

# **BOARD OF SELECTMEN, TOWN OF GEORGETOWN**

**Approved Minutes for Monday, November 20, 2023 at 7:00 pm**

**Attendance:** Messrs. Collins and Donaldson were in attendance, as was Ms. Tudor. The Finance Director and Town Administrator were also in attendance. Assessing Agent Bill Van Tuinen attended via telephone. Members of the public included Aria Eee, Alison Freeman, Pam Gunnell, Bob Gravino, Kathy Gravino, Geoff Birdsall, Judith Teller, Lisa Sabatine, Sandy Maggied, Terry Taylor, Susan Taylor, and Bob Trabona.

**Call to order:** The Meeting was called to order by Chairman Collins at 7:01pm.

**Public comment:** Alison Freeman addressed the Board on behalf of the Solid Waste Committee regarding the Committee's belief in an unsatisfactory Select Board response to an incident earlier in the fall. It was suggested by Ms. Tudor to append a copy of the Committee's letter to minutes. Pamela Gunnell addressed the Board sharing her concerns with a statistical revaluation and her belief of inequities currently existing in assessments.

**Items to be added to agenda (if approved by chair and board):** There were none.

## **Scheduled appointments:**

- 7:15pm Update from Bill Van Tuinen, Assessing Agent (see Assessing items)

## **Minutes:**

On a motion from Ms. Tudor, seconded by Mr. Collins, it was voted unanimously (3-0) to approve the revised minutes of October 24<sup>th</sup> Meeting.

## **Review:**

- The Board was provided with a copy of the October 31 Financials.

## **Assessing items:**

- Bill Van Tuinen joined the Board shortly after 7:15pm, by telephone, to discuss assessments and the proposed statistical revaluation. (See Old Business, below).

## **Correspondence:**

- Letter from FEMA re: upcoming risk mapping assessment in St. George / Sheepscoot Watershed
- State of Maine Revenue Svcs. – Certified Letter re: Personal Property Taxes
- October Incident Report from Sagadahoc County Sheriff's Office
- Bulletin from MMA re: General Assistance Training
- Maine Municipal Health Trust – Letter updating rates
- Funding Requests – LifeFlight & New Hope
- Tedford Housing's Fall 2023 Newsletter

**Other Correspondence:** There was none.

**Continuing Items:** There was nothing to report.

### **Town Administrator Update**

- **Site Visit 11/9** – The Administrator reported that he accompanied the EMD and Mr. Collins to sites on Marrtown Road and near Flying Point Roads on 11/9 for a FEMA Site Visit. This was in response to damages from the May Day Storm.
- **Site Visit 11/14** – The Administrator further reported that he, Messrs. Collins, Jeremy Prue from Pine Tree Engineering, and Christine Whalen from MEMA visited the Robinhood Road Culvert site. FEMA attended virtually. It was reported that the grant was working its way through final approval at FEMA.
- **MacMahan Update** – It was reported that the Legislative Council met and voted 7-1 not to admit the bill proposed by Rep. Hepler for the upcoming second session of the 131<sup>st</sup> Maine Legislature. The Town, it was noted, intends to continue its dialogue with the SICO Leadership and our area legislators ahead of the next session of the Legislature. A January meeting of that group was likely, noted Mr. Washburn.
- **Town Website Update & Town Calendar Update** – Mr. Washburn asked the Board to peruse the Town Website and new Town Calendar over the coming weeks and report back to him feedback for improvement.
- **Election Update** – It was noted that voter turnout for the 11/7/23 election was just over 52%. The Town Clerk and her election team were thanked for their hard work.
- **Aquaculture Public Hearing** – The Town Administrator noted his attendance.
- **MCOG Fall Summit** – The Town Administrator noted his attendance.
- **Housing Forum w/Age Friendly** – It was determined that Chairman Collins would attend this meeting and report back.

**Finance Director Update:** Ms. McDonald gave a brief update to the Board. She shared the work undertaken at the office to get to a point where a mil rate could be set and expressed her belief that the proposed paper revaluation should be delayed until after educating the public. Additionally, Ms. McDonald updated the Board of her desire to discuss the compensation for the EMA Director / Addressing Officer at a future Board meeting. Ms. McDonald also informed the Board that the financial firm that handles business administration for the AOS is done January 31<sup>st</sup>.

### **Committee Updates:**

Minutes:

- There were none.

### **Membership:**

- The Administrator encouraged newly appointed members to stop by Town Office and get sworn in with the Town Clerk.

### **Liaison Updates:**

- Mr. Collins:
  - Mr. Collins reported the Recreation Committee would be holding the annual Christmas Tree lighting on December 10.
- Mr. Donaldson:
  - Mr. Donaldson reported that the Board of Appeals held its organizational meeting and that Aria Eee was selected as Chair. Garret Corbin will serve as Secretary.
  - Mr. Donaldson further thanked Ole Jaeger for his many years as Chairman of the Board of Appeals.
- Ms. Tudor:
  - Ms. Tudor noted that the Harbor Committee met and will meet again in January.

- Ms. Tudor noted that the Conservation Commission had a successful Harvest Potluck.
- Ms. Tudor also noted that the Solid Waste Committee had recently met.

**Board Member Updates:**

- Mr. Collins:
  - Mr. Collins had nothing further to report.
- Mr. Donaldson:
  - Mr. Donaldson reported that the Georgetown Community Center's Annual Community Dinner will be on December 9<sup>th</sup>. He further noted that Mr. Washburn would be locating Santa upon Mr. Claus' island arrival.
- Ms. Tudor:
  - Ms. Tudor had nothing further to report.

**Old Business:**

- **Decision of whether to complete the paper revaluation** – The Board discussed the pros and cons of performing a statistical revaluation this year. Mr. Donaldson felt that the proposed numbers from Mr. Van Tuinen would solve the continuing slide of the Town's Certified Ratio. Ms. Tudor was concerned that the process did not allow for community engagement and education. She was in favor of delaying the proposed revaluation until next year. Mr. Donaldson expressed his concerns with Town spending. On a motion from Mr. Collins, seconded by Ms. Tudor, the Board voted to proceed with current valuations as the basis for this year's mil rate with the proviso that a letter be sent with tax bills for the education of taxpayers. The vote was 2-1, with Mr. Donaldson opposed. It was then determined that the mil rate would be set at the November 28<sup>th</sup> Select Board Meeting.
- **Retroactive Appointment of Sharon Trabona as Warden for 11/8/23 election** – On a motion from Mr. Donaldson, seconded by Ms. Tudor, it was voted unanimously (3-0) to approve the retroactive appointment.
- **Retroactive Appointment of Catherine Collins as an Election Clerk for the 11/8/23 election** - On a motion from Mr. Donaldson, seconded by Ms. Tudor, it was voted unanimously (3-0) to approve the retroactive appointment.

**New Business:**

- **Replacement of the Town Administrator's Computer** - On a motion from Ms. Tudor, seconded by Mr. Collins, it was voted unanimously (3-0) to approve the purchase of a replacement computer for the Town Administrator.

**Public comment:** Aria Eee appreciated the “interesting” meeting and noted that she learned new things during the assessment discussion. Bob Trabona noted that there is “no good time to increase taxes.”

**Executive Session:** Pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. Section 405(6)(A) it was moved by Mr. Collins, seconded by Mr. Donaldson, and voted (2-0) to enter executive session to discuss a Personnel Matter. Ms. Tudor was opposed.

**Adjournment:** The Meeting adjourned immediately following the Executive Session.