

## REPORT ON THE SELECTBOARD MEETING OF OCTOBER 23, 2018

Prepared by Rick Cliffe

**Note:** (1). 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.

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

(3). Reports of earlier meetings and some supplementary materials are available at Rick Freeman's Town Meeting website - [www.singingbridge.net](http://www.singingbridge.net).

THE MEETING: There were 2 members of the public present.

The minutes of the meetings of October 9, 2018 and October 17, 2018 were approved. They have been posted on the Town website.

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

- **Fire Department Needs:** This was a follow-up to discussions at the previous meeting. Three members of the GVFD came to the meeting to discuss replacing financial and administrative functions currently accomplished by Ron Hayward. Chief Justin LoDolce explained that the department has developed proposed lists of functions for two separate positions. The "treasurer" would be responsible for all financial business. Ron Hayward pointed out that all financial transactions are maintained in Quick Books and they assume this process would continue unless the finances are somehow merged with Town finances. The "business manager" position would be responsible for planning and maintaining records related to vehicle/equipment maintenance and training. Justin said that the treasurer position is a priority at this point. Fire Department and Board members discussed a number of alternative approaches that could be implemented through the GVFD or the Town. Justin gave a quick overview of approaches taken by fire departments in other nearby towns. Regardless of which approach is ultimately taken, there are a lot of legal issues and financial concerns that must be addressed. At the end of the discussion, the Board agreed to seek guidance from Town Counsel. This subject will be addressed again at the November 27th Selectboard meeting.
- **Tax Bills** were mailed 10/22 and are due by December 20. The MIL rate was set at 7.70 at the October 17th Selectboard meeting.
- *Note: Normally I attempt to report on the meetings from a neutral position but this issue is one I brought to the meeting and commented significantly. Because I was engaged in the issue, I didn't take notes. This is my recollection of the discussion.*

**Broadband:** During the Public Comment session, I brought up the issue of Town Selectboard support for the 3 Bridged Islands Broadband initiative as a follow-up to discussions at the last two Selectboard meetings. I pointed out that there was an excellent article in the Maine Sunday Telegram that addressed the issue of getting acceptable (bandwidth) broadband to Maine's rural communities. The article described the Public/Private Partnership approach that is predominant in communities across the state and proposed by the 3 Bridged Islands task force. All four candidates for Governor also support this approach. I commend the Board's concerns for low income residents who cannot afford additional taxes or fees and residents who don't need/want enhanced service. We need to address these concerns as part of the solution. But I believe the current internet services in Georgetown are "handicapping" businesses,

self-employed individuals, students and many other residents; and the situation will get worse in the future. I asked that the Board support the 3 Bridged Islands effort in setting up the public/private “entity” and seeking grants.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Mary reported on correspondence received. For a complete listing of this correspondence, see the Meeting Agenda at: [www.georgetownme.com/Meeting-Agendas-and-Minutes.php](http://www.georgetownme.com/Meeting-Agendas-and-Minutes.php)

The most interesting items were:

- Maine Revenue Services sent a report recommending Georgetown’s 2019 State Valuation at \$459.6 million. The current Town Valuation is \$473 million. The Town has 45 days to recommend any changes to the State estimate.
- MEMA sent notice indicating that the Town FEMA application (for last fall’s big storm) is complete and payment will be forthcoming. GVFD and GCC will get most of the payment.
- Spectrum Generations submitted a request for \$400. The request was forwarded to the FAC.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Town Wharf Cleanliness:** Rich Donaldson was approached about enforcement of the TOPMB ordinance which prohibits materials left on the dock and/or floats. The ordinance was changed earlier this year to enable the Harbor Master to issue citations and/or remove materials that have been left too long. A couple of people continue to ignore the ordinance but not action has been taken by the Town to enforce the ordinance. Rich pointed out that Georgetown is notorious for non-enforcement. After a short discussion, Dolores agreed to follow-up with George Dufour.
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NEW BUSINESS:

UPCOMING EVENTS/DATES:

<b>Date &amp; Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Saturday, Oct 27th, 10 am - 2 pm	Drug Take-Back Day	Central Fire Station	Drugs can be disposed of anonymously
Saturday, Nov 3rd, 5 pm	Pot Luck Supper	GCC	
Tuesday, Nov 6th, 8 am – 8 pm	Election Day	School Gym	
Saturday, Nov 17, 9 – 11 am	Rabies Clinic	Town Office	

The next meeting of the Selectboard will be at 7 PM on Tuesday, November 13th at the Town Office.

Prepared and distributed by Rick Cliffe