

ST. GEORGE SELECT BOARD & ASSESSORS
St. George Town Office
MEETING MINUTES
September 9, 2019 – 7 p.m.

The Select Board meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. Members present were: Richard Bates, Chair; Randy Elwell, Jerry Hall, Wayne Sawyer, and Tammy Willey. Also present: Tim Polky and Terri-Lynn Baines.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

REGULAR SESSION:

- Adjustments to Agenda: The following adjustment was made:

Sea Level Rise was added to the agenda and placed under New Business as a discussion item

- Minutes: The minutes of August 19, 2019 were amended as follows:

Page 1, under minutes, change to read: A motion **to consider the draft minutes of the last meeting** was made by Selectperson Elwell, seconded by Hall.

Page 1, under warrant, line 1, change to read: The **majority** of the expenses were for...

Page 1, under warrant, line 2, change to: **The warrant** also included Meadow Brook parking lot. **The Fire Department...**

Page 2, under Connect St. George, line 1, change to: ... town. **These would be used for the audit to see if people had access to Spectrum or not.**

Page 2, Under Planning Board:

The Conservation Commission represented the town at the Meadow Brook property to build trails and bridges. The application was approved.

The building application to expand an existing float at 21 Water Street was accepted and approved.

The building application to extend the opening hours at 68 Main Street was accepted and approved.

The Planning Board met with Bill Najpauer before the board meeting. He helps towns with ordinances and to make them consistent and readable and may help the Planning Board going forward. He will be back on September 10, 2019 with some of his ideas.

Page 2, change to read: Historical Society Lease Agreement was signed. **It is the responsibility of the Historical Society to maintain the good order and repair of the building.**

Under Supplement Tax M. 104 L. 48, line 1, change to read: **The tax acquired property was paid off, but they did not receive a tax bill. The Board approved sending them a bill.**

Page 3, under Drift Inn Beach, line 2, change to read: **Town Manager Polky** talked to...

Page 3, lines 3 & 4, change to read: The town has no **personnel to directly enforce** this type of thing; it is up to the Sheriff.

Page 3, line 4, last sentence, change to: **There can be a note in next summer's** newsletter.

Page 3, under Collins Park, correct to Vandalism

Page 3, After Collins Park paragraph, insert heading: **Other Items:**

A motion was made by Selectperson Elwell, seconded by Hall, to approve the Select Board minutes of August 19, 2019, as amended. The vote was 4-0. (Sawyer abstained.) The motion carried.

- Communications: The following communication was received.

A note from the South Thomaston Select Board addressed to the St. George Select Board thanking the Select Board, as the South Thomaston ambulance association worked through operational issues. Chair Bates believed this communication was meant for the St. Ambulance Association and he will forward it to Amy Dyer Drinkwater, Ambulance Director, and Tim Polky, president of the Ambulance Association.

Mr. Polky said the mutual aid agreement to provide ALS (Advanced Life Support) response with So. Thomaston was working well and the citizens of South Thomaston were very appreciative.

- Warrant: The warrant for the week of September 9, 2019 was reviewed and signed. The total expenses were \$199,546.65 and includes three weeks of payroll, a payment for health insurance, and a payment of \$81,351.00 to Knox County Dispatch.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:

Mr. Polky expects salt and sand to arrive next week.

Mr. Polky said the town's insurance company, MMA Risk Management (MMA RM), recently performed an inspection of the town office and the transfer station. Mr. Polky said the town has now worked through most of the deficiencies MMA RM found and they will be back in October to finish up the inspection. Mr. Polky noted MMA RM used to inspect every six months alternating between all the town property sites, and he will try to get them back on a six-month schedule. Mr. Polky added that if the insurance company finds deficiencies and the town does not have the funds, there may be some assistance available through MMA RM.

Mr. Polky noted one of the deficiencies found. An employee who works on a computer terminal for more than four hours a day, has to have training and MMA RM will provide that training.

The town administration sent letters to those living on tax acquired properties. A deadline date of August 30, 2019 was given to contact the town office and set up some type of arrangement. Mr. Polky said the letters indicated that if the town did not hear from them by August 30th, the matter would be taken to the Select Board and steps to dispose of the properties may be initiated. Mr. Polky said the town office had heard back from several people regarding their letters, but the next step may be a face-to-face meeting with those who are unresponsive. He also added that at some point, the Sheriff may need to be involved.

Mr. Polky reported an area on Rt. 131 entering into Port Clyde (the stretch of road between the north end of Drift Inn Road and the south end of Drift Inn Road) would be closed from September 16-19, 2019. There is a culvert just before the Fire Station which needs to be replaced.

There will be a ShoreUp Maine 2019 conference entitled "Sea Leve Rise: Who Pays and How" on September 27, in Belfast and the conference is open to anyone. There is a \$25 registration fee and more information can be found on the Island Institute's website.

Selectperson Elwell asked about work done to the Wallston Road. Mr. Polky said the project was underbudget, so they paved the apron on and up over the hill on English Town West. Polky said the shoulders on Wallston Road would be done next week and they would also address issues with some of the driveways, at that time. He noted that Fogerty Corner and Taylor's Point Road were done.

Selectperson Sawyer asked if the road on Rt. 131 would get a thin overlay this year. Mr. Polky said Rt. 131 would be done next year. He stated that MDOT would put LCP (Light Capital Paving) on Rt. 73 from Spruce Head to Rt. 131 this year. He thought MDOT would start the project this week.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Conservation Commission: Selectperson Willey said she was unable to attend the Conservation Commission's meeting on September 5th but emailed their previous meeting's minutes to members of the Select Board.

- Solid Waste and Recycling Committee: Selectperson Willey reported the SW&RC met on the August 21, 2019. The topic of their discussion was the Transfer Station. Ms. Willey said one of the committee members designed a new transfer station brochure covering all aspects of recycling and what was happening at the Transfer Station. She said the SW&RC were hoping the new brochure would encourage people to recycle and get the rate of recycling up.

The committee discussed and would like to restart a recycling and composting program at the school. Selectperson Elwell thought someone at the school would help restart this program and he thought the SW&RC should contact the school to work something out.

Ms. Willey said the committee was also planning to hold an educational program on home composting but did not think a date or time had been set.

- Planning Board: Chair Bates reported the Planning Board met on August 27, 2019 at 7 p.m.

- The building application to install a Fire and Rescue monument at 3 School Street was accepted as complete; it was then assessed for its compliance with the performance standards of the Site Plan Review ordinance and, satisfying these, it was approved.

- Budget Committee: Selectperson Hall reported that the Budget Committee had not met but would be meeting on Thursday, September 12. He thought the committee would be looking at projects such as an assessment of how much nontaxable land was in town and requests from social service organizations. Mr. Hall thought the Budget Committee would investigate duplicate type services and review the amount of funding for duplicate services (overlaps in services).

Selectperson Hall said the Budget Committee would be discussing the financial impact of sea level rise on the town, as part of their meeting agenda.

- Harbor Committee: Selectperson Elwell said the Harbor Committee would meet on September 10th.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Set Dates for Upcoming Work Items: Chair Bates distributed a handout on proposed dates of upcoming work items. The Select Board reviewed, discussed, and agreed on the following:

- Set dates to review and update the Select Board Policy Manual with the possibility of adding new policies.
- Request interim reports from recipients of Social & Community Services funds such as Jackson Memorial Library (JML), the Community Development Corporation (CDC), Director of the Ambulance Association, and the Boy Scouts. A representative from JML will be at the September 23rd Select Board meeting. Chair Bates will contact Rob Kelley of the CDC and also Amy Dyer Drinkwater of the Ambulance Association to discuss.
- To review property sales and data and discuss assessments with the Assessors Agent.
- To discuss a 6:00 p.m. "fall back" meeting time. Selectperson Hall to talk with the Budget Committee Chair before the Select Board makes a decision.
- "Sea Level Rise" community meeting has been scheduled for 11/14/19 at 7:00 p.m. The issue is being supported by the Budget Committee, the Conservation Commission, the Planning Board, and the Island Institute. The Select Board agreed to support this issue.
- Start search for a new Town Manager in January 2020. Mr. Polky's contract expires May 19, 2020.

Connect St. George: Selectperson Hall gave an update on the September 3rd meeting. He noted that John Maltais did a very good job listing all the addresses by street. People were asked to identify streets where they knew there was no Time Warner cable or Spectrum/Charter Communications service. This allowed the committee to say yes there is broadband service here or there isn't. Hall said they went into the meeting with about 25-28% of the addresses in town and left the meeting with 40% of the addresses identified as yes or no. The goal is to have the audit 95% complete by their next meeting on October 1. At that time, they will review the results of the audit and discuss next steps to move the project forward.

Selectperson Hall said the committee believes that fiber runs down Rt. 131, but the branches off of Rt. 131 were not necessarily fiber and in many cases, it was not fiber. He said the end goal was to get fiber to the home. Hall noted it was not just a matter of where does it need to be added, but looking at it long term, the issue would be how do you deliver fiber to the home?

Chair Bates commented this was a great volunteer effort and having informed volunteers working on this project was saving the town money.

Solar System Update: Mr. Polky reported that ReVision installed a new main breaker but as soon as the technician brought the system up, they lost an inverter. He said ReVision's theory

was they had been running the system low so the breaker would not kick off, but when they brought the system back up to power after replacing the main breaker, an inverter failed. Mr. Polky said he talked with the technician who indicated that all the inverters would need to be replaced. Polky was not sure if ReVision would replace them all at once or wait for each inverter to fail.

Chair Bates said the system is owned by ReVision, and it is their choice whether they fix the inverters one at a time. Selectperson Hall noted that ReVision does not sell as much electricity if they do not fix the inverters.

Mr. Polky noted the system was working. He said the good news was ReVision was monitoring the system because they had contacted him to let him know the inverter was down and a technician would be down first thing the next day to fix it.

Selectperson Hall said four inverters would need to be replaced but there was a clearer path now than before. Polky felt communications between the town and ReVision had improved and were now doing what they were supposed to be doing. Selectperson Willey noted that ReVision appeared to be much more responsive now than they were.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Sale of Tax Acquired Property: Mr. Polky said the town has a tax acquired piece of property and would like to put it out to bid. The property is between the Fogerty Corner Road and Watts Avenue. Mr. Polky said if no one claims the property, it is considered as an unknown owner. Polky noted that many of the abutters are interested in the property. He said Tara Elwell completed the necessary paperwork and form, but the Select Board would need to approve of the disposal of this property.

A motion was made by Selectperson Hall, seconded by Elwell to approve the sale of tax acquired property between Fogerty Corner Road and Watts Avenue. The vote was 5-0; the motion carried.

- Sea Level Rise Meeting: Chair Bates reported on the Sea Level Rise meeting. He said there were quite a few people who attended and there were a number of groups supporting this issue, including the Island Institute. Chair Bates said a November 14th meeting date had been set and Susie Arnold, a scientist from the Island Institute would be speaking. Chair Bates hoped St. George could get ideas and comments from other municipalities such as Vinalhaven and Damariscotta who were further ahead in thinking about this issue.

At 8:15 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

