

REPORT ON SELECTMEN'S MEETING OF April 12 , 2011

Prepared by Rick Freeman

Note: (1). If anyone wishes to stop receiving these reports, they may simply hit "Reply" and request to be deleted from the list or say "Unsubscribe."

(2). These are not official minutes -- -- just notes taken by me. Official minutes will be available from the Town Office and will be posted on the Town web site and at the Town Office and other places following Board approval at the next meeting.

(3). Reports of earlier meetings and some supplementary materials are available at my Town Meeting website:

www.singingbridge.net

Before getting to the meeting I have two things:

1. First, my apologies for taking so long getting this report out; but this has been a busy week.
2. A reminder that people interested in working to get high-speed internet in Georgetown should attend the meeting of the working group at 5:30 PM, Monday, April 18 at the Town Office. The agenda is: (i) sharing the actions already taken or being taken now to get high speed internet; and (ii) brainstorming ideas and future actions and getting volunteers to carry them out.

THE MEETING: There were two members of the public present at the meeting.

The minutes of the meeting of March 22 were approved.

MOST IMPORTANT/INTERESTING ITEMS: In my judgment, the following items were the most important things covered during the meeting.

1. Mary McDonald reported receiving a notice from the U. S> Bureau of the Census stating that the Georgetown population in 2010 was 1040 compared with 1020 in 2000. There was surprise that the increase from 2000 was so small. After the meeting I checked on the Bureau of Census web page. See:

<http://www.state.me.us/spo/economics/census/>

There it says that the 2010 population of Georgetown was 1042, not the 1040 that was reported. But this is still a surprisingly small increase. Actually Arrowsic, Bath, Topsham, Brunswick, and Harpswell all lost population over the past 10 years.

2. Mary reported a note from Jack Swift to the Financial Advisory Committee advising that although the overall County budget will not increase for next year, our share will increase from 11.19% to 11.35% or by about \$11,571. This is apparently due to our property tax valuation increasing as a percentage of the total County valuation.
3. There will be an informational meeting regarding CMP's plan to install Smart Meters in Georgetown beginning in June. The meeting will be in the School Gymnasium at 6 PM on Wednesday, May 11.

4. During the Public Comment period, I read the following from the Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting of June 2008: “The Town voted to authorize the Selectmen to appoint a permanent Road Committee in place of the ad hoc Road Committee that expires with this Town Meeting.” I then asked what action had been taken by the Selectmen on this article. The response was that the Selectmen then in office had discussed this and decided that most of the work recommended by the ad hoc Road Committee was being done and their recommendations were being followed, it was not necessary to appoint a permanent Committee. The Town Meeting vote authorized the appointment of a Committee but did not require it. It was noted that the Road Commissioner (Dale Savoie) and the Chair of the ad hoc Committee (Dave Fluharty) agreed with this position.

TAX ABATEMENT REQUESTS:

Regarding Giray, Cem and Yonca’ request for Lot 3R-007-14, Bill Plummer has visited the lot and thinks that it is not a view lot. It was agreed to refer the question to Bill van Tuinen for a determination and to inform the appellants that this was what was happening.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Mary reported on correspondence received. For a listing of this correspondence, see the Meeting Agenda available at:

<http://www.maine.gov/local/towninfo.php?t=166&p=1123>

The most interesting items were:

- Department of Environmental Protection with a Natural Resources Protection Act permit for Robert Lundstrom’s replacement pier on lot 14U-033A.

- Department of Health and Human Services on our audit conducted April 4th. We are in compliance with state statutes.

- A response from Maine Municipal Association about Mary’s inquiry about putting tax acquired property out to bid. It is not required unless a municipal officer is interested in the purchase.

- Certificate from the Harbormasters Association for George Dufour who has completed the advanced harbormaster program.

- A copy of a letter from Susan Hess to Dale Savoie regarding a clogged culvert on her property at 11U-002 across the Five Islands Road from Charles Pond. Dale has told Mary that he would fix the problem.

- A copy of an email from Larry Davis regarding selling his property (Lot 10R-019) that is in tree growth. He is inquiring about the penalty. Bill van Tuinen has calculated the penalty. Mary will forward it to Davis.

- A Letter from Elaine Trench and William Todd (and families) with their sincere appreciation for all the Town staff did to get the First Church ready for Billie Todd’s service. They included a check for \$200 as a donation toward the Maintenance/Reserve Fund for the Church.

- A letter from Purdy Powers & Company with the audit for 2009-10. Copies of the audit have been sent to the banks. Mary has begun her sections for the town report.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Regarding the Aleada Pinkham House, the Town has a letter from the Town Attorney regarding the listing of heirs. She will ask Bill van Tuinen to look at the valuation of the house.

- Regarding storage of Town documents at the Georgetown Historical Society, Bill Plummer is reviewing the information that Mary has received from the Maine Municipal Association.

- Regarding the radio communications problems, Misty Green and Brodie Hinckley from the County will be at the meeting of May 10th to discuss the issue.

- Regarding the bonding of the Town Clerk, Deputy Clerk and Treasurer for next fiscal year, to do it at \$50,000 for each will cost around \$900.

OTHER ITEMS:

- A draft revision to the Holding Tank Ordinance was reviewed and approved for placement on the Warrant for Town Meeting.

- Mary reported a call from CMP regarding tree cutting on the island. They intend to be here most of the year, and will be doing the tip of the peninsula first..

NEW BUSINESS:

- Regarding work to be done on the drainage at the First Church, Dale Savoie and Brian Elwell had agreed to do the work. But because of the lapse of time, they will be asked to rebid the job.

- Dolores Pinette brought up the question of determining the residence status of an applicant for a resident's commercial clamming license. The definition of "resident" in the Shellfish Ordinance was reviewed. Mary will make the necessary inquiries to determine if the applicant fits the definition in the Ordinance.

- Codes Enforcement Officer Bob Trabona reported an inquiry from a property owner about whether his property was one lot or two lots for purposes of a proposed sale of part of the land. The tax map showed the property as one lot. The Selectmen agreed that what mattered was how the property was shown in the County Registry of Deeds. If the property was described by two separate deeds at the Registry, then it could be sold as two lots. But it should also be taxed as two separate lots. It was suggested that in the future if a property owner requested that two contiguous lots be combined for property tax purposes, he/she be told to register a new deed showing this combination.

The next meeting of the Selectmen will be at 7 PM on Tuesday, April 26 at the Town Office. The primary item on the Agenda will be the report of the Financial Advisory Committee regarding the budget for fiscal year 2011-12.

Prepared and distributed by Rick Freeman