

ST. GEORGE SELECT BOARD & ASSESSORS

St. George Town Office

MEETING MINUTES

May 17, 2021 – 7 p.m.

The Select Board meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Present in person were: Richard Bates, Chair; Randy Elwell, Jerry Hall, Wayne Sawyer, and Tammy Willey. Also present in person: Tim Polky, Tara Elwell, Irene Ames, and Michael Smith, Sr. Present via Zoom: Lynna Henderson, Becky Delaney, and Ken Oelberger.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

REGULAR SESSION:

- Adjustments to Agenda: The following adjustments were made:

- Permitting for Fort Point Trail was taken up under Regular Session.
- St. George Fire Engine Truck 2 was added and taken up under Regular Session.
- Beginning of Year Items was added under New Business.
- The Select Board Annual Meeting Schedule was added under New Business.

- Permitting for Fort Point Trail: Ken Oelberger reviewed the letter that sent to the Select Board about costs and permitting for the Fort Point Trail. He explained that if the Conservation Commission applied for everything at once (the necessary permits), Gartley & Dorsky estimated the cost to be between \$3,000 to \$3,500. If the Conservation Commission only worked on the bridge portion of the project, that cost would be between \$750 to \$1,000. If the Conservation Commission needed a Tier 1 permit later, then the estimated cost would be \$2,250 to \$2,500 (\$1,000 plus the \$2,500 totaling \$3,500).

Chair Bates asked about permit expiration dates. Polky thought the applicant had two years to start the work and could renew the permit for up to five or seven years. Oelberger said the CC thought if they applied for the grant in September, they would have the grant money by the end of the year and could start work next spring.

Oelberger said the Georges River Land Trust committed to a contribution of \$1,000 towards the project. The CC had \$2,000 in the donations, if they needed to tap into that but would prefer to save that for later. Oelberger said he also had a call into the Maine Coast Heritage Trust to see if they would contribute.

Selectperson Hall asked if there was money in the budget to cover the costs.

Oelberger: With the money that we would get from Georges River Land Trust, we could cover it out of this fiscal year's funding. I would not want to go into the other \$2,000 that we have in donations, at this point. I would like to save that for later if we could.

Chair Bates: Will the Conservation Commission be able to raise the rest of the money in time? It sounds like they have two years and even if they have not started by two years, the permit can

be renewed, so it seems like it is a safe bet. If not having the permit might prejudice the application, then it does make sense to get it.

Oelberger: Tom Gorrill was a firm believer that having the permits in hand would enhance the Conservation Commission's possibility for receiving grant money.

A motion was made by Selectperson Hall, seconded by Sawyer to support the Conservation Commission's expenditure. The vote was 5-0, in favor. Motion carried.

- St. George Fire Engine Truck 2:

Michael Smith, Sr., Fire Chief of the St. George Fire Department, spoke with the Select Board regarding a fire truck the fire department recently took out of service. Smith said he had been approached by the fire chief from Wesley, Maine who had been searching for a fire truck. Smith said he spoke with Tim Polky about this. Smith said the Engine 2 fire truck was 28-29 years old and had 20,000 miles on it. Smith explained that the fire chief is one of our paramedics and lives in Wesley and travels to St. George to work on a per diem basis. Smith asked the Board if rather than putting the Engine 2 truck out to bid, would the Board approve giving it to the Wesley Fire Department?

Selectperson Sawyer asked if they would put the truck into service. Smith said yes.

Selectperson Elwell thought Engine 2 would be better than what Wesley had, and noted the Wesley Fire Department's yearly budget was what the St. George Fire Department's was in a week. Selectperson Elwell thought the Engine 2 truck might be valued up to \$2,500 but felt if the town of Wesley could use the fire truck, St. George should donate it to them. "That is what the fire department is all about. Helping each other."

Chair Bates summarized the request. "There is a personal connection between St. George and the town of Wesley, Maine. Their fire chief and paramedic, Lee, comes down and does a 24-36 hour a week shift in St. George. He is a good paramedic and helps St. George."

Selectperson Willey noted the 2010 census of Wesley, Maine listed a population of ninety-eight (98) people. Smith said it would be up to the Wesley Fire Department to transport Engine 2 to Wesley.

A motion was made by Selectperson Sawyer, seconded by Elwell, to donate the decommissioned St. George Engine 2 fire truck to the Wesley Volunteer Fire Department in Wesley, Maine. The vote was 5-0, in favor. The motion carried.

- Minutes: The minutes of May 3, 2021, were corrected as follows:

Page 1, under ARPF-Knox County, paragraph 2, line 2, remove the **comma** after the word funds

Page 2, 1st paragraph, line 3, change utility to the word **group**.

Page 2, paragraph 2, line 1, change to read: First, **I suggest** we have...

Page 2, paragraph 3, line 5, correct shown to **shone**

Page 2, paragraph 4, line 2, delete e.g., and on line 3, place a comma after the word technology,

Page 2, paragraph 6, change to the **CDC Connect St. George Committee**

Page 3, 6th full paragraph, line 4, change to read: ...suggested Jeff Boulet work with MCBC, if he was able.

Page 5, under Utility Cost Update, paragraph 3, line 9, change to read: ...sharply **and** the usage/kilowatt-hours **were high, but** it did not amount...

Page 7, under Commercial Paving & Recycling, line 2, change are to **is**

Page 7, under Victualer's Licenses: delete **Luke's Lobster**

Page 8, 4th bullet, correct to: **Smalleytown**

Page 8, under ARPF-St. George, line 4, insert a comma after the word used,

Page 9, 2nd paragraph, line 2, correct amount to **\$277,000...**

Page 9, paragraph, line 8, correct to **innumerable**

Page 9, under the motion, line 3, change to read: ...with a target date of **voter approval** November 2021.

A motion was made by Selectperson Hall, seconded by Sawyer, to approve the May 3, 2021, Select Board minutes, as corrected. The vote was 5-0 in favor. Motion carried.

Executive Session Minutes: A motion was made by Selectperson Elwell, seconded by Hall to approve the May 4, 2021, Executive Session minutes, 5-0 in favor. Motion carried.

- Communications: None.

- Warrant: The warrant for the week of May 17, 2021, was reviewed and signed. The total expenses were \$542,206.53 and included a \$449,279.56 payment to St. George MSU, a payment of \$7,467.41 to Argus Industrial for the Transfer Station compost screen, \$2,500 in scholarship funds, and other regular expenses.

Selectperson Hall had questions about the CMP bills. Several departments had CMP utility bills listed but none were listed under Solid Waste.

Selectperson Hall: In the summer, the town generates more power than is used and the credits are banked and drawn down. Any credits that are not used at the end of the year, expire. "If we have credits expiring, we are losing money and are paying more for electricity than we should be. There could be two reasons for that. One, the panels are generating more power than we thought. Or two, we do not have the allocations right. That is something we need to check. We are coming up at the end of year three so the system should have stabilized by now. We should have gotten through the initial problems that we had, so this would be a good time to look at it." Hall suggested this be reviewed in the next two to three months.

A motion was made by Selectperson Elwell, seconded by Sawyer to approve the May 17, 2021 warrant, 5-0 in favor. Motion carried.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:

Compost Screen. The compost screen works great and as far as Polky knows a lot of the compost has been spoken for.

Open Top Containers. Polky said transportation costs were the same whether you bought one or two containers, and the cost was \$500-\$600. He has been working with two companies and in the short time dealing with them, the cost of the materials increased \$500. The price for the two containers from Maguire's was \$1,500.

Solid Waste & Recycling Committee. Polky has a meeting scheduled with the SW&RC committee on Wednesday, May 19th. He wants to discuss an issue about no longer taking shingles and glass at the transfer station.

Clark's Hill Cemetery. Polky spoke with the town attorney about Clark's Hill Cemetery and about getting the cemetery deeded over to the town. They are also working on the issue of the property surrounding the cemetery.

Chadwick Property. Polky is working on the Chadwick property located on Ridge Road and he hopes that issue will soon be settled.

Clark Island. There will be a meeting held in the front yard of the Craignair Inn on May 26, 2021, at 11 a.m. with Maine Coast Heritage Trust and Clark Island neighbors as the area has been experiencing a lot more visitors and that is causing a parking problem.

Town Contracts. Alisa Beal was happy to continue the contract with the same conditions. Polky talked with Jamie Miller about the mowing contract. Miller would like to do the mowing for the town but asked if Polky could wait a couple of weeks for an answer as he was currently in Portland with a medical issue. Polky expected to hear from Miller next week. Ads were out to accept bids on propane and cleaning services.

Town Meeting. Chair Bates thanked Town Manager Polky and the staff for all the work they did on Monday and Tuesday. He thought the town meeting went well. Polky said a special thank you to Tara Elwell who did a great deal of work getting ready for town meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Conservation Commission: Selectperson Willey reported the Conservation Commission met but she was not able to attend.

- Cemetery Committee: Selectperson Hall reported the cemetery committee would be meeting on May 26, 2021 and would discuss what Town Manager Polky had mentioned earlier in the meeting.

- Shellfish Committee: Selectperson Sawyer deferred to Tara Elwell for the report. Elwell said it was a long meeting. License allocations have been done so clammers are starting to come in to pick those up. The committee is trying to get an "abatement"/addendum. She said they want to close a larger part of the "Upper Bay" in Thomaston which is the area from Hospital Point directly across the river, all the way to the railroad trestle. This includes the town landing area and the railroad trestle. The shellfish committee wants to shut that area down completely so they can let the seed from the clams filter down and seed the rest of the river.

Currently, the depuration diggers can go in that area to dig and are depleting the clams. The committee sent a request to the State to shut off the Upper Bay, but the State said they could not have that area; they could only have part of an area from Hospital Point and an area (a cove to the east) where depuration diggers clammed last year. The Shellfish Committee is contesting the State's decision saying Thomaston and the other towns were not contacted for permission to allow the depuration clam diggers to dig. The shellfish committee will write another letter and send it to the state.

Chair Bates asked if the State had jurisdiction over this issue and could the state overrule GRSMO? Selectperson Sawyer stated it seemed that way right now. Selectperson Elwell said that Steve Taylor told him they want to shut it off and get the area reseeded, then leave it closed so the seeds would grow, and allow the tides to reseed the rest of the river.

Polky explained the difference between depuration digging and regular clamming. The area did not have to be clean, and the state needed to do testing to prove that an area was open before they could dig. But if they used depuration diggers, it did not have to be a clean area and the clams got sent away for a cleaning treatment.

Selectperson Sawyer said the group would like to find the one source of pollution there then seed the area, and if they could get another good test, the regular clammers could go dig there.

Chair Bates asked who would write the letter to the state? Town Manager Polky said the letter should come from GRSSMO, which included all five towns.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Quitclaim Deed: Tara Elwell presented a quitclaim deed to the Select Board. The property of Michael Willis was tax acquired by the town but the lien has been paid off. A motion was made by Selectperson Elwell, seconded by Sawyer to approve the quitclaim deed, 5-0 in favor, to approve the quitclaim deed. The Select Board signed the quitclaim deed.

- Beginning of Year Items for Select Board:

- Vice-Chairperson or Acting Chairperson, as needed: In the absence of the chairperson, the Board will nominate a Select Board person to chair the meeting.
- Establish Time & Place for Regular Meetings of the Select Board: 7 p.m. on Mondays
- Establish Time Duration for Select Board Meetings: 2 hours (with the option to extend)
- Process for Handling Meeting Agendas: The agenda is emailed to the Select Board on Thursday and gets published on the Friday before the meeting.
- Appointment of Town Attorney and Assessors' Agent: The Select Board will continue with the legal firm of Bernstein Shur as the town attorney of record and Robert Gingras as the town's assessing agent.

- Approve the three (3) Finance Policies that expired May 17, 2021:
 - Treasurer's Disbursement Warrants for Employee Wages and Benefits
 - Treasurer's Disbursement Warrants for Municipal Education Costs
 - Treasurer's Disbursement Warrants for Payment of State Fees

A motion was made by Selectperson Elwell, seconded by Hall to approve the above three Finance Policies for the year. The vote was 5-0, in favor. Motion carried.

- Date for setting Select Board Action Plan: A consensus of the Select Board was to wait and allow the new Town Manager and the new Finance Director time to settle into their jobs. No Action Plan date was set for this year.
- Date for Meeting with heads of Boards and Committees: Town Manager Polky suggested Select Board liaisons meet with the chairs of their respective committees. Chair Bates noted the one-year appointments will be rolled over but volunteers were needed to fill the open vacancies. Polky reported the Comprehensive Planning Committee had not met this year. He recommended the committee meet and get revitalized because there are issues that need to be dealt with. Polky said the staff will also need the names of volunteers as appointment forms will need to be issued and the appointments will need to be voted on by the Select Board.

By a consensus of the Select Board, Chair Bates will email the Boards and Committees reminding them of their duties as outlined in the St. George Select Board Policy Manual.

- Date for Annual Review of Select Board Policy Manual: A consensus of the Select Board was to review the Select Board Policy Manual on October 4, 2021.
- Review and Approve Select Board's Annual Calendar: Suggested date changes were made and those were noted by Tara Elwell. The Select Board will continue to review the annual schedule and make any other changes at the June 7th meeting.
- All Board members are required to complete yearly training of the "Freedom of Access Law" training <https://maine.gov/foaa/faq> and hand in the Certification Of Completion <https://www.maine.gov/foaa/Training/CertificationofCompletion.pdf>

There was no other business to come before the Board. At 8:12 p.m., on a motion by Selectperson Hall, seconded by Elwell, it was voted 5-0 to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marguerite R. Wilson
Select Board Recording Secretary

