

ST. GEORGE SELECT BOARD & ASSESSORS

St. George Town Office

MEETING MINUTES

August 3, 2020 – 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, and Tammy Willey, (Wayne Sawyer was absent). Also present: Terri-Lynn Baines, Tim Polky, Susan Ellis, and Brett Yates.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

REGULAR SESSION:

- Adjustments to Agenda:

- FY'20 Year-End Financial Review was moved from New Business and taken up under Regular Session

- FY'20 Year-End Financial Review: On behalf of the Budget Committee, Chair Susan Ellis thanked Terri-Lynn Baines and Tim Polky for the job they have done in managing the town's money.

Ms. Ellis reviewed the FY'20 Year-End Financial Report with the Select Board.

Ellis said the Budget Committee had questions about the town's trust accounts but Baines just received the reports and would get back to the committee on those.

Town Office:

Savings under the Town Manager's payroll because there was no overlap with (in hiring) a new town manager in FY'20. The FY'20-21 budget has 53 pay periods. The first pay period fell into the FY'19-20 as it was processed on July 1, 2020. That changed the payroll figures but would eventually even out.

The Election expense was low because the primary was held in July, not in June and the town had not held the annual meeting yet. The November election was very light; the postage was for mailing out absentee ballots.

Select Board and Assessors:

Bob Gingras recently did some assessing work in town. Chair Bates, "You said the assessed value has not increased as much but it is not in these numbers (in the year-end quarterly report). It has gone up by?" Ellis, "He doesn't know exactly." Polky, "It went up but did not go up as much as I estimated. It's more on the line of what Jerry estimated."

Fire Department:

Chair Bates, "Why were the utilities unexpectedly high? What caused that?" Polky, "The utilities include the electricity as well as heating oil for the boiler. We have more personnel, and they are taking showers at the town office. The Fire Department is also cleaning and washing more equipment." Chair Bates, "So, a lot more hot water is being used."

Ellis, "We talked about the equipment purchase and that would be carried forward."

Roads/Property Management:

Streetlights. The town is going to install LED lights. A few lights were recently removed and the town started to see a reduction in utility costs.

Solid Waste:

Transfer Station costs are over due to the extra pay period for employees. Utilities are over because the Transfer Station is not getting as much waste oil as in the past, and recycling materials are mostly being thrown away with the regular trash.

Social & Community Services:

The funds have been distributed to approved agencies and organizations.

Recreation:

There was an overage in property maintenance because the Collins Park playground equipment (in Port Clyde) was maliciously damaged. Payroll was over because of the added pay period.

Harbors:

Ellis, "Why was there so little spent on floats and landings; and (we) found that some of the work was delayed in Port Clyde until 10 Cold Storage Road is better sorted out."

Classified:

Fuel. Ellis, "There is so much leftover because fewer buses are running, and the snowplow drivers purchase fuel elsewhere." Chair Bates said that was a pass-through account, so the town gets reimbursed.

Revenue:

State Revenue Sharing: Ellis noted it was doing well.

Motor Vehicle Excise Tax: Chair Bates said he noticed that the town had not made the \$650,000 in excise taxes that was estimated. He said when the Board did their tentative planning, they assumed an intake of \$635,000 in excise tax but got \$604,000 this year. He assumed next year would be less than last year.

Baines said she looked back at July 2019. The town took in \$70,000 in excise. This July (2020), the town has taken in \$95,000.

Chair Bates, "So, the \$635,000 that we're anticipating for next year is not an underestimate." Selectperson Hall thought people appeared to be buying vehicles. Ellis thought the continuation of purchasing vehicles might depend on whether there is another shutdown due to COVID-19.

Solid Waste: Disposal fees have risen significantly. Ellis, "Tim says they went up a small amount in fees on brush."

Ellis said the town carried forward \$84,706.12 and lapsed \$175,377.43.

Chair Bates, "The revenue on building permits is a bit less than we expected, right? Is that a timing issue?" Baines did not know but said she could get the information to him tomorrow.

Polky said he thought the number of people applying for applications this year was down. Selectperson Elwell said he had not seen much work going on in town as before. Polky said there was still a lot of work; there was some in the pipeline.

Selectperson Hall stated that the prior fiscal year in Planning Department revenue was down. Chair Bates said for next year they could request \$32,000 but could re-evaluate the numbers after the town meeting.

- Minutes: The minutes of July 20, 2020, were amended as follows:

Page 2, paragraph 5, line 3, delete the word **the**

Page 2, paragraph 9, line 6, change word fee to **fine**.

Page 3, paragraph 3, line 6, change to read: He **thought** it was...

Page 4, corrections under Update on Connect St. George: Paragraph 2, line 5, correct word interest to **internet**

Paragraph 5, line 7, correct word moving to **doing**

Page 5, under Budge Carryforwards, paragraph 2, lines 4 & 5, delete the sentence in its entirety starting with: **Since the Board...**

Page 6, corrections in paragraph 1, line 1, change to read: ...would lapse **to** fund balance...

Line 5, correct word from timing to **time**

Page 6, under National Prescription Opiates, paragraph 1, lines 4 & 5 change to read: ...St. George **may** get approximately **0.0001%** from the lawsuit.

A motion was made by Selectperson Elwell, seconded by Hall, to approve the July 20, 2020, Select Board minutes, as corrected. The vote was 4-0. Motion carried.

Communications: None.

Warrant: The warrant for the week of August 3, 2020, was reviewed and signed. The total expenses were \$575,576.80 and included a July school payment of \$449,279.57, payment for the Annual Town Reports of \$4,460.00, a ReVision payment of \$2,724.55, and other regular expenses.

Selectperson Hall asked about the Harbor Builders Associates' expense. Baines said it was for installing the new door and the outside mailbox at the town office.

Polky explained the town had appropriated \$100,000 to the St. George Volunteer Firefighters and Ambulance Association for the ambulance. He said the ambulance lost two months of income as they had no calls and no fundraising was done this year due to the pandemic. The ambulance asked if they could get some money in advance to help cover their payroll for the next two months. Polky told the Ambulance Association he would have to check with the Select

Board. Chair Bates said this was a payment to the Ambulance Association in anticipation that amount might be approved at the town meeting. Polky said yes.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT: Tim Polky reported that he met with MDOT, and they will allow the fire department to expand the culvert and entrance by the fire station. Polky hoped the apron could be completed before Hager Enterprises started paving the roads.

Polky had been trying to firm up a date as to when paving would begin. It was supposed to have started in July. Hager's foreman had placed grade stakes up but Polky had not seen any equipment in the area yet.

Financing for the fire department training building is being completed. The USDA will give the town two grants and two loans and The First will give the town a building loan so they can build it. They awarded the bid to Jake Barbour, Inc. (JBI).

Another project is 10 Cold Storage Road. Polky said they had a conference call with Alan Brigham last week. Musson sent the application to Brigham; he liked the application but had a few things he wanted them to tidy up. Musson had a list of one-half dozen items he had to do and Polky had a couple of items. Polky spoke with Musson this afternoon and told him he needed the list done by Wednesday.

Polky said he needed to work on the budget section of the application. He noted that the application states: 50% of the grant; the town is putting up 2.6 million dollars. Polky said he contacted Attorney Lee Bragg and asked him whether they could just offer up 2 million dollars of the 2.6 million dollars. Attorney Bragg said absolutely, and they can also come up with other projects unrelated to the main project. One possibility is having three-phase power brought onto the site, which is something the grant will not cover.

Polky said at the very least, they can put the funds in an escrow account, but it cannot earn interest. It can only be used to pay the debt payment. Attorney Bragg is working on these issues and will get back to him.

Selectperson Hall asked if the application would be sent out this week, and Polky said yes.

Chair Bates noted that the annual town meeting would be held on August 18, 2020. Polky clarified that the town meeting would be held outside under a tent and a sound system would be used. It was noted that the Governor had increased the size of outside gatherings for up to 100 people with social distancing being observed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Harbor Committee: Selectperson Elwell noted that Town Manager Polky had updated the Board on 10 Cold Storage Road earlier in the meeting.

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

- The application to replace the foundation, renovate, and add to the cottage at 50 Shipyard Road was accepted as complete. Considering the various factors in the Shoreland Zone Ordinance sections 12.C.2 & 3, the project was approved, with the plan to move the building back 5 feet.
- The application to cultivate medical marijuana at 56 Mussel Farm Road was considered. The Board requested that the applicant provide a factual record clarifying the nature of the project, and how it differs from a similar 2018 application that was denied by the Town's Zoning Board of Appeals.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: FY'20 Year-End Financial Review was taken up under Regular Session.

At 7:45 p.m., on a motion by Selectperson Hall, seconded by Elwell, it was voted 5-0 to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marguerite R. Wilson
Select Board Recording Secretary