

## REPORT ON SELECTMEN'S MEETING OF April 10, 2012

Prepared by Alison Freeman

Note: (1). If anyone wishes to stop receiving these reports, they may simply hit "Reply" and request to be deleted from the list or say "Unsubscribe."

(2). 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.

(3). Reports of earlier meetings and some supplementary materials are available at my Town Meeting website:

[www.singingbridge.net](http://www.singingbridge.net)

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

The minutes of the meetings of March 27, 2012 were approved.

Meeting minutes will be posted at the town web page:

[www.georgetownme.com/Meeting-Agendas-and-Minutes.php](http://www.georgetownme.com/Meeting-Agendas-and-Minutes.php)

MOST IMPORTANT/INTERESTING ITEMS: In my judgment, the following item was the most important thing covered during the meeting.

1. The Status of Bruce Poliquin's Tree Growth Lot. Mary McDonald read relevant portions of letters and messages from Rick Freeman, Bill VanTuinen, Orlando Delogu, and Jack Swift from the old business section of the meeting agenda.

She then summarized a letter received from Mr. VanTuinen on 04/09/12.

The most relevant sections are:

The property tax statutes in the State of Maine allow the Assessor or Assessors of a town to make certain corrections to already issued taxes, but this authority is fairly limited....In the case of an omission of a land value or a building valuation from the tax commitment the statutes allow a supplemental tax to be issued. A supplemental tax can be committed for the current property tax year and for two previous property tax years. However, such a supplemental tax cannot be committed because a land value or a building value was simply undervalued.

and

My perspective is that of a tax assessor. It is my opinion that the Tree Growth Law as written permits the enrollment of certain land parcels that have very limited potential for making a contribution to commercial forestry in the state. The Poliquin parcel, in my opinion, is such a parcel. That is why I, with the permission of the Board, made it available to the MMA as a parcel that did not appear to fit into the stated purpose of the Tree Growth Tax Law. That is how this parcel became example number 3 in the report "Tree Growth Issues Report to the Committee on Taxation of the 124th Maine Legislature First Regular Session" dated January 28, 2009. I am not at all convinced that the Poliquin parcel did not qualify for tree growth taxation. Now that it is no longer enrolled in tree growth taxation, I do not think that the Board can retroactively review the tree growth management plan.

Mr. Birdsall made a brief statement. He reasoned that town employees and paid consultants such as the tax assessor have spent a lot of time on this issue and spending more time and money was unlikely to result in any benefit to the Town.

Mr. Plummer said the Selectmen did their best at the time on the advice of the experts. He said that it is

unfortunate that laws created to help poor people keep their land was now being used by people to avoid taxes.

Ms. Pinette agreed and added that a lot has been learned and they would endeavor to look at these situations more closely in the future particularly during the renewal process.

In the end no action was taken because the Selectmen felt monies spent fighting the issue could never be recovered.

2. A Public Hearing was called for the purpose of considering an application for a malt, spirituous, and vinous liquor license (class I-A) for the Grey Havens Inn by Evemarie and Richard Roesler, 96 Seguinland Road, Georgetown ME 04548. The license was granted by unanimous vote.

3. Town clerk/Tax Collector, Kristen Coombs, requested an increase of \$775 in the staffing budget to enable scheduling the deputy clerk additional hours for May and June. Ms. Coombs said in the past the deputy clerk would be scheduled 2 days a week during the busy time leading up to the Town Meeting, but because there had been no monies built into the budget for the town clerk transition that occurred in 2011 the budget was running short.

The Selectmen approved the increase after some discussion.

4. Draft ordinances were reviewed:

- Waterways and Harbors - on page 2 a change to the language regarding selection of committee members was struck.

- Planning Board, Building Permit and Shore land Zoning Ordinance - the Selectmen felt they needed time to review these draft ordinances before commenting or acting.

5. The report Jon Hentz submitted regarding the Transportation Project request for 2014-15 from DOT was reviewed and re-prioritized. A letter from the Selectmen will be submitted with the report.

6. Kristen Coombs presented a sample ordinance from an MMA template regarding auto excise tax exemption for residents who are serving in the military. There is currently some confusion because there is a federal policy in place, but no state law. The Selectmen agreed they would like to make things simpler, but would like to know if that can be done without enacting an ordinance.

7. Kristen Coombs presented a list of potential ballot and election clerks. This list was approved.

8. Appointment paperwork was signed for Amy Lang as a full member of the Recreation Committee expiry 2013.

#### 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 Power Options 2012 Fuel Purchasing Update: forwarded to School Principal and Superintendent.
- ME Public Employees Retirement System: with June 30, 2011 actuarial valuation for the Town of Georgetown's retirement plan. We withdrew from this in February of 1995. They are

in the process of closing out the Town's plan.

The employees who had been part of this plan are now deceased. We expect to receive compensation when the close out is complete.

- ME Revenue Service: Ratio Declaration and Reimbursement Application for the 2012 tax year. (tabled last meeting).  
Tabled again. Information is nearly complete.
- MMA: on upcoming bill LD 849; this bill, according to MMA, if enacted would make it impossible for the Legislature to meet its financial obligations for Revenue Sharing and K-12 education.
- MMA: upcoming on line course for Moderating Town Meeting, workshop on New Managers.
- Sagadahoc County Commissioners: preliminary tax levy. Georgetown is \$856,688. (up from 820,858)
- Spirit of America Foundation: Letter from Bruce Flaherty, Director, asking that you choose a local person, project or group that you would like to receive the Georgetown 2012 Spirit of America Foundation Tribute.
- Funding Request: Bath Area Food Bank (\$600); Patten Free Library Annual Report for 2011 to go with their request. Referred to the FAC.
- 2012 Personal Property Declarations: Fairpoint Communications, Thomson Reuters (for WildBlue Communications), Dish Network, Pepsico, ADT Security, Lease Corp of America.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

1. Storage of documents at GHS: Bill is reviewing information.
2. Report on what Town has done on Alvin Moore property (11R-005). Progress has been made on White Cove RD. Mr. Plummer and Mr. Trabona are continuing to work with Mr. Moore.
3. Kosalka Dog case: District Court on April 18.
4. Smart Meter Update: Final update, Georgetown now effectively complete.
5. Tree Growth Parcels: Review letter to owners, if completed. In process.
6. Tree Growth Recertification for Ledge Island LLC.: Letter was sent. Deadline is April 12.
7. Goodman property and other such items: No update. Mr. Plummer will follow up.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: The Selectmen then went into executive session under 1MRSA §405.6f for an update on General Assistance..

The next meeting of the Selectmen will be at 7 PM on Tuesday, April 24, 2012 at the Town Office.

Other upcoming meetings include:

May 2, 2012 - public hearing on draft ordinances

May 16, 2012 - public hearing on the town budget

May 16, 2012 - public hearing on the school budget

Prepared and distributed by Alison Freeman