

ST. GEORGE SELECT BOARD & ASSESSORS

St. George Town Office MEETING MINUTES

September 28, 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, Wayne Sawyer, and Tammy Willey. Also present: Tim Polky and Terri-Lynn Baines.

PUBLIC HEARING: General Assistance Ordinance Appendices A-H, 2020-2021

Chair Bates declared the Public Hearing open for comment at 7:00 p.m. No members of the Public were present via Zoom. There being no public comments, Chair Bates declared the Public Hearing closed at 7:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

REGULAR SESSION:

- Adjustments to Agenda:

- An Executive Session Meeting to be held at the close of New Business

- Minutes: The minutes of September 14, 2020, were corrected as follows:

Page 1, under warrant, paragraph 2, line 2, change to read: ... under the **Federal Government COVID-19** Reimbursement program.

Page 2 changes, under Town Manager's Report, Zoom meetings, line 1: a **meeting** OWL

Line 2: ...hold **in-person and remote** meetings.

A motion was made by Selectperson Elwell, seconded by Hall, to approve the September 14, 2020, Select Board minutes, as corrected. The vote was 5-0. Motion carried.

- Communications: None.

- Warrant: The warrant for the week of September 28, 2020, was reviewed and signed. The total expenses were \$45,860.80 and included a Keep Maine Healthy grant of \$6,367.52, a payment of \$4,405.85 to Harcros Chemicals for salt, and other regular expenses.

Chair Bates said he reviewed the Keep Maine Healthy Program and saw that more than half of the money had been used. Baines said yes, and that she had to make the last payment by the middle of October. Chair Bates noted that if the groups did not get their slips in, they would lose out on the money. Baines said she had been trying to encourage the participating groups to send their last slips in but had not received any others back.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:

Paving. Tim Polky reported that all the roads may not get paved by mid-October. He said the MDOT gave Hager Enterprises until October 3rd or 5th before they shut them down. Polky told MDOT that he would shut Hager down on October 15th.

Plowing and Sanding Rt. 131. Due to an employee change at MDOT, the Plowing and Sanding agreement for Rt 131 did not get written up in June. Polky said Tom Roberts of MDOT was working again in Region II; they discussed the plowing and sanding of Rt. 131. Polky said the town would usually negotiate a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with DOT, but the State did it differently this year. Polky said he and Roberts negotiated a three-year agreement with a 2% increase each year, and this agreement would need the approval of the Select Board.

A motion was made by Selectperson Elwell, seconded by Sawyer, to approve an agreement between the Town of St. George and the Maine Department of Transportation for the plowing and sanding of Rt. 131 for a period of three years with a 2% increase each year. The vote was 5-0. The motion carried. Town Manager Polky will sign the agreement and return it to the Maine Department of Transportation.

Training Building on Rt. 73. Polky said there were several roadblocks last week regarding the training building located behind the Rt. 73 fire station, but they overcame those, and worked out some of the technicalities of the agreements. Polky said they have the grade stakes up and were supposed to start today.

LED Lighting. The town office had LED lighting installed except in the main office. Polky said some of the fixtures were failing and Efficiency Maine would not cover surface-mounted fixtures. Rockingham Electric quoted a price of \$2,500 for the fixtures and approximately \$2,000 to install them. Polky said there is money in the building maintenance account for that.

Salt and Sand. Polky said the winter salt and sand were stored and the quality of salt and sand looked good.

Brian Fields Property. Polky said he was still talking with Brian Fields about the town purchasing his property located on Wallston Road. Polky said he made three proposals to Fields: a 10-year, a 5-year, and a 3-year proposal. The town's proposal included a \$15,000 down payment and make monthly payments to him, thereafter. Polky said Fields was not sure what he wanted to do at this point, but he (Polky) would keep the Select Board updated on this issue. Polky said there was money in the Land acquisition account to make the down payment, but a town meeting would be required if Fields, Polky, and the Select Board agreed to a proposal.

Steve Jarrett. Polky said Jarrett, who works as the town's maintenance employee, went to Boston today for further tests and surgery on Friday.

COVID-19 Violations. Chair Bates asked the Town Manager about Maine Health contacting the town about COVID-19 violations. Polky reported that Drexell White, Maine CDC, Midcoast District Public Health Liaison spoke over Zoom with the group of concerned town residents in their weekly COVID-19 response meeting. White discussed where the coronavirus was headed, what people needed to do to protect themselves, and what they needed to do differently. White was complimentary of the town's handling of COVID-19 and said that in all of Maine, the mid-coast area was as protected as any, and it showed because of the number of cases. White gave a shout out to Amy Drinkwater, Ambulance Director, for working on the coronavirus issue, as she

has been doing trainings in Waldo, Knox, and Lincoln County, her areas of coverage. White did not think there was a lot the town could do differently. White did not recommend issuing a pamphlet on the coronavirus because everything was changing so rapidly. White recommended if anyone wanted to know what was going on, have them call the Maine CDC or call 211. Selectperson Sawyer said White reminded everyone to wear masks, socially distance, and wash their hands frequently.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Solid Waste and Recycling Committee: Selectperson Willey reported the SW&RC met on September 16, 2020, at 7:30 a.m. outdoors, and the morning weather was good. The SW&RC discussed how to get people to recycle more. The committee thought with the influx of new residents, they would work on ways to get recycling information out to those people.

There were questions about whether the bottle room at the Transfer Station was open. Polky said it was not. He said a church group was currently collecting bottles outside the building, and the staff had been collecting bottles in the large cardboard boxes that are outside.

Selectperson Willey said the CDC issues a couple of mailings a year and suggested the committee might want to contact the CDC to see if they can include a summary/information on recycling in one of their mailings.

There was a Board resignation on the Committee. One of the alternates moved up and filled the regular board seat which then created an alternate seat vacancy.

The Committee discussed Fiberight and how that was not going well. The SW&RC was very complimentary on how the town handled its waste removal, trash, and recycling.

The SW&RC would still like to hold a shredding event or purchase a shredder for the town. The Committee felt it was a good community event and was good exposure for them. Selectperson Willey said the Committee would continue to discuss having a shredding event in the future, but no proposals had been made for this year.

Chair Bates recommended using Clynk bags for bottle returns. People can get Clynk bags from Hannaford or other organizations/groups who participate. It was noted that there were several nonprofit groups in St. George who participate in the Clynk program.

- Planning Board: Chair Bates reported the Planning Board met on September 22, 2020, at 7:00 p.m.

- The application to renovate and modernize the house at 85 Barter's Point Road was accepted as complete. Satisfying the Shoreland Zone Ordinance section 12.C.1 and 15.B.5, the project was approved.
- The application for a pier, ramp, and float at 87 Haupt Road was reviewed and an onsite visit scheduled for 5:00 p.m. on October 12.

- The application to replace the floor, sliding doors, and install a bathroom at 11 Southern Avenue was accepted as complete. Satisfying the Shoreland Zone Ordinance section 12.C.1, the project was approved.

- Cemetery Committee: Selectperson Hall reported the Cemetery Committee would resume meetings in October and was not sure if the meetings would be held via Zoom. He said the consensus was that people were flexible, but he would advocate for Zoom meetings.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Drift Inn Beach Activity: Chair Bates said that Town Manager Polky had received a letter from Patricia Tredway regarding Drift Inn Beach activity. Polky said he wrote Tredway back and was sorry she had a bad summer, and she wrote back and thanked him for responding to her letter. She explained that her family had been long time summer residents in town and she would be interested in what the Select Board would do about possibly putting up signs at Drift Inn Beach to stop dogs from running, the garbage/trash issue there, and drinking and smoking going on at the beach.

Chair Bates feels the dog issue has been addressed as the Town of St. George has a Dog Control Ordinance.

The Select Board discussed the littering issue. Chair Bates suggested they have a sign posted that stated something like, "Take home your litter." Polky suggested, "Bring it in. Take it Home." Polky said he was not really in favor of signs because people paid little attention to them.

The issue of smoking and drinking were addressed. Chair Bates said people were allowed to smoke in public places. Regarding public drinking, he said Maine State law read that if a notice was posted, it would be a crime if a person was guilty of public drinking if they were within 200' of a notice posted conspicuously by authorized persons which forbade the drinking in a public place. Selectperson Elwell asked if the town-owned the beach. Polky said no, and Chair Bates said okay then, the town cannot post anything about drinking.

Polky said state law says there is no public drinking; the sheriff's department can enforce that. If the town puts up a sign that it is an order of the town, the sheriff's department may not have to enforce it, and the town does not have the manpower to do the enforcement.

Selectperson Willey asked if there was a trash can at the beach. Polky said there was a trash can in the parking lot. He said there had always been discussions about putting one at the beach but the logistics of getting to it and tending it would probably not work. Polky felt if a receptacle was not there, most people would carry back their trash.

Selectperson Elwell said the Select Board dealt with this issue most every year. He thought a lot more people stayed here this summer than usual. Selectperson Elwell's opinion was the town did not own the beach, and the town did not have the resources to enforce any rules.

Chair Bates asked who owns the beach. Polky said the State of Maine. The beach is in the inter-tidal zone and is between the high-water mark and the low watermark. He said in the State of Maine unless it is deeded otherwise, the state owns it. Polky noted that the high-water mark comes right into where the road is. He said the town does have a common right of way, but the beach part where the sand is the state owns. Polky said if not spelled out in a person's deed, the inter-tidal zone belongs to the state. He said, through tax acquisition, the town owns a small piece of land on the north side of the beach.

Polky suggested that next season, they might put up a sign on one of the poles that states something short such as, "Littering is a Crime. Help keep the Beach Clean" or "Please Respect Others by Taking your Trash." Something that will not get the town into an enforcement situation but as a reminder. The consensus was that Polky design a generic sign for next season.

Sign General Assistance Ordinance: Chair Bates stated the figures were approximately the same as last year. There was about a 1% increase in overall maximums. There was a 5% increase in the food allowance. There was a 1% increase in housing. No change in utilities, household supplies, burials, and cremations; the state is paying the same as they did last year.

The Select Board adopted and signed the MMA Model Ordinance GA Appendices for the 2020-2021 year.

MMA Worker's Compensation Safety Incentive Program: Town Manager Polky explained why he feels the town should participate in this workplace safety program. If you can prove that you are teaching your staff safety on issues such as how not to fall and slip at work, or how to use your legs and not your back when lifting then the town can get discounts on insurance premiums. Staff are required to document their participation. Polky said, currently the staff is not doing many of the safety goals, but MMA's Risk Management Services team will send someone down to work with them on achieving their goals. The program is tiered into three levels based on documented performance. Baines said the tiers and associated credits are: Tier I- 5%, Tier II - 7.5%, and Tier III - 10%. Selectperson Hall asked if the program costs anything. Polky said no. Selectperson Elwell asked if the program includes the Fire Department. Polky said it could.

Polky said the Bureau of Labor has a similar program called Safety Works, which includes training with forklifts, and he has been looking into that program for employees who work at the Transfer Station.

The consensus of the Board was to join the MMA Worker's Compensation Safety Incentive Program and the Resolve form was signed by the Select Board.

Select Board Action Plan for the Year: The Select Board discussed action plan items for the coming year. Chair Bates suggested several items.

- Recruitment of new Board, Committee and Commission members
- Search for a new Town Manager with the help of MMA
- Sea Level Rise Issues and working with Stewards; Searching for grant opportunities for vulnerable areas such as Drift Inn Beach

- 10 Cold Storage Road Project
- COVID-19

Chair Bates said if the 10 CSR grant is successful, they might want to install an informational display/kiosk about the project. Polky suggested 10 CSR have a page on the town website and update the website as the project progresses. Chair Bates said if the grant is denied, there will be a lot to discuss.

Selectperson Hall asked if there is a Project Manager for 10 CSR. Polky said the Project Manager has been Noel Musson, but he is so busy in his work that the Harbor Committee may need to review this and hire a Clerk of Works or a Project Manager if the grant is approved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 7:56 p.m., on a motion by Selectperson Elwell, seconded by Hall, it was voted 5-0 to go into executive session pursuant to Title 1 MRSA Sec. 405(6)(E) in consultation with legal counsel. The Select Board came out of executive session at 8:31 p.m.

On a motion by Bates, seconded by Sawyer, it was voted 5-0 to direct Attorney William Kelly to take action on a financial matter.

At 8:34 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