

# SELECT BOARD, TOWN OF GEORGETOWN

Approved Minutes for Tuesday, December 17, 2024

The meeting was **called to order** at 6:02pm by Chairman Collins.

Mr. Collins was in attendance, as were Ms. Tudor and Ms. Eee. The Town Administrator was present, as were the Fire Chief and Finance Director. There were over twenty members of the public in attendance, both virtually and in-person.

The following **public comments** were given at the outset of the meeting:

- Sarah Kulis shared that she had no objection to the proposed ATV access route, provided it stopped at the Sheehan's house.
- James "Jimbo" Lang shared that Georgetown was "the best place in the world to live."
- Dave Polito shared that he felt the State guidelines for ATVs on public roads were reasonable and that the Town should adhere to them. He worried that one road opening could lead to other exceptions being granted.
- Mark Lyons shared that he had no objection to the proposed ATV access route, while urging the Town to impose some reasonable restrictions. He also thanked the Town for sending along letters to all affected homeowners.
- Kelsey Daigle, of the Nature Conservancy, shared that the Berry Woods Preserve was not open to ATV access. She further noted that this had been occurring.
- Jana Sheehan shared her full support of the proposed ATV access route designation.

A letter from Bill Webster **was added to the agenda** as an item of correspondence. The Fire Chief Update was moved up on the agenda, too.

There were no **scheduled appointments**.

On a motion from Ms. Tudor, seconded by Ms. Eee, it was voted unanimously (3-0) to approve the **minutes** of November 19<sup>th</sup> and December 3<sup>rd</sup> Meetings.

The following items were provided for **review**:

- Updated Hauling Numbers
- November Financials

The Board scheduled an Abatement Request from Susan Hess (1267 Five Islands Road, 11U-002). On a motion from Ms. Eee, seconded by Ms. Tudor, it was voted unanimously (3-0) to table the request to a future meeting.

The **Fire Chief** provided a brief **Update** on the following items:

- The Department responded to 11 calls for service since his last update, 8 medical and 3 fire. Chief Whalen noted that, at the time of his report, the Department was at 171 calls for the year – 3rd highest year ever. There were 176 calls in 2021 and 179 calls in 2023.
- **The Chief** thanked all who attended the recent informational night. There were over 25 people in person and 17 more online.
- The Chief shared that there have been 6 new member applications, noting that this was "good news."
- In regard to the Marrtown Rd ATV designation, it was reported that the Fire Department had no objections to an ATV designation, provided that users follow all safety practices. He shared that there would be no problems with emergency vehicle access – ATV/UTVs are smaller and can easily move over if needed. Lastly, the Chief shared that the road layout design limits any high-speed driving.

### **Correspondence:**

- Central Maine Power – Update re: Planning for December 11 Storm
- Maine Municipal Association – Email Bulletin re: ARPA Closeout and Reporting
- Tedford Housing – Annual Report (Copy at Office)
- United Way of Maine – Cash Maine, MidCoast
- Letter from Bill Webster re: Town Meeting (ADDED TO AGENDA)
- Funding Requests
  - Sweetser
  - Island Institute

There was no **other correspondence**.

There were no **continuing items**.

The following **Board Member / Committee Updates** were provided:

- Mr. Collins reported on the Planning Board's exploration of a possible questionnaire related to Short Term Rentals. He shared that it was still in flux. Mr. Collins also reported on the recent TOPMB meeting, and their approach to a list of projects for future budget considerations.
- Ms. Tudor reported that the Solid Waste Management Committee was working to improve the hiring process for the on-call Transfer Station substitutes.
- Ms. Eee shared that the School Committee had an upcoming meeting on Wednesday, noting that it was a Hybrid Meeting. Ms. Eee also shared that the Recreation Committee had a very successful Holiday on the Harbor. Ms. Eee further thanked the Fire Department for their efforts in accompanying Santa to the Wharf.

The **Town Administrator** gave a brief **Update** on the following items:

- It was reported that Reid Birdsall had signed a Lease with the Town for the Emergency Communications Tower on Higgins Mountain. It was further reported that the County had signed its sublease.
- Mr. Washburn shared that the Conference Room Table he was pursuing had been sold out. On a motion from Ms. Tudor, seconded by Ms. Eee, it was voted unanimously (3-0) to authorize the Administrator to purchase a new conference room table model from ARPA funds.
- It was reported that the bulk of the South Shore reconstruction work had been completed. Only \$1,000 remained, seeding, which would be taken care of in the spring.

The **Finance Director** provided a brief **Update** on the following items:

- The Finance Director shared the FAC Memorandum to Committee / Board Chairs re: Budget and Ordinance Changes for 2025-2026.
- Ms. McDonald further shared that she was working on the capital assets for the audit.
- The Board was also updated that the Town would be covering employee contributions for the remainder of the fiscal year, as outlined in last year's budget, for the Paid Family Medical Leave Program. Employees will be responsible in the next fiscal year.
- Lastly, Ms. McDonald noted that the TAN had been paid off in full.

### **Old Business:**

- On a motion from Ms. Tudor, seconded by Ms. Eee, it was voted unanimously to select the Coastal Glass & Window quote for door sealing and repair, as outlined in the Energy Audit. This was the low quote, at \$13,950.
- On a motion from Ms. Tudor, seconded by Ms. Eee, it was voted unanimously (3-0) to designate a portion of the Marrtown Road – from the Sheehan residence at 218 Marrtown Road to its terminus at the

West Georgetown Road – as an ATV Access Route from January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025, to June 30, 2025, between 6am and 9pm. The Board will revisit this again in June of 2025.

**New Business:**

- The Town Administrator shared with the Board his desire to create an Ad Hoc Committee to design and prepare a multi-year Town Report. As reported by the Administrator, statute requires municipalities to have their annual report completed ahead of the Annual Town Meeting, something that the Town has failed to do since 2018.
- On a motion from Ms. Eee, seconded by Ms. Tudor, it was voted unanimously (3-0) to reappoint Alexandra Kelley as Registrar of Voters for a two-year term ending December 31, 2026.

**Items For Signature:**

- *If appointed*, Appointment Certificate for Alexandra Kelley as Registrar of Voters
- *After determination made*, Abatement Application for Susan Hess

There was no further **public comment**.

Having completed all the business before it, the Board stood **adjourned** at 7:01pm.