



GEORGIA VERMONT

Selectboard Regular Meeting Monday, January 22, 2024 Chris Letourneau Meeting Room and via Zoom Agenda

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
1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
2. CHAIR UPDATE
3. ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, OR CHANGES TO THE AGENDA
4. SELECTBOARD MINUTES AND WARRANTS
 - A. Approval of Selectboard Regular Meeting Minutes for 01/08/2024
 - B. Approval of Warrants #38
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.
6. CORRESPONDENCE
7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
8. BOARD BUSINESS (Public comment on agenda items limited to 5 minutes)
 - A. Personnel Policy Firefighter pay rate - Action.
 - B. Adopt the revised Trail Ordinance - Action
 - C. Ken Minck - GCC Grant - Action
 - D. Town Warning -
 - E. Budget - review and Approve.
 - F. DEI Statement Policy - Action
9. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR, TREASURER AND SELECTBOARD SUB COMMITTEES REPORTS

- A. Town Administrator
- B. Treasurer
- C. Buildings
- D. Budget and Finance
- E. Personnel
- F. Public Works/Grounds/Recreation
- G. Committees at the direction of the chair

10. OTHER

11. PLAN NEXT MEETING AGENDA

- A. 01.29.2023

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

13. ADJOURN

TABLED ITEMS:

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.

Signed: Cheryl Letourneau, Town Administrator

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



GEORGIA VERMONT

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Selectboard Regular Meeting Monday, January 08, 2024 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, Shannon Jenkins Vice-Chair, Carl Rosenquist, Nicholas Martin
- **Selectboard Absent:** Jamie Comstock
- **Staff Present:** Dawn Penney, April Edwards
- **Staff Present Zoom:** Cheryl Letourneau
- **Public Present:** Bette Dunsmore, Terry Cleveland, Marty Jansen, Carolyn Branagan, Heather Dunsmore, Ken Minck, Fred Grimm
- **Public Present Zoom:** Kristina Senna, Grady Ballard
- **6:01 p.m.** – D. Thomas calls the meeting to order.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. CHAIR UPDATE

- D. Thomas says he and S. Jenkins are waiting to hear from the schoolboard about DEI. They will bring something back to the 01.22.2024 meeting.

4. ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, OR CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

- There is a request from the Fire Department to add a hire. It will be added to the agenda as item E.
- There is a request for Fireproof Filing cabinet. It will be added to the agenda as item F.
- C. Rosenquist made a motion to add items E & F to the agenda, N. Martin seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

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.

- 35 • C. Branagan came to speak saying the legislation is back in session and it runs through mid-
- 36 May. She wanted to board to feel free to contact her with any issues she could help with.

37 **6. SELECTBOARD MINUTES AND WARRANTS**

38 A. Approval of Selectboard Regular Meeting Minutes for 12/27/2023

- 39 • C. Rosenquist made a motion to approve the 12.27.2023 minutes with corrections, N. Martin
- 40 seconded.
- 41 • Line 43, line 98-100 (a notation will be added to both those notes and this meeting’s
- 42 notes), line 124 and line 153.
- 43 • T. Cleveland would like to have the discussion of gift cards added to the meeting minutes.
- 44 • All in favor, motion carried.

45 B. Approval of Warrants #35

- 46 • N. Martin made a motion to approve Warrant #35, S. Jenkins seconded. All in favor,
- 47 motion carried.
- 48 • N. Martin makes a motion to approve General Ledger Transaction #20230303 Payroll
- 49 Warrant, S. Jenkins seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

50 **7. CORRESPONDENCE**

51 **8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

52 A. Re-adoption of Ordinances – Action

- 53 • C. Rosenquist asked C. Letourneau if she has heard anything from the public. C.
- 54 Letourneau said at the beginning of the meeting she had not heard anything.
- 55 • D. Thomas said he thinks they should not take the Animal Ordinance on.
- 56 • S. Jenkins said if they can do something, they should. D. Thomas said the state is
- 57 encouraging us to do nothing.
- 58 • C. Letourneau explained if the board adopts this ordinance, then they are liable, and will
- 59 have to enforce it to the letter.
- 60 • B. Dunsmore asked why they are even looking at this. S. Jenkins says it is because of the
- 61 cows on Plains Rd. She says people are looking for a solution. D. Thomas said it is
- 62 dangerous driving there.
- 63 • C. Rosenquist made a motion to exclude cows from the Animal Ordinance.
- 64 • C. Rosenquist withdrew his motion.
- 65 • C. Rosenquist made a motion to prepare the public for the elimination of the Stump Dump
- 66 Ordinance; S. Jenkins seconded. All in favor, motion carried.
- 67 • C. Rosenquist made a motion to approve the Motor Vehicle and Traffic Ordinances with
- 68 updated speeds, S. Jenkins seconded.
- 69 • K. Minck pointed out in Section 9 the words “legal trail” was deleted from the ordinance but
- 70 yet it is still there.
- 71 • F. Grimm asked about “Rock Maple Rd” and asked if it should say “Rock Island Rd”.
- 72 • N. Martin made a motion to amend the approval with the corrections of deleting “Legal
- 73 trails” and the proper replacement of “Rock Island Rd”, C. Rosenquist seconded. All in
- 74 favor, amendment carried.
- 75 • The vote was called for the original motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- 76 • C. Rosenquist made a motion to approve the Junk Ordinance; N. Martin seconded. All in
- 77 favor, motion carried.

78 • S. Jenkins made a motion to accept the Legal Trails Ordinance of trails 1, 3, 4, and 5, N.
79 Martin seconded. C. Rosenquist abstains, D. Thomas, S. Jenkins, N. Martin voted in favor,
80 motion carried.

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

82 A. Town meeting or Australian Ballot - Inform public of decision.

83 • D. Thomas asked if they wanted to follow COVID rules or not. It is decided they do not
84 want to follow COVID rules.

85 B. Town Report – update

86 • C. Letourneau says she is still missing many reports. D. Thomas said he has finished his
87 and had sent it to the board for review. N. Martin said he had finished his and had sent it to
88 the board for review.

89 C. Holidays - Action Approve Holiday schedule.

90 • C. Rosenquist made a motion to accept the holidays for 2024 to be like 2023, N. Martin
91 seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

92 D. Town Warning

93 • C. Letourneau clarified that she is looking for permission to send this to legal for review.
94 Permission was granted.

95 E. Fire Department Hire (Addition)

96 • N. Martin made a motion to approve Cameron LaFond as a firefighter; C. Rosenquist
97 seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

98 F. File Cabinet – possible purchase (Addition)

99 • C. Letourneau said we need more fireproof safes. There are currently 2 that are being sold,
100 one at \$450 which retails for \$5,000 and a second for \$350 that retails at \$1,500. She said
101 there is money left in impact fees.

102 • C. Rosenquist made a motion to approve the purchase of two filing cabinets; N. Martin
103 seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

104 **10. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR, TREASURER AND SELECTBOARD SUB COMMITTEES’**
105 **REPORTS**

106 A. Town Administrator

107 B. Treasurer

108 C. Buildings

109 D. Budget and Finance

110 E. Personnel

111 • C. Rosenquist gave D. Penney a letter to type relative to the additional fill for trail #4.

112 F. Public Works/Grounds/Recreation

113 G. Committees at the direction of the chair

114 • K. Minck asked questions about how the new EMS person will be budgeted in the new year.

- 115 • F. Grimm said there was supposed to be a review of the position to see if it was a value
- 116 added to the community. He asked Keith Baker to come to speak. D. Thomas said they will
- 117 let him know about it so that he can be prepared.
- 118 • D. Thomas said he will be moving forward with DEI either with the schoolboard or with
- 119 VLCT.
- 120 • C. Letourneau wanted everyone to be aware that this will be the first year that the names of
- 121 births and deaths will not be included in the town report.

122 **11. OTHER**

123 **12. PLAN NEXT MEETING AGENDA**

- 124 A. 01/10/2023 Budget Meeting
- 125 B. 01/22/2023 Regular Meeting

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

- 127 • C. Rosenquist made a motion to go into Executive Session where premature disclosure
- 128 could put the town at risk, N. Martin seconded. All in favor motion carried.
- 129 • C. Rosenquist made a motion to have the board and C. Letourneau enter into Executive
- 130 Session to review: Personnel matter, EMS contract, American Tower, and holiday pay
- 131 issues, N. Martin seconded. All in favor, motion carried. Later the selectboard elected to
- 132 have the Treasurer join them on the personnel issue.
- 133 A. Personnel - Holiday pay
- 134 B. EMS Contract
- 135 C. American Tower
- 136 D. Personnel Matter
- 137 • At **8:25 p.m.** - C. Rosenquist made a motion to exit Executive Session, N. Martin seconded.
- 138 All in favor, motion carried.
- 139 • It is noted there are no motions out of Executive Session.

140 **14. ADJOURN**

- 141 • At **8:25 p.m.** - C. Rosenquist made a motion to adjourn; N. Martin seconded. All in favor,
- 142 motion carried.

143 **TABLED ITEMS:**

144

145 **Posted to the Town website, four designated places within the Town of Georgia (Town Clerk’s**

146 **Office, Georgia Public Library, Maplefields & Georgia Market), and e-mailed to the local media.**

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

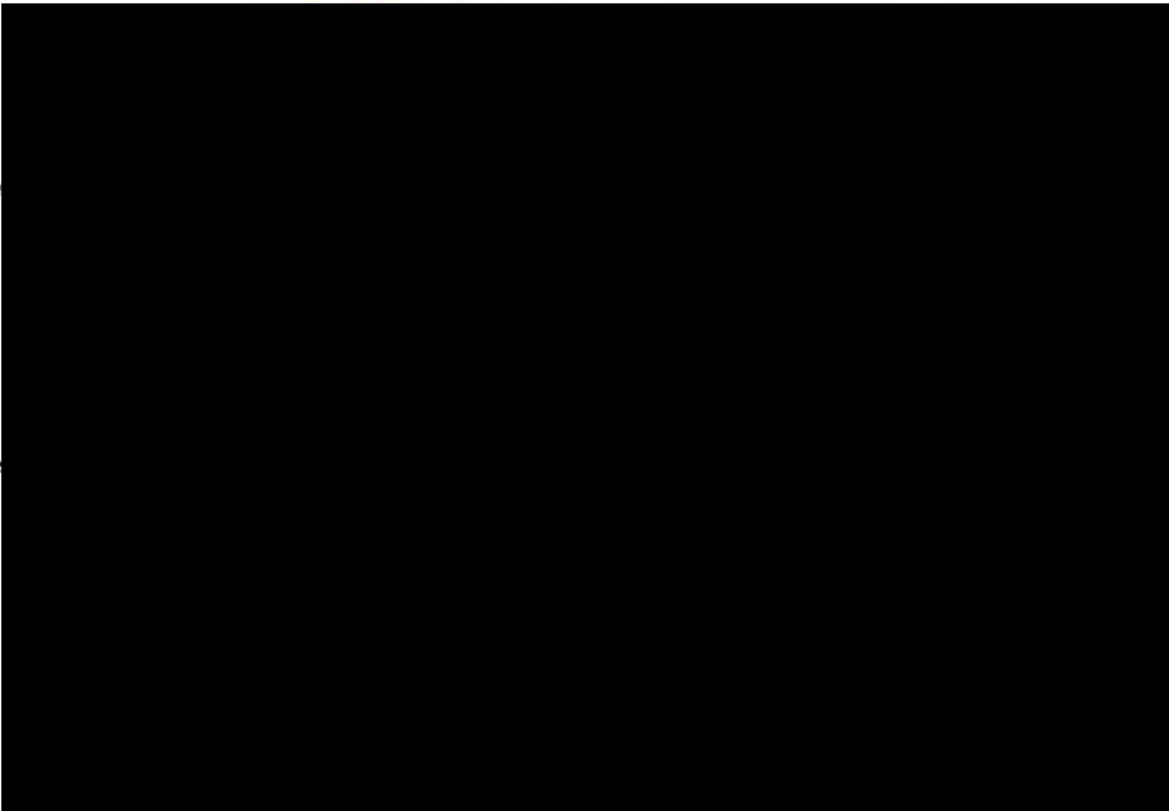
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Dawn Penney made a motion to amend the current pay scale for the Firefighters and move to the following salaries: Cadets & Probationary Members at \$12.55 (MW), Firefighters at \$12.55 (MW) + \$1.45 = \$14.00 and Officers at \$12.55 (MW) + \$3.45 = \$16.00. All were in favor. No further discussion.

Re



Re

**TOWN OF GEORGIA
TRAVEL ON TOWN TRAILS ORDINANCE**

SECTION 1. AUTHORITY. This is a civil ordinance adopted pursuant to 24 V.S.A. Chapter 59 and § 1971 and in accordance with the authority provided by 19 V.S.A. Chapter 7 and §§ 301(8)(B) and 1111, and 24 V.S.A. §§ 2291(1), (4), (5), (14), (15) and such other enactments as may be applicable.

SECTION 2. PURPOSE. The purpose of this Travel on Town Trails Ordinance (the “Ordinance”) is to protect public health, safety, and welfare, and to prevent environmental damage and pollution caused by vehicular traffic on legal trails. Such damage and pollution are hereby deemed to be a public nuisance.

SECTION 3. DEFINITIONS. For purposes of this Ordinance, the following definitions shall apply:

- a. *Motor Vehicle* shall include all vehicles propelled or drawn by power other than muscular power, except tractors used entirely for work on the farm, vehicles running only upon stationary rails or tracks, motorized highway building equipment, road making appliances, snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles as defined in 23 V.S.A. § 3501, class 1 and 2 “e-bikes,” or electric personal assistive mobility devices.
- b. *Operate, operating or operated* as applied to motor vehicles shall include *drive, driving* and *driven* and shall also include an attempt to operate, and shall be construed to cover all matters and things connected with the presence and use of motor vehicles, whether they be in motion or at rest.
- c. *Owner* shall include any person, corporation, co-partnership, or association, holding legal title to a motor vehicle, or having exclusive right to the use or control thereof, or an individual seeking to use and work on a Trail.
- d. *Trails* shall mean all legal trails within the meaning of 19 V.S.A. Section 301(8) in the Town of Georgia (the “Town”).
- e. *Use* and *Work* shall include all construction, fill, excavation, ditching or digging within the right-of-way limits of a Trail, as well as those activities identified in 19 V.S.A. § 1111 that are prohibited in a town highway right-of-way without a permit first being issued by the Selectboard.
- f. *Issuing Municipal Official* is any law enforcement officer, Town constable, Town Administrator or other persons designated an Issuing Municipal Official under this Ordinance by the Georgia Selectboard

SECTION 4. ACTIVITY PROHIBITED. Use and Work on all Trails and the operation of a Motor Vehicle on all Trails are prohibited unless the Owner has either a valid permit issued by the Town or has entered into a license agreement with the Town. The discharge of firearms on Trails is also prohibited. Personal mobility devices such as motorized wheelchairs and scooters are not prohibited on Trails, but users of such devices are hereby notified that Trails are not maintained so as to specifically accommodate these devices.

SECTION 5. PERMITS AND LICENSES.

- a. Permits or licenses shall be issued only to residents of or persons owning property abutting Trails or their branches, or to persons who, in the judgment of the Selectboard, have been found to have a legitimate need to operate a Motor Vehicle on a Trail.
- b. The only acceptable permit shall be one entitled “TOWN OF GEORGIA PERMIT TO OPERATE A MOTOR VEHICLE ON [THE *NAMED*] TRAIL” and signed by an authorized member of the Georgia Selectboard. One copy of the permit shall be issued to the permittee, and one copy shall be filed with the Georgia Town Clerk. The Town may also enter into license agreements with Owners who propose either improvements to a Trails, use of a Trail for access to private properties, or for other private purposes allowed in the reasonable exercise of the Georgia Selectboard’s discretion pursuant to its authority to control Trails in the Town.
- c. Permits shall be valid for residents and property owners so long as they continue to be residents or property owners. All other permits shall be renewed annually. License agreements may run with the land or may terminate upon completion of the proposed private use, depending on the circumstances in the sole discretion of the Selectboard.

SECTION 6. PERMISSION. The Selectboard may consent to use of Trails to access properties for logging and sugaring activities, and such consent shall not be unreasonably withheld. In using Trails for such activities, users are required to leave the Trail in as good or better condition following their use as when permission was granted. In a reasonable exercise of its discretion, the Selectboard may require a surety for such use in the form of an escrow, bond or letter of credit to ensure such users restore the Trail to an acceptable condition following their use.

SECTION 7. ENFORCEMENT: Penalties. Any violation(s) of this Ordinance is subject to a civil penalty. Each day the violation continues shall constitute a new offense.

- a. An Issuing Municipal Official is authorized to recover Civil Penalties and Waiver Fees in the following amounts:

	<u>Civil Penalty</u>	Waiver Fee
First Offense	\$160	\$100
Second Offense	\$320	\$250
Third Offense	\$480	\$400
Fourth Offense	\$640	\$550
Fifth and Subsequent Offenses	\$800	\$700

b. In addition to the enforcement procedures herein, the Selectboard may commence a civil action in Superior Court to obtain injunctive or other appropriate relief and may pursue any other remedy authorized by law, including but not limited to relief available under common law claims, including but not limited to a claim of public or private nuisance.

SECTION 8. SEVERABILITY. If any portion of this Ordinance is held unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of the Ordinance shall not be affected.

SECTION 9. EFFECTIVE DATE: This Ordinance shall become effective sixty (60) days after adoption by the Town of Georgia Selectboard. If a petition is filed under 24 V.S.A. §1973, that statute shall govern the taking effect of this Ordinance.

Adopted this ____ day of _____, 2024.

GEORGIA SELECTBOARD

Devon Thomas, Chair

Shannon Jenkins, Vice Chair

Jamie Comstock

Nicholas Martin

Carl Rosenquist

**TOWN OF GEORGIA
PERMIT TO OPERATE A MOTOR VEHICLE
ON _____ TRAIL**

PURSUANT TO THE TRAVEL ON TOWN TRAILS ORDINANCE, THE _____ TRAIL, as defined in the Ordinance, the Georgia Selectboard hereby issues this permit to operate a motor vehicle on the trail to:

- A. _____ (landowner/resident of the trail) and his/her invited guests); such permit to be valid so long as he/she is an owner/resident; or
- B. _____, a person determined by the Georgia Selectboard to have a legitimate need to operate a motor vehicle on the trail, such permit to expire one year from this date.

Date

For the Selectboard

Town of Georgia Diversity Equity and Inclusion Policy

The Town of Georgia condemns racism and welcomes all persons regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age or disability and wants everyone to feel safe and welcome in our community.

As a town, we formally condemn discrimination in all its forms, commit to fair and equal treatment of everyone in our community, and will strive to ensure all our actions, policies and operating procedures reflect this commitment.

The Town of Georgia is and will continue to be a place where individuals can live freely and express their opinions.

Adopted this _____ day of _____, 20_____

Town of Georgia, Vermont
