included.
 - The sign is 3 ft x7 ft, double-sided, and will be installed at the school within a month. Remote access to change the sign is via Wi-Fi connection.
 - The current sign at the library was an Eagle Scout project. Troop 42 would like to be included in the installation of a new sign to recognize the Eagle Scout.
- B. Action to Approve for Annual Pay Raises -- to be effective April 1 annually.
Motion to approve annual pay raises for Town employees starting April 1, with no back-pay.
Motion made by P. Jansen, Seconded by Vice Chair Dunsmore.
Voting Yea: Chair Senna, Vice Chair Dunsmore, P. Jansen
Voting Nay: C. Rosenquist
- C. Rhodeside Acres--Signatures Needed on Mylar --then will be presented to Town Clerk for signatures and recording.
- Chair Senna signed the Mylar.
- D. Personnel Policy--CTO, Vacation, Sick Accruals Discussion-Draft Review
- S. Katon is currently working on a process to account for employee vacation and sick time, bringing to light potential accrual changes, as the current Personnel Policy states a 10-year tenure before a third week of vacation is granted. This is not comparable to other industries, nor is it competitive, which may affect employee recruitment and/or retention.
 - The Selectboard would like S. Katon to come up with a proposal to change this section of the Personnel Policy, consistent with the Union contract, to present to the Selectboard.

- The Selectboard will host a Special Meeting on Monday, April 7, 2025 at 5:30pm for proposed changes to vacation/sick/other leave in the new draft personnel policy.

Microsoft office licenses and emails

- Conservation Commission and Board of Civil Authority/ Board of Abatement members do not currently have Town of Georgia email addresses.
- All emails for individuals affiliated with Town of Georgia Boards, Committees and Commissions should be through the Town to increase transparency and ease of public records requests.
- S. Katon will work with D. Bergstrom to get a quote on costs for these emails.

E. Committee Creation - for the Georgia Public Library Building Revitalization project.

Library Trustees present: K. Caspers, T. Cleveland, D. Mann, C. Volatile-Wood

- The Selectboard proposes two (2) members from both the Selectboard and Library Trustees form a GPL Building Revitalization Committee for initial discussion and review of the Library building and needed updates for ADA compliance.
- Selectboard members on the Committee include B. Dunsmore & P. Jansen.
- Library Trustees on the Committee will include: D. Mann and T. Cleveland. Motion made by C. Volatile-Wood, seconded by K. Caspers, all in favor.

F. GPL-Request Approval of Grants for the Library

- B. Stone requested approval from the Selectboard to apply for four (4) grants, explaining the grant amounts and the different organizations that sponsor the grants.
- B. Stone asked if the Selectboard approval of the grant documents could be waived given the short amount of time before the grants are due. S. Katon and Trustee K. Caspers offered to review and approve the grants on behalf of the Selectboard prior to being submitted.

Motion to approve the Georgia Public Library to apply for the four (4) grants and have S.

Katon and K. Caspers review and approve the grants before they are submitted.

Motion made by Vice Chair Dunsmore, Seconded by P. Jansen.

Voting Yea: Chair Senna, Vice Chair Dunsmore, P. Jansen, C. Rosenquist

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Bidwell Estate - Action/Motion

- Waiting on Conservation Commission update, tabled for next meeting.

B. Selectboard Vacancy

- Notice of Intent posted, will accept letters until April 4, 2025.

C. Parcel ID 112260000-Robert Peet Interest in Lot-

- D. Bergstrom researched this lot, which was taken in lieu of taxes by Kevin Webster in 2005. Back taxes were owed to the Town from Dream Builders.

D. Closing of Perrigo-Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant--Feasibility study, ideas, open discussions for the future.

E. Bridge #28 Mill River Bridge

F. Sherwood Forest 3 Acre Rule

- Hidden Woods/Forrest Glen received ANR approval for the permitting. S. Katon will have a report at the April 14, 2025 Selectboard meeting.

G. 2025 Manual Transfer Switch Project-Town Garage

H. Mill River Bridge #28-Easements-

- Gordan Babcock will sign the easement on April 1st. S. Katon will reach out to Ms. Pipe again to inquire if there are any questions and set up a date and time to sign the easement.

I. Contract Addendum for Current Assessor

Motion for the Selectboard to sign the Contract Addendum for Assessor, Bill Hinman, to continue his service until the 2025 Preliminary Grand List is complete, for a \$1000 retainer through 2025.

Motion made by C. Rosenquist, Seconded by Vice Chair Dunsmore.

Voting Yea: Chair Senna, Vice Chair Dunsmore, P. Jansen, C. Rosenquist

Action taken: Chair Senna signed the contact addendum

J. Animal Control Ordinance-Update Timeline

- Animal Control Ordinance was approved at the Selectboard Meeting on February 24, 2025.
- Approval was entered to Selectboard Minutes on March 12, 2025.
- Notification was posted on page 34 in St Albans Messenger on February 28, 2025.
- Notification was posted publicly on February 28, 2025.
- Petitions are due by April 9, 2025 by 4:00pm, if no petitions are received the Ordinance goes into effect on April 25, 2025.

K. Impact Fee Ordinance- Update and timeline

- Impact Fee Ordinance was approved at the Selectboard Meeting on February 10, 2025 and again on February 24, 2025.
- Approval was entered into the Selectboard Minutes on February 24 2025 and on March 12, 2025.
- Notifications were posted on page 35 in the St Albans Messenger on February 28, 2025.
- Notifications were posted publicly on February 14, 2025 and February 25, 2025.
- Petitions are due by April 9, 2025 by 4:00pm, if no petitions received the Ordinance goes into effect on April 25, 2025.

10. OTHER

11. PLAN NEXT MEETING AGENDA

A. Special Meeting: April 7, 2025 at 5:30pm

Regular Meeting: April 14, 2025 at 6:00pm

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

Chair Senna would entertain a motion to enter into executive session to discuss Incident at the Town Hall and Contracts which premature disclosure or discussion may be detrimental to the board in itself and/or individuals involved.

Chair Senna moves that we enter into executive session to discuss the above with Town Administrator S. Katon under the provisions of Title 1, Section 313(a)(1)(A) of the Vermont Statutes.

Motion to Move into Executive Session at 7:15pm

Motion made by C. Rosenquist, Seconded by Vice Chair Dunsmore

Voting Yea: Chair Senna, Vice Chair Dunsmore, P. Jansen, C. Rosenquist

Motion to invite S. Katon to join the Executive Session

Motion made by C. Rosenquist, Seconded by Vice Chair Dunsmore

Voting Yea: Dunsmore, Jansen, Rosenquist, Senna

Motion to exit from Executive Session at 8:00pm

Motion made by C. Rosenquist, Seconded by Vice Chair Dunsmore

Voting Yea: Chair Senna, Vice Chair Dunsmore, P. Jansen, C. Rosenquist

No action taken following Executive Session.

13. ADJOURN

Motion to Adjourn at 8:02pm

Motion made by C. Rosenquist, Seconded by P. Jansen.

Voting Yea: Chair Senna, Vice Chair Dunsmore, P. Jansen, C. Rosenquist

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

Minutes and meeting videos are posted on the Town of Georgia website.

Signed: Stacy Katon, Town Administrator

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