

ST. GEORGE SELECT BOARD & ASSESSORS
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, January 8, 2018

The Select Board meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. Members present were: Richard Bates, Chair; Randy Elwell, Wayne Sawyer, and Tammy Willey. Also present: Tim Polky, Elizabeth Curtis, Stephen Jarrett, Bruce Hodsdon, Richard Cohen, Susy Ellis, Earl Ludman, David Percival, Rick and Laura Betancourt, Nat Lyon, Diana Bolton, Evelyn Blum, Steve Thomas, and Randy Cushman.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Stephen Jarrett represented the St. George Volunteer Fire & Ambulance Association (SGVF&AA) and spoke on their behalf. Jarrett said for quite a few years, the Association had been trying to implement some type of monument or recognition. The project had started out as a sheet of granite with brass names and had since evolved over the last year. He said it would be a monument, not a memorial. It would give people a place to reflect, a place to celebrate, etc. The SGVF&AA committee got input from the high school on the design for the St. George Fire & Rescue monument, and the committee then selected the monument design. They would like to install the monument in one of three possible places: the lawn of the Town Office, Juniper St. property or the Rt. 73 Fire Station property.

Jarrett said before he could start fundraising the \$20,000, the SGVF&AA needed permission to place the monument on one of the town properties. Jarrett had a sketch of the proposed monument. He explained that it would have a brass plaque at the top stating St. George Fire & Rescue; it would have the fire insignia with the wording, "Honoring those Past and Present," and then the Ambulance insignia beneath it. He said there would be a six-foot bench on each side of the monument. The monument would be all granite, and the granite would come from Bucksport, Maine. The center piece and the two bottom pieces of the benches would be dark granite and the bench tops would be light granite. He said the committee body looked at many styles and decided on this design. Jarrett said the SGVF&AA could not place the monument on the property at the Marsh, because a wooden information structure had been put there; the CEO said that structure took up all the utilized space that was available.

Jarrett said the committee suggested three areas for the monument. He would like to have the Select Board's opinion, so he could take those back to the committee. One suggested area was on the front lawn at the Town Office because there was a flag pole in place; the new piece of property on Juniper St.; or the Rt. 73 Fire Station property, but that property will be a training facility possibly within the next year. The committee body would like to stay close to the Town Office site. He asked if the Select Board would give their approval for all three, and the body pick which would be the best location. He said if the Select Board only approved one, then they would work with that. Chair Bates suggested this issue be added to the agenda and taken up during New Business. The Select Board agreed.

Randy Cushman asked if the Select Board had sent letters to the Senators and Representatives regarding Maine Aqua Ventus, as discussed at the December 11, 2017 meeting. Chair Bates said letters were sent about one week after the meeting to Senators Angus King and Susan Collins and to the two U. S. Representatives. Cushman asked if he could get a copy of the letter, and Chair Bates said he would email it to him.

REGULAR SESSION:

- Adjustments to Agenda:

- The Fire & Ambulance Monument was added to the agenda under New Business
- Presentation of Watercolor Painting was moved to Regular Session
- FY19 Input from Select Board & Budget Committee was moved to Regular Session

- Presentation of Watercolor Painting of Marshall Point Lighthouse to the Town by the Marshall Point Lighthouse Committee: Nat Lyon and Diana Bolton, who is Chair of the Lighthouse Committee, presented the Town of St. George with a painting of Marshall Point Lighthouse. The Lighthouse Committee requested the Town hang the painting in the hall where everyone could see it.

Bolton read into the record, "On behalf of the Marshall Point Lighthouse and Museum Committee (MPLM Committee) and the St. George Historical Society, I would like to present this 1940's painting of Marshall Point Lighthouse by artist Carl Sublett to the Town of St. George. We consider this painting to be on permanent loan to the town with the understanding that it should be returned to the Marshall Point Lighthouse Museum Committee if no longer desired to be displayed at the town."

Lyon gave a brief history on the painting. Carl Sublett was born in Kentucky in 1918. In 1942, he married Helen Davis of Port Clyde. After WWII, he moved to Tennessee and went on to have a very successful college professor's teaching and distinguished artist career. He won many prestigious awards and was nationally recognized. In 1998, at the Masters of Port Clyde Invitational, he was among the following exhibiting artists: Ranulph Bye, Ronald Fortin, Robert Hamilton, Greg Mort, William Thon and Jamie Wyeth, at the then Gallery by the Sea in Port Clyde. He died in Union, Maine in 2008. His works can be seen locally at the Mars Hill Gallery in Tenants Harbor.

On behalf of the Select Board and the Town of St. George, Chair Bates thanked Chair Diana Bolton, Nat Lyon and the Marshall Point Lighthouse and Museum Committee for their generous loan of the Carl Sublett painting. Town Manager Tim Polky and Select Board members Bates, Sawyer, Elwell and Willey accepted the painting and pictures were taken by Photographer Rick Betancourt.

- Memorandum of Understanding for the Ozone Monitoring at Marshall Point: Town Manager Polky explained the history of the monitoring station at Marshall Point. He said the structure had held the ozone monitoring equipment which was installed by DEP over 30 years. The MPLM committee would like to have the old and unsightly aluminum building removed. Possibilities would be to have monitoring equipment incorporated into the proposed barn project or replaced with a more presentable structure. Polky said that Lyon had been working with DEP and he had been talking with DEP to come up with an agreement and resolution, so the committee could move forward. Polky said he wanted to make the Select Board aware of the current situation, and if they had any comments or questions, send them to him. Chair Bates thought the committee would like to get it sorted out before the construction work on the barn started. Lyon said he would like to get something to the DEP by the end of January, so DEP could have a chance to review the committee's plans. Lyon said the current ozone monitoring equipment would remain the same this summer, but hoped to present DEP with their options and formulate an agreement by the end of 2018. Polky said the ozone monitoring would be status quo for this summer.

- FY19 Budget Input from Select Board & Budget Committee to the Town Manager on General Areas: Chair Bates said the Select Board and the Budget Committee received budget suggestions from Ken Oelberger with two points: 1) A reserve fund for the solar panel system; 2) A line item for Maine Coast Heritage Trust, to support them in their purchase of Clark Island.

Chair Ellis handed out the Budget Committee's letter of concerns for 2018-2019. Ellis noted the transition between town manager and the addition of Curtis as finance director had been very smooth. The Budget Committee thanked the town office and Select Board for their thoughtful work, and the committee hoped that the replacement of the school's business manager would be as smooth, with little disruption. Budget Committee Concerns for this year include:

1. Harbors and 10 Cold Storage Road – Fishing and boating continue as economic drivers on the peninsula. Infrastructure work needs to continue at 10 Cold Storage Road to maximize its use by commercial and recreational residents and visitors. Continue to monitor and move forward with the work, as well as other infrastructures, such as fueling stations in Tenants Harbor and Port Clyde. The town needs a plan for recouping some of the expenses through usage and rental fees at 10 Cold Storage Road.
2. Legal fees continue to be a concern with a couple of projects being worked on that may affect the Town's budget.
3. Extreme weather events may become more common. We have to plan for a safe warming room that houses all the residents who need it. Moving it from the Town Office to the school would require, as Ellis understood it, at least a new generator and that cost would need to be considered.
4. Personnel expenses may have some upward pressure as Maine's minimum wage is raised. This may also affect stipends.

5. The town may be asked to participate in economic development projects such as affordable housing and with environmental projects, such as Clark Island. We will have to plan for these expenses should the town decide to participate. We found that our mil rate went up, but it was all about providing asset for the town. We have to work to balance that. We want our mil rate to be something that residents can afford, and we want to add asset to the town.
6. The town would likely want to begin saving for the solar panels that were recently installed so they can be comfortably paid for when the rental period is complete.

Chair Ellis said the Budget Committee thanked the many volunteers for their active participation, directed by a dedicated group of professionals.

Chair Bates asked Chair Ellis how the Budget Committee thought the town could work with the St. George Community Development Corporation (StGCDC). Ellis was not sure but needed to meet with the Kelleys as she was not sure about their mission, funding, or their projects. She understood that the StGCDC wanted to work on affordable housing, and that the school has tremendous interest in affordable housing because that keeps the student population up. Ellis said everybody in town should have interest in affordable housing. Budget member Vaitones was unable to attend meeting but his email stated that in Millinocket, an apartment could be rented for \$300 a month. Chair Bates said because StGCDC is a 501(c)(3), they can act independently and more speedily than the municipality can. Chair Bates thought it would be useful for the Budget Committee to talk with that group to find out how they anticipate the town could work with them.

Chair Bates noted that the Budget Committee was supportive of the idea of a generator for the school and Ellis said it needed to be considered. She asked how many people used the town office as a shelter during the last power outage in October. Polky said it was not crowded. Ellis said she was not sure if a generator was needed immediately, but the weather seemed to be more extreme in the last three years than in the previous twenty years.

Chair Bates said the Harbor Committee had been working on 10 Cold Storage Road and the committee hoped to have a proposal ready for May's town meeting. Chair Ellis asked what the budget might be, what the project was, and if there were any plans to have a revenue stream. Polky said there was a revenue stream there, now. He said space was being rented out. Ellis asked if the town would be doing more of that. Polky thought, probably and clarified it, saying the Select Board had not yet seen the whole plan. He said the plan is to try to make it as flexible as possible and to maximize the use. The Harbor Committee will meet with the consultants on January 17 and Polky said they meet with the Select Board on January 22.

Selectperson Sawyer said he was glad to have received the written letter spelling out the Budget Committee's concerns; it was a good reminder about the different issues the Select Board had discussed in the past. One reminder was about the solar panel funds. Chair Bates said there was already some money set aside for the solar panels.

Selectperson Sawyer updated the Select Board on the Shellfish Warden. He said the committee voted at their last meeting to extend the contract for three more months, as is, the same amount of money. Chair Bates asked whether the town's cost for the warden position should be put in the budget. Polky said more information was needed from the Shellfish Committee. Selectperson Sawyer said the group was unsure on this issue because some of the representatives on the group did not want to go back to their towns and ask for more money. A few would rather see a ratio set up, i.e., if one town had four clam diggers, and one town had two, and another town had twenty-eight, they would rather see the cost shared that way. Polky said St. George may have 5% of the licenses, so the ratio breakdown might change their minds. Sawyer said St. George seemed to be the only town open to increasing the financial amount.

Chair Bates told the Budget Committee that the Sheriff's Department (SD) Shellfish Warden had been doing a great job, but needed to get paid the proper amount. Sawyer said with the SD, there was supervision and accountability; and one benefit beyond that was the five towns had the entire Sheriff's Department and not just the one deputy who was assigned to be warden. Sawyer said the SD is out there, looking around and they are able to call each other and talk. That was an added benefit and enforcement had been better since using the SD.

Chair Ellis asked what the SD was asking for benefit compensation. Sawyer said each of the five towns would need to contribute at least \$6,000 a year and that might not be enough. Ellis asked if the clamming license rate could be raised. Sawyer said they were pretty high, currently. The other revenue was from fines. Polky said

if St. George, alone, hired a warden through the Sheriff's Department it would most likely cost around \$50,000 a year. Sawyer said the Shellfish Committee needed to figure out what to do. He would advocate for each town to raise at least \$6,000 for this position. Chair Bates asked what amount they should budget for in this category - \$3,000 or \$10,000. Sawyer advocated asking for \$10,000 and if not used, it would be a surplus. Sawyer said most clam diggers were in favor of good enforcement as it protected their industry.

- Security of the Town's Networks: Chair Bates said Rockbound Computer was asked to look at the security of the town's wired and wireless networks. Polky had not heard back from Jason at Rockbound and was not sure if the amount would be greater than \$5,000. Chair Bates said an amount for computer security had not yet been budgeted for FY19.

- Solid Waste Capital Expenses: Chair Ellis asked if the Solid Waste Department had any capital expenses. Polky said the town set up a capital reserve fund about two years ago. The Solid Waste Department periodically reviews their equipment for age. Curtis said there would be a line item listed in the budget.

- St. George Fire & Rescue Monument: The St. George Volunteer Fire & Ambulance Association committee's request presented by Steve Jarrett was discussed. Selectperson Sawyer and Chair Bates felt Juniper Street was not a viable location because the town may sell that piece of property, someday. Jarrett thought it was important to have the monument placed close to a fire station.

Selectperson Sawyer asked if there was an area for it on the Town Office property. Jarrett said there was a semi-flat spot off the ledge by the road that could be leveled out or built up. He said the length of the monument, itself, would be 15 ½ feet and they want to include benches; and, possibly in the future, add granite pavers for a walkway. Jarrett said Brooks Monument explained that the monument would need to be put on a 4' deep foundation, not just a slab. Jarrett said a 4' deep spot might be difficult to find, but Brooks said the ledge (on lawn of Town Office) would work because the monument could be pinned to it. Jarrett said little vegetation would surround the monument, as they wanted to be able to maintain it and not have overgrowth. The Town Office area is limited because trees were planted and the roller from the ballfield was there. Jarrett thought the roller could be moved and displayed at the ballfield. He said the Dragon and the Knight, and the flag pole would stay. He felt the lawn/ledge area had good visibility for a monument. Jarrett said Juniper Street building and area was currently being used as a public works maintenance building. He said there would be little parking behind the building because of the slope and the corner. Chair Bates did not think the Route 73 Fire Station property would have enough visibility. Selectperson Willey thought it was out of the way and Jarrett agreed. Selectperson Willey originally thought Juniper St. would be a good spot but felt the Town Office front lawn was a good area because people stop and take photos of the St. George and Dragon, and it would be nice to have another bench there. Willey asked if the cost of the monument would be done entirely through fundraising. Jarrett said yes, they would raise the money with new funds and not use previously raised funds from SGVF&AA. The monument would cost \$14,000, the bronze plaque was \$994, and approximately \$2,000 would be needed for the ground work. The final cost would not exceed \$20,000. Jarrett told the Select Board that the committee thought the town office property would work the best. He said they would make it look nice and not crowd anything out. Selectperson Elwell felt the consensus of the St. George Volunteer Fire & Ambulance Association was for the monument to be placed on the Town office lawn.

A motion was made by Selectperson Elwell, seconded by Sawyer, for the Select Board to give the St. George Volunteer Fire & Ambulance Association committee approval to install a St. George Fire and Rescue monument and to work with the Town Manager on a suitable spot on the front lawn of the St. George Town office. The Board approved the motion, 4-0.

- Minutes: The minutes of December 11, 2017 were amended as follows:

Page 1, under Members present, add **and Steve Thomas**.

Page 2, corrections under Ad hoc Committee Update, line 7, change to read. Maine Aqua Ventus project impact **was** as clear...

Paragraph 2, first sentence, change to read, It had been requested that **the Select Board** consider changes...

Paragraph 2, line 3, delete words this was, change to read, The next day **this request** referred to the...

Page 6, bullet 1, line 3, change to read ...to have an **opening** gala in the spring.

On a motion by Selectperson Elwell, seconded by Willey, it was voted 4-0 to approve the December 11, 2017 minutes, as amended.

- Communications: None.

- Warrant: The warrant for the week of January 8, 2018 was reviewed and signed. The total expenses were \$610,116 and included the January school payment of \$413,417, the January winter roads maintenance payment of \$29,700, a payment that will need to be voided once the invoices are posted due to an error made when it was first entered, four weeks of payroll, four weeks of expenses, a full month of tipping fees, and a full month of solid waste transportation.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:

- Storm Shelter: Polky said the last predicted storm was not as bad as expected but the shelter was prepared to take people in. He said the storm restarted a dialogue about the possible need for a generator. High tides were a factor in many areas, Port Clyde being one. The Port Clyde Fisherman's Co-Op sustained some damage, but Polky said those costs had not been fully tabulated.

- Committee Meetings:

- Planning Board meets January 9, 2018 at 7 p.m.
- Conservation Committee meets on January 11, 2018 at 4 p.m. There will be a presentation "Are there Clams in the Mudflats" at 7 p.m., Watts Hall, Thomaston.
- Board of Appeals. An administrative appeal filed by John & Winifred Murdock for a decision made by the Code Enforcement Officer concerning property located on Mussel Farm Road, rescheduled to February 1, 2018 at 7 p.m.
- Harbor Committee meeting on January 17 at 5:30 p.m. and the Comprehensive Plan committee to meet at 7 p.m. Noel Musson to meet with both committees. Polky said he hoped the plans would be ready and put in the form of articles for the warrant. The committees have dates set to hold Public meetings and a Public hearing on both of these.

- Letter from Foster & Company: Chair Bates asked Polky or Curtis if they would explain the letter received from Foster & Company. Curtis said one letter was addressed to the Select Board, dated November 2017; the letter was put in a location that no one knew where to look for it, and that was why it took so long to get to the Select Board. Curtis said they had received the final audit reports from Foster. Chair Bates said the audit would be discussed at the next Select Board meeting, and Curtis said Foster would like to speak at 6 p.m.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Shellfish Committee: Selectperson Sawyer said the Select Board had already been updated on this, earlier in the meeting.

- Harbor Committee: Selectperson Elwell said the committee had met and Polky had updated the Board regarding this, earlier in the meeting.

- Solid Waste & Recycling Committee: Selectperson Willey said the committee met on December 20 and discussed the following:

- The spring roadside clean-up is being planned.
- Possibly having fees for commercial haulers who pick up our trash. After much discussion, it was decided, not to charge a fee, at this time.
- There is one commercial hauler in town. He is trying to work with the town on recycling and on whatever the committee would like to see happen to make things better at the transfer station. The committee decided since he is the only commercial hauler in town it would not be fair to charge him fees. Polky said he talked with the hauler. One issue that arose over the last couple of years was cardboard coming from the frozen lobster bait. Polky said the town could not recycle the wet boxes, but the hauler was taking care of the boxes.

- The recycling rate is about 34%. The committee will be working on programs to try to increase the recycling rate when they meet in March.
- Possibly of getting more help at the transfer station because of the composting. They would like to see the composting program work. Selectperson Willey said they seem to support having someone there that could get the program up and going and help with the recycling.

Chair Bates asked why there was still a problem with the wood. Polky said the wood debris continues to be an ongoing issue. He said the amount of wood coming in had been reduced but, the problem was what to do with the wood after it is chipped because there is no market for wood chips, at this time. Tim Hoppe does not have a market for the chips, either. Polky said they hoped construction had a comeback and the conservation mulch could be used, again.

Polky said the other issue was demo debris, and that the debris was being shipped to Cogeneration. He said it could be shipped to Rockland for a cheaper price, but they still would have to pay a tipping fee and transportation. He said either that or send it to Norridgewock. Chair Bates asked if the price should go up on wood because the town was losing money. Polky asked, "Charge more for what is coming in? We may have to do that. I think that is one of the things we want to be looking at when the recycling committee meets. That is an issue, and I think everybody has the same issue, statewide." Polky said the other issue was getting people to chip it because everyone who has chippers, are "out straight chipping everyone else's wood." Polky said they will need to re-examine the wood issue, and may want to say, we do not want to take it.

Polky said he and the Solid Waste and Transfer Station employees were going to the MRRA convention in April, and he hoped to get some answers. He said a lot of people who do wood grinding, go to the meetings.

- Planning Board: Chair Bates said the Planning Board met on December 12, 2017 at 7 p.m. and reviewed the first draft of the St. George Cable Landing Ordinance. The Planning Board will meet again January 9 and review the second draft of the Cable Landing Ordinance.

- OLD BUSINESS:

- Sound System: Selectperson Willey had four estimates for sound systems. She said she called some of the businesses to get feedback on different pieces of equipment and what they thought was best. She reviewed the estimates with the Board and asked for their advice regarding the estimates.

Selectperson Willey said some of the items listed in the estimates were similar, one offered a package deal, and some did not give any details or price breakdown on what they offered. Polky said the town definitely needed a sound system. Willey said the town needed a reliable system, but it depended on how much money they wanted to spend and what kind of equipment was needed. Chair Bates said that Selectperson Hall was insistent that the town have a decent system. Budget Committee Chair Ellis suggested Paul LaPorte as a resource. He is technical director for the Strand Theater and lives in town. Chair Bates said they received two mid-range estimates and thought talking to Paul LaPorte was a good idea, as he was an expert in this area. Selectperson Willey said she would contact LaPorte to see if he would review the estimates and advise them on which sound system might be more adequate for the town's needs.

- Quitclaim Deed: Finance Director Curtis presented a Quitclaim deed to the Select Board, as the property taxes had been paid in full. It was reviewed and signed by the Select Board; Curtis signed as witness to the Select Board signatures.

At 7:21 p.m., there being no further business, a motion was made by Selectperson Elwell, seconded by Sawyer, to adjourn the meeting, and the motion carried 4-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marguerite R. Wilson
Select Board Recording Secretary