

REPORT ON THE SELECTBOARD MEETING OF February 9, 2021

Prepared by Rick Cliffe

Note: 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 following Board approval at the next meeting. If anyone wishes to stop receiving these reports, they may simply hit "Reply" and request to be deleted from the list or say "Unsubscribe."

THE MEETING: The meeting was conducted on Zoom. SelectBoard members Rich Donaldson and Bronwen Tudor plus administrator Amanda Campbell were present. There were 3 members of the public in attendance.

The minutes of the meeting of January 26, 2021 were approved. They will be posted on the Town website.

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

- **Executive Session:** The Board held meetings in executive session, one to consult with legal counsel and one to address a personnel matter.
- **GVFD:** Chief Lodolce came to get the Board's concurrence in submitting a grant request to purchase a new Brush vehicle. He explained why the current vehicle was obsolete and unable to support in some situations. He also pointed out that the Federal grant would cover 95% of the cost. The Town's share would be approximately \$6,000 - \$8,000 coming from reserve funds. The Board agreed contingent upon receiving the grant.
- **Georgetown Broadband LLC:** When this item came up Rich recommended that it be tabled anticipating that part of the discussion would involve business confidential information. It will be rescheduled to a special meeting executive session so that the Board and LLC investors can have a frank discussion of the proposal.
 - Note: I followed up with Carlos Barrionuevo who provided the following explanation. "Georgetown Broadband LLC, a company formed by Georgetown homeowners to build a fiber network serving all the residents of Georgetown, made an offer to the Town of Georgetown to join the group as an investor, and the Town made a motion to schedule a further dedicated session (with all the selectmen) to gather more information to make an informed decision or recommendation."
- **Browntail Moths:** Maine Forest Service sent the Town an update on Browntail Moth populations. Amanda noted that Georgetown was no longer in the primary infestation zone though there are still many nests in Town. The update pointed out that NOW is the time to look for and destroy overwintering webs.
- **Emergency Communications:** Amanda attended a special meeting of County representatives last Friday and she summarized the discussions. Sagadahoc County hired a consultant who analyzed the system county-wide. He found an overall lack of signal in many places including down the middle of Georgetown. He also found that most of the communications equipment is at its "end of life" (outdated and no longer serviceable. He recommended a complete county-wide replacement of equipment and County technical representatives concur. They are looking for a permanent antenna site in Georgetown. Meanwhile, they propose putting a temporary tower on top of the fire station. Amanda concluded that the County is paying attention to the communication problems and moving forward with the proposed solution.

During the Public Comment section Bob Trabona noted that communications have continued downhill. He cited two instances today where they had to revert to cell phones slowing and disrupting the responses.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Amanda reported on correspondence received. For a complete listing of this correspondence, see the Meeting Agenda on the Town website.

The most interesting items were:

- CMP notified the Town that tree crews are working around Town to cut back trees. This is intended to help reduce outages during storms.
- Received a funding request from Midcoast Maine Community Action. It will be forwarded to the FAC.
- Chris Wilcoxson received his CEO Certificate.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Committee Update:** Bronwen made a quick comment about the *Ocean Debris* Zoom presentation sponsored by the Conservation Commission Monday evening. 54 people attended the session.
- The Shellfish Warden weapon decision was postponed to the next meeting when all 3 Board members will be present.
- **Vacation & Sick Time Policy:** This item was not discussed. It was agreed that Amanda would draft proposed edits and updates for the Board to review at a future meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Town Officials:** Chris Wilcoxson will become Code Enforcement Officer (CEO) and Licensed Plumbing Inspector (LPI). Jason Lang will become assistant CEO/LPI.

The next regular meeting of the Selectboard will be at 7 PM on Tuesday, February 23rd. The public is welcome to attend on ZOOM. Contact Amanda Campbell or Alex Neese at the Town Office to get the Meeting ID and Password.

The special meeting with Georgetown Broadband LLC will be held in executive session. It is not open to the public.

Prepared and distributed by Rick Cliffe