

## REPORT ON THE SELECTBOARD MEETING OF APRIL 11, 2017

Prepared by Rick Cliffe

**Note: (1). 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.**

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

(3). Reports of earlier meetings and some supplementary materials are available at Rick Freeman's Town Meeting website - [www.singingbridge.net](http://www.singingbridge.net).

THE MEETING: There were 2 members of the public present.

The minutes of the meeting of March 28, 2017 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.

- **Assessing Items:** The Board discussed an abatement request for two adjacent properties that the resident wanted to be considered as one. They asked for a reduction in the land valuation and also reduction in the structures valuation since they had already demolished the house. There was a letter from the property owner's lawyer stating their case. The interesting part, to me, was that there are two separate procedures for combining lots – depending on whether both equal/exceed 5 acres. Because they didn't in this case, the owner must register a deed combining the properties. Our Assessor, Bill VanTuinen provided a court case supporting the required deed. A separate issue was the date the house was demolished. After considerable discussion the Board agreed to reducing structure valuation but not land valuation.
- **Open Space, Tree Growth, Veteran and Homestead Exemptions:** Mary provided spreadsheets detailing each of these four categories of exemption that reduce property tax valuations. Georgetown has 1942 acres in Open Space and 277 acres in Tree Growth. There are 51 properties with Veteran's exemptions. All of these are the same as last year. But there has been a net increase of 10 Homestead exemptions.
- **Sagadahoc Budget:** The proposed county budget includes \$865,799 from Georgetown. This amount is down \$23,968 from last year.

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 Sustainable Forestry Initiative sent a glossy Progress Report for 2016-17. Mary will post the copy in the hallway outside the Town Office.
- A funding request was received from SEARCH. It was received late and will therefore not be included in the Town budget. It was noted that there are two other charities who didn't submit requests on-time this year.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Boards and Committees:** The Board approved Jim Peavy as a full member of the Shellfish Conservation Committee.
- (proposed) Volunteer Fair: The Board confirmed they want to have such a "fair" but haven't yet reached agreement on when/how it will be accomplished. They reviewed a one sheet flyer, from Waterville, for a similar event/process and agreed this was a good concept.

UPCOMING EVENTS/DATES:

<b>Date &amp; Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Wednesday, May 10, 7:00	Ordinance Hearing	School	
Tuesday, May 16, 6:00	School Budget Hearing	School	Please note the time – 6 pm
Wednesday, May 17, 7:00	Municipal Budget Hearing	School	
Tuesday, April 11, 6:00	Scoping Session for Aquaculture lease (DMR/Joshua Stoll)	School	
Thursday, April 20, 1:00 – 4:00	Game Day	GCC	
Saturday, April 22, 5:00	Pot Luck Dinner	GCC	Mexican

The next meeting of the Selectboard will be at 7 PM on Tuesday, April 25th at the Town Office. The Comprehensive Plan Exploratory Group will make a presentation at this board meeting.

Prepared and distributed by Rick Cliffe