

Report on the Selectboard Meeting of May 30, 2023

Prepared by Alison Freeman

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.

Please email me at news@singingbridge.net with any questions, comments, or requests to subscribe to the list. To unsubscribe, simply follow the instructions at the bottom of this email.

The Meeting: The meeting was conducted as a Zoom hybrid. Selectboard members Rich Donaldson and Jon Collins, Finance Director, Mary McDonald, and Town Administrator, Amanda Campbell, were together in the Town Office. Bronwen Tudor was on Zoom. There were 8 members of the public in attendance on Zoom.

The minutes of the meeting of May 9, 2023 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.

- The finalized DRAFT ordinances were approved. The Summary of Proposed Ordinance Changes and complete DRAFT ordinances are available on the Town website.
- The Town Budget was likely approved after an Executive Session (Under 1 MRS §405(6) (a) Personnel). The Town Budgets, notes, and highlights are available on the Town website.
- Animal Control Officer job description was approved
- Adventure Trail MOU (memorandum of understanding) was reviewed and approved. The Conservation Committee will review it at their June meeting

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:

- ME Bureau of Planning – May 2023 Municipal Update
- City of Bath – re: MOU for ACO
- Midcoast Maine Community Action – notice of contract acquisition for the HEAP program in Lincoln/Sagadahoc counties
- Tedford Housing Spring Newsletter
- MTCTA Certificate for Mary

Public Comment:

- Lisa Sabatine expressed concern about the upward trend of the Town budget and praised the FAC for their diligence in creating the budget
- Bob Trabona expressed concern regarding a large pothole on Rt 127 (south of Bay Point RD) and the continuing deterioration of the shoulders. Amanda Campbell responded that she has already been in contact with MDOT and will continue to regular reminders

Upcoming Events/Dates:

Recreation Committee	Tuesday June 6	6pm HYBRID
Planning Board	Wednesday June 7	7pm HYBRID
Solid Waste Committee	Thursday June 8	7pm ZOOM
Conservation Commission	Monday June 12	6:30pm ZOOM
Select Board	Tuesday June 13	7pm HYBRID
TOPMB	Tuesday June 20	4pm OFFICE
Planning Board	Wednesday June 21	7pm HYBRID
Select Board	Tuesday June 27	7pm HYBRID

TOWN MEETING SCHEDULE:

Municipal Election Tuesday June 13 12-7pm GCS Gym
Absentee Ballots are available until June 8th. Call the Town Office 207-371-2820, go to the Town Office to pick up an absentee ballot, or complete the absentee ballot in person.
Town Office Hours:
Monday through Thursday from 9am to 5pm except closed from 12pm to 1pm for lunch.

Town Meeting Saturday June 17 9am GCS Gym

The next meeting of the Selectboard will be at 7 PM on Tuesday June 13. The public is welcome to attend on ZOOM. E-mail gtwnme@hotmail.com for the ZOOM code to join the meeting no later than 2pm that day.

Report on the Town Budget Hearing of May 17, 2023

Nancy Kinner was the host. There were 33 participants.

Finance Director, Mary McDonald, presented the budget and answered questions.

The Town Budgets, notes, and highlights are available on the Town website.

https://www.georgetownme.com/?page_id=5351

Report on the Ordinance Hearing of May 22, 2023

Nancy Kinner was the host. There were 23 participants.

Committee chairs presented summaries of the proposed changes and answered questions.

The Summary of Proposed Ordinance Changes and complete DRAFT ordinances are available on the Town website. https://www.georgetownme.com/?page_id=5351

Report on Candidate's Night of May 15, 2023

Candidate's Night was held by Zoom last night. The moderator was Nancy Kinner. There were 43 attendees.

Candidates for Selectboard:

Dale Savoie

Bronwen Tudor (incumbent)

Candidate for School Committee: Alaine Pinkham (incumbent)

Candidate for Town Clerk/Tax Collector: Alex Kelly

Candidate for Town Owned Property Management Board (TOPMB): Todd Barabe

The candidates gave opening statements, answered questions from the audience then gave closing statements.

Report on the School Budget Hearing May 16, 2023

Nancy Kinner was the host. There were 29 attendees.

School Committee Chairperson, Alaine Pinkham, presented the budget.

Principal, Nina Willette, spoke about activities, after school programs, and highlights from the past year.

Robert Kahler, Superintendent of Schools, AOS 98 was available to answer questions.

Most of this information is available in the document Georgetown-Central-School-23_24-School-Budget-1.pdf on the Town Website.

Prepared and distributed by Alison Freeman

Town of Georgetown, Maine
Summary of Proposed Ordinance Changes
for Adoption on June 17, 2023

COMPLETE CHANGES TO THESE EXISTING ORDINANCES
CAN BE READ AND DOWNLOADED AT WWW.GEORGETOWNME.COM

BOARD OF APPEALS

The Board of Appeals ordinance amendments are incorporated at the recommendation of legal counsel and amend appeal procedures; meeting rules; clarify decisions and reconsiderations. (Deletions struck and additions underlined – pages 3, 4, 5, 6, 7)

BUILDING PERMIT & DEMOLITION ORDINANCE

The Planning Board's proposed amendments to this ordinance include language to add additional dwellings that require a permit; rework the procedure for permit duration; clarify Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs); clarify appeals; add requirements for tiny homes and add definitions. (Deletions struck and additions underlined – pages 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13)

MINIMUM LOT SIZE ORDINANCE

The Planning Board's proposed amendments to this ordinance redefine the specifications for waste disposal from single and multiple family dwellings; clarify exceptions; clarify appeals; clarify enforcement and add definitions. It also corrects the adoption date. (Deletions struck and additions underlined – all pages)

ORDINANCE GOVERNING THE OPERATIONS OF THE TOPMB

The TOPMB's proposed amendments to this ordinance are clerical and add clarity, but do not impact content. (Deletions struck and additions underlined – pages 3, 4, 5, 7)

SHELLFISH CONSERVATION ORDINANCE

The Shellfish Committee's proposed amendments clarify the process to waive annual conservation work for commercial harvesters. (Deletions struck and additions underlined – pages 4, 5)

SHORELAND ZONING ORDINANCE

The Planning Board's proposed amendment adds State required language for pre- and post-construction photographic evidence. (Deletions struck and additions underlined – page 12)

SOLAR ENERGY ORDINANCE

The Planning Board's proposed amendments to this ordinance increase the allowable kW capacity and height of a private use solar energy system. (Deletions struck and additions underlined – pages 2, 6)

WATERWAYS AND HARBORS ORDINANCE

The Harbor Committee's proposed amendments to this ordinance update the rules governing mooring registrations and privileges. (Deletions struck and additions underlined – page 3)

The Georgetown Select Board invites you to join them for the
Ordinance Hearing on Monday May 22, 2023



TOWN OF GEORGETOWN

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Georgetown, Maine 04548-0436
Phone (207) 371-2820 Fax (207) 371-2331

Some notes as you review the 2023-2024 budget document:

05/11/23

Total Town Budget indicates an increase in the funding requests of 19.9% and the amount to be raised by property taxes of 13.3%. This includes a 17.4% increase in County Tax, now over a million.

School: will be covered at their hearing on Tuesday May 16th at 7.

Salaries: Assuming a 6% COLA -- Vacation / Sick Fund is up significantly due to more people qualifying at a higher rate of pay for both vacation and sick time as well as paid time off.

Town Office Expense: not much to report here – we moved Custodial supplies to Office supplies and Misc. office expense has not been used so we eliminated.

General Government: Election expense is up a bit as Alex would like to use the ballot machine for municipal elections and will need it programmed; The First Church is up to cover the electricity when a dehumidifier is on; Audit expense is up with a new auditor; Select Board Contingency is up to cover the board in negotiations for the Town Administrator position and training; Social Security is up based on wages; Street lights is up but with new LED's we didn't increase much; Signs are up as the costs are increasing; we requested funding for the assessing reserve as our certified ratio is dropping and we may need to do a revaluation sooner rather than later; we dropped the capital line as we hope to get the flooring / door work done this year.

Planning Board and BOA – flat – no change – this allows the BOA funding to hear 2 appeals (assuming a transcriptionist at \$400 each time)

Conservation Commission: The Conservation Commission is down as they have covered most of their surveying and are doing the last bit in this budget.

TOPMB: Mowing / tree removal is down as the trees at Richards Library were taken care of. The TOPMB wanted to leave the advertising money but the lease on the dock is not up; they also felt an allocation to the reserve fund for the Tennis Courts was needed but with a balance of \$8900 and no plan that line was cut as well; they continue to build their other reserves.

ACO: truly nothing at all to report 😊

CEO: the stipend was bumped (last change was 2017-18); mileage went up slightly due to rate change (from .625 to .655); the Cannabis permit is just clerical as he does not get 100% (75% to him, 25% admin). We added a line here for a reimbursement to him for his phone expenses at \$25 per month.

GVFD: Personnel lines were adjusted for COLA (6%) and others adjusted as needed; Comms / tech: increase here is related to the Jamresponding app used by the members (\$350 to \$735) and a bump in the consolidated / fiber line by \$100; EMS / Ambulance: dropped this down slightly as we have been updating all the consumables; Equipment Replacement: up slightly to replace some portable equipment used on fire scenes; Gear, Uniforms and Health Expenses: up to accommodate 8 additional people being screened (total of 16); Maintenance–Building & Grounds: reduced due to closing of Five Islands Station and moving misc. testing to equipment maintenance; Maintenance–Vehicles: we increased maintenance on most equipment as it is aging; Maintenance–Equipment: increased by \$200 to cover the gas meter testing taken from building / grounds maintenance; Miscellaneous (outreach, recruitment, discretionary): no increase here and is what is used for mileage reimbursement, outreach, awards etc.; Office expenses: this dropped due to the CPA fee (\$700) that is covered by the GVFD auxiliary and reduced website expenses; Utilities and Building Fuel: reduction is primarily due to not heating Five Islands Station; Vehicle Fuel: was bumped slightly on each vehicle utilized; Reserve Funds: we have worked on a 10 year capital plan for GVFD equipment and will continue to place money in reserve to help defray the need to borrow; Capital Expenses: to replace the 1992 Squad which will be taken from reserve funds.

Harbor Committee: truly nothing at all to report 😊 completely flat... since the wage line is consistently under expended the 6% COLA is covered.

Shellfish Conservation Committee: used the 6% COLA on wages, adjusted mileage and the deputy wages and increased our portion of training as he no longer works for all the other towns. They will not be purchasing any seed clams (done in May of 2022).

Solid Waste Management Committee: we adjusted hours and wages for the station attendants, the majority of the increases are due to expected increases in tipping and the cost of removing waste of all kinds including our recycling contract with Lincoln County; they expect to replace the trellis over the compactor and bulky a portion of which will come from reserve funds.

Roads: Wow – this looks awful but in reality, the allocation is up 14.1%. The Road Commissioner intends to work on replacing culverts on Marrtown Road, shimming Webber, Indian Point and Five Islands Rds., adding gravel and compacting as well as working with CMP on tree removal. The paving will be done on Old Schoolhouse Road which will also require culvert replacements. The Robinhood Road culvert repair is expected to cost \$385K all of which will come from reserves and the DEP grant we received. If we receive the FEMA grant, we will be able to utilize that as well reducing the need for the reserve fund usage. We are hopeful !!

Snow Removal: this is up due to the new contract – we have also placed \$5K in for the fuel escalation clause.

Health, Recreation and Social Services: this is up due to the Increase in Sweetser and Patten Free;
Recreation Committee: has shifted items around but overall is flat.

Cemetery: The biggest item here is the mowing contract which we have just received and will come in at \$10K and leave this budget flat. The marker revenue and expense line are both increased (they wash).

MacMahan Island: is up just because of the increase in the mil rate last year ... it increased their taxes and therefore their rebate ...



Georgetown Recreation Committee Pickleball 9am Saturdays & Sundays

at the Georgetown Central School

Come join the fun and play Pickleball.

We'll have the equipment
although you may bring your own.

All we request is to wear clean sneakers to keep the court clean.

This event is dependent on the weather. Refer to Georgetown Recreation Department on Facebook and e-mail notices for cancelation notices.