

ST. GEORGE SELECT BOARD & ASSESSORS
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, January 29, 2018

A Board of Assessors meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. Members present were: Richard Bates, Chairman; Randy Elwell, Jerry Hall, Wayne Sawyer, and Tammy Willey. Also present: Tim Polky, Elizabeth Curtis, Scott Vaitones, David Percival, Elizabeth Curtis, Susan Ellis, Richard Cohen, and Justin Hills.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

REGULAR SESSION:

- Adjustments to Agenda: The following adjustments were made and taken up under Regular Session in the stated order:

- Justin Hills, Shellfish Warden, meet and greet
- Road Safety Issues Petition
- Town Manager's FY19 Preliminary Budget Presentation

- Justin Hills, Shellfish Warden: Chairperson Bates introduced Deputy and Shellfish Warden Hills. Hills said he was trying to meet with all five town Select Boards to discuss and explain his job duties as the Shellfish Warden. He said being a deputy sheriff allows him to deal with situations that past wardens were not able to handle. He gave several examples, ranging from criminal trespass issues, to car accidents and assisting in a school lock down. Hills said because he is out and about around as Shellfish Warden, he can at times respond quicker to a situation, whereas it may take 30 minutes or more for a sheriff to arrive on the scene. He said he carries his medic bag and medical equipment, at all times.

Deputy Hills explained that funding for the position of Shellfish Warden was an issue, as the clam committee had a certain amount of funds as did the Sheriff's Department. Chairperson Bates thanked Hills for his work and the other duties he has helped out on. Bates felt it had enhanced the quality of the service in town. Chairperson Bates thought St. George would be willing to pay a fair share (amount), along with the other four towns. Chairperson Bates hoped Hills could persuade the other towns, as it would be the honest clammers that suffered when a shellfish warden was not out there keeping an eye on things.

Deputy Hills said the shellfish committee asked him if he would work as the shellfish warden as himself, not employed by the sheriff's department. He told them no as he felt it was a safety issue. He said there were too many situations that could arise and felt the badge and uniform did provide a certain level of authority.

Selectperson Sawyer asked Hills if the other towns might help fund this position. Hills said the towns seemed to like the situation and people are happy, but it did not appear they wanted to increase spending for this position.

Chairperson Bates said Selectperson Sawyer, had been lobbying the shellfish committee about funding. Bates hoped Hills could persuade the other towns to help to fund this position as it would be a much better solution. Selectperson Sawyer felt St. George saw it as worth paying a fair share because there was the value of the accountability and the supervision which you get by having you as a deputy. Hills said because he works for the sheriff's department, if he is out of work or off, the other sheriffs can cover for him (as Shellfish Warden) because they are certified.

Chairperson Bates suggested when he met with the other four towns, to take some honest clammers along with him to speak about what he (Hills) does and how it would make their livelihoods so much better. Bates suggested having some of the people speak on his behalf. Deputy Hills thanked the Select Board for their time.

- Road Safety Issues Petition: Finance Director Curtis distributed a handout of the petition. Town Manager Polky said Sandra Coggeshall had gathered the necessary signatures and submitted it to the town in November. He said the petition was legal and that the town must act on the petition, as it is written. He and Curtis have been trying to figure out what the wording of the petition means. They have been working with MDOT and the sheriff's department to figure out how to deal with some of the requests. Polky said he and Curtis are working on a way to get the information out to the town's people. The petition reads as follows:

The Town of St. George received the following petition on November 14, 2017. It was signed by 299 people, 286 of them are registered voters. The town will have a vote on the petition as received at the May 2018 Town Meeting.

We, the undersigned resident votes and/or taxpayers, hereby petition the Select Board, Town Manager and MDOT to take appropriate action to ensure the safety of residents and visitors to Saint George by promptly implementing the best available methods to promote vehicle, pedestrian & bicycle safety.

Our action requests include the following:

- 1. Post 25 mph speed limit signage in MDOT qualifying village density areas on Glenmere & Wallston Rds approaching Port Clyde and Tenants Harbor.*
- 2. Provide pedestrian crosswalks, crosswalk signage, and curb cuts as needed in the villages, with annual maintenance verified prior to each Memorial Day.*
- 3. Post a 90-degree turn arrow sign before the entrance to Monhegan Boat.*
- 4. Increase traffic surveillance by State and County law enforcement from Memorial Day to Columbus Day.*
- 5. Frequently set up speed feedback devices on Rte 131 in Wiley's Corner, Tenants Harbor, Port Clyde, and elsewhere on Town roads as needed.*
- 6. Seek cooperation from businesses to safely control the extra vehicular and pedestrian traffic they create, and seek ways to educate their customers.*
- 7. Maintain street lights in village pedestrian areas and at main intersections.*
- 8. Publicize regular updates on the above requests including targeted projects communications, budget allowances, contractors and dates completed.*

Questions and Comments from the Town Manager and Finance Director:

The Town has reviewed all the items listed in the petition and has initiated a fact finding review. The Town has jurisdiction over some of the requests but not all.

#1. Maine DOT sets speed limits and signage. We are in communication with them to see what options are available.

#2. We must determine what “as needed” means. Pedestrian crosswalks must follow the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices, such as sight distance, safe landing areas and places where pedestrians will be safe at both ends and while crossing the street. Also, crosswalks should be in places pedestrians want to go.

#3. All signage is the responsibility of the Maine DOT. We have had discussions with them. #4. The Knox County Sheriff’s department provides patrols to the Town of St. George and does a good job. Our payment for the County budget pays for the current level; we are in discussion with the Sheriff’s office on how to increase coverage.

#5. Currently we borrow speed feedback devices from the State or the Sheriff’s office. The devices are used by many towns and we have to share. We are researching the cost to purchase a speed feedback device.

#6. The Town and the St. George Business Alliance have discussed safety at businesses. It is difficult for the Town to dictate without providing financing for any changes suggested.

#7. Streetlights in village pedestrian areas and at main intersections are currently maintained. #8. Updates on actions taken to promote vehicle, pedestrian and bicycle safety will be placed on Select Board agendas and discussed at meetings.

#1. Polky said this is MDOT's jurisdiction. He has talked with the traffic engineers. They will do studies on all the roads or on the ones they are asked to study, and they will put up the signs. Polky said the town still has a lot of roads not designated by MDOT. The question is, which roads?

#2. Polky said another issue is crosswalks. He said the town does not have a problem putting crosswalks in, but the request includes crosswalk signage, curb cuts and states as needed in the villages with annual maintenance verified before each Memorial Day. The problem is - how do you determine, as needed? What does that mean? In order to put in crosswalks, sidewalks, curb cuts, etc., standards must be met under the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices. Polky said sight distancing is also a requirement under this law.

Polky said most of the town's crosswalks may have a good entrance to them, but they do not go anywhere. You cannot have a crosswalk that does not go anywhere. If there is a need for a crosswalk, it should be put in. Polky said if the town was going to use sidewalks as traffic calming, then some other device might be needed. He and Curtis are looking into that. If crosswalks are put in, they need to be put in the right spot and should be done correctly. Polky said even before the petition came out, he was reviewing whether the Tenants Harbor crosswalks were legal.

#3. Signage – The petition requests a 90-degree angle before the entrance to Monhegan Boat. The State road stops at the top of the hill. It does not continue down onto Cold Storage Road. MDOT said, at that section, they would not consider this a 90-degree angle; it would be a side street which would come onto Rt. 131.

#4. Increased traffic surveillance by State and County law enforcement – The town does not have any control over this. Polky said the town can ask for added coverage from the Sheriff's Department but the state police do not cover this area, as they used to. The Sheriff's Department and State police no longer do a call sharing. Polky felt the sheriff's department was doing a good job, though it is limited because of the number of sheriffs. He and Curtis are working with the Sheriff's Department to figure out an arrangement to increase patrols in the summer time. Polky explained cost was a likely factor. For instance, would the town be pay time and half if the agreed upon hours were exceeded?

#5. Speed feedback devices - The question here is, what is as needed? Or how frequently? Polky said the town is on the State's the list to get a feedback device, when it is available which may be in three or four years. He said the Sheriff's Department has one and the town can use that one when it is available. The town was able to use the device on Horse Point during the Wyeth RR issue; but Polky said, there again, we do not have control over it. What is frequent? We do have prices on the cost of a unit, should the town want to buy one, but is it worth buying one? Polky said the town had applied for a grant for a device but was not sure if that program got funded this year.

#6. Seek cooperation with the businesses to safely control the extra vehicular and pedestrian traffic they create and seek ways to educate their customers - Polky said they are not sure how work on this area. He said it is difficult to tell a business they are going to have to change things or rearrange things if the town is not going to come up with money to do it. He and Curtis have talked with the Business Alliance who are also concerned about this situation. They will continue to discuss this issue with the Business Alliance.

#7. Maintain street lights in village pedestrian areas and at main intersections - Polky thought the town was already doing that. He said when they are out, a requisition goes in to get them fixed.

#8. Publicize regular updates on the above requests including targeted projects communications, budget allowances, contractors and dates completed - Polky said with regards to this request, he felt the only thing they can do is to report the information at Select Board meetings and document it in the minutes, which go on the town website.

Polky said this had to go before the voters and the petition will be voted either up or down; it will be a yes or no vote. He said he was very hesitant to come up with costs because he did not want the voters to say, we will vote this down because it costs too much. He believed the voters needed to look at it on the merits of what was being asked.

Polky said he would like to get input from the Board. He would like to get the petition and the Select Board's input on the website, in the newsletter, and get feedback from everybody else by the end of the week.

Chairperson Bates said in responding to the petition, we cannot pick and choose; the whole package will need to be discussed on its merits. It is not to say that later on there should not be

reflection on some of these issues. But, as far as satisfying the legal requirements of the petition, that is what we have to discuss.

Selectperson Hall also questioned several of the points on the petition - as needed, frequently; what does that mean? He said, "Maybe the way to approach this is to say, here is our interpretation of frequently and as needed. This is what we think might address this and here is the cost associated with that."

Chairperson Bates was concerned about the discussions that could arise the night of town meeting regarding the petition, and that the Select Board might not have the answers to the voter's questions.

Selectperson Hall agreed, and said it was hard to know what was going to be satisfactory until you just put something out there. "You want to try to frame it in some kind of reasonable fashion, so you don't have an outrageous number that nobody will support. This isn't easy to do, but I don't know any other way to do it."

Chairperson Bates felt the considered opinion of the town's people was what the town was doing currently, was reasonable.

Selectperson Hall referred to # 4, increased traffic surveillance. He said, "We may think it's adequate, but there is a petition that is asking us to increase it. Increase it how much? Pick a number? Okay. Here is a suggested increase. Here is the number associated with that." He said, "There are some practical problems because if takes a fraction of a person, is the Sheriff's Department going to hire a fraction of a person? Probably not." Selectperson Hall felt there would be a large cost factor associated with this request and people would unlikely support it.

Chairperson Bates referred to #3, post a 90-degree turn. He said this is a state road and a dead-end road. The town could have a turning that says there is a side road. Selectperson Hall said the Board could ask MDOT if they would do that, but the town did not have any control over it.

Selectperson Elwell said if they say no, they are not going to do it, then the Select Board met their obligation.

Chairperson Bates said the petition did not say ask the MDOT, the petition said post a sign. "I feel like this is what the signatories to the petition have asked to go before the voters. I feel like we have to do this."

Polky said the petition was to the Town of St. George and the Department of Transportation, and MDOT received a copy. Polky said, "We don't have the authority to say yes." Selectperson Hall agreed.

Selectperson Elwell asked if a sign could be put on the town road coming from 10 Cold Storage and the Town still meet the obligation of the petition? The petition stated prior to the entrance to Monhegan Boat and coming from 10 Cold Storage, you would be prior, and it would be on town road.

Polky said he did not think that was the purpose of the request. He said there are no places to put a sign in the area of 10 Cold Storage Road or the corner area by Monhegan Boat Line.

Chairperson Bates said he felt the spirit of the petition was ignoring what the town had been doing for the last several years in terms of road safety. That it implied negligence; that the Select Board had been negligent in the past years about the way it had treated safety. He felt that was absolutely wrong. He felt the Select Board did treat safety as an important factor in town and the petition implied the town administration and the Select Board were not doing their job.

Selectperson Hall said sometimes people just disagree and that is okay. He did not feel the town was negligent, but some people wanted to see more done. Hall said, "Let's consider whether or not the town is willing to support the costs of doing some of these things, to some degree."

Selectperson Willey referred to #4, increased surveillance - She thought the Sheriff's Department did increase it (some) in the summertime, realizing that Port Clyde did get really busy, and there was a lot of extra traffic, there. She said she did not understand why there was no way that you could not put some kind of a curb in Port Clyde to show that the road did not go straight across and redone the line. She thought the town did need to have someone ride around at night and look at all the street lights to make sure everything was working. She had noticed that a couple of lights were burned out and needed to be looked at. She thought there may be some lights that needed to be moved from one area to another, depending on where light was needed the most.

Polky said the street light inventory had been on the back burner because of all the other projects on his desk, but that was one of the first things he tasked Elizabeth with, after she was hired. Street lights are on his to do list.

Selectperson Willey asked if we could hear what Sandra had to say. She had her hand up for quite some time. Does she have anything that might add to what we need to think about?

Chairperson Bates said, "We can discuss this, but my feeling is that Sandra Coggeshall submitted this petition and that is her statement; that is it." Selectperson Elwell said it cannot be changed, as it was already submitted.

Selectperson Hall said once the petition is posted, the Board would be able take feedback. This might help them better define some of these points. Hall said Coggeshall could certainly make comments, as everybody else.

In summary, Chairperson Bates said the Town Manager asked the Select Board to think about the petition. Curtis would send the Board the corrected copy. The Board would add their comments to this, so they could come up with a reasonable increment over what they are doing at present. The petition will be posted on the town website and the public will be asked to give feedback. Chairperson Bates added, "Not to say that we agree with this, but it is a marker."

- Town Manager's 2018-2019 Preliminary Budget Presentation by Tim Polky:

Wages & Benefits:

- A 3% wage increase for full-time employees based on COLA and merit.
- Addition of a transfer station attendant to provide coverage and work on compost. Polky said more people are needed in the summertime recommended by the Recycling Committee and Solid Waste & Recycling Committee.

Town Office:

- Sick Leave Reserve Account is level and continues to be funded as several staff are approaching retirement.
- Professional Services increased based on past two year's spending.

Select Board:

- The Overlay will be appropriated to cover abatement expense. Polky said abatements will be taken out of that fund. This is a change.

Planning Department:

- Conservation Commission requested an increase to their budget for Meadow Brook Preserve kiosk and a parking area.

Fire Department:

- Equipment Purchases. Four air packs need to be replaced. This will be the third consecutive year for replacements as the Department is trying to get them up to complement. Polky said there has been an increase in volunteers, and they will need to buy new gear. Proposed purchase for a new rescue tool (\$30,000) as the current one is no longer serviceable.

Animal Control:

- No major changes to this department. The Animal Control officer is being paid a stipend. Polky said there have been no complaints in this department.

Roads & Property Management:

- No major changes are being made to this department. Polky said the employee hired to fill the town maintenance position, was working out well. Polky said plans for road paving are Turkey Cove and possibly Ridge Road.

Solid Waste:

- No major changes are being made to this department; however, there is a request for an additional of attendant to provide coverage and work on compost. Polky said the tipping fees and transportation fees have stabilized. He said recycling has slowed down, as lot of the markets are gone. Polky said other towns are going to single sort. The quality of the sorted material is not as high quality as St. George's and that hurts the market. Polky said revenues are up in this department.

General Assistance:

- No major changes are being made to this department.

Social & Community Services:

- Rockland District Nurses Association request. Polky said this Association provides service for our area.
- Library request increased by 25%. Polky said their total request for this year is \$50,000.
- Marshall Point Lighthouse requested \$10,000 towards the barn reconstruction.
- Generator for a shelter. Polky said the town had been working on the project to purchase a generator. The cost is approximately \$80,000. It would be installed at the St. George School. The school would be used as a warming shelter or short-term shelter. Polky said the price was steep but half of that was to get the generator wired into the building. Polky said there may be some grant money available towards the purchase of a generator.

Recreation:

- There is no increase in funding, but a new line was created called Community Recreation. This would be for programs that are no specific to children or seniors. Polky said for instance, bus trips to sports games.

Harbors:

- There are no major changes to this department, but Polky said they do not know what will happen to the 10 Cold Storage Road long-term plan. The Harbor Committee meets this week, and Polky thought they would know more about the cost.

Unclassified:

- No major changes are being made to this department.

In Summary: Polky said the County budget increased \$103,366 due to changes in State valuation and long-term maintenance. Polky said St. George's valuation had gone up while other town valuations had gone down; St. George had the largest increase in the County. Selectperson Hall noted this was a 12% increase. The school department's budget will be out in June, but Polky said if the school's budget stayed within 3%, the proposed municipal budget would be a net budget increase of 4.1%

10 Cold Storage Road: Polky said he talked with Harbormaster Schmanska. Currently, with what is in the budget and what is not spent this year, the town may have enough to carry forward. Selectperson Hall said each year, there has been quite a bit the town was spending on the planning and engineering work, etc., so if that becomes a bond payment it may not represent a huge increase. Polky agreed. Chairperson Bates said if you go to the second quarter, there is quite a lot of money in that line item, already. Hall said this may not be as bad as he thought. Polky said they hope to get some of those answers tomorrow night.

- Questions on the Town Manager's Summary: Budget Committee Member Vaitones asked what the net increase was last year. Polky said it was 3.7%. Vaitones said the generator is 2.5%. Polky said that would be a large amount. Curtis said the municipal budget is going up about \$120,000 which includes the generator and the additional requests under Social & Community Services. Selectperson Elwell will be contacting the contractor to see if there would be any cost savings if just the southern end of the school was wired in versus the whole school.

- FY'18 2nd Quarter Financial Review: Chairperson Ellis said they met with Curtis to review the Financial report.

Town Office:

- Line 5071, Repaving the parking lot. There is a remaining balance in that account.
- Line 5161, the Administrative Assistant 2. The time has been reapportioned. It appeared to be overspent, but there are other departments that have been underspent. Curtis said it was the allocation. They budgeted to have that position 25% in administrative and decided that she is more of a 50% administrative and 25% is Select Board of Assessors and 25% in Planning. Curtis we will see underspending in other departments to make up for this perceived overspending in town office.
- Line 5312 Insurance Line was underspent, but Curtis thought that was timing when the bills come due.

Select Board and Assessors: No questions.

Planning Board:

- Line 5731, the Planning Secretary. Curtis said that is where she was allotted 50% but the function is 25%.

Fire Department:

- Ellis said there was a refund in the equipment purchase in the fire department. Everything else appeared good.

Animal Control: Wages were being paid.

Roads & Property Management:

- Line 5090, Utilities. Ellis asked about the \$400? Polky said it was the Salt/Sand Shed building. He said that was not part of Solid Waste. It was part of Roads & Property Management.
- Line 8162, Fuel-Equipment. Chairperson Bates asked about the tipping fees. He thought that those fees would be closer to 50% because summer and fall are busier. Curtis said December was not included on this report because they had not paid any bills and did not have any town warrants because the Select Board did not meet much in December. Curtis said those expenses will come in. Polky said the majority of tipping and transportation had already happened. Curtis thought the town would be within budget. Ellis said May and June may have a little heavier use but should be okay.

General Assistance:

- Chairperson Bates thought it was higher than usual for this time of year. Normally, the town never spends more than half of the allotted amount by June, and we are over 50%. Curtis said this is a year- to-year expense and who has the need. Polky said it has been a colder winter.

Social/Community Services:

- Veteran's graves. Ellis said this gets paid once a year. Last year it included Seaside Cemetery, but Seaside is now listed as a separate line item.
- Line 9483, Rec Ballfield Improvements. Chairperson Bates asked if the work on ballfield improvement was going to happen because it showed a surplus. Curtis and Polky said the improvements were done and had been paid. Polky said the merry-go-round at Collins Park is unsafe, and they will be asking the town if some of the money could be used to purchase a new one.

Harbors:

- Line 9472, should be placed under Recreation Department.
- Line 9683, D&P 10 CSR had a money in the fund. Polky said after the Harbor meeting they will know more, but he thought some of the funds could be carried forward and will help towards paying on 10 Cold Storage Road.

Unclassified: The Budget Committee had no concerns.

Revenue Summary:

Town Office:

- Ellis said interest from investments are almost at 100%.
- Line 4540, Public Hearing fees. Curtis said there is a fee charge to the applicant for Board of Appeals, Site Plan Reviews and Planning Board Public Hearings.
- Line 4750, Miscellaneous Income. Curtis said this is cash receipts in small amounts, revenue from the Federal government for the sharing of town parks, MMA insurance dividend, receipt from the USDA (Curtis will look into this one), largest amount and one amount that has to be reassigned to trust income.

Planning Department:

- Lines 4300 and 4310, Plumbing and Building Permit fees appeared low for this part of the year. Polky did not think the amount would reach the budgeted number. Curtis said we did not last year, so the amount was reduced for this year's budget.

Harbors:

- Excise tax and mooring permit fees were both low. Those are due in January and there should be an increase then.
- 10 Cold Storage rental. Curtis said the town has an agreement with Island Transporter. She and Schmanska are following up to get payment on that and the town bills for Art Tibbetts in January and June.

Comparison of Collection of Real Estate Taxes. Chair Ellis said the town had less due than the it ever had. Because of a change in income tax law, and to secure a potential tax advantage, some people paid their property taxes in 2017.

St. George Reserve Accounts: The Budget Committee discussed what might need to be done to clear the fire department training building account.

- Select Board Policy Manual Investment/Trust Fund Policy Review: Chairperson Bates said Jake Miller and Matt Weaver of First National Bank (FNB) did a presentation on October 16, 2017 on how FNB could manage the town's trust funds. Former Town Manager John Falla managed the town's trust funds for many years as he felt he could meet or beat some institutions returns and institutions charged fees. Chairperson Bates thought Falla also enjoyed managing the funds.

Chairperson Bates originally felt the funds could be managed inhouse, but said he now sees the value of the First National Bank's proposal. He said Select Board members and Town Administration employees come and go, so hiring an institution would provide some stability to this situation.

Selectperson Hall said Fidelity managed municipal trust funds and their fee was 1% but did not discount for municipalities, like the FNB did.

Selectperson Sawyer said if the Select Board or Administration did not have the expertise to handle the funds, he felt that we should not handle the funds inhouse.

Selectperson Hall said he thought some of the people the table had the expertise, but people come and go. He said, "With something like this, for this much money, we should have an approach where we can say, this is a good thing to do. This is a responsible approach. This is an approach which survives over time, and it is something that I think we should review on an annual basis on what they are doing, and how they are doing it." "I think we are talking about consolidating all the trust funds, then doing something on a share basis. It simplifies it, makes it a lot easier to understand. This is what they do. They are professionals at this."

Chair Ellis said it would remove the liability from the Select Board and give it to the professionals. Ellis said yes, you may be paying them 0.75%, but if they can increase the return on these monies by 1%, you have gone ahead.

Budget member Vaitones said he felt it was always about the liability. He always refused to get into the investment business. "I know my way around them, but it is a huge liability. One slip and it comes down on everybody." He added that First National Bank is are a Maine company and their home base is Damariscotta.

Selectpersons Willey and Elwell agreed with the position of Chairperson Bates and Hall. Curtis told Elwell that FNB would be willing to come back and talk with the Select Board. Chairperson Bates recommended that Curtis and Polky meet again with Miller and Weaver.

Budget Committee member Richard Cohen agreed about using an outside professional but asked if FNB was the only group they should be taking a proposal from. Curtis said that she had proposals from others but did not review them before the meeting, so she could not answer any questions. Cohen said since we are a town, we have an obligation to listen other people's proposals. Cohen was satisfied with FNB's presentation but said there were other companies that were Maine based companies.

1. For the Budget Committee and Select Board, Curtis will write a summary of the proposals received from the other groups and will also get their historical performances.
2. Chairperson Bates said there should be a list written up as to their rates before asking any groups in.
3. Chairperson Bates will formulate a sentence to add to the Trust Fund Investment Policy which would give the Select Board the right to use an agent.
4. Chairperson Bates would like to have this issue resolved before the end of the fiscal year. Polky would like to see done before Town Meeting.

Cohen asked if there would be any penalties to withdraw the money from the current funds? Curtis was not sure.

- Minutes: The minutes of January 22, 2018 were amended as follows:

Page 4, under Communications, second paragraph, 1st line, correct to Sandra **Roak**

Page 4, under Communications, line 2 correct impossible to **impassible**

Page 4, under Communications, paragraph 5, line 2, change to read..to bring the cable into **the village** of Port Clyde,..

Page 5, under Road Safety, paragraph 2, line 6. Delete the last sentence in its entirety.

Page 6, under Old Business, 1st paragraph, line 2, delete the word **the**; change to read... this item on next Monday's...

Page 6, under New Business, 1st paragraph, line 7, correct help to **helped**

A motion was made by Selectperson Hall, seconded by Elwell, to approve the January 22, 2018 Select Board minutes, as amended. The vote was 4-0-1 abstention (Sawyer).

- Communications:

A letter from Governor Paul LePage to all citizens of the Town of St. George. Polky noted that the Governor was not in favor of tax-exempt properties and felt there were too many (in the state). Mr. LePage said he would do whatever he could to stop the exemptions as, "It's time for them to pay their fair share." Examples would be churches, granges, and conservation land. Polky said this proposal is not within the Governor's jurisdiction; it is up to local municipalities.

Selectperson Willey asked how much in tax revenue had been lost in the town with the Maine Coast Heritage Trust (MCHT) buying up properties. Polky said he would find out. Willey had talked with people from other towns who felt tax dollars were being lost. She thought this was becoming an issue in smaller towns. Polky said MCHT was one of the nonprofits who try to give some money back. They did on High Island and expects they will on Clark Island.

Polky and Bates said on a statewide level, organizations that affect tax dollars are colleges, libraries, schools, and churches, and Bigelow Lab. Selectperson Hall said Downeast Lakes Land Trust (56,000 acres) pay taxes as part of their trust agreement.

Chairperson Bates gave a different perspective on tax revenue. More tourists or summer home owners come, or people purchase homes because of the recreational aspect/facilities in the town. Or perhaps it is because of the library; it enhances the quality of life of the whole town and makes it a more desirable. He said, "So, it is not just that we lose the taxes, but we get benefits from those resources."

Selectperson Sawyer suggested people stop using the word lose because most of the institutions are so old that you never had it in the first place.

Selectperson Hall thought the focus of the letter was on the conservation areas and the loss of the taxes associated with those. Selectperson Willey agreed. Selectperson Elwell felt the Select Board should support the churches and lodges because they cannot afford to pay taxes. The Select Board decided to close discussion until they could review the actual letter.

- Vote to Extend the Meeting: At 8:10 p.m., a motion was made by Selectperson Sawyer, seconded by Hall to extend the Select Board meeting beyond 8:00 p.m. The motion carried, 5-0.

- Warrant: The warrant for the week of January 29, 2018 was reviewed and signed. The total expenses were \$55,252.54 and included one week of payroll, one month of winter roads maintenance and scholarship payments of \$3,700.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:

- Comprehensive Plan: Polky said the committee hoped to have all sections of the comp plan completed except for Future's map and the Transportation section. He said growth areas need to be designated and the committee would like to discuss this with the public at the January 30th meeting. The purpose of the public meeting is to get input on the whole plan. Polky said the

State is requiring the town to draw lines on the map to show the town's designated growth areas. Planned growth areas are the Public Clyde Water District and the Tenants Harbor Water District. Polky said the two finance sections had not yet been reviewed by the committee. He said there will be a Public Hearing scheduled, possibly three to four weeks prior to Town Meeting.

- Snow's Point Road and Treasurer Landings Subdivisions: Polky said this is a dirt road and is not a town road. He said there are two road associations involved. One association does not want the dirt road paved, the other does. Polky said he wanted to make the Select Board aware that a lawyer has been hired, along with consultants and engineers. Polky explained this is a civil case.

- Committee Meetings:

- Harbor Committee meeting on January 30 at 4:30 p.m. – public meeting
- Comprehensive Plan meeting on January 30 at 6:30 p.m. – public meeting
- Conservation Commission on February 1 at 4:00 p.m.
- Board of Appeals on the Murdock application on February 1 at 7:00 p.m.
- Meadowbrook Properties Stakeholder's Meeting on February 1 at 7:00 p.m.
- Polky to meet with the PORT group on January 31 at 9:30 a.m. regarding MAV's letter and cable locations suggested in the letter.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Planning Board: Chairperson Bates reported the Planning Board met on January 23 at 7 p.m. The Old Woods Farm Homeowners' Association proposed changed to alter the permitted materials for the driveways and walkways, was voted complete and approved.

The Board voted to amend the St. George Floodplain Ordinance, to make it consistent with current State standards; the amended ordinance will be scheduled for a Public Hearing before going before the voters in May.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Sound System Update: Selectperson Willey and the Town Manager met with Paul LaPorte on January 25 regarding the sound system proposals. Mr. LaPorte recommended two out of the four proposals - Harbor Digital and Headlight. LaPorte said those two basically had the same good quality equipment. He had worked with both companies and found they did good work.

Polky, Willey and LaPorte discussed removing bluetooth from the proposals as they thought the system would create enough sound. Headlight's original proposal was \$15,719. Without the bluetooth, it was \$14,472. Harbor Digital's proposal was \$12,004.21. Willey spoke to Harbor Digital and asked for a quote without bluetooth. She is waiting to hear back from them. She also asked Harbor Digital to quote a price with a recording device. They asked Willey if the Select Board wanted to upload the recordings to a business YouTube channel for public access. Willey said she would get back to them. Polky said one other company offered to set up a recording system for meetings. Consensus of the Select Board was they did not want the recordings to be uploaded to the YouTube channel.

Chairperson Bates was not sure if there was money in the budget to purchase a system this year.

Selectperson Hall asked if the system was compatible, if you wanted to upgrade it and add a module. Selectperson Willey said yes.

Selectperson Elwell wanted to wait until Willey, Polky and Curtis had the rest of the information needed to make a decision.

Curtis will review the budget to see if there is any money available. Estimated cost for a system would be \$12,000 to \$15,000. If no funds are available, the purchase of a system will be postponed.

At 8:33 p.m., on a motion by Selectperson Hall, seconded by Sawyer, it was voted 5-0 to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marguerite R. Wilson
Select Board Recording Secretary