

REPORT ON THE SELECTBOARD MEETING OF FEBRUARY 23, 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, Jon Collins, and Bronwen Tudor plus administrator Amanda Campbell were present. There were a number of members of the public in attendance.

The minutes of the meetings of February 9, 2021 and Special meeting February 22, 2021 were approved. They will be posted on the Town website. The special meeting minutes will document the meeting but not contain details of the discussion.

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

- **Allison Hepler:** Representative Allison Hepler attended the meeting on ZOOM. She mentioned a number of bills being considered by the House in this section. This included an increase in the Homestead exemption, a very small increase in School support, continuation of remote (ZOOM) meetings and discussion about Absentee ballots. She responded to a couple of questions from the Board members.
- **Net Energy Billing:** David Fay, a seasonal resident of Georgetown, and Michael Bartner of ReVision Energy came to discuss Net Energy Billing. David has been involved in a town Energy Committee project at his home in Massachusetts and he introduced the concept. Michael provided an overview of ReVision's 17 years' experience as the largest solar installers in New England. He mentioned a couple of projects in Maine including a 4 MW array in Skowhegan. Then he described the concept. As I understand it, a power purchase agreement is made with a town. ReVision then builds a solar array large enough to meet the town's (school, town office, etc) overall electric needs. Once the array is generating power, the town gets energy credits that can only be used to pay the actual power bills received by the Town. The town gets the energy credits with a 15% discount from the State established rate. Michael also brought the details of a specific 20 year proposal for Georgetown. After a short discussion Rich asked that the proposal be provided to Amanda so it can be reviewed by Legal Counsel. He thanked David and Michael for their efforts on the Town's behalf.
- **Emergency Communications:** Amanda sat in on Sagadahoc County administers Zoom meeting. She gave a brief update on progress being made. They have agreed to work with the consultant on phase 2 which will re-engineer and upgrade the whole County system. The consultant has proposed adding a new tower in Georgetown. Short-term they plan to put a temporary tower on the Town Center Fire House.
- **Weapon for Shellfish Warden:** The Board voted 2-1 to approve John Hentz carrying a weapon when he is on duty as Georgetown's Shellfish Warden.
- **Georgetown Broadband LLC:** There was no discussion at this meeting. The Board met in Executive Session February 22nd to review the Georgetown Broadband LLC proposal. Rich asked Board members to submit questions which Amanda will consolidate and then forward to the LLC team. He also noted that the Island Institute has agreed to pay up to \$2,500 in legal fees.

- **2021-22 Proposed Budget:** The FAC is in the process of gathering proposed budget input. They proposed a special meeting on Monday, April 19th to review the budget with the Board. It was noted that election of officers will be Tuesday, June 15th and the Town Meeting will be Saturday, June 26th; maybe outside like last year. The normal ordinance, school budget and municipal budget hearings have not yet been scheduled. They are normally held in May.
- **Recycling Resolution:** Alison Freeman of the Solid Waste Committee came in support of a recycling resolution that she proposed the Board sign and submit to the Legislature. The resolution basically supports eliminating plastics used to package things by forcing manufacturers to redesign their packaging. Rich indicated he had read the resolution in detail and has problems with milk and potato packaging. Jon said he felt that proposal would shift costs. Alison said that the resolution is an attempt to jump start discussion of this issue. She said that the Natural Resources Council of Maine is supporting the concept. It appears Board members support the concept but not some of the specific language. No action was taken.

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:

- The Annual letter for the Town Report was received from Allison Hepler.
- Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands gave notice that the 2020 State Park Fees are \$13,459, up about \$500 from 2019.
- Jim Peavey was recognized as Big Brother/Big Sister of the Year.
- CEO Chris Wilcoxson received certification for SZO.
- Amanda received her State General Assistance Certificate.

The next meeting of the Selectboard will be at 7 PM on Tuesday, March 9th. 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.

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