

**ST. GEORGE SELECT BOARD & ASSESSORS**  
**St. George Town Office**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**May 17, 2018**

The Select Board meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. Members present were: Richard Bates, Chairman; Randy Elwell, Jerry Hall, Wayne Sawyer, and Tammy Willey. Also present: Tim Polky, Elizabeth Curtis, Fred Morrill, and Bruce Hodsdon.

**ELECTION OF BOARD CHAIRPERSON:** Selectperson Elwell nominated Richard Bates to serve as Chair of the Select Board and this was seconded by Selectperson Sawyer. There were no other nominations. By a vote of 4-0-1 (abstention), Richard Bates was elected as Chairperson of the St. George Select Board.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None.

**REGULAR SESSION:**

- Adjustments to Agenda:

Review of Town Meeting was added to the agenda under New Business  
Transfer Station Hours was added under New Business

- Minutes: On a motion by Selectperson Elwell, seconded by Hall, it was voted to approve the May 7, 2018 Select Board minutes, as written. The vote was 4-0-1 (abstention); motion carried. The Town Meeting Minutes of May 15, 2018 were placed on file.

- Communications: The following communication was received:

The Select Board received an email from Josiah Wilson regarding the possibility of having a 9-12 (grade) St. George Academy. Consensus of the Select Board was that Mr. Wilson first discuss the feasibility of this idea with the St. George School Board and the public. Chairperson Bates had called Mr. Wilson with this suggestion.

- Warrant: The warrant for the week of May 17, 2018 was reviewed and signed. The total expenses were \$62,181.95 and included standard bills and two weeks of payroll.

**TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:**

-Road Safety Updates: Mr. Polky said the radar speed sign was placed roadside and the sign was working. He said the Sheriff's Department (SD) had been around the town quite a bit this past week. He said the Sheriff's Department had received a copy of the town's road safety petition.

-Town Website: The town's new website went online. Mr. Polky thought the website would be much easier to navigate and said the town's website address remained the same.

-Jersey Road: Mr. Polky said the wording of the Jersey Road deed was finalized. Attorney Bragg's office sent him a draft which he (Polky) sent out to the four parties for signing. Mr. Polky said the deed stated that each party would give each other a right-of-way.

-Transfer Station: Mr. Polky said the open top containers at the transfer station were approximately 6 years old, and the town had been negotiating the purchase of new containers. Polky said the containers usually last about five years before needing to be replaced.

-FEMA Update: Mr. Polky reported that he had received a call from FEMA regarding the November 2017 storm. FEMA asked how the town rated the exit interview, and Mr. Polky said he had not spoken with anyone from FEMA. He said a meeting was now scheduled with FEMA and all the parties involved for June 6, 2018, 9 a.m. at the St. George Town Office.

-10 Cold Storage Road: On May 17, 2018 (today), Mr. Polky reported that he had filed a \$30,000 grant application request for 10 Cold Storage Road.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Solid Waste & Recycling Committee: Selectperson Willey said the SW&RC met on May 16 at 7:30 a.m. The committee said the Spring Clean-Up day went well. Ms. Willey said this was the first year the committee had a map of the town which highlighted problem areas, so the participants could go directly to the problem areas. This year, the volunteers were provided safety vests and the SW&RC felt this would provide better visibility to drivers/traffic and to property owners.

The committee discussed having the transfer station open one evening a week and would recommend it be open the same night as the town office. This would be Wednesdays until 7 p.m. from June to October 1. The committee would then assess how the evening hours worked out in conjunction with the town office.

A new transfer station sign is currently being designed and built to replace the old sign. Selectperson Willey said a temporary plaque would be hung up until the permanent signage had been done.

Compost was now available for purchase at the transfer station.

The SW&RC were making plans to participate the St. George Days' parade.

- Shellfish Committee: Selectperson Sawyer reported on the Shellfish Committee. He said some clambers came forward through their committee and asked to raise the cost of a clamming license by \$200. This would make the cost of a license approximately \$525 a year. He said the reason for this was low participation in performing conservation hours from some licensed holders. If the hours were not done, they would lose their license to clam. Selectperson Sawyer said everyone would pay an extra \$200, but those who did conservation work (20 hours performed), effectively would get the amount reduced to \$325. The Shellfish Committee hoped this would raise more money for the program.

Selectperson Hall stated, "The licenses are now \$325, so now everybody pays \$525. If you do not do your conservation work, they take the \$200 and pay somebody to do the conservation work?" Selectperson Sawyer was not sure how that worked but said the clambers did understand the process. He said the committee can, somewhat, predict who will do and who will not do the conservation work.

Mr. Polky said that was basically the way it was working. "You had to do your conservation time before you were eligible for a license and the whole idea of conservation was to keep the clams there. St. George was very instrumental in putting the program together and making sure the conservation of the clam flats was perpetuated." Mr. Polky said, "It sounds like everyone would pay and no one would be doing the conservation. So, there will be no money for

conservation and then there will not be any clams." Selectperson Sawyer said the plan was still being formulated and no decisions had been made.

- Comprehensive Planning Committee: Selectperson Elwell noted that Article 4, "Comprehensive Plan of the Town of St. George, Maine" on the May 14<sup>th</sup> written ballot had passed.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

- Ranked-Choice Voting: Chairperson Bates stated that the process appeared to be moving forward. Mr. Polky said the ballots were self-explanatory. He said as far as St. George was concerned, voting machines would be used and the final counting would be done in Augusta. Ms. Curtis received a pamphlet in the mail which showed how the new voting system would work in the June 12 primaries. The ballot would be used only in the primaries for governor in both political parties, in the Democratic primary for the U.S. House seat in the 2nd District, and in one Republican primary for a seat in the Maine House.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

- Beginning of Year Items: Chairperson Bates distributed a list of Beginning of Year Items for the Select Board to discuss. The consensus of the Board was:

- Vice-Chairperson or Acting Chairperson. According to the Charter, the Select Board needed to decide whether a VC or AC was needed. Decision: neither was needed.
- Establish Time and Place for Regular Meetings. Continue on Mondays at 7 p.m. and in the fall, discuss the possibility of a "fall back, spring forward" change in the start time.
- Establish Time Duration. The 2-hour time duration usually was not exceeded. Continue with the option to extend a meeting.
- Process for Handling Meeting Agendas. Continue with current practice of readjusting agenda items to accommodate attendees.
- Appointment of Town Attorney and Assessors' Agent. Continue with Bernstein Shur as the official town attorney but it may also be necessary to hire other attorneys, as needed. Mr. Polky to contact Robert Gingras to see if he was interested in continuing another year as assessors' agent.
- Engagement of Auditor for 2017-2018. Ms. Curtis had not yet received an engagement letter from Foster & Foster. Ms. Curtis to contact them regarding a FY'2018 audit.
- Assign Board, Committee and Commission Select Board Representatives. Assignments to remain the same as last year. The Select Board discussed public attendance at committee meetings. The Board would like to encourage the committees to meet at 7 p.m. to see if that would garner more public participation.
- Review the three finance policies that expired May 14, 2018.
  1. Treasurer's Disbursement Warrants for Employee Wages and Benefits
  2. Treasurer's Disbursement Warrants for Municipal Education Costs
  3. Treasurer's Disbursement Warrants for Payment of State FeesThese would be taken up and voted on at the June 4, 2018 Select Board meeting.
- Appointments of Administrative Positions. The Town Manager to prepare a list and present it to the Select Board on June 4<sup>th</sup> or at the following meeting.
- Select Board Action Plan - Review 2017-18 and proposals for 2018-2019. Chairperson Bates suggested the Board give thought to what items were successful, what they would

like to carry over and what items they would like to add. To be discussed at the June 4<sup>th</sup> meeting.

- Appointments of Board and Committee Members. Chairperson Bates asked the Board to talk with Committee members to see if they were interested in continuing to serve on the committees, including the Comprehensive Planning Committee (CPC). Chairperson Bates recommended the CPC do annual reviews. Mr. Polky explained that the Select Board needed to talk with those members whose terms were expiring. The list is on page 8 of the 2017 Town Report. These will be taken up at the June 25 meeting.
- Meeting with Board and Committee Chairs. This would be a meeting to remind the Chairs about agendas, minutes, etc. This will be taken up on the July 23 meeting.
- Annual Review of the Select Board Policy Manual. This was postponed until the September 10, 2018 meeting.
- Review and Approve Select Board's Annual Calendar Schedule. The Select Board discussed their proposed meeting dates. Mr. Polky said the Town Charter stated the Select Board must meet at least twice a month. Selectperson Hall to review the proposed schedule, make suggested changes to the dates, and the Select Board would review the revised schedule at the June 4 meeting.

- Aquaculture Intertidal Lease Application for Wheeler Bay: Chairperson Bates talked with Harbormaster Schmanska regarding the Aquaculture Intertidal Lease at Wheeler Bay. Mr. Schmanska approved it. Mr. Balano had a letter from DMR that required Chair Bates' signature, verifying town approval of the project. This would satisfy the DMR regarding Mr. Balano's proposed project.

Selectperson Willey asked if an onsite hearing was done when Mr. Balano started this business, and especially since he was doubling the size of the business. Mr. Polky said a poll was taken of the neighboring fishermen and residents, and the DMR looked to the Harbormaster and Select Board to make the decision. Ms. Willey said, "So, this did not come before the Planning Board?" Ms. Willey was surprised that no one had come forward and said this was disrupting bird habitats and other issues because of the size of the project.

Mr. Polky said the Planning Board did not have jurisdiction over the this; they had jurisdiction above the high-water mark. Selectperson Hall asked what could be the issues or reasons that people would object to this? Mr. Polky did not think this would be any different than setting and hauling lobster traps every day and thought the Select Board would be seeing more of these types of leases in the future. Mr. Polky said, "This is like any other Federal permitting process. They ask for the town's input. They ask for the Historical Preservation's input. They ask for the Indian Tribes' input." He said the DMR needed letters from all these agencies saying they did not have any objections.

Selectperson Hall explained that Robin McCoy actually owned the waterfront to the highwater mark, all the way around her lots and including a 5-foot strip around two lots owned by someone else. Mr. Polky said he talked with the fishermen in that surrounding area, and they had no objections to the expansion.

Mr. Polky explained that the Select Board had the right to review every wharf permit and issue a permit but stopped because the town had a full-time Harbormaster who could recommend or deny permits.

Selectperson Willey was concerned about the type of harvesting system they would be using in that area and thought the equipment would take up the whole cove. She did not think there

would be enough area to expand the business. Ms. Willey was concerned about the cove being too congested.

Selectpersons Hall and Willey asked what would happen to the nets and cages when the tide went out. Mr. Polky said he thought they would look like lobster crates on the flats. Chair Bates will invite Mr. Balano to a Select Board meeting to discuss the results of his experimentation in the oyster business.

On a motion by Selectperson Hall, seconded by Sawyer, it was voted 4-1, to sign the letter to the Department of Marine Resources, verifying approval for the Balano Aquaculture Intertidal Lease Application for Wheeler Bay.

-Victualers/Innkeepers Licenses: On a motion by Selectperson Hall, seconded by Willey, it was voted 5-0 to approve the following victualers/innkeepers licenses without exception:

- Greg & Corinna Howland, DBA The Happy Clam
- Linda L. Bean DBA Port Clyde General Store
- Linda L Bean, DBA Tenants Harbor General Store
- Linda L. Bean, DBA Seaside Inn & Barn Café
- Linda L. Bean, DBA Historic Ocean House Hotel LLC
- Darci Lynn Chickering Morris, DBA The Sugar Tree, LLC
- Phillip & Debra Johnson, DBA Long Cove Cottages
- Luke's Lobster XXIII LLC, DBA Luke's at Tenants Harbor
- Mark Miller, DBA Millers Lobster Co.
- Robert Skoglund, DBA The humble Farmer
- Randy Deutsch, DBA East Wind Inn
- Marc & Carol Sanidas, DBA Schoolhouse Bakery
- Alexandra Zable, DBA The Dip Net Restaurant
- Jessica Thompson, DBA Village Ice Cream, Inc.
- Leslie Korpinen, DBA Mill Pond House B & B
- Michael & Joanne O'Shea, DBA Craignair Inn & Restaurant

- Quitclaim Deed: Town Manger Polky and Ms. Curtis presented a Quitclaim deed to the Select Board and reported the property taxes had been paid in full. The Select Board signed the quitclaim deed. Mr. Polky said he would talk with Ms. Yattaw regarding the real estate transfer tax declaration section and what was needed to complete that section.

- Transfer Station Hours: The Select Board discussed changing Wednesday operating hours at the Transfer Station. The suggestion was to have the transfer station open (on a trial basis) on Wednesday from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., June through October 1st. Mr. Polky said on Wednesdays, two employees would work 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and two other employees would work from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. There would be no additional cost to the town because of this change. Mr. Polky suggested the SW&RC employees track how many residents use the transfer station from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Wednesdays and review the data, later.

A motion was made by Selectperson Hall, seconded by Sawyer, to change Wednesday hours at the Solid Waste & Transfer Station, on a trial basis, from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., June to October 1, 2018. The vote was 5-0; the motion carried.

- Paving Bids: Town Manager Polky reported on the paving bids which ranged from \$80.20 a ton to \$63.50 a ton. He said the low bid was Hager Enterprises, and they would be awarding the bid to Hager. He said the bid proposal was for 4 ½ miles of paving but with the prices and tonnage given, he did not think the town would get 4 ½ miles of paving done. He said the plan was to pave Turkey Road and the Ridge Road and then pave what areas they could on Wallston Road with the remaining funds.

- Town Meeting Review: Chairperson Bates asked for feedback on what had gone well and what needed improvement.

- David Percival commented that the Pledge of Allegiance was not done.
- Mr. Polky forgot to bring the ballot box to the meeting.
- A number of Select Board members said they had difficulty hearing questions from the audience. Consensus of the Select Board: The Moderator and the audience should get more comfortable using the microphones and the sound system.
- The Select Board will stress the use of microphones at town meeting next year and their use at other meetings.
- Chairperson Bates compared the prior two years of voting and annual town meeting to this year. He said 50% more people came out to vote this year than the previous two years. Chair Bates felt that was a significant increase and was very pleased with the number of people who attended. Mr. Polky hoped this trend of larger numbers of voter turnout and larger numbers of people attending town meeting, continued.
- Selectperson Sawyer recommended the continuation of town meeting business be held in May and not in November. Selectperson Hall felt the town's business should be conducted at the town meeting and felt May was the most logical time.
- Mr. Polky said not all articles can be voted on by absentee ballot because of the way they are written.
- Mr. Polky said a lot more absentee ballots are received in November because of the election cycle for governor or the presidential election than for local issues.
- More chairs for seating are needed.
- The use of a professional moderator at town meeting appears to work well. Mr. Mayo said he conducts town meetings according to the Maine Moderator's Manual.
- Mr. Polky will work on the issue of crosswalks. He said they will be as legal as possible and signs will be erected.

At 8:00 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