

ST. GEORGE SELECT BOARD & ASSESSORS
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, April 10, 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, Elizabeth Curtis, Susan Ellis, Peter Lubs, Scott Vaitones, Richard Cohen, Ken Oelberger, Michael Mathiau, and Ben Norton.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

REGULAR SESSION:

- Adjustments to Agenda: The Budget Committee's discussion of budget items would be taken up after Committee Reports.

- Minutes: The minutes of April 3, 2017 were amended as follows:

Page 3, Town Manager's Report, under Updates on Snow Removal, line 2, change the word have to **has**

Page 4, Old Business, under Select Board Policy Manual/Financial Policies: second bullet, line 2 change to read subsection 5603(2)(A)(1); **the latter two should have the suffixes, 2 and 3.**

Page 4, Update on Aqua Ventus Project: Remove names Polky, Schmanska and Hall; it should read **Chair Bates said he met on March 30 with the Chair...**

Page 5, last paragraph, last sentence, change to read... the town to have **a larger** warming shelter...

On a motion by Elwell, seconded by Sawyer, it was voted 5-0 to approve the minutes of April 3, 2017, as amended.

- Communications: A thank you letter was received from Broadreach Family & Community Services in Belfast for the \$1,200 donation.

Selectperson Willey did a follow up communication with Larry Oakes. She updated him on the Select Board meeting and told him to read the minutes. Chair Bates said he and Selectperson Elwell had talked with him about his issues.

Chair Bates received a letter from the Spirit of America organization. They would like the Select Board to promote a volunteer member of the community who epitomizes the spirit of America. Chair Bates said the town is grateful for volunteers, but the Board concluded they will not participate. No further action was taken.

- Warrant: The warrant for the week of April 10 was reviewed and signed. The total expenses were \$438,751.99, included a school payment of \$396,754.17, a payment for town reports of \$3,900, and two weeks of payroll.

Chair Bates had a question regarding Simpson Electric expenditure. Polky said Simpson changed the light fixtures at the Transfer Station, to more efficient ballasts. He fixed the exhaust fan, installed a new timer at the town office and installed an electric outlet on the outside of the building.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:

- Update on Roadside Mowing Contract: Jamie Miller submitted a 3-year contract at the same price of \$1,500 with a 3% increase each year. On a motion by Sawyer, seconded by Elwell, it was voted 5-0, to accept Jamie Miller's 3- year roadside mowing contract of \$1,500 with a 3% yearly increase. The Select Board reviewed and signed the contract.

- Update on Roads Contract: Polky said he and James Kalloch discussed renewing Kalloch's 3-year summer and winter roads contract. Kalloch said he would like to renew it, and he would not make any changes, except the dates on the contract.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Conservation Committee: Ken Oelberger gave an update of the CC to the Select Board. He said the CC has several presentations planned this year under their Education Series. They are:

- Life on the Edge: Shorebirds and Waders with two experts from IF&W coming to discuss habitat for those birds
- Clamming (summer); Corvids (fall)
- Invasive Species (spring of 2018)

The CC met on March 21st. The name of the Alewife Restoration project was changed to Stream Restoration because there are also smelts and other fish in the stream. The CC plans to apply for grants under the new name. They had representatives from the Nature Conservancy, Jordan Environmental Engineering, Maine Coastal Program, several people from DMR and Alison England, in attendance. The Nature Conservancy is going to put together an initial plan for the CC to see what they should be doing to enhance the fishway. The CC hopes to have the plan by the summer. Once the CC has a plan, they can get bids to go on to the next step to see what the CC will do. One issue the CC learned was they should not try and raise the level of the water in the marsh by changing the dam around. That would be counter-productive at this point.

Oelberger said there are several other grants the CC can apply for once they have a plan. They could not apply for the Maine Coastal Program grant, at this point in time, because the town does not have an approved comprehensive plan at the State level. Oelberger spoke with Sandra Hall who said the plan is in process. The Comprehensive Plan committee is answering questions to get it approved. Hall thought it might get approved sometime after town meeting. Oelberger said CC would then resubmit the plan for approval. Polky said the comprehensive plan has to go to a special town meeting because of the changes. The referendum might be in June.

Footpaths: The CC is having a cleanup day on the morning of May 6th. On that same weekend, there is a group of Scouts going out to High Island to camp. They will be doing a service project and clean up High Island trails.

The CC has not done anything with the Maine Coast Heritage Trust on the Bamford property as they are waiting until the Quit Claim deeds are completely straightened out. After that, they can plan the trails.

Earlier this year, the CC supported MCHT on the Meadow Brook property. MCHT now owns that property and will be working with the CC on issues, trails, etc. The property abuts other town properties - the scout camp and transfer station property. Selectperson Hall said the grant amount was reduced but he understood that the seller agreed to the price.

The CC finished their action plan and submitted it to the Select Board. Oelberger said the Select Board asked the CC to look into the tree planting program in Rockport. He said the consensus of the committee was St. George was different from Rockport that it does not really fit into our town. Oelberger mentioned that they look to Les Hyde and Ryan for advice about the right kind trees to plant. Oelberger said the CC would prefer to put their efforts into eliminating invasive plants on the town properties.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Review of Quarterly Financial Reports: Chair Ellis said the Budget committee met with Financial Director Curtis and Selectperson Hall to review the reports.

Town Office: Ellis said Curtis explained Professional Services included mostly lawyer fees because the town acquired the cemetery and the Molloy appeals.

Select Board/Assessors: No questions or discussion

Planning Department: No questions or discussion

Public Safety – Fire Department: Budget committee discussed the acquisition reserve of \$125,000. Budget committee wanted to know what the \$7,687 was for. Polky said they discovered they had to re-adapt the fire truck with some required and necessary features. Ellis said the money came out of the reserve and the reserve will stay at \$125,000 towards the town's next truck.

Animal Control: No question or discussion

Roads and Bridges: Ellis asked if the town was almost done with the resurfacing for this budget year. Polky said they were not happy with the work done on Kinney Woods Road, two years ago. Pike Enterprises got the bid, which then sub-contracted to Hager of Damariscotta. Polky said a lot of the problem was in mix but also how it was laid down. He said there is some money left over from paving. Polky also discussed this with Pike and Hager who made concessions, and they will completely overlay all of Kinney Woods Road. Ellis asked if there will be any money left over in resurfacing. Polky said there will not be.

Ellis said there should be some money left in the sand and salt budget. She said contract services expenditures were over due to removal of fallen trees.

Solid Waste: Budget committee asked how much the overrun would be on tipping and transportation. Polky said he thinks it will be close but there are no guarantees. The tipping and transportation has been up a little for this time of year as they have been trying to clear out the brush, demo debris from outback at the transfer station. He said since they started charging for the demo, they have not had so much come in. Polky said there is some still coming in but the whole idea is to clean it all up and hopefully get back into a spring schedule. In past years, tipping and transportation is not as much until June or July.

Social and Community Services: Shellfish Management has a balance of \$1,500 and this will be spent by year end.

Recreation: Under Recreation Mowing, Curtis explained it is going to become the utilities line because the mowing will be absorbed by the proposed maintenance employee (public works handy person) position, and the ballfield improvements will happen at the end of the budget year.

Harbors: Ellis said it is running slightly ahead of budget but 10 Cold Storage Road money may be carried forward.

Unclassified - Family Health: Ellis said the open enrollment period has ended and the amount will, most likely, not be spent.

Revenue Summary:

Town Office: Ellis said Miscellaneous Income is a minus number because Curtis added a new line under Harbors for 10 Cold Storage Rental. Ellis said this was for Island Transporter and noted their previous (landlord) rent amount was \$9,000. She asked why was it now \$6,500. Curtis said she thought they discussed what could the town do for next year. Ellis said yes, and asked what the plan was going forward for Island Transport Rental. Polky said the contract had to be negotiated. Curtis said the current contract ends June 30th.

Solid Waste: Wood Chip - Budget committee asked for an estimate of wood chipping revenue. Polky said there was an agreement between the town and PERC, and the town would clear \$2 per ton. Polky said half way through the program, Solid Waste got a bill from PERC for 148 ton. Polky said this was incorrect and contacted them. He is waiting to hear back. PERC knows they owe the town money. Ellis said it would not be a big windfall. Polky said they are dealing with MRRA, the town's brokers. In the past, the town has had to wait three months to get settlements, but Polky said he is expecting to see the payment before the end of the fiscal year.

Trust Funds: Curtis will be managing the trust funds. She and the Budget committee talked about reaching out more to St. George students to make them aware there are scholarship funds available through the town. Curtis will be contacting the guidance departments of the five high schools, as well as, putting it in the St. George Dragon and the town newsletter. Polky said, in the past, some scholarships have not had any applicants. Vaitones said one of the things that has happened in the last three years is, St. George students are now going to five different high schools. The schools may not know about the scholarships available in St. George. He said when St. George students were going to Oceanside East, they knew about the scholarships.

The Budget committee asked Curtis if she had any concerns. Vaitones said Curtis acknowledged some of the lines were overspent, but Polky and Curtis believe the total amount spent will be less than budgeted and they are working towards keeping each department within its budget. No further discussion on the budget.

OLD BUSINESS:

Select Board Policy Manual/Financial Policies – Items 23-27, pages 38-45:
Selectperson Hall said Items #23-26 had no changes. Item 27 had the word “except” replacing the word “expect”. Selectperson Hall circulated updated summary sheets.

- Update on Aqua Ventus project: Chair Bates said he, Polky, Hall, and Schmanska met on Tuesday. This sub-group is gathering information about the project.

Selectperson Hall said he spoke with the legal department at MMA and with Jennifer Villeneuve, the attorney who worked with Bristol on the Aqua Ventus project. MMA said they could provide general advice and assistance and suggested the town form a subcommittee to investigate the issues. MMA also recommended the town retain an attorney. Selectperson Hall was told by MMA that in 2009, the Maine Legislature passed a law prohibiting municipalities from writing ordinances that prohibited offshore wind farms, including but not limited to their associated facilities within the municipalities. Selectperson Hall talked with Attorney Villeneuve, and said she was very aware of that statute. She said their ordinances were related to writing in the restrictions. They had a remediation session for what needed to be done when it was all over. Selectperson Hall asked Villeneuve if she might be available to represent the town

should St. George get more involved. He said the learning curve would be shorter, given she was familiar with the legalities. She said she would but also recommended an attorney in the Camden area. Selectperson Hall will follow up on this but wanted to discuss with the subcommittee before contacting anyone, other than the two he was authorized to contact.

Chair Bates said it was significant what Selectperson Hall learned. Selectperson Hall said there is a series of jurisdictional issues involved and asked, "What is within the town's jurisdiction to decide?" He said a lot of the concerns raised are quite legitimate concerns, but it appears they are not the town's decisions to make. He said they still have a lot of information to gather.

Selectperson Hall said a private landowner could make an agreement with Aqua Ventus and get some benefit from it. Selectperson Elwell said perhaps the town could get something in exchange or have the opportunity to improve something for the town. Selectperson Hall said if a private landowner made an agreement, then the private landowner would get the benefit, but if the town made an agreement, then perhaps there could be some benefit to the town.

Chair Bates said neither Jake Ward nor Nathan Johnson will be at the 10 Cold Storage Road meeting. Polky said he understood an Aqua Ventus representative would be at the Harbor Committee meeting. Chair Bates told Schmanska that the Harbor committee's immediate goals are: the short-term contract; the public hearing; and the subsequent town vote to approve the money for the permits and the planning. Chair Bates said the project will not get distracted or delayed by anything having to do with Aqua Ventus. He said when the Public Hearing comes up on the 20th, Aqua Ventus is a separate subject.

Selectperson Hall suggested the Harbor committee get a summary presentation of what Aqua Ventus is planning to do and what the Select Board did. Chair Bates said Schmanska had written about 20 questions for Nathan Johnson. Schmanska was hoping to hear back from him before the Harbor Committee meeting.

Ben Norton said he was encouraged with the progress the Harbor committee was making. He felt that 10 Cold Storage Road was on a fast track, and it would be done in the next few years. He said things were coming together, nicely. He said he would not like to see the project muddled up because of Aqua Ventus. Norton said a bill had been submitted to the Legislature about the windmill project. There have been articles about this in the newspapers. Selectperson Hall said Senator Dana Dow submitted a bill to eliminate the windmill project. He said Monhegan is in his district. Norton said some of the islanders disagree over the windmill project.

- Update from Solar Ad Hoc Committee: Selectperson Hall said ReVision Energy and Maine Solar Solutions planned to have their proposals back this week but needed more time. They told Selectperson Hall they needed to rewrite their proposals because of the different energy usage, and improvements in technology and costs; redoing them was more involved than they originally thought. The Solar ad hoc committee hopes to have the proposals back, for their meeting on April 24 at 3 p.m.

The Select Board discussed the pros and cons to installing solar power, such as the cost, environmental savings, cost effective for the town to buy it outright, trends in solar power costs, the PUC ruling - the declining level of reimbursements on delivery charges.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Select Board Policy Manual/Financial Policies – Items 28-33, pages 46-56:

Item #28 - Investment Policy

Page 46, under Objective 1. Safety. Line 3, update to M.R.S.A. 30-A

Page 48, under Reporting: remove the 1st paragraph: **The Town Treasurer shall prepare a cash flow projection annually and update it quarterly for review by the Select Board.**

Item #29 - Trust Fund Investment Policy: No change

Item #30 - Andree Fund Policy: No change

Item #31 - Trussell Worthy Poor Fund Policy: No change

Item #32 - Lipson Tennis Fund Policy: Account balance is \$27,608; No change

Item #33 - Page 55, delete the entire paragraph of **Current Status of the Public Land Acquisition Reserve . . .**

Selectperson Hall recommended they review Items 34 and 41- 44 at the next Select Board meeting and suggested leaving the rest of the items until the first of next year. He will do the updates based on all the input and will have a revised policy manual for review on May 1st.

At 8:15 p.m., on a motion by Selectperson Sawyer, seconded by Hall, it was voted 5-0 to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marguerite R. Wilson
Select Board Recording Secretary