Aug. 7, 2020

TO: Georgia Selectboard, Amber Baker, and Town of Georgia residents
FROM: Matt Crawford, Georgia Selectboad Chair
RE: Resignation from Selectboard

My fellow Georgians,
I am writing to let you know the selectboard meeting on Aug. 24 will be the last meeting I will attend as a Georgia selectboard member. I write this letter of resignation with mixed emotions. On one hand, I have a sense of excitement and exhilaration as I move to a new chapter in my life. On the other, there is a sense of sadness for leaving Georgia - a place I have called my home for nearly 25 years.

My 7.5 years on the Georgia selectboard have certainly not been dull. I have made friends and lost friends by simply sticking to one overarching goal: Do what's right for the Town of Georgia. That was a mantra former selectboard chair Chris Letourneau, who died while serving this town in 2017, often discussed with me at length.

The past years have been highlighted by change. And change never comes easily. But I leave knowing Georgia is now heading in a new direction, redefining in the most positive manner both the character and composition of this town.

Since my time on the board, and assisted tremendously by administrators Mike McCarthy and Amber Baker, much has been accomplished. While there is still plenty of work to do, major improvements to our buildings have taken place. Our road crew has upgraded equipment needed to work on our roads that grow busier by the month. We are about to phase in a Development Review Board to streamline and better manage the town's growth. We are moving forward with plans to construct a badly needed new town garage. We have updated technology townwide. We have started hosting community events. We have joined forces with St. Albans to provide our residents with rec programming. We have established new expectations of professionalism and commitment with our fire department and first response. And we've done it all while keeping municipal taxes low.

Georgia is growing, with more expansion right around the corner with Perrigo. There will be challenges ahead, for sure, but there is no doubt the quality people we have in place - including my fellow selectboard members - will clear any hurdles that arise. I leave knowing Georgia is in good hands.

Respectfully,
Matt Crawford