

**ST. GEORGE SELECT BOARD & ASSESSORS**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Monday, April 3, 2017**

The Select Board meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. Members present were: Richard Bates, Chairman; Randy Elwell, Jerry Hall, Wayne Sawyer, and Tammy Willey. Also present: Tim Polky, Town Manager; Elizabeth Curtis, Scott Vaitones, Michael Felton, Mike Mathiau and George Hart.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

**REGULAR SESSION:**

- Adjustments to Agenda: Review of the school budget by Mike Felton and Scott Vaitones was taken up as the first order of business under Regular Session.

- Presentation of the School Budget:

Michael Felton, Superintendent of the St. George Municipal School Unit, and Scott Vaitones, Business Manager, gave a power point presentation on the proposed 2017-2018 school budget. Mr. Felton began by explaining where the taxpayer's money and resources were being spent. He said the school also receives a great deal of financial support from individuals, organizations, foundations, and the community. Two of the larger pieces of the budget are school instruction which includes teachers' salaries, equipment, supplies and high school tuition. Students can choose between Camden Rockport, Lincoln Academy, Medomak Valley, RSU 13, or Watershed. Transportation is provided to all the schools except Watershed. Mr. McPhail organizes trips to all the schools so the 8th graders can visit and shadow students.

Mr. Felton said they are a community school, and they rely on partnerships with Jackson Memorial Library, Herring Gut, Blueberry Cove, Parks and Recreation, the Conservation Committee, St. George Business Alliance, Marshall Point Lighthouse and the Recycling Station. He said the school sees the whole peninsula as a campus

Mr. Felton said the students are involved in many school programs and school associated programs. Some of the programs are:

- The Alewife project.
- Makerspace, a space for children to use new technology to create, tinker and engineer.
- (Summer) Math Camp which is in its fourth year. Felton said approximately 63% of the children improved or maintained their math skills.
- An 8<sup>th</sup> high school prep course, with 50 students attending.
- Band and chorus. There are 47 out of 61 students in band, chorus is growing, and there is a guitar and ukulele club.
- Art class will be working on a mural to go on the side of the school.

One area the school is focusing more on is student health and wellness. This includes physical, mental, social and emotional well-being and food security issues. There was a dental van at the school last week. There is vision, hearing, height, weight, and speech services, a

fluoride program students can opt into, occupational and physical therapy. The school tuitions some students to behavior day treatment programs. They have social skills groups, teacher training on how to work with children who experience trauma. Mr. Felton said he was surprised at the food security issues. Many organizations, churches, businesses, and individuals help partner with the school to provide food and resources to families. The parent group supply closet at school is stacked with snacks, there is a back-pack program where children are sent home food for weekends, Thanksgiving meals, Christmas meals and holiday gifts are organized for the school breaks. The school participates in the free or reduced meal program.

The opioid epidemic is another challenging issue. Mr. Felton recommended reading a series of 10 articles published in Portland Press Herald and Kennebec Journal.

Mr. Felton said the school budget shows a 2.4% expenditure increase this year. They worked hard to prioritize the school's needs. The school is asking the town for about \$136,000 more than last year. Fifty-two percent of the key expenditures are: teachers' salaries, benefits, programs like Herring Gut, Camp Kieve, etc., field trips, and high school tuition. Special Education has doubled since their first year, and it is the hardest area to predict the costs. Transportation costs are 6.3%. Amounts are a little higher due to the distance of the high schools. Other instruction includes student council, year book, afterschool health, clubs, school wide events and athletics.

School enrollment is down slightly, but Mr. Felton said he gets a lot of calls asking if there is a tuition program and how could they get their child into the school. The school is giving tours on a regular basis. He said the demand is high.

Mr. Felton explained that all four high schools have different tuition costs and he explained why. Chair Bates asked why Medomak Valley tuition was so much less expensive than the other schools and was there an issue why fewer students wanted to go there. Scott Vaitones said RSU 40 is an efficient school. They are relatively big but their per pupil cost has always been lower than some of the others in the state. Chair Bates asked if they are a school of record and Vaitones said yes.

Vaitones said last year, the school traded in a school bus and purchased a new one. He said it has been a very good investment. Vaitones noted that Randy Elwell had done a phenomenal job managing the buildings and identifying issues, and dealing with the school transportation system.

School budget meeting is on May 24<sup>th</sup> and voting on the budget will be June 6<sup>th</sup>.

- Minutes: The minutes of March 27, 2017 were amended as follows:

Page 2, last paragraph, line 1, change the word people to **haulers** who are not recycling.

Page 2, last paragraph, line 3 change to read, ... the town **does not currently charge** a fee..

Page 4, line 2, remove comma and change to read **Quantifying benefits** and inconveniences are hugely...

Page 6, second bullet, change to read, but did not **imagine** there would...

On a motion by Sawyer, seconded by Willey, it was voted 5-0 to approve the minutes March 27, 2017, as amended.

- Communications:

1. Town Manager Polky received a letter from Attorney Michael Hodgins who has filed an Entry of Appearance on the Molloy case.

2. Selectperson Willey received an email from Ken Oelberger, Chair of the Conservation Committee. He requested a correction to the Select Board Meeting minutes of March 6<sup>th</sup>. Oelberger referred to page 4, under Committee Reports, Watts Cove, the sentence, "They would like to see ordinance changes." He said this was not accurate. Oelberger said, "The wording from our minutes better reflects our discussion. "The CC recommends a reexamination of ordinances for both the Planning Board and Harbor Master to take into account environmental concerns."

3. Selectperson Willey returned a phone call to Larry Oakes, AutoMaster. She said he had numerous concerns, and she told Oakes she would take his information and concerns to the Select Board. Selectperson Willey said he would like to have the Fire Chief contact him about his pond which the fire department uses. It needs to be maintained. If it is not maintained, he would like the hydrant removed. Oakes said he would like to provide the towing services of the school buses, if they have problems. Selectperson Elwell will call him back about this. Oakes said he had an issue with personnel at the Transfer Station, and would like it addressed. Selectperson Willey asked him to write a letter, documenting the issue(s), and to talk with the Town Manager.

4. Chair Bates received a communication from the Mid Coast Regional Planning Commission with information about their annual meeting, on April 27<sup>th</sup> from 6-8:30 p.m. They will have a speaker on the new marijuana regulations in Maine and local community responses and actions. This meeting coincides with the St. George Conservation Educational series.

- Warrant: The warrant for the week of April 3 was reviewed and signed. The total expenses were \$24,621.02 and included legal fees of \$4,214.50.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:

- Committee Meetings:

Conservation Commission meets April 6<sup>th</sup> at 4 p.m.

- Updates on Snow Removal: Polky said the town is doing great in this area. The town has not bought as much salt, has not used all the sand, and the contract is for a flat fee every year. Elwell said other towns were not doing as well because they had been "hit hard" this winter.

- Third Quarter Financial Report: Curtis said she had plans to have the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter financial reports done for next Select Board meeting. She said the Budget Committee plans to meet at 6 p.m., and they will attend the Select Board meeting at 7 p.m.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Harbor Committee: Selectperson Elwell said the committee will meet on April 11<sup>th</sup> and a public hearing is scheduled for April 20<sup>th</sup>.

- Planning Board: Chair Bates reported that the Planning Board met on March 28<sup>th</sup> for training. The training was done by Colin Clark from the DEP and Morten Moesswilde from the State Forest Service. There were no applications considered.

- Ad-Hoc Solar Committee: Selectperson Hall reported ReVision Energy and Maine Solar Solutions were contacted. The vendors were asked for updated proposals based on the town's electricity usage. The committee asked to have them by April 7, as they want to meet on April 10, to review them. Selectperson Hall said they met with the Rockport Town Manager and his Planning Manager on April 3<sup>rd</sup> to talk about the system they just installed. He said most other towns have a similar approach when talking about solar. It is the right thing to do – to reduce carbon emissions, try to help against global warming, saving a little money or being cost neutral. Selectperson Hall said most towns place more importance on doing the right thing than saving money. He said he would put Rockport in that category.

## OLD BUSINESS:

### - Select Board Policy Manual/Financial Policies:

Selectperson Hall discussed the updates.

- Item #3 on Purchasing Procedures: take out the words “in order” and delete the word ~~therefore~~. Hall said "The Amended By" section needs to be updated. The Select Board agreed to those changes.
- Items 20, 21, 22: There is an error. There are three different sub-sections. They all refer to the 30-A MSRA subsection 5603(2)(A)(1); the latter two should have the suffixes, 2 and 3
- Updated the membership of the Select Board and noted this policy would expire on May 16, 2017 so it would be reviewed once a new Select Board takes office. Select Board consensus was met.

### - Update on Aqua Ventus Project:

Chair Bates said he met on March 30 with the Chair of the Bristol Select Board who was helpful in explaining their process with Aqua Ventus. Chair Bates is still waiting to touch base with the Chair of the Wind Advisory Committee. Polky was going to make inquiries about the feasibility of the construction of burying the cables in Port Clyde. Schmanska was going to contact Aqua Ventus to see if Jake Ward would come and talk to the Ad-Hoc committee before he talks to the Harbor Committee on April 11. Chair Bates said the town is not at the negotiating stage, yet.

George Hart asked if the town should submit a letter to Department of Energy (DOE). He said the Select Board is just getting up to speed on this. He said it would have been good to have been there on March 22, the deadline submission date. He wanted to know how the Select Board would inform the town. Chair Bates said the best way is to have public meetings where they can come, raise questions and make comments. Hart asked, "But do they?" Sawyer commented that two weeks ago, they did. Elwell said a public hearing does not always work because you may hear the same information over again at the next public hearing. He felt it would be better if the public came

to the Select Board meetings because the Board discusses the information as it is gathered.

Selectperson Hall said this is coming at the town rather fast. He said there is more information to learn, as Richard had cited. He said that Aqua Ventus concluded that Bristol would not be the best place, in large part, because of the way the cable would run over the ridges and the potential disruption to fishing, lobstering and a number of other concerns. Then, Aqua Ventus switched to St. George, and the pace seemed to be very accelerated vs the pace at Bristol. Selectperson Hall thought this would take weeks, if not months to feel fully informed. Chair Bates said when the Harbor Committee meets about 10 Cold Storage Road, anything surrounding Aqua Ventus will not delay or derail the project. Selectperson Hall said the public hearing is April 20<sup>th</sup>. It should be about the vision for the long-term construction and plan for the facility, and the proposal for the short term usage. It should not be about Aqua Ventus.

Chair Bates said it seemed they were trying to cover a lot of things at the DOE scoping session. They had display charts covering the windmills off Monhegan, the landing and the cabling in Port Clyde, and the transformer. He asked Hart his thoughts about the DOE scoping session. Hart said they were gathering a list to study and solicit input from the town and town residents on the project as planned. That was your chance, the residents' chances to say yea or nay and explain why. Aqua Ventus should have come here with some description of the impact on the town. Hart said it was a very formal bureaucratic checkbox they had to go by in moving the project forward. They did not comply with what should have been done at that meeting. Hart said it was very surprising, since they have had a lot of practice on Monhegan and lot of practice with Bristol.

Hart asked if there was any possibility of having a cable landing somewhere else and tying it into the system elsewhere such as the Port Clyde Fire Station or further up. Selectperson Hall said there is a range of options Aqua Ventus could consider. Hart thought they would take the cheapest plan, and it will be on the Select Board's shoulders to suggest other feasible paths. Selectperson Hall said it may not be that cheap; it depends on the Select Board. Hart thought the Select Board should look at a map, see who owns land, and suggest alternatives to Aqua Ventus.

Chair Bates said this is what we need in order to have a better understanding of what has occurred, and why it is suddenly here, and what the options are.

- Update on the School Generator: Selectperson Elwell reported that Eric Simpson met with him on Thursday. Simpson is waiting to hear from CMP to set up a time to meet, look over the space at the school, and see what needs to be done. He will talk with his peers, and then write up an estimate. Elwell said they want to have the generator hard-wired into the system. Polky said there was no money in this year's budget for the generator. Selectperson Hall asked what would be the next step, once they got the estimate. How could the money get appropriated? Polky said someone could make a motion from the floor at town meeting and then have a vote on it. Chair Bates felt it was important for the town to have a larger warming shelter in case of emergencies.

## NEW BUSINESS:

- Select Board Policy Manual/Financial Policies – Items 23-27, pages 38-45:

Item #23 - General Assistance: No change

Item #24 – Sale or Disposal of Personal Property: No change

Item #25 – Property Tax Payment Policy: No change

Item #26 – General Fund – Fund Balance Policy: No change

Item #27 – Credit Card and Debit Card Acceptance Policy: Page 44, under Limit of Liability,  
1<sup>st</sup> word of first line, change Expect to **Except**

Selectperson Hall recommended they review Items #28-33 at the next Select Board meeting.

- Bids and Contracts: The Town Manager discussed these with the Select Board.

- Paving: Polky said he would like to get the RFP out as soon as possible because the town might get a better price and have more choices. He would like to have the estimates back prior to town meeting, with the understanding that the bids are contingent upon the town vote. A motion was made by Sawyer, seconded by Willey to have the RFP's go out to bid, as soon as possible. The vote was 5-0.

- Roads: Polky would like to negotiate with James Kalloch, about extending his summer and winter roads contract for three years, at the same rate. A motion was made by Elwell, seconded by Sawyer, to authorize the Town Manager to negotiate a three-year, summer and winter roads contract, with James Kalloch. The vote was 5-0.

- Heating Oil Contract: Polky said Maine Coast Petroleum currently has the contract. The supplier has been very fair to the town about oil prices. This company has had the contract for the last six years. Chair Bates said Maine Petroleum has supported community efforts. Elwell recommended staying with the company because it is local; they pay taxes and register their vehicles in St. George. Selectpersons Hall and Willey felt it was good to keep the contract local. A motion was made by Hall, seconded by Sawyer, to authorize the Town Manager to negotiate the heating oil contract with Maine Coast Petroleum. The vote was 5-0.

- Roadside Mowing: Polky said Jamie Miller has the mowing contract. Polky recommended another 3-year contract for Miller. Chair Bates asked if he does all the side roads in town. Polky said yes, and he does a good job. The Select Board agreed to authorize the Town Manager to negotiate a 3-year contract at the same rate of \$1,500. If the Town Manager cannot negotiate the same terms, he will return to the Select Board for further direction.

- Janitorial Services: Polky said an RFP has to go out to bid because the contract ends in June. A motion was made by Sawyer, seconded by Elwell, to put the janitorial services for the town office, out to bid. The vote was 5-0.

- Propane Contract: Polky said there are three places which use propane: the furnace at the Rt. 73 Fire Station, the stove in the kitchen at the town office and the town generator. Selectpersons Willey and Elwell discussed whether the town could coordinate delivery dates of

propane, with the St. George School. This may save the town some money. Curtis will talk with Scott Vaitones to see if this is currently, possible. She will also ask him about coordinating future heating oil delivery dates. The RFP for the propane contract is on hold until Curtis gets back to Polky and the Select Board.

- Town Maintenance Contracts: Polky said all the contracts with Steve Jarrett, end this year. They include mowing the lawns, the ballfields, and trash pick-up. Selectperson Willey asked about the cost of the proposed position. Selectperson Hall said it would cost a little more, but the town will get more services. Polky would like to see if the town votes to appropriate funds for this position, before sending these contracts out to bid. The Select Board agreed to wait until after town meeting.

- Contract with Waste Management for the Solid Waste Disposal: The Town Manager reviewed the contract with the Solid Waste Committee, and all were in favor. Chair Bates said the contract was a great price. A motion was made by Elwell, seconded by Sawyer, to allow the Town Manager sign the contract with Waste Management, Inc. The vote was 5-0.

At 9:20 p.m., on a motion by Selectperson Sawyer, seconded by Selectperson Elwell, it was voted 5-0 to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marguerite R. Wilson  
Select Board Recording Secretary