

## ST. GEORGE SELECT BOARD & ASSESSORS

### St. George Town Office

### MEETING MINUTES

April 6, 2021 – 6 p.m.

The Select Board meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. via Zoom. Members present were: Richard Bates, Chair; Randy Elwell, Jerry Hall, and Tammy Willey. (Wayne Sawyer was absent.) Also present: Tim Polky, Tara Elwell, Kristen Falla, David Percival, John Falla, Cassie Kilbride, Michael Felton, Lynna Pallas Henderson, and Susan Ellis.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

#### REGULAR SESSION:

##### - Adjustments to Agenda:

The first three items were added to the Agenda under New Business, Action Items.

- Select Board to Vote on Five (5) Town Meeting Warrants
- Town Office Roofing Expense Issue
- Request by Town Manager Polky to Negotiate a Snowplowing Contract
- The Recipient of the Spirit of America Award was added under New Business, Discussion Item
- MSU Warrant was moved from New Business and taken up under Regular Session

##### - Minutes: The minutes of March 22, 2021, were corrected as follows:

Page 4, last bullet point, change to read: ...who can **work with** the townsfolk.

Page 7, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph, line 1, change to read: ...\$1,000 each, **so** people...

Page 7, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph, line 1, change to read: ...Barrett and **the** Select Board ...

Page 9 corrections:

1<sup>st</sup> paragraph, line 2, change to read: ... and Chair Bates **asked** if that...

3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph, last line, change to read: ...the transfer **station** rather than...

7<sup>th</sup> paragraph, line 5, change to read: ...non-benefitted area; **that is** outside the area that is...

8<sup>th</sup> paragraph, line 1, change to read: ...Tucker, **one of the previous owners**, was reluctant to take **the parking spaces** out of the ...

A motion was made by Selectperson Hall, seconded by Elwell, to approve the March 22, 2021, minutes as corrected. A roll call vote was taken. The vote was 4-0 in favor.

- St. George Municipal School Unit (MSU) Warrant: The Select Board and members of the Budget Committee reviewed the School Budget, Articles 1-10. Chair Bates explained the following: This is the School Board's recommendation, and the role of the Select Board is to make sure the budget is put before the voters. The Select Board is not endorsing the requested funding amounts. The role of the Select Board, at this stage, is to review what the School Board is putting forward.

Superintendent Felton gave a brief overview of the school budget as he is scheduled to come back before the Select Board on April 26, 2021, to discuss the full budget. Felton stated the school administration had worked hard on this year's budget and they felt it was a budget that

would meet the needs of the students. Felton said they were able to get the budget below a 3% increase over last year's budget even though the school lost \$146,000 in state subsidy from DOE funding.

Susan Ellis asked how the Special Education budget compared to last year. Felton said Article 2 pertains to the Special Education budget and overall Special Education spending went down. Currently, the school has multiple students that if MSU had that program, those students would be placed out of the district and an out-of-district placement costs between \$55,000 and \$120,000 per child, per year. Felton felt having the program in town had worked out well. He noted the school had invested more money this year to strengthen the Special Ed program but overall, Article 2 decreased.

Susan Ellis asked if all the children were staying in St. George instead of being transported out. Felton said this was the first year they had no out-of-district placements in K-8.

The Select Board had received a PowerPoint report from Felton and Kilbride on the budget. Selectperson Hall asked what the total number was to be raised through taxes.

Kilbride reported the Select Board PowerPoint figures differed from their version because yesterday they made an adjustment to health insurance, but she said the correct amount to be raised locally was \$5,552,347.64 and the 2.99% was the increase over last year. Felton and Kilbride will forward the correct budget figures to the Select Board.

A motion was made by Selectperson Elwell, seconded by Hall, to notify the voters of St. George that a School Budget Referendum election will be held on Monday, May 10, 2021, for the purpose of determining the St. George MSU Budget Warrant Articles. A roll call vote was taken. The vote was 4-0 in favor.

The MSU Warrant and other items will be signed in person.

- Town Meeting Warrants: The Select Board finished reviewing and voting on several articles. Article 2 pertains to charging interest on delinquent taxes. Chair Bates said the 6% number changes from year to year and the rate of 6% is the rate the Maine Office of the Treasurer permits the town to charge for 2021.

A motion was made by Selectperson Elwell, seconded by Hall to approve Article 2. A roll call vote was taken. The vote was 4-0 in favor.

Susan Ellis reported the Budget Committee had approved all five of these articles. There was no further discussion from the Select Board or Budget Committee regarding the remaining four articles.

A motion was made by Selectperson Hall, seconded by Hall to approve Articles, 3, 17, 18, and 19. A roll call vote was taken. The vote was 4-0 in favor.

- Town Roof Replacement: Chair Bates reported the \$15,000 taxpayers put aside last year would not be a sufficient amount to do the whole roof and the entire roof needed to be re-shingled. Town Manager Polky stated his concern was that building material costs had greatly increased since their last quotes. He wanted to make sure there was enough money to get the work done and said any remaining funds not used would lapse to surplus. Selectpersons Hall and Elwell asked if \$10,000 was enough to do the work.

Polky stated it would be enough to do the town office side of the building. Chair Bates asked if the \$15,000 from last year and the \$10,000 request this year would do the whole building. Polky stated no, he did not believe that amount would cover the cost as there were 27 square of shingles on the original town office roof and building materials had gone sky high.

Selectperson Willey asked Polky if the remaining part of the roof would hold up until another appropriation request could be made next year. Polky said the area (on the fire station side) where the shingles had blown off was patched with good quality shingles, so he thought that section would hold. He noted the original town office section of the roof was done in 1986 and the roof shingles on the fire station section were put on in 2003. Polky thought the shingles on the fire station side would last a couple more years but next year they needed to start setting money aside for that.

Susan Ellis stated the Budget Committee approved the \$10,000 but it was noted that a few members of the committee were disappointed they did not have more time to go through the budget and look for an area to trim to make it less of a hit to the taxpayers.

A motion was made by Selectperson Elwell, seconded by Willey to approve adding an extra \$10,000 to Article 4, Town Office Administration for increased building costs to replace the roof shingles on the town office side of the building. A roll call vote was taken. The vote was 4-0 in favor.

The Select Board reviewed the town warrants prepared by Tara Elwell. There were no issues and were all in good order.

A motion was made by Selectperson Hall, seconded by Elwell to notify the citizens of St. George that Monday, May 10, 2021, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., voting will take place on Town Warrant Articles 1, 2, and 3. A roll call vote was taken. The vote was 4-0 in favor.

Selectperson Hall noted the Select Board had not voted on Articles 20-26 of the town warrant.

A motion was made by Selectperson Hall, seconded by Willey to recommend Articles 20-26. A roll call vote was taken. The vote was 4-0 in favor.

Chair Bates informed the Board that the warrant had not yet gone to the printers because the town report needed to include the auditor's report, and the auditor had not returned his report. Chair Bates and Tara Elwell did not know when the Town Report would be printed and available. Bates explained that Tara Elwell would print copies of the town warrant for town

meeting. People can get the printed warrant information at the town meeting or pick up a printed copy at the town office.

- Snowplowing Contracts: Town Manager Polky would like approval to start negotiations with J. K. Kalloch for a snowplowing contract. He stated that last year, Kalloch agreed to hold his price down with the idea that he (Kalloch) might be able to increase his price this year.

Polky felt Kalloch had been doing a good job plowing and said Kalloch's contract amount had been the same for the last several years. Polky said J. K. Kalloch had asked about getting a 6% increase. Selectperson Hall asked if that was up to a 6% increase. Polky stated yes. Selectperson Hall asked if this was the 3-year contract that had been extended for one year. Polky said yes and the contract amount had been the same during those years.

A motion was made by Selectperson Elwell, seconded by Hall, to allow Town Manager Polky to negotiate a snowplowing contract with J. K. Kalloch. A roll call vote was taken. The vote was 4-0, in favor.

- Communications: None.

- Warrant: The warrant for the week of April 5, 2021, was reviewed. The total expenses were \$381,433.98 and included a payment of \$285,100 for the new fire truck, a property tax refund payment of \$1,276.86 to Camden National Bank (CNB), and other regular expenses.

Elwell explained CNB requested \$1,276.86 to be refunded to them because the property tax was not due until the fall and the payment had recently been made.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT - Tim Polky reported the following:

Drift Inn Beach Road. Gartley & Dorsky will be looking at the culvert area on Drift Inn Beach Road. Polky felt the town needed to do something there because problems seemed to be occurring during southeasterly winds. He said there was a closing date of April 16, 2021, for a grant, and he hoped they had money to at least do a study.

Fort Point Trail Survey. The survey was done, and they would be meeting with Gartley & Dorsky on April 6, at 9 a.m. at the town office.

Finance Director. This position is still open, and Administration is still in the hiring process.

Paving Bid for Roads. Polky said he reviewed which town roads needed paving work done and said they needed to advertise for paving bids. Polky said he tries to get the bids out early hopefully getting towards the top of the list, rather than the end. He would like to ask for those bids subject to town meeting approval of the budget.

Screen for the Compost. Polky said the Transfer Station has had complaints about the compost needing to be screened. They have tried several ways to screen the compost, but he thought the best way was to buy a small screen that could be put on one of the Transfer Station tractors. Polky said he had been pricing out screens and hoped to have some figures for the next meeting.

Covid-19 Vaccinations. Clinics for administering the Covid-19 vaccine will start April 9 and held at the Fire Station. Polky said they will try to do the clinics every Friday provided they can get the vaccine from the State. He said all the slots were booked for the next two weeks.

Snow's Point Road. Polky has been working with the people on Snow's Point about a turnaround problem on their road where the pavement ends, and the ground gets soft. The resident's proposal was to pave the section just after the pillars, so town trucks can turn around without messing up the road. Polky said Performance Paving will do the paving and that there is money left over from last fall's paving projects to cover this.

Chair Bates asked about the Fort Point Survey. Polky stated the survey laid out what the committee thought.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Conservation Commission (CC): Selectperson Willey reported the CC met on April 1, 2021, at 4 p.m. They have had a lot of blowdowns on the town trails due to all the wind and storms and had been busy working to get those cleaned up. Volunteers and members of the CC will be helping the library do repairs on the connector path from the library to the school.

The CC will be continuing their work with invasive plants and invasive insects, and they have new information about those on their web page which is located on the town website. The new resource maps are completed and are posted in the town office and on the website.

The CC is planning a summit meeting on April 27 from 5 to 6:30 p.m. with Maine Coast Heritage Trust (MCHT) and Conservation Commissions/Committees from the towns of Owls Head, Thomaston, Rockland, and South Thomaston. Selectperson Willey thinks this meeting will be held via Zoom and that the CC will be sending out more information.

Chair Bates asked what the objective is of the summit meeting. Selectperson Willey stated MCHT will be there to guide them, but the committees want to discuss what each town committee is doing, share their ideas, and get new ideas from each other.

Selectperson Willey said Code Enforcement Officer Terry Brackett cautioned the Conservation Committee about removing invasive plants within the Shoreland Zone, because there is a process to go through before doing any removals.

- Planning Board: Chair Bates reported the Planning Board met on March 23, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.

- The building permit application to stabilize the shoreland at 35 Factory Road was accepted as complete and, meeting the stabilization standards of the Shoreland Zoning ordinance and approved by the DEP and Army Corps, was approved.
- The modifications to an existing permit application at 85 Barter's Point Road were voted complete and were approved.

- The building permit application to stabilize the shoreland at 52 Port Clyde Road was accepted as complete and, meeting the stabilization standards of the Shoreland Zoning ordinance and being already approved by the DEP and Army Corps, was approved.
- The application to remove and replace the existing building at 31 Barter's Point Road was accepted as complete; with uncertainty about the provenance of the deck, it was removed from this current application; as there is no alternative location for the new building, and as it does not increase the non-conformity, the application was approved.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

- Spirit of America Volunteer Recognition Program. Selectperson Willey asked for a review of the program. Chair Bates said in the letter from Bruce Flaherty it explains that the Select Board is asked to pick the local person, project, or group to receive the Spirit of America Foundation for Outstanding Community Service using the Board's criteria and to honor the recipient at the town meeting or a Select Board meeting.

Chair Bates explained the town had not participated in this program until the last few years, but since they started, the Select Board had given the award to whom the Town Report had been dedicated. The Board discussed whether to follow this precedent or do the selection process differently. The consensus of the Board was to grant the award to whom the town report was dedicated.

- Discussion Regarding Town Report: Chair Bates asked Tara Elwell when the town report might get published. Elwell said the printer wants the information about one month before the actual printing and she noted the auditor, Fred Brewer, has not yet given the Select Board his audit for review. Chair Bates said, so it may be June before they get the town report out.

Tara Elwell stated that going forward, perhaps they could request the auditor come earlier in the year, so they do not run into this problem again. Chair Bates said he had a brief conversation with Brewer when he was here, and he alluded that with covid and the difficulty getting his staff into buildings, this year had been a real challenge. Selectperson Hall thought Elwell's approach of being more proactive was good.

There was no further business. At 7:01 p.m. the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marguerite R. Wilson  
Select Board Recording Secretary