

ST. GEORGE SELECT BOARD & ASSESSORS

St. George Town Office

MEETING MINUTES

October 7, 2019 – 7 p.m.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

REGULAR SESSION:

- Adjustments to Agenda: The following adjustments were made:

- Open Tax Acquired Bids was moved from New Business and taken up under Regular Session
- A Summary of the October 1, 2019 Knox County Meeting by Chair Bates was added under New Business

- Open Tax Acquired Bids: Chair Bates stated there was one bid received for Lot 040A, Map 218. A bid in the amount of \$1,155 was received from Glen and Diane Haight. Mr. Haight was present and had enclosed a \$200 deposit on the property. He noted that he and his wife were abutters to this property and owned on two sides of the property.

A motion was made by Selectperson Hall, seconded by Sawyer to accept the bid of \$1,155.00 from Glen and Diane Haight for the tax acquired property located on Lot 040A, Map 218. The vote was 4-0. The motion carried.

- Minutes: The minutes of September 23, 2019 were amended as follows:

Page 1, under Solid Waste, 1st sentence after 3rd bullet, delete words **factored in**

Page 2, under Planning Board Request, 3rd paragraph, line 5, change to: ... made most **of** the ordinance the Board **had proposed** out of date...

Page 3, 1st paragraph, line 1, change word who to **how we**

Page 4, bullet 2, line 1, delete the comma after library

Page 4, bullet 7, line 1, change to read: **Regarding** the Maine Bicentennial, JML...

Page 4, under SGVFAA, line 3, correct spelling to **George**

Page 5, 6th complete paragraph, line 1, correct to read: ...for people who can **no** longer...

Page 7, under Budget Committee, 1st paragraph after #3., line 3, change to read: Selectperson Hall **asked if** it was classified as a nonprofit, **could it** sell things and **be** okay.

Page 7, next paragraph changes, line 1, insert word: ... **had** asked about...

Lines 2 & 3, change to read: ... attention by the **Town Manager** and **he** had taken actions **regarding this**.

Page 7, under Harbor Committee, line 4, correct word to **affecting**

A motion was made by Selectperson Hall, seconded by Willey to approve the September 23, 2019 minutes, as corrected. The vote was 3-0 (Sawyer abstained). The motion carried.

- Communications: The following communications were received.

- A thank you letter from David Warren for the town's donation to Maine Coast Heritage Trust (MCHT). Mr. Warren reported the amount left to be raised for the Clark Island preserve was \$700,000. He noted MCHT would be getting a gift for one-third of that amount and there were a number of other commitments under consideration. His letter stated he was optimistic the remaining amount would be committed by the deadline of April 1, 2020.
- Prescription Opiates Litigation/Perdue Settlement. Chair Bates explained that a number of states, including Massachusetts and Maine said they did not want to participate in this settlement. Bates stated the way the information was written, it looked like the town could decide to go with the settlement. Chair Bates said he would contact Maine Municipal Association (MMA) and Representative Matlack to see if they had any information regarding this and ask if they knew why Maine decided not to participate in the settlement.

- Warrant: The warrant for the week of was reviewed and signed. The total expenses were \$636,889.43 and includes two weeks of payroll, a school payment, a payment for winter salt, health insurance, and payments to the Social Service & Community agencies for their requests.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT: Town Manager Polky was away and not present for this meeting, so Chair Bates reported on the following.

ReVision was at the Transfer Station earlier in the day and were replacing the third of the six inverters. Selectperson Willey asked if ReVision was replacing the inverters as they failed or before they failed. Chair Bates believed they were replacing them as they failed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Solid Waste and Recycling Committee: Selectperson Willey reported that the SW&RC did not have a quorum and therefore could not hold a meeting.

- Budget Committee: Selectperson Hall reported he heard back from Susy Ellis, Chair of the Budget Committee. She indicated the Budget Committee preferred the Select Board keep their winter meeting time to 7 p.m., so the Budget Committee could continue to meet at 6 p.m. and then join the Select Board at 7 p.m.

- Planning Board: Chair Bates reported the Planning Board met on September 24, 2019 at 7 p.m. and took up the following items:

- The application at 7 Southern Avenue, Rackliff Island to build a pier, ramp and float was accepted as complete; an on-site visit was arranged for 4:00 p.m. on Monday, October 7.
- The board reviewed the Town Attorney's comments on the draft Sign Ordinance; there remains issues that require further discussion with the attorney.

- Updates from Terri-Lynn Baines: Ms. Baines noted that Susan Ellis had asked about changing the Select Board's the Quarterly Review date. Consensus of the Select Board was to move the Quarterly Review date to November 4, 2019.

Ms. Baines noted that the Town Office was closed on October 2, 2019 so staff could attend the MMA convention. She said she understands it is difficult on townspeople to have the office closed but feels it is worthwhile for staff to get training. She said all staff attended the town clerk workshop and she attended one specifically on banking. The staff met with many of the vendors and learned about the different types of services available in the marketplace.

OLD BUSINESS: There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Motor Vehicle Fees: Ms. Baines said the State of Maine recently raised their motor vehicle fees to \$5.00 for a re-registration and \$6.00 for a new registration. She noted St. George charges an agent's fee on motor vehicle registrations, and recommended fee increases to \$3.00 for re-registrations and \$5.00 for new registrations.

A motion was made by Selectperson Sawyer, seconded by Willey to approve increasing the Town of St. George agent fee to \$3.00 for re-registrations of motor vehicles and to \$5.00 for new registrations of motor vehicles. The vote was 4-0. The motion carried.

- Knox County Meeting Update: Chair Bates stated he and the Town Manager attended the October 1st meeting in Rockland. One issue discussed was whether other municipalities in Knox County might join the MidCoast Economic Development District. St. George voted on September 23rd to pay the membership fee of \$3,230.00 to join MCEDD. Chair Bates noted that several towns were already members and had benefitted from the services of that organization.

Chair Bates said they learned that the fee was not only based on head count but property valuation. He noted St. George could then be faced with a situation where instead of paying \$1.25 a head, the town might end up paying out more, and was not sure if this would be in the town's best interest. Chair Bates said it was not clear what would happen and whether it will be part of the county budget. He will get in touch with Nick Lapham (District 1 County representative) who is the town's contact person.

Selectperson Willey asked if St. George could choose to bypass the county and just go with what they voted on. Chair Bates said as far as the Planning Board was concerned, they were pressing ahead and working with Bill Najpauer, even without the money. Chair Bates noted that the town had not paid the MCEDD membership fee yet, and after he and Polky talked with Najpauer, decided to wait a few weeks before sending the check to see if and how the county sorted this out.

Selectperson Willey asked what happens to the towns that have already paid their fee and now are waiting to see if they are going to get another bill in the mail from the county requesting more money? Chair Bates did not know. Selectperson Hall felt the Select Board should vigorously object to being charged more than if the town was on its own (\$1.25 per head).

Selectperson Hall asked, "What if there is a town that just simply doesn't want it? Isn't interested in it? Doesn't want to pay for it? Is the county going to charge them anyway?" Chair Bates said the county would have to because that was the way the county billed.

Chair Bates felt the the town should not be paying anything appreciably above the \$1.25 that the town had agreed to pay. Selectperson Hall said there was the question of would St. George get as much attention going through the county program than through a town program?

Chair Bates noted there were advantages to county level planning such as creating and coordinating public transportation.

Select Board consensus was to go forward with what the town was now doing. Chair Bates said he would write Nick Lapham about this issue.

At 7:43 p.m., on a motion by Selectperson Hall, seconded by Sawyer, it was voted to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marguerite R. Wilson
Select Board Recording Secretary