

REPORT ON THE SELECTBOARD MEETING OF DECEMBER 8, 2020

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 held on Zoom. All 3 Board Members, Rich Donaldson, Bronwen Tudor, Jon Collins, and Amanda Campbell were present. There were 4 members of the public in attendance.

The minutes of the meeting of November 24, 2020 were approved. They are posted on the Town website.

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

- **Assessing Items:** Amanda brought forth 3 abatement requests for consideration.
 - An administrative correction to apply a Veteran's Exemption that had been submitted and approved. The Board approved this change.
 - A correction to re-apply both Homestead and Veteran's exemptions that had been removed from the file because of a residency question. The Board approved this change.
 - A request to reduce the assessed value of a property that was purchased at a price considerably less than the current property assessment. The Board agreed to have this abatement request forwarded to Assessor Bill Van Tuinen.
- **Emergency Communications:** Amanda listened in to the County meeting earlier today and provided a brief update to the Board. The consultant hired by the county is on-board. He has visited all of the fire department facilities and sent a summary of applicable recommendations to each of the chiefs. Next he will do a map study of the system.

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:

- Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR) forwarded notice that 13 limited Purpose Aquaculture sites in Robinhood Cove are up for renewal. Any comments must be submitted by 12/18.
- The Town Office received the Maine Policy Review of Fall 2020 from the University of Maine Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center. If you have interest, contact the Town Office.
- Note from the Laura Richard's Library director Karen MacGillivray regarding snow plowing at the library. After a brief discussion, the Board decided to forward to the TOPMB for resolution. It was noted by Bronwen that TOPMB has never budgeted for snowplowing this lot.
- Received a postcard from GIEF informing the community of grant opportunities for students of all ages.
- Rick Cliffe sent an email requesting that the Board give consent to formation of an Ad Hoc Committee to initiate development of a Route 127 Corridor Management Plan which is included in the Comprehensive Plan approved at the Town Meeting in 2019. Rich pointed out that the Comprehensive Plan has not been approved by the state. Rick said the State's concern is in the Future Land Use section of the plan. Rick gave a brief overview of what a corridor management plan is, why we should initiate it now, and the proposed approach. The Board agreed to move forward and requested that we identify members of the Ad Hoc Committee and the plan/schedule for the effort and bring it back to the Board at the January 26 meeting. Amanda noted that she had talked to ME DOT and Rick agreed to follow-up with them.

- Received notice from USDA that Georgetown’s Broadband grant application is denied. Subsequent to the selectboard meeting I received the following note from Carlos Barrionuevo: “USDA has given us a change to re-apply. We are currently evaluating if we can successfully reapply based on their feedback and several new restrictions that have changed our eligibility significantly.”

OLD BUSINESS:

- Vacation & Sick Time Policy:** This issue was raised by at previous meetings and Rich provided an update. He has discussed the issue with MMA and State Representative and Woolwich SelectBoard member Allison Hepler. The new law applies to all Town “employees” as well as “volunteer firemen”. Starting in January, they are supposed to get “earned paid leave” but it’s not clear how the amount will be determined. Bronwen had a number of questions that prompted some discussion. Rich will continue work on a draft update to the policy. It will need to be reviewed by legal counsel.
- Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with GVFD:** This issue is a follow-up to discussions at the last meeting. Amanda revised the wording to extend its date applicability until amendment is recommended by either party. The Board voted to approve the MOA as modified.

REMINDER:

- Sand Buckets:** Chief Merry confirmed the Sheriff’s Office will be providing 5 gallon buckets of sand to seniors. If you are interested call 443-8529. A deputy will deliver the bucket to your door. No charge.

UPCOMING EVENTS/DATES:

Date & Time	Event	Place	Comment
Saturday, December 12, 3 pm	GCC Antisocial Holiday Dinner	Curb Pickup at GCC	Must make reservation in advance – see the flyer on Georgetown Facebook page or call 371-2660 between 11-1 on the dinner day.
Thursday, December 24	Town Office CLOSED		Christmas Eve
Thursday, December 31	Town Office CLOSED		New Year’s Eve

There will be no SelectBoard meeting on December 22. The next meeting of the Selectboard will be at 7 PM on Tuesday, January 12, at 7:00 pm.

The public is welcome to attend Town meetings on ZOOM. Contact Amanda Campbell or Alex Neese at the Town Office to get the Meeting ID and Password.