

## ST. GEORGE SELECT BOARD & ASSESSORS

### St. George Town Office MEETING MINUTES

May 4, 2020 – 7 p.m.

The Select Board meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. via Zoom. Members present were: Richard Bates, Chair; Randy Elwell, Jerry Hall, Wayne Sawyer, and Tammy Willey. Also present: Terri-Lynn Baines, Tim Polky, Susan Ellis, David Percival, Scott Vaitones, Ken Oelberger, and John Falla.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

#### REGULAR SESSION:

##### - Adjustments to Agenda:

- Under New Business, Discussion Items, Allocation of Spending for the Balance of FY'20 was taken up prior to the Review of FY'20-21 Budget
- A Discussion of the 2020 US Census was added under New Business.

##### - Minutes: The minutes of April 13, 2020, were amended as follows:

Page 2 & 3 corrections under Connect St. George, correct all the Connect Maine to **ConnectME**

Page 2, Paragraph 2, line 1, change group to **committee**

Line 2, change committees to **committee**

Paragraph 2, line 4, ...build out "the last mile."

Page 3, paragraph 3, line 5, change to read: ...without the town **contributing** the money.

Page 3, under Authorize Town Manager to Sign, paragraph 2, change to read: ...effectively the **town's** part.

Page 4, paragraph 10, line 3, insert word **responsibility** for the two (unintelligible)s.

Page 5, paragraph 9, line 2, change to read: ...Trust Funds balance **increased by** \$64,000.

Page 5, paragraph 10, lines 1 & 2, change to read: ...the town **had** saved **for** capital projects.

Page 6, paragraph 2, line 2, correct amount to \$2,800,000

A motion was made by Selectperson Hall, seconded by Sawyer, to approve the April 13, 2020 minutes, as amended. The vote was 5-0. Motion carried.

##### - Communications: None.

- Warrant: The warrant for the week of May 4, 2020, was reviewed. The total expenses were \$611,417.29 and include three weeks of payroll, an April school payment of \$452,623.22, Debt payment, postage for 30-day notices, and other regular expenses.

Chair Bates asked about the cost of postage for the 30-day notices. Baines said postage was a little higher, that a lot of people had just forgotten to pay, and the payments were now coming in.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT - Tim Polky reported the following: The town office has been quite busy. There has been a lot of questions about people with out of state plates. Are they

really supposed to be here, and who will enforce the 14-day quarantine? Mr. Polky said, "The answer is we're not going to."

The town buildings are still closed to the public. Essential staff are in the office. Anyone who needs to enter any town building has to be screened. That means they must go through a series of questions and have their temperature taken. Mr. Polky does not know how long this process will last. They tried separating staff by having two people in the front office at a time to ensure the town has back up staff in case they got ill. Last week the office got swamped, so the support staff was brought back to work in the office Monday – Thursday. The front office is still closed to walk-in traffic. The town office is totally closed on Fridays. He and CEO Brackett have been working at the office every day. Mr. Polky said it does not appear that Brackett's schedule has slowed down. He is out straight with work.

The office has been busy working on 30-day notices and regular town business even though a lot of the public is not working.

The Assessing Clerk (Beth Smith) has been getting things ready for the Assessing Agent's (Bob Gingras) visit so he can do his pick-up work. Gingras usually starts this work around the first of April but couldn't come down because he was unable to get a hotel room in the area.

The Planning Board has been busy working on permit applications and an upcoming appeal in June. Mr. Polky noted because the office is closed due to the Governor's Pandemic Order, the appeal will be held via Zoom or by some other method and are working on a way to make it all work.

Mr. Polky said he was a little blind-sided recently, as they received a letter from the Bureau of Labor Standards with four citations that had to be answered by May 8, 2020, regarding the October 2019 accident involving the two (St. George and Owl's Head) fire trucks. Polky said there is a penalty phase, but he has sent a letter with a request to have a penalty discussion. He said it would not stop the penalty, but it will give them time to explain where we're at. Mr. Polky said we are working on those citations.

Mr. Polky said some of the road work has been put off until they know what has to be done though they have done basic road repair. There have been a few washouts. They have had to deal with some culvert issues. They have been working on tree issues. There is a problem on Horse Point Road. Last winter a culvert froze, and a lot of salt was used to thaw it out. He thinks they will have to plant some trees down in that area. Polky said downstream of that on Horse Point Road, there is a problem with drainage, and they will need to put a cross culvert in. He said they are trying to hold off on doing anything major until they decide what they are going to do for paving. He said paving costs may be down so it might be a good year to do at least what they had budgeted for.

Mr. Polky said J. K. Kalloch's road contract is due to expire this year and the town needs to re-negotiate or will put it out to bid. He said he talked with Kalloch and offered to extend the contract for one year at the same rates. Kalloch is agreeable if that is what the Select Board wants to do. The roadside mowing contract for Jamie Miller is also due to expire. Mr. Polky

recommended the Select Board extend Miller's contract at the same cost as last year with a one-year extension. Mr. Polky suggested that next year the roadside mowing contract be put out to bid as a three-year contract.

The Transfer Station has had a lot of people ask about recycling. Polky said he is trying to work out a way so Transfer Station can open again for recycling but wants to make sure that town staff is safe. He said he is trying to get PPE for them, which includes masks, gloves, goggles, aprons, or work clothes - so, at the end of their workday, they do not have to take their clothes home. If they re-open recycling, they will need to make sure that patrons maintain social distancing and sort the things they are supposed to.

Polky said the Transfer Station is currently open Tuesdays and Wednesdays, closed Thursdays to the public, and open Fridays and Saturdays. He said if all goes right, they will start recycling on May 12<sup>th</sup> and will allow recycling on Tuesdays and Saturdays. Polky said there is a concern the staff will get slammed with recycling when they open it back up, but that is the plan is for now.

The Transfer Station will try taking brush and clean demo debris again. This will be more problematic because there is compost down back. Polky said all the compost that was tested sold out. They are trying to dry out the next batch so they can get it tested. Polky said he will be meeting with the Transfer Station staff on May 5.

The town has been working on the EDA grant and it has been quite a job trying to get the application done as there have been problems getting onto the website (grants.gov). Polky said he received a message back saying so many people were trying to log on to that site, they were having problems. Polky said the last time he talked with Musson, he was doing the application by hand.

Matt McCollom left his job as Harbor Master and David Schmanska has been filling in on an interim basis. Schmanska told Polky he did not want to work in this position permanently but will help the town out as long as he is needed. Mr. Polky said, at some point, they will need to discuss advertising to fill this position. In the meantime, Schmanska is trying to get the floats and the boat in the water. The plan is to have the floats in on May 20th.

Chair Bates asked about hiring a new Harbor Master. "Is that something you are going to try to do this year or will Schmanska give us this year and then we will look at 2021?" Polky said he thinks they can talk Schmanska into staying for the next couple of months - May and June. But Polky indicated he is looking to start the hiring process sometime this summer.

Mr. Polky said they have been meeting every Friday via Zoom with the St. George Municipal School Unit (MSU). The school started distributing lunch to all the school children and would like to continue that program for the summer. The problem is they do not have any funding for that. Polky thinks this might be an issue the Select Board will have to talk about. He said at this point, the school has not asked the town but Polky said the Select Board may want to be prepared for that.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Shellfish Committee: Selectperson Sawyer reported that he and Tim Polky attended the shellfish committee meeting. He said the Shellfish Committee will hold off the transfer to St. George (as the hosting town) until July 2020.

- Planning Board: Chair Bates reported the Planning Board met on April 28, 2020, at 7:00 p.m.

- The application for repair and maintenance of 2 Cold Storage Road (Port Clyde General Store) was voted complete. The Board determined that the project satisfied the Performance Standards in the Site Plan Review, and thus approved the application.
- The application to install a sign at 244 Walston Road was voted complete. The Board determined that the project satisfied the Town standards and thus approved the application.
- The revised application to install a sign at 144 Port Clyde Road (the “big ballfield”) was voted complete. Since the original application had already met the Town standards, and this revised sign was smaller, it was approved by the Board.
- The application to install a pile-supported pier, a seasonal ramp and float was considered at 64 Pattern Point Road; the project has already been approved by the Department of Environmental Protection and the Army Corps of Engineers; the Board scheduled an onsite visit at 5:30 p.m., Monday, May 18.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

- Liquor License Application: Miller Lobster Company - On a motion by Selectperson Willey, seconded by Hall, it was voted 5-0 to approve the liquor license for the Miller Lobster Company. The motion carried. Each Select Board member will sign their copy and get it to Terri-Lynn Baines.

- 2020-2021 Mowing Contract: Jamie Miller provides the roadside mowing for St. George. Mr. Polky recommended Mr. Miller's contract be extended for one year at the same amount as last year's contract. The Select Board had no issues.

A motion was made by Selectperson Elwell, seconded by Willey, to approve one-year roadside mowing contract for Jamie Miller for the same amount as the 2019-2020 contract. The vote was 5-0. The motion carried.

- 2020-2021 Roads Contract: Town Manager Polky recommended the contract for J.K. Kalloch be extended for one year at the same amount as the 2019-2020 contract as agreed upon by James Kalloch and Mr. Polky. Mr. Polky said that Kalloch was doing a fairly decent job and did not think the town could get it any cheaper. There were no questions.

A motion was made by Selectperson Elwell, seconded by Willey to approve the one-year contract for J.K. Kalloch at the same amount as the 2019-2020 contract. The vote was 5-0. The motion carried.

- Allocation of Spending for the Balance of FY'20: Selectperson Hall, "The question I had in asking for the inclusion of this subject was 'are we getting feedback from any community organizations that there is a need that has arisen because of the unusual circumstances?' We talked at our last meeting about the possibility that the ambulance may need more support because some of the fundraising activities that would normally take place may not take place plus their billing has been reduced. I had a question about whether the food pantry has seen an increase in usage, and there was the item that was just raised about the school. Are we getting feedback regarding needs that we should be thinking about in the balance of this year?"

Mr. Polky, "It looks like the ambulance is going to be okay. One of the things that we did immediately when all the money was being offered was, we applied for PPP loans. The whole idea is if we keep our personnel, it is a forgivable loan, and we were lucky enough to get a \$64,000 loan which would be a forgivable loan. I think that will put us in pretty good shape. It's not out of the woods altogether but with what we're asking, we should be all right."

Chair Bates, "I think Amy said they've also got a couple of smaller grants each for about \$10,000." Mr. Polky said they got at least one but was not sure if they would get the other one.

S. Ellis, "I understood that those payroll loans needed to be expended in eight weeks. Will you be able to expend that much on payroll in eight weeks?" Polky said it was the first time he had heard about the eight weeks.

S. Ellis, "I haven't applied for any of these, but I have a lot of them in my orbit and it seems like it is for payroll, for rent or mortgage payments, and utilities. The money has to be expended, I believe, within eight weeks. You might want to look at that and want to be careful how much of that money you spend. I believe it is a one percent loan if it is not all forgiven, so it is pretty cheap money, but make sure you know where the edges are."

K. Oelberger, "I would agree with Suzy because we heard that at a Trekker's finance meeting."

Chair Bates, "It is an eight-week deal. I think with the budget that the ambulance got, the Association picked that amount because of being able to spend it."

T. Baines, "Amy (Drinkwater) is aware of that and that is the number they came up with when they did the formula. Seventy-five percent (75%) has to be spent on payroll and 25% can be spent on utilities, rent, and other things. She worked with the bank and that was the number they came up with based on last year."

Chair Bates, "One of the other topics you mentioned, Jerry, was the food pantry. I understood from talking to Rob (Kelley) that the food pantry had through their fundraising raised money for an additional six months of activity. There has not been anything explicit to the town, as far as I know." He asked Polky if he had heard anything from the CDC about their food pantry needs.

Polky, "I haven't heard anything. All I know is at the meeting with the school on May 1<sup>st</sup>, there was some indication that they were sending food back because they couldn't use it all. There was some talk about possibly making some room at the school to store some of the food they were sending back." Selectperson Hall asked if the food usage of the food pantry had dropped off. Polky said it hadn't dropped off. They had just been getting a lot of food and some of it was not necessarily what the recipients liked.

Selectperson Elwell, "One of the big things is the pantry doesn't have room to store it, so when they get the Federal food, they get a certain amount and they can't take it all because they can't store it." Selectperson Hall asked about the school food needs.

Selectperson Elwell, "The school is actually pretty good right now. It's just if they want to do it through the summer is when they are going to need the extra funding because the school only budgeted for the school year. I have another meeting tomorrow on that." Hall asked if that was an FY'20 or FY'21 situation if we want to help. Selectperson Elwell said July 1<sup>st</sup> was when the FY'2021 technically would start.

Selectperson Hall, "They probably don't need any money between now and the end of June?" Selectperson Elwell said that was right.

Chair Bates, "Are there any other organizations we know of that may be needing money in the next seven weeks where we need to change some allocations in 2019-2020 budget?" Selectperson Elwell asked if people were coming in for town assistance. Mr. Polky and Baines said no.

Chair Bates, "I was looking at the report that Terri-Lynn sent out the beginning of April and I was seeing a couple of numbers that I wanted to check on. Tim, in the Solid Waste budget there is \$10,000 for the compactor building. Is that money that will get spent this year?"

Polky, "I would like to spend it this year." Chair Bates asked if it was for new equipment.

Polky, "No, it is for the compactor building itself. It needs some repairs. We have already replaced the rails. We were going to take the whole building out, but I met with Harbor Builders and some other contractors. They are going to replace the rotted areas and seal it, so it doesn't get that way again for a lot less money."

Chair Bates, "Looking at the expenses we had as of the end of March, I saw there is still \$19,500 in the resurfacing budget. Is that funding you expect to be spending?"

Polky explained that in the past if there was money left over, they would do small amounts of paving early on. Or they have carried it forward (if they could) to increase the amount of paving we have to do, in next year's budget.

Chair Bates, "So when we are thinking about the \$200,000 for the resurfacing for next year, we can also think about that \$19,500 that we've got carried over." Polky said yes, to do paving.

Chair Bates, "I noticed in next year's budget, you are proposing that we cut the money that we would put into the Energy Efficiency Reserve, and I see that we have \$10,000 that we are going to assign for this year for the Energy Efficiency Reserve. I am wondering if we should not divert that to the next year's budget?"

Selectperson Hall, "This is the money that we are putting aside to make the payment on the PPA so that we buy the equipment at the end of year six. I would advocate that we **not** touch that this year or next year because whereas \$100,000 reserve in the Fire Department for equipment, you might debate whether you need that or whether you could get by with \$90,000. I think we know we are going to want to spend the \$10,000 that we are putting into the Energy Efficiency Reserve." Ellis said exactly.

- Review #1 of Interim FY'20-21 Budget with FY'19-20 Limits: The Select Board reviewed the interim budget which Town Manager Polky and Finance Director Baines sent out. Chair Bates said it appeared to be an accelerated version of the budget review process and asked them to explain what they sent to the Board.

Selectperson Hall asked if there was correspondence related to some Conservation Commission (CC) expenditures this year. Chair Bates said yes, and that Baines had forwarded the note from Oelberger. He said the note had some fairly small expenses. The CC asked if the Board had any objection on those expenses Ken had requested, going forward. The Board had no objection. Sawyer asked if the expenses had already been incurred. Bates said no; it was a list of small items the CC wanted to take care of.

K. Oelberger, "Can I make a comment? That money, just for clarification, is all coming out of the grant money that is restricted to Meadow Brook Preserve, anyway. So, we can't shift it to something else." Chair Bates said that was a good point.

K. Oelberger, "We could potentially move it forward again, but I don't think we will lose it. We'll make sure we don't lose it." Select Board members had no objections.

Ms. Baines and Town Manager Polky explained the Interim Budget.

Town Office:

- No salary raises to staff this coming year. The staff was informed of this. There was one extra payday this year, but the wages and benefits were adjusted to reflect the salaries with no raises.
- \$15,000 for the replacement of the roof was removed from the budget. The roof was going to be replaced in two parts. One side must be replaced and can be done for \$15,000. The other side would-be put-on hold until it needs to be done.
- The amount for training was reduced. Employees were doing training online and that had saved a little money. No organized training sessions were expected to take place for some time.

Select Board/Assessors:

- Slight increase to the Assessing Clerk and in Assessor's budget.

Planning Department:

- Conservation Commission budget decreased. The Fort Point Trail amount for \$17,500 was removed.

Fire Department: No change.

Animal Control: No change.

Public Works – Road & Property Management:

- Salaries and Benefits: No raises. Changes were made to salaries and benefits.
- Streetlights: Decrease in appropriated amount. Savings came from installation of LED lights.
- Resurfacing: No change in the amount requested. This may be a good year to buy paving if the price of fuel stays down and the cost for paving is down. If the Select Board votes on the requested amount, Polky can put the paving out to bid. The plan is to pave Glenmere Road and Martinsville Beach Road. If the cost of paving is less, then maybe another road (Dennison Road) can be paved or parts of it paved. There is a carryover in this line item.

Public Works – Solid Waste:

- Decreased the amount requested for the payroll and benefits
- No other changes were made.

General Assistance: No changes were made.

Social & Community Services:

- Maine Coast Heritage Trust - \$10,000 was removed from the budget. (Hall wanted to see the amount cut in half rather take all \$10,000 out.)
- CDC Joint Housing Assessment Study for \$5,000 was removed. The CDC has postponed the housing assessment study.

Parks & Recreation: No change other than a decrease in salaries and benefits.

Harbors: No change.

- Unclassified: The amount requested for St. George Day's Fireworks was removed from the budget.
- Energy Efficiency Reserve was removed.

Revenue Discussion:

Chair Bates said as it is right now, it seems like state sales tax revenues are going to be plummeting. He said there is a school of thought that not many people will be buying new vehicles so there will be much less motor vehicle excise tax. Selectperson Hall said he watched the MMA's presentation on "Budgeting During These Times" and there were several issues raised that he had not thought about. He said it struck him that the town could be off \$100,000 in revenues next year. Chair Bates said that was the figure he was concerned about but when he



talked with Tim and Terri-Lynn they were more optimistic and were much more optimistic than the MMA budget presenters.

Selectperson Hall said a month ago when he was trying to get Polky to push some of these revenues up, he was very pessimistic. Polky said that one of the things the state has proposed in revenue sharing is to give the town a lot more than what is in the budget. Baines said the town's proposed allocation for revenue sharing in March was \$115,000 and we have \$83,082 in our budget.

Selectperson Hall said he was having trouble looking at the projected revenue budget and trying to match that up against the revenue reports. He did not have a good sense of where the town was on some of these items. Baines said she went on maine.gov to the 2020-2021 projected Municipal Revenue Sharing page and the town was projected to receive \$115,000.00.

Chair Bates wondered if the \$115,000 was based on a 5% statutory number set by the legislature and often when they realize they can't balance the budget, they come back with a smaller percentage number. Chair Bates thought the report Baines was talking about was a state report. Selectperson Hall thought it was very likely that sales tax revenue would be significantly off this year in the state. He indicated that he was having trouble reading the town's monthly financial summaries the way they were being done. He said it was unclear whether the payment came in a lump sum or how the revenue sharing is paid.

Chair Bates asked Baines to send a note to the Select Board to explain how the state pays the town's revenue sharing. Is it in a lump sum in July or is it distributed monthly to the town? Baines said the state pays monthly.

Chair Bates, "So, where would that show up in the quarterly and monthly reports that you distribute to the Budget Committee and the Select Board?"

Baines, " In the revenue report, there is a line that says State Revenue sharing."

S. Ellis, "Is there no income part to this revised budget because you are assuming the revenue at the same level?" Polky said yes, that was where they started at and the three major ones that they were looking at were revenue sharing, excise tax, and homestead exemptions.

Selectperson Hall, "The March Revenue Summary report is by Department and there is no line in that report that says anything about state revenue sharing." Baines said she could send him the report on that.

Selectperson Hall, "We budget by category so at some point I would like to see a Revenue Report that goes by the same categories as the budget does." Baines said okay.

Chair Bates, "How best do we want to go forward on this? Our overall goal in developing this budget has got to be keeping the same mil rate. I feel that is our obligation this year to the taxpayers. We can't come forward with an increase in the mil rate. I know Mike Felton is proposing to have a flat school budget and as we said before, the County has already gotten their

numbers in and the money we are going to send them is going up by 10%. Our valuation for the town as a whole will go up a little bit and that will help us. But I think with these concerns about revenue sharing and motor vehicle excise tax, I think we are going to have to spend some time kicking these numbers around to try and keep the same mil rate. Is that the goal to come up with, the same mil rate for the taxpayers in the coming year? Comments from the Board on that."

Selectperson Hall thought it would be desirable and hard to do because of the County. He said the County went up somewhere around \$100,000 and if revenues are off by \$100,000 then that says we have got to go down \$200,000 to keep the mil rate the same. He said that looked tough.

Polky, "One of the reasons the County went up was because our assessment went up. Our value is going up so that will help on the mil rate, as well." Chair Bates said that would compensate to some extent. Chair Bates agreed with Hall that maintaining the mil rate will be difficult. Chair Bates thought with so many people in town looking to a very uncertain and difficult few years, it would be hard to go to the taxpayer and say, "We would like you to pay more property tax."

Selectperson Hall agreed but said they need to be thinking in a much more drastic cutting mode than they have thus far if they are to achieve that. Chair Bates, "I fear so." Ellis said she thought that it was a goal to have the mil rate as minimal as possible. She believed they first needed to know what the piece of the County's \$100,000 was covered by the increase in the assessment so they would know what the dollar difference was.

Selectperson Hall said, depending on what occurred with revenues, there was a question of whether or not the town would have enough money to transfer \$125,000 from the Fund Balance. Being able to transfer \$125,000 from the Fund Balance assumed that the town was building up a surplus in the Fund Balance, and if the town was not then the town did not have that to transfer.

Ellis said the town had been good about keeping two months of expense in the Fund Balance and could when the town is in a more crisis situation, look at letting that drop back a little. Selectperson Hall said he was struck by the fact that the presenters on the MMA session spoke of the two-month Fund Balance as a minimum.

Chair Bates said when the auditor, Fred Brewer, talked to the Boards, he indicated it was more a desirable goal to have two months. Selectperson Hall said it was a guideline; it was not a standard. Both MMA presenters referred to as a guideline but they both referred to it as a minimum. Ellis said the town has had three different auditors over the years who have said two months should be the town's goal. She believed that but thought they could let it fall a little bit under the line to protect the mil rate then build the fund back up again.

Chair Bates asked if the Boards should pursue talking about the school appropriation and the fact that the Select Board/Administration had no control over what the school requested. He said they spent a lot of time discussing this with the auditor at the last meeting.

Chair Bates said, "If we are feeling that the overall goal should be the same mil rate and we are anticipating having to make some cuts to our budget, then I would like to explore why the school which takes two-thirds of the taxes shouldn't be making some cuts, also? Does that make

sense?" Chair Bates said it was commendable that they were working towards a flat budget but the Select Board was going to have to make cuts, and he thought the school should feel the same moral obligation to the citizens that the Select Board did.

Selectperson Elwell said the school was doing the same thing the Select Board was doing. There were some things that they had to keep in the budget, but they had cut a lot of items like transportation and transportation facilities. Selectperson Elwell said money was going to be tight and they were keeping their budget as low as they could and still give the kids a good education.

Chair Bates said if the total income to the town is \$200,000 less and the school gets 66% of the tax revenue, then it seems that some of that savings should come from the school. Selectperson Elwell thinks it might be a good discussion to have Mike Felton give a brief review of what they are looking at.

Selectperson Hall suggested that someone talk with Mike Felton. Chair Bates asked the Select Board and Budget Committee if they should form a subgroup to pursue this so, when they meet on May 18<sup>th</sup>, they will have a better idea of the numbers. Chair Bates suggested Tim Polky, Terri-Lynn Baines, Susan Ellis, Jerry Hall, and Chair Bates as the subgroup to try to get answers to some of the questions posed, i.e., how the school is proceeding? Is there a common goal of the fixed mil rate, and get more information about the valuation of the town to figure out some of the trade-offs that can be made?

Selectperson Sawyer asked, "Is this the only year that we are anticipating reduced revenue, or can we predict that we are into this for three or four years?" Chair Bates said he wished he knew.

Selectperson Willey asked, "Instead of putting together a committee to go to speak to Mr. Felton and Cassie, we could invite them to come into our next meeting, explain what we are looking for and have them join us in the conversation?"

Selectperson Hall said he thought the Select Board and Budget Committee would need to review the information first and that would take a little work. He said looking at the time table and trying to put together a proposed budget, he thought it might make sense to talk with the school about their goal then have them join the Select Board and Budget Committee in two in weeks to see where they were at.

Chair Bates recommended a joint approach – having some interim meetings with the school to prep them as, "We need to share the pain. There is going to be pain all around in this." He believed that Cassie and Mike should be prepped beforehand then ask them to join the May 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. The consensus of the Select Board was to form a subgroup.

Mr. Polky, "One thing to remember is if we are planning on having a town meeting in August which we have talked about, we need to have this settled within six weeks. We don't have that much time."

Governor's Stage 1 Plan for Restarting the Economy: Chair Bates reviewed Governor Mill's plan for a gradual reopening of the economy. Stage 1 continues with the prohibition of the gathering of more than 10 people. Quarantine of all people entering Maine or returning to Maine for 14 days. People need to wear a cloth face-covering in public settings where physical distance measures are difficult to maintain. That includes not just indoor spaces but also places like the Transfer Station.

Chair Bates voiced a concern in the Governor's Stage 3 plan which maintained the prohibition on gatherings of more than 50 people tentatively beginning July 1, 2020. He interpreted this to mean that the prospect of holding an annual town meeting in August was in doubt as there could be up to 100 people in attendance. Selectperson Hall thought this was all up in the air. Chair Bates said it was but the Select Board may have to commit taxes without having an annual meeting; and if an annual meeting cannot be held, he thought they were morally obliged to keep the mil rate the same.

K. Oelberger thought the budget was restricted to the prior year's budget if an annual town meeting could not be held. Selectperson Hall said, "It can't exceed." Chair Bates said if you look at the adjustments that the legislature did in March, "We as a Select Board can rearrange some of the money. So, we are not obligated to keep the same line item numbers." Oelberger asked if that applied to the County? Polky said the County had already done their budget and approved it.

Selectperson Willey asked if the Governor's plan was set in stone or subject to change based on what was going on with the coronavirus. Selectperson Hall said it was subject to change and Chair Bates said the plan was very carefully worded to give her a lot of latitude to see how things changed.

- Board, Committee & Commission Appointments & Re-appointments: Chair Bates explained that Board, Committee, Commission, and Administration appointments are done yearly shortly after the town meeting and some appointments have expired. Two Board members will remain in their office until a new election can be held - Richard Bates and Wayne Sawyer - whose terms expire in 2020.

The Select Board received a copy of Board & Committee Members listing when each person's term ends. Chair Bates asked the Board to contact their respective Board and Committee members to see who wants to continue to serve on the Boards, Committees, and Commissions or whether replacements will need to be found. Select Board members will forward this information to Terri-Lynn Baines.

- The 2020 Census: Chair Bates reminded everyone of the importance of completing the United States 2020 Census. He said he reviewed the Federal US Census website and found that only 47% of Maine households had completed the census so far which compared to 56% nationwide. Chair Bates stressed the importance of completing the census. He said it is a civic duty, it determines how many seats Maine will have in the House of Representatives, and the Town Administration needs to know how many people live in St. George so they can properly plan.

Chair Bates reminded people that the census bureau does not mail census forms to a P.O. Box. If someone has a P.O. Box, they will not receive a form. Post offices are getting forms with addresses and no names, so the form gets "binned." He asked that people who have P.O. Boxes not wait for a census form because it will not come in the mail. If you have a P.O. Box or lost your census form, go online. They will ask for your 12-digit census I.D. but it does not matter. If you don't have it, you can put in your physical address and answer a few more questions and go on to complete the census.

Chair Bates said, "As a general observation, Maine is not doing the 2020 Census like the rest of the country." He asked that everyone pass on this information and encourage everyone to complete the 2020 Census because we all must get our numbers up for the state and everyone's sake. Oelberger suggested that a notice be put in the next town newsletter encouraging the public to complete their 2020 Census.

There was no further business. At 8:51 p.m., the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marguerite R. Wilson  
Select Board Recording Secretary