

SELECT BOARD, TOWN OF GEORGETOWN

Approved Minutes for Tuesday, March 10, 2026

The meeting was **called to order** by Ms. Eee at 7:02pm. Ms. Goodwin and Ms. Gravino were in attendance, as were the Town Administrator, Finance Director, and Fire Chief. There were various members of the public in attendance both in person and virtually.

There were no **moments of silence or celebrations** noted.

The following items of **public comment** were offered:

- Jenn Dobransky wished the Town Administrator a Happy Birthday! Terry Taylor and Jess Weller concurred.
- Gert-Paul Walter inquired as to when to comment on the EMS Billing Informational Night and was informed that the EMS item would be discussed later in the agenda.

A correction was made regarding the appointment of Scott Weller to the Board of Appeals to fill Julie Pankey's unexpired term, which will expire at the Town Meeting in 2029. Julie Pankey's appointment to fill Scott Weller's remaining term as an alternate, also expiring in 2029, was **added to the agenda**.

The Board held the following **scheduled appointment**:

- 7:15 – Liquor License Public Hearing & Any Appropriate Action – The Osprey

The Hearing was opened at 7:15pm. Sarah and Zoli Kescemethy of The Osprey introduced themselves and provided a brief update on operations, including a new weekly trivia night. There was no additional comment, and the hearing closed at 7:18pm. On a motion from Ms. Goodwin, seconded by Ms. Gravino, it was voted unanimously (3-0) to approve the liquor license.

On a motion from Ms. Goodwin, seconded by Ms. Eee, it was voted (2-0) to approve the **minutes of February 10**, with one abstention. Ms. Gravino abstained from the vote, as she had not yet been elected to the Board, and thus, did not attend the February 10 meeting.

On a motion from Ms. Goodwin, seconded by Ms. Gravino, it was voted unanimously (3-0) to approve the **minutes of February 24**.

There were no items for **review**.

The Board was provided with the following items of **correspondence**:

- Maine Revenue Services – Certified Ratio Declaration
- Sagadahoc County
 - EMA Annual Report
 - EMA Meeting Notice
 - Sagadahoc County CERT Program Notice
 - Sheriff's Department – Incidents Reports
 - Community Navigator Partnership – Community Baby Shower
- AOS 98 – Annual Meeting – March 17
- Maine Municipal Association - Workers Compensation Audit – Notice of Completion*
- Funding Request Letters:
 - Georgetown Community Center

The following **Board Member / Committee Updates**:

- Ms. Eee reported that along with her Town Committee work, she serves as the District 3 representative to the Sagadahoc County Budget Advisory Committee. She recently attended a lengthy meeting for that committee and it is anticipated that the county assessment this year (approximately \$1,592,646) will be a 10.16% increase to Georgetown over the last fiscal year. Eee will continue to keep the Town apprised on the county budget process. Eee also shared that the Recreation Committee will hold the "Get to Know Your Neighbor" event on May 3. The June Jam at Georgetown Central school is scheduled for June 11, with a rain date of June 12. Budget discussions across all of her liaison committees are ongoing, and those volunteer members are diligently engaged in the process.
- Ms. Goodwin shared updates from the Cemetery Trustees and the Planning Board. The trustees discussed the cemetery budget, capacity, and potential exceptions to the rules. The Planning Board held a special meeting to finalize ordinances and continues to review building permit applications.
- Ms. Gravino reported on behalf of the Shellfish Conservation Committee, which met on March 5. The committee recommended raising fees for recreational clam licenses and proposed a conservation closure for the Dump Flats area to support sustainable shellfish management. The Conservation Committee approved a support letter for a habitat restoration grant focused on culvert research on Route 127. Upcoming events include the Waterwise septic care program on April 6 and an Earth Day cleanup on May 2, which will involve participation from the school. The date for the "Big Night" amphibian event is yet to be determined.

The **Town Administrator** gave a brief **Update:**

- Art submissions for the town report cover are currently under review, and the selection is scheduled to take place at the first meeting in April.
- Property assessment updates are needed for the open space spreadsheet, and the Town Administrator is preparing a sales turnaround document for Maine Revenue Services.
- The Town Office closed a loop with the Maine Criminal Justice Academy regarding Shellfish Warden Hentz' previously granted and voluntarily relinquished arrest authority.
- Grant applications for habitat restoration have been approved by the Conservation Commission.
- Nomination papers are now available for four Town elected positions and must be submitted by April 10, with a minimum requirement of 25 signatures.
- For the "Get to Know Your Neighbor" event, the town office is compiling lists of new residents to send invitations.

The **Finance Director** provided a brief **Update:**

- A request was made to use Town Warrant Article 15 funds, totaling \$6,900, for TRIO software upgrade. Ms. Eee moved to approve the withdrawal of Article 15 funds for the software upgrade. Ms. Gravino seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.
- The hourly rate for the Harbor Master, Shellfish Warden, and Animal Control Officer was increased to \$25. Ms. Goodwin made a motion to approve the wage increase, which Ms. Gravino seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- The base hourly rate for Fire Department staff and volunteers was raised by 5%, bringing it to \$21. Ms. Eee moved to approve this hourly rate increase, seconded by Ms. Gravino, and the motion received unanimous approval.
- Transfer Station attendant pay rates were tabled until the next Select Board meeting to allow for comparable wage information (from other towns) to be reviewed by the Board prior to its decision.
- The Board considered reinstating a \$5,000 fuel escalation clause for emergencies. There was consensus to include this clause in the budget, and no formal vote was required.

Old Business:

- **EMS Billing:** Chief Whalen, Gert-Paul Walter, and the Board discussed holding an informational meeting to explore EMS billing. The meeting is planned for the week of April 13, except Tuesday, with the location still to be decided between the historical society or the school gym. They discussed the

anticipated revenue from EMS billing and gave a conservative estimate of \$223,000. The meeting will be hybrid and recorded so the information can be shared more widely.

- **Lighting Project:** the Town Administrator provided an update about quotes from Affinity, Stewart Electric, and Frederick Electric for the Town office lighting project. The group discussed involving graduating vocational students, but they noted concerns about warranty coverage.
- **Working Waterfront Group:** A community informational event will occur on March 23 from 7 to 8 PM at GHS. The group received an extension for reviewing the ordinance, and they are preparing materials for Board and legal counsel review.
- **Memorandums of Understanding:** The Board discussed drafts of triparty agreements for recreation, conservation, and property management. The school-town memorandum of understanding will include Ms. Goodwin as the liaison responsible for drafting that MOU between the school and town as it relates to the building and its maintenance.

New Business:

- On a motion from Ms. Gravino, seconded by Ms. Goodwin, it was moved to accept the opinion of Town Legal Counsel and reject the submitted citizens' petition to increase the Select Board by two members. As explained by legal counsel, the submitted petition requests an ultra vires action of election for two new Select Board members outside of the June annual meeting. As noted by counsel, the petition fails to comply with state statute and is not valid. The motion carried unanimously (3-0).
- On a motion from Ms. Eee, seconded by Ms. Goodwin, it was voted unanimously (3-0) to appoint Scott Weller to the Board of Appeals (filling Rufus Brown's unexpired term, expiring at Town Meeting 2029).
- On a motion from Ms. Gravino, seconded by Ms. Goodwin, it was voted unanimously to appoint Susan Shade to the Conservation Commission (filling Kathy Gravino's unexpired term, expiring at Town Meeting 2026).
- On a motion from Ms. Goodwin, seconded by Ms. Gravino, it was voted unanimously (3-0) to appoint Julie Pankey as an Alternate to the Board of Appeals (filling Scott Weller's unexpired term, expiring at Town Meeting 2029).
- Chief Whalen presented a request for MedVault systems in ambulances and the station, as required by new DEA regulations. The estimated cost is \$12,000, including installation. Ms. Eee moved to approve up to \$12,000 from the capital equipment reserve for the vaults, seconded by Ms. Gravino. The motion was unanimously approved.
- The Board took the following actions regarding proposed ordinance revisions. All revisions were presented by Bob Trabona, Chair of the Planning Board.
 - **Short-Term Rental Ordinance:** This new ordinance was presented and based on survey and regional research. The Board briefly discussed registration, enforcement, insurance requirements, and the transition period. The decision was to hold the ordinance for additional review and public input, with plans to revisit it at the next meeting.
 - **Building Demolition Permit Ordinance:** Changes include clarification of secondary dwelling units, permit duration, potable water and septic requirements, setback requirements, and height limits. Ms. Goodwin moved to send the ordinance to legal counsel, seconded by Ms. Eee. The vote was unanimous.
 - **Minimum Lot Size Ordinance:** The ordinance now includes a requirement for 100 feet of frontage on water bodies. Ms. Eee moved to send the ordinance to legal counsel, seconded by Ms. Gravino. The vote was unanimous.
 - **Shoreland Zoning Ordinance:** Permit timelines for non-conforming structures were adjusted, and the definition of "grandfathering" was clarified. Ms. Eee moved to send the ordinance to legal counsel, seconded by Ms. Gravino. The vote was unanimous.
 - **Solar Energy Ordinance:** Clarifications were made regarding firefighter roof access requirements and terminology. Ms. Goodwin moved to move the ordinance to a public hearing, seconded by Ms. Eee. The vote was unanimous.

- **Subdivision Ordinance:** The updated ordinance changed the threshold from three to five dwelling units per legislative change. Ms. Goodwin moved to move the ordinance to a public hearing, seconded by Ms. Eee. The vote was unanimous.

There were various appointment certificates **available for signature.**

The following items of **public comment** were provided prior to the close of the meeting:

- Lisa Sabatine inquired about the process for resubmitting a citizens' petition to increase the number of select board members. It was clarified that a new petition is required and cannot be amended after signatures are collected. She further inquired whether the Select Board can ask Town Counsel if they can add such a question to the warrant.
- Bob Trabona inquired whether a motion to increase the Select Board can be made from the floor on Town Meeting day. He was informed that it would be improper to do so as such a change would need to be included on the warrant.
- Jess Weller expressed her concern about the timing and pace of the citizen's petition to increase the Board's size. She noted that with other major town changes like the short-term rental and other ordinances, there has been time for the town to conduct research, hold public information night, and receive other information. Weller suggested if this is going to proceed, then the town should form a committee to research Board structure and any other alternatives. This suggestion was noted for consideration.
- The Town Administrator reminded the public that proposed questions for Board-level discussion should be submitted for the agenda and not handled during public comment.

There was no **Executive Session.**

Ms. Goodwin moved to **adjourn** the meeting at 9:09 PM, seconded by Ms. Gravino. The vote was unanimous.