

Memorial Town Hall, 1 Library Street, Georgetown, MA 01833

Meeting Minutes February 26, 2024

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Memorial Town Hall

7:00PM-General Meeting

Verizon Channel 42/Comcast channel 9

Selectmen Present: A. Smith, Chair, D. Dawes, D. LaMonica, and R. Bancroft

Others Present: Orlando Pacheco, Town Administrator.
M. Shultz, Administrative Assistant participated on Zoom.

R. Hoover participating on Zoom.

7:00PM: CALL TO ORDER

Moment of Silence was done by the Board members.

Pledge of Allegiance

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- *Smith announced the following meetings-Planning Board on February 28, 2024 and the Finance Advisory Committee will be meeting on March 6, 2024.*
- *Smith shared that she had just been informed that the Board of Health issues permits for dumpsters which are needed in the Town of Georgetown.*

NEW BUSINESS:

- *Whittier Task Force letter was sent out to select board members and Town Council, Mayors and Town Administrators -Goal of this task force is as follows:*
- *Look at the regional district school agreement -agreement on how to fund it - Capital Assessment -overall population & enrollment, long term high-cost capital expenses, working group have all the Towns present –everyone to participate including one select board member to be part of the Task Force.*
- *Town and cities working together -looking for a volunteer from the Board was asked by A. Smith, Chair.*
- *Bi-weekly meetings.*
- *D. LaMonica has a conflict with the schedule for the month of March but will participate.*

ON-GOING BUSINESS:

Solid Waste Advisory Committee/ Health Director Bill Holt was present and spoke to the Board on the following:

- *Propose of the task force*
- *Actions items (13) to the point / addressed the items that the Board of Health handle*
- *Originally formed to deal with land fill.*
- *Land fill was capped -did not meet any longer*
- *Five members -no description should be doing -pulled this together*
- *Make-up of the committee was discussed, non-voting members.*
- *Bill Holt, Health Director asked the Board for himself to be appointed as a non-voting member.*
- *Reduce our solid waste in all areas*
- *Landfill are numbered -not more in the state*
- *Disposal of solid waste*
- *Recycling reductions helps*
- *Issues. Odors & Noise, Transfer station management, inspections annually*
- *Education*
- *Sharps Kiosk*
- *Mass Recycling*

Public Health Excellence Grant-can use to promote recycling and provide other information to be distributed to the community, new wording for this committee -amending the existing by law, B. Holt, health Director will bring it to his Board-maybe a volunteer from the Board of Health.

Board of Selectman discussion -More recycling, recycling is the law, curb side pickup, disposal of mattresses -Helpsy was spoken of, obstacles in place, trying to make it easier for residents, town wide contract with food waste at some point.

***Mello Host Agreement**-update given by O, Pacheco, Town Administrator the most recent agreement was sent to the Board, no new numbers have been added yet, permit to construct with DEP on hold for now-application was not complete-process takes time, may want to do in advance any additional items that haven't been dealt with by other Board and Committees.*

***Mission Host Agreement**- D. Dawes spoke about plans going forward, public comment period of the agreement is over -the public comment period have not been ratified, have not seen the final version, community benefits are gone away, Cannabis Control Commission was spoken of and their role, these Host Agreements used to be very beneficial to Towns in the past. O. Pacheco, Town Administrator mentioned his disappointment with the State and expressed that the State is receiving their 20% of revenue and Towns are now not receiving the same. revenue shares, Georgetown Cares was funded from the agreement.*

The current Mission owners are not the same people we used to deal with -don't have the same passion as past owners-direct impact -water conservation -car accidents issues -smell and lighting there, when can these concerns be addressed -O. Pacheco, Town Administrator said they are in front of the Planning Board so these issues can be brought to the Planning Board-site plan review.

VOTES BY THE BOARD:

Fire Chief Matt McKay & Rock Dower President of the Erie 5 Association spoke on the Lease agreement between Erie Fire Association No. 4 Inc. and the Town of Georgetown, Mass. Mentioned agreement lease expires in June 30, 2034. Ten-year term -approved by the special session law, this special agreement with Erie 4 can have a ten-year lease agreement.

Fire Chief Matt McKay spoke on the new agreement, will be different than prior agreements, lease of a piece of apparatus, now will be leasing two (2) bays, two allow the new engine 4 to be stored there, that is the purpose of this agreement

Erie 4 owns the building and the Town will be leasing the Bays.

New Fire Truck will be here in the next month or two.

Emergency Communication System are already at Erie 4

Apparatus / Equipment that is owned by the Town will always be kept up to date.

D. Dawes motioned the Board to approve the lease agreement between the Erie Fire Association No. 4 and the Town of Georgetown to expire on June 30, 2034 seconded by D. LaMonica. Roll call vote was taken all in favor.

Update on new Fire Truck on its final inspection this week, punch list is being worked on, delivered to the dealer in NH have to lettering added to the truck -hopefully will receive at the end of the month, will have to have an in-service training. A. Smith asked about a celebration when the truck is delivered.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: *O. Pacheco, Town Administrator spoke in the following:*

Migration to Office 365-full migration will start on March 14, 2023-behind the scenes are in place and our IT Department will be here on sight, some kinks will be worked out, training not sure if it is needed.

Middle High School Electrification Study. -special program through national grid gas, draft study was given to the Board a month ago, real pricing is in the new study, rebate and cost was discussed, deep dive looking into energy efficiency. spoke on the possible cost of new boiler.

This study has been shared with the School Department and the Department of Revenue.

Public Safety Building Update.

Progressing forward quietly , wetland flagging has started today , large questionnaire was sent to the Fire Chief and the Police Chief and have been returned , vacant lot is being focused on , field survey work in March, lay out of the site , design will take some time, rough cost will be given , lifecycle of the building, department will look different, designing for the future, how much to fund, fire house is much older, construction cost and Contour survey will be looked into.

One Stop Grant: Application letter of interest -have to be a MBTA Community to be eligible for the One Stop Grant-pursue and see what happens -zoning review, robust community participation.

Town Planner Resignation: O. Pacheco, Town Administrator spoke on behalf of Jahn Cashell who has decided to retire from the Town of Georgetown as the Town Planner -Excellent work Mr. Cashell has done excellent work in all his time here in Georgetown, dedicated to the Town, Rail Trail would not have gotten as far as it did without Mr. Cashell.

Board members all have a lot of respect for Mr. Cashell, he has done a lot for this Town and will be missed by all.

R. Hoover spoke on John Cashell, Town Planner and publicly thanked John for all he has done for the Town and wished him good luck.

SELECTMEN'S REPORT:

D. Dawes spoke on Motorcycle Awareness which will be held on March 24, 2024- Proclamamation will be issued.

D. Dawes mentioned the ALP Operation Troop Event to take place on April 20th and will have collection boxes at Crosby's Market and will be on Facebook.

R. Hoover mentioned how important the Finance Advisory Committee meetings is on March 6th strongly recommends tuning into that meeting.

D. LaMonica asked if the tax levy taxes have gone down, taxes have gone up. Need an exact number for an override.

ADJOURNMENT:

D. Lamonica motioned the Board to adjourn, seconded by D. Dawes -Roll call vote to adjourn the meeting.

NEXT MEETING: March 11, 2024. Any person with a disability who wishes to attend this public meeting and needs a reasonable accommodation, please call Orlando Pacheco, Town Administrator at 978-352-5755.