

SELECT BOARD, TOWN OF GEORGETOWN

Minutes for Tuesday, January 28, 2025

Mr. Collins was in attendance, as were Ms. Tudor and Ms. Eee. The Finance Director was in attendance, as was the Town Administrator. There were various members of the public attending on Zoom and one member of the public, County Commissioner Todd McPhee, in the audience.

The meeting was **called to order** by Chair Collins at 6:01pm.

There was no **public comment** at the outset of the meeting.

There were no **items added to the agenda**.

There were no **scheduled appointments**.

On a motion from Ms. Tudor, seconded by Ms. Eee, it was voted unanimously (3-0) to table the minutes of January 14th meeting.

There were no items for **review**.

The Board addressed the following **assessing items**:

- On a motion from Ms. Eee, seconded by Ms. Tudor, it was voted unanimously (3-0) to table the abatement requests from Seidman Ledges, LLC. (01R-006, 01R-006-A:H)
- On a motion from Ms. Tudor, seconded by Ms. Eee, it was voted unanimously (3-0) to deny the Abatement Request from Scott N Weller Revocable Trust of 2013 (09R-019) relative to valuation. On a motion from Ms. Eee, seconded by Ms. Tudor, it was voted unanimously (3-0) to fully abate the taxes paid on said parcel by the Scott N Weller Revocable Trust.
- During the discussions on assessing items, it was raised by Ms. Eee that it was important to keep a consistent process in place for addressing the various abatements that may come before the Board.

The Board was provided with the following items of **correspondence**:

- State of Maine – Email from MEMA Hazard Mitigation Office re: Possible Collaboration with FOSILS
- State of Maine – Maine Climate Council – Youth Climate Summit
- Sagadahoc County – Emergency Management – Deputy Director Dickinson to Probate
- Town of Georgetown – Shellfish Conservation Committee - Fundraiser
- Town of Georgetown – Conservation Commission Potluck Notice
- Email from Counsel re: Upcoming Bills in Legislature
- Maine Municipal Association – Maine Town and City Magazine (Copies in Office)
- Maine Municipal Association – Summer Internship Program Information
- Maine Municipal Association - Legislative Update re: General Assistance Public Hearings
- Maine Municipal Association – January RMS Express
- Central Maine Power – Watch Out for Imposters Notice
- Georgetown Community Center – Community Cupboard Notice

Regarding the possible collaboration with FOSILS, Mss. Eee and Tudor both raised the news that there was a Federal Funding Freeze that could impact our grant funding. Relative to the Shellfish Conservation Committee's fundraiser, Ms. Tudor shared the need for consistency amongst town committees and noted that in the past others have been denied the ability to fundraise outside of their budget. She felt that this was something that could be addressed through updates to the Town's Financial Controls Policy.

Regarding **continuing items**, the Board was informed that the Maine Waste Discharge License for Phillipa Dexter (1 Town Landing Road) was up for renewal, and that the Maine Waste Discharge License for the Hall Revocable Trust was approved.

The Board was updated on various **committee related items**. It was noted that the Town Office was in possession of both the Planning Board and TOPMB **minutes**. The sole **membership** item was noting that the Town was still looking for members of the Ad Hoc Town Report Committee.

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

- Mr. Collins reported on the recent Shellfish committee meeting, noting that the Committee was interested in changing its recreational license fees. Mr. Collins also shared that the Planning Board wanted to see the Wireless Communications Tower Application Fee added to the Town Fee Schedule. Lastly, Mr. Collins stated that the TOPMB had signed a new lease with Five Islands Lobster Company.
- Ms. Tudor shared that she had no meetings since her last report. She did note that the Solid Waste Management Committee was working on questions to be shared with Counsel ahead of their Ordinance related discussions.
- Ms. Eee reported that the Harbor Committee had met and was working on a plan for getting mooring stickers out to mooring holders. Ms. Eee further reported that the School Committee had met and that David Knauber was recognized for his many years of service as a Custodian for the Georgetown Central School.

The **Town Administrator** provided an **Update** on the following items:

- Mr. Washburn noted that the Town Office was monitoring the potential impact of the Federal Spending Freeze and would keep the Board apprised of pertinent information and changes.
- He shared that he recently attended the Sagadahoc County Administrators and Managers Meeting, where he was updated on the County's move towards developing a Strategic Plan.
- The Board was informed that the Sagadahoc Superior Court donated 12 conference room chairs to the Town.
- The Board was updated on the steps taken to get the Select Board Meeting packets posted to the Town's website.
- Lastly, and related to the Communications Tower Lease, it was shared with the Board that work was undertaken to alleviate some landowner concerns on the Representative Appointment Form. By the time of the meeting, it had been signed.

The **Finance Director** provided an **Update** on the following items:

- Ms. McDonald reported that the Budget Memo had been sent to all Committee Chairs and FAC Liaisons.
- It was reported that the new Federal COLA for this year was at 2.5%. The Federal Mileage rate had increased from 67 cents to 70 cents per mile. The Finance Director noted that she would be seeking Board guidance at a later date.
- Ms. McDonald shared that as of January 1, direct deposit was mandatory for payroll purposes and that most employees were signed up. She shared that only one Fire Department Member and two TOPMB Members were still to be signed up.
- Ms. McDonald noted that W2's had been sent out and that due to software errors with the federal site, they were done manually.
- The Finance Director shared that she was preparing for the Workers Compensation Audit that will take place in mid-February.
- Lastly, it was reported that 10 parcels would be receiving foreclosure notices.

Old Business:

- On a motion from Ms. Eee, seconded by Ms. Tudor, it was voted unanimously to set up a Working Waterfront Work Group to explore the creation of a Working Waterfront Ordinance or Policy with the following membership:
 - A Select Board Representative
 - A TOPMB Representative
 - A Shellfish Committee Representative
 - A Harbor Committee Representative
 - The Shellfish Warden
 - Two members of the public

It was then moved by Ms. Tudor, seconded by Mr. Collins, and voted unanimously (3-0) to designate Ms. Eee the Select Board Representative to the Working Waterfront Work Group.

New Business:

- On a motion from Ms. Tudor, seconded by Ms. Eee, it was voted unanimously (3-0) to authorize the Planning Board to spend up to \$2,000 on the preparation and distribution of its Questionnaire regarding Short Term Rentals.
- It was determined that the Board would hold a Public Hearing and hold a subsequent vote to amend the Fee Schedule at 6:05pm during its February 11 Meeting
- On a motion from Ms. Tudor, seconded by Mr. Collins, it was voted (2-1) to direct the Administrator to allow the use of the Town's OWL for groups in the Conference Room at the Town Office.

The Abatement Application for Scott N Weller Revocable Trust of 2013 was **available for signature**.

The lone item of **public comment** at the close of the meeting came from County Commissioner Todd McPhee. Commissioner McPhee shared that he has been making the rounds to the Towns in his district and wanted to introduce himself. He also shared that he is serving on Board of the Two Bridges Regional Jail for the County.

There was no **executive session**. Having transacted all of the business before it, the Board stood **adjourned** at 7:24pm.