

BOARD OF SELECTMEN, TOWN OF GEORGETOWN

Approved Minutes for Tuesday, September 12, 2023 at 7:00 pm

Attendance – Messrs. Collins and Donaldson were in attendance, as was Ms. Tudor on Zoom. The Town Administrator and Finance Director attended in person, as did community member Philip Mason. Fire Chief Brian Whalen, Bob Trabona, Aria Eee, Jen Dobransky, Judie Teller, Margaret McDiarmid, Alison Freeman and Kelly James also attended via Zoom.

Call to order: The Meeting was called to order at 7:01pm by Chairman Collins. The Board then held a Moment of Silence in Honor of Julia Moulton, who had passed away on September 2nd. Ms. Moulton was the Town's Boston Post Cane Holder from 2019-2023.

Public comment: None.

Items to be added to agenda (if approved by chair and board): There were none at this point of the meeting.

Scheduled appointments: None.

Minutes: It was moved by Mr. Donaldson, seconded by Ms. Tudor, to approve the Minutes of August 29th Meeting. The vote was unanimous, 3-0.

Review: None.

Assessing items: The Board was informed that Pat Dow is still working in Town on pre-commitment pickup work.

Correspondence:

- **Maine Dept. of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Notice re: Volunteer Fire Assistance Program.** The Board was informed that this grant was shared with the Fire Chief.
- **Maine Dept. of Labor Job Information.** The Board was informed that there were local job postings and hiring events. Ms. Tudor suggested posting this information at the Town Office.
- **Midcoast Council of Governments August Newsletter.** The Board was reminded that these updates are sent monthly and provide good resources. It was further noted that the Town, as are all municipalities in the county, is signed up for MCOG through Sagadahoc County.
- **Sagadahoc County Sheriff's Department Incident Report.** The Board was provided with the numbers for the month of August. The highest reports were Traffic Offenses (3) and citizen assists (also 3).
- **GVFD September Newsletter.** The Board was provided with the monthly newsletter from the GVFD and Auxiliary.
- **Letter from Susan Wise, of Sheepscot Island Company, re: MacMahan Island Resolution.** The Board was informed that this letter was delivered by Chris Martin on Thursday afternoon and that the Town Administrator shared it electronically at the time of Board packet disbursement.

Other Correspondence: There was none.

Continuing Items:

Receipts for pumping of Holding Tanks:

- Georgetown Community Center (19 Old Schoolhouse, 13U-009)

Maine Waste Discharge License *renewal* / transfer applications:

- none

Maine Waste Discharge License *approvals*:

- Joseph and Hannah Conley (01U-068), 4 Keen Way

PBR / NRPA :

- Lothrop LLC (14U-044), 40 Lewis Road (Pier System)

Town Administrator Update

Mr. Washburn informed the Board that the FEMA Grant for the Robinhood Road is still progressing. He noted that notice was posted various locations in Town for the public comment period that is required before any awards can be made. He added that this is “good news.”

Mr. Washburn further informed the Board that he and the Finance Director were signed up to attend Maine Municipal Association’s Annual Convention on October 4th and 5th.

Mr. Washburn attempted to provide the Board with an update on the ongoing fee schedule discussions. The Administrator noted that he been in communication with members of the Maine Town and City Managers Association to see what other towns do along the fee schedule lines. He noted that there are two real options, the first being to create an ordinance that gives the Select Board authority to set fees AND amend each ordinance to state that the fee is set by the Select Board. The second option would be to amend each ordinance to state that the fee is set by the Select Board. Most towns, that had responded to his queries, utilize the second option.

In closing out his report Mr. Washburn provided a brief update regarding the Town’s Youtube Account and reminded Board members to utilize his Town email when reaching out regarding Town business.

Finance Director Update – Ms. McDonald went over year-end financials with the Board prior to the upcoming audit.

Committee Updates:

Minutes:

- Recreation Committee, August 1st Meeting.

Membership:

- **Appointment of Philip Mason as a Planning Board Alternate** – It was moved by Ms. Tudor, seconded by Mr. Donaldson, to appoint Philip Mason as a Planning Board Alternate. The vote was unanimous.

Liaison Updates:

- **Mr. Collins**
 - At the time of the meeting, Mr. Collins reported that the Recreation Committee was still hoping to hold the Fall Frolic and Art Show.
 - Mr. Collins reported that the Shellfish Committee met and would be working on revisions to their ordinance as outlined by the State.
- **Mr. Donaldson**

- Mr. Donaldson reported that the TOPMB has heard back from an abutter who has moved their garden to their side of the town property line.
- Mr. Donaldson also reported that Philip Mason attended the most recent meeting of the Planning Board.
- **Ms. Tudor**
 - Ms. Tudor reported that the Conservation Commission has met and is looking forward to their Coastal Cleanup event. She also noted that there would be a November Potluck.
 - Ms. Tudor also reported that the Climate Resiliency Subgroup of the Conservation Commission is moving forward with a proposal from Sparhawk Engineering.
 - Ms. Tudor informed the Board that the Dept. of Environmental Protection conducted their regular inspection of the Transfer Station. DEP wrote informing the facility of their satisfactory rating and of minor changes necessary to be in compliance.

Board Member Updates:

Mr. Collins: Mr. Collins had nothing additional to report.

Mr. Donaldson: Mr. Donaldson reported that he has nominated Ms. McDonald for the Maine Municipal Association's Ethel Kelley Award. While Ms. McDonald was not selected, being nominated is an honor.

Ms. Tudor: Ms. Tudor had nothing additional to report.

Old Business:

- **Fire Chief Proposal for purchase of new Squad Truck** – It was moved by Ms. Tudor, and seconded by Mr. Collins, to approve the Fire Chief's August 9th request for purchase of a new Squad Truck, as approved at Town Meeting. Discussion then ensued. Mr. Donaldson expressed his concerns at the process followed. Ms. Tudor attempted to call the question. There was no second and her motion failed. Mr. Collins expressed his desire to maintain good communication between the Board and the Fire Department. He pledged to improve the process going forward. The main motion carried, 2-1 with Mr. Donaldson being opposed.
- **Resolution re: MacMahan Island** – It was moved by Mr. Donaldson, seconded by Ms. Tudor, and voted unanimously to approve a Resolution that called on the Maine Legislature to repeal the Special and Private Law dealing with MacMahan Island.

New Business

- **Memo from Administrator re: Agenda Item Submissions** – The Town Administrator shared a proposal for deadlines on items being considered for the agenda. The Board subsequently scheduled a Workshop for September 20th at 5pm to discuss financial policies and other areas deemed appropriate by the Town Administrator.
- **Maine Municipal Association Annual Business Meeting Delegate and Alternate Selection** – It was moved by Ms. Tudor, seconded by Mr. Collins, and voted unanimously to designate Richard Donaldson, Select Board, as Delegate and Tyler Washburn, Administrator, as Alternate to the Maine Municipal Association's Annual Business Meeting to be held at the Convention.

- **Discussion on implementation of a policy to manage short term rentals in reaction to LD 1706.** – The Board directed the Town Administrator to gather more information on short term rentals.
- **Discussion regarding current tax policy on household solar and emergency generators.** – Mr. Donaldson brought forward this agenda item to discuss Georgetown’s current practice of not assessing household solar and emergency generators – something that he felt would impact the Certified Ratio in Town. The Board directed the Town Administrator to gather information on how many homes would be affected by this and what steps would need to be taken.
- **State of Maine State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program** - On a motion from Mr. Donaldson, seconded by Ms. Tudor, the Board voted unanimously to approve the grant application.
- **Additional Items Discussed** – Mr. Donaldson inquired about the Boston Post Cane and if the Town has identified the next recipient. The Town Administrator answered in the affirmative and noted that the Town would be contacting the intended recipient to see if they would accept the honor.

Items For Signature:

- Certificate of Appointment for Phil Mason, Planning Board Alternate
- Resolution re: MacMahan Island
- Maine Municipal Association Annual Business Meeting Delegate and Alternate Selection.

All items signed.

Public comment: Aria Eee, Chair of the Recreation Committee, informed the Board of the Committee’s monitoring of Hurricane Lee and its possible impacts on the Fall Frolic and Art Show. Bob Trabona informed the Board that the power outage on Monday had been due to a tree on a powerline Arrowsic and urged caution over the weekend during the Hurricane. He also shared his belief, as Planning Board Chairman, that if the Town continued adding responsibilities to the part-time Code Enforcement Officer’s duties that it may become necessary to increase the position to be full-time.

Executive Session: No executive session was deemed necessary.

Adjournment: The Board adjourned at 8:41pm.