

ST. GEORGE SELECT BOARD & ASSESSORS
St. George Town Office
MEETING MINUTES
January 10, 2022 – 7 p.m.

The Select Board meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. Members present via Zoom were: Richard Bates, Chair; Randy Elwell, Wayne Sawyer, and Tammy Willey (late). (Jerry Hall was absent). Also present by Zoom: Richard Erb, Irene Ames, Van Thompson, Loreen Meyer, Patricia St. Clair, Dawn Gauthier, and members of the St. George Girl Scout Troop 1831, Lydia and Addie.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

REGULAR SESSION:

- Adjustments to Agenda:

The Executive Session was removed from the agenda and rescheduled for January 24, 2022.

- Minutes: The minutes of December 20, 2022, were reviewed and corrected.

A motion was made by Sawyer, seconded by Elwell to approve the December 20, 2021, minutes, as corrected. The roll call vote was 3-0, in favor. The motion carried.

- Communications: None.

- Warrant: The warrant for the week of January 10, 2022, was reviewed. The Select Board had no questions regarding the department summary, and the warrant will be signed electronically.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT - Richard Erb reported the following.

- 10 Cold Storage Road (CSR) Update. Erb received an email from Alan Brigham of the Economic Development Administration who related the 10 CSR grant application would be taken up at the Regional Office on February 3, 2022.

- The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding. Erb explained that towns and cities in Maine would be receiving funds as part of the American Rescue Plan because of the cost and burden created by Covid-19, and St. George would receive approximately \$270,000 in funds. Erb said he heard from the Maine Municipal Association (MMA) on Friday. The Federal government released the final guidelines and somewhat surprisingly they increased the flexibility on how the funding could be used. For example, a standard allowance for revenue losses was created, and this would be used in place of any kind of a pro-revenue loss calculation. Erb said MMA attorneys were studying the rules and he would report to the Select Board as soon as he had more definitive information from them.

- Knox County Budget. Erb said the Knox County budget had been adopted, and the final number for the town of St. George was an overall increase of 2.97%. He said this was good news, as 2.97% was a lot better than the 10% increase that was anticipated. Erb said the County tax would increase by \$34,481.00 which was a small piece of an almost \$1,000,000 tax bill, and the town's dispatch fee would decrease by approximately \$4,000.00. Erb added that he appreciated all the work the Knox County Budget Committee had done.

- Town Auditor. Erb called Frederick Brewer, CPA. Brewer's message stated he was currently quarantined. He did not know whether Brewer was ill, or a member of his family was ill. Erb said he did not know whether Brewer's quarantine would delay preparing this year's town's audit report.

- Agenda Request from Office Manager. Erb said Tara Elwell asked if an item could be placed on the next meeting's agenda and asked if the Select Board would be thinking about Dedications and Memoriams for the upcoming town report.

- Property on Wallston Road. Erb explained that the Select Board had discussed the property on Wallston Road a couple of meetings ago and that he had been in touch with the owner. As of today, the owner had not responded to him, but Erb said he would continue to follow up on this issue.

- Elected Officials Webinar. The Maine Municipal Association will hold an Elected Officials webinar on Saturday, February 26, 2022, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. The webinar is designed for both newly elected and veteran officials. There is a small fee to attend the webinar, but the town can cover that cost.

Erb felt whether one was a new or veteran official, there were always things to be learned at the MMA webinars. If any elected official would like to sign up, let Erb know.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Planning Board: Chair Bates reported the Planning Board met Tuesday, December 28, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.

- The application to install a 6' x 25' pile-supported pier, a 3' x 50' seasonal aluminum ramp and a 12' x 24' wood float at 398 Wallston Road was reviewed. An onsite visit was scheduled for Saturday, January 15, 2022, at 9:30 a.m.

- Conservation Commission: Selectperson Willey reported the Conservation Committee met on January 6, 2022, at 4 p.m. She said she was unable to attend but would forward the minutes to Select Board members as soon as she received them.

- Harbor Committee: Selectperson Elwell reported that Town Manager Erb had updated the Board about 10 Cold Storage Road (CSR). Elwell thanked Erb for the work he had been doing regarding the 10 Cold Storage Road grant.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

There was no further business. At 7:28 p.m., a motion was made by Selectperson Sawyer, seconded by Elwell, to adjourn the meeting. The vote was 4-0, in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marguerite R. Wilson
Select Board Recording Secretary