

**Memorial Town Hall, 1 Library Street, Georgetown, MA 01833**  
**Ph. (978) 352-5755 \* Fax (978) 352-5727**  
**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES**  
**Memorial Town Hall**  
**Third Floor Meeting Room**  
**7/11/05**  
**7:00 PM**

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**Selectmen Present:** Peter Sarno; Chairman; Richard Clough, Clerk; Lonnie Brennan

**Others Present:** Stephen Delaney, Town Administrator; Wayne Snow, Light Department, Arthur Rauseo, Peter Dion, Scott Edwards, Light Commissioners; Toni Mertz, Town Accountant; Janet Pantano, Administrative Assistant;

**Absent:**

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**Call to Order**

Mr. Sarno called the meeting to order at 7:00P.M.

**New Business**

Board of Light Commissioners invited to discuss PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes)

Mr. Sarno stated that he hoped to discuss options tonight with the Commissioners. He discussed formulas of other communities. He asked how they came up with their formula amount and he stated that he would like to see a fixed amount instead of a percentage. He stated that the Light Department has given the Town some lump sums and in some instances helped residents. He wants the Town to get their fair share.

Peter Dion, Chairman explained the formula they use is 1/10 of one percent of electric goes to the Town. He stated that the amount has been steady. Wayne Snow explained how the process worked in the past. He stated that what was left at the end of the year the Town took half and the Light Department took half. Mr. Dion explained that they pay their cost for accounting and 1% of payroll for accounting. He stated that they feel this is a fair number considering the number of employees. Mr. Dion stated \$47,613 was paid to the town this year. Mr. Dion stated that they have had to make a significant increase because of the increase to our infrastructure. He stated that they are investing in the Moulton Street Substation. He stated that they have had to plan for this investment 2-3 years sooner than expected. Mr. Dion explained costs and rates. Mr. Sarno asked if the town is in using a similar percent as the surrounding towns. Ms. Mertz explained Georgetown is one of the lowest. Mr. Edwards stated that Georgetown's rates are from a residential base. He stated that Middleton has a larger commercial base. Mr. Sarno asked if they were to change the formula who decides the BoS or Light Commissioners. Mr. Edwards stated that it is the Light Commissioners who decide. Mr. Dion stated that if the formula was increased now they would have to increase rates. Mr. Brennan stated that the Town pays for \$15,000 a year for street lights and they pay us \$47,000 so this amount is not actual. He asked about funds to Town and Town paying for rates. Mr. Edwards explained that they are Municipal and are mandated by the State and formulas that they use are under the State regulations. Discussion on property taxes and what costs could be. Mr. Clough stated that the Town of Georgetown is the Light Departments largest customer. Mr. Snow stated that they are the largest customer. Mr.

Rauseo asked why the Board is picking on the Light Department. Mr. Sarno stating that he is doing do diligence they just want to look at the current formula and see if this is still working for the Town. He stated that if you look at town budgets departments are paying for costs that do not belong to their department and he would like to see all costs be where they should be. He stated that they are just asking the questions. Mr. Dion stated that they have been using the same formula for the last 15 years and would have to increase rates if PILOT is increased. Mr. Dion stated that they have nothing to hide and that their books are public. Mr. Sarno asked if the Town owns the poles. Mr. Snow stated that the town owns 50% and Verizon owns 50%. Ms. Mertz stated that the Town pays up front for insurance, workers compensation, retirement, etc for the Light Department and they reimburse the Town on June 30 and she would like to see if the Light Department could pay their portion quarterly. Mr. Sarno asked if they could set up a meeting with Ms. Mertz to discuss this.

### **Correspondence**

Mr. Sarno read correspondence list

- Mass Municipal Assoc. Membership Update
- Resignation from Paul Thompson from the School Facilities Study Committee
- Letter on Bailey Lane Bridge form Lauren MacDonald

Mr. Sarno explained that the meeting on the Bailey Lane Bridge would be held August 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM here in the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor meeting room. He stated that the board has met with the Police Chief and Highway Surveyor to discuss options.

- Georgetown Historical Society Flyer on House Tour in September

7:30PM

### **Public Hearing**

*Dog Complaint/Mainero*

Mr. Sarno opened the Public Meeting on Dog Complaint/Mainero

Donald Cudmore, Police Officer and Helen L. Phillips, Animal Control Officer was sworn in by Mr. Sarno. Mr. Cudmore stated that he had a lengthy report on the issue and gave each member a packet. He explained the history from 2003, as any complaints before this are not on their computer system. He read a list of complaints by Ms. Phillips over the years and gave history of dogs. He stated that the owners had not paid the fines in the 21 days or requested a hearing. He stated that they received a letter from the owner disputing one citation. He stated that the letter was received on July 7, 2005 and the letter was dated June 8, 2005. He explained that the road is a well walked street and there have been 14 violations. He stated that a resolution should be a kennel or tether. He stated that the current system is not working. He stated that they have been trying to work with the owners. He stated that when these animals are left alone they herd and cause concern and problems to the public.

Mr. Delaney asked for the names of the animals. Ms. Phillips stated that the dogs at this residence are Misty, Bella, and Zeus. Ms. Phillips stated that she would like to thank Mr. Cudmore for his help on the paperwork for tonight's hearing. She stated that she has tried to work with the owners and that these are not bad dogs but the dogs are unsupervised and not managed well. She stated that to the general public they are a nuisance. She stated that there have been 14 citations and 4 police calls. Mr. Cudmore stated that there should be permanent restriction or destruction. He stated that he is aware that one dog is pregnant and that the owners are breeding. Ms. Phillips stated that a permanent structure would be the only restraint that she

would agree with. She stated that the quality of life for pets is an issue she stated that a physical fence of proper height that the pets could not go over or under is what she wants to see.

Mr. Delaney stated that what is determined would be to the satisfaction of the Animal Control Officer. Mr. Cudmore stated that a restraint must be used. Ms. Phillips stated that these pets can not go with a tie out. Mr. Brennan stated that what ever they do it should have enough bite. He stated that in past they have not complied with requests of this Board. Mr. Delaney recommended a retraining order to the satisfaction of the Animal Control Officer with a report back in a certain amount of days. Discussion on electric fence and that dog can go through and that they do go through these types of deterrent.

**Mr. Sarno moved that under MGL Chapter 140, section 157 the owner is ordered to immediately restrain all dogs on the premises and that a permanent restraint is to be put in as subject by the Animal Control Officer. He stated that the Selectmen would review on August 22, 2005 at 7:30PM. Failure to comply with this order may also subject the owner to enforcement action under the provisions of MGL Chapter 140, section 157. Mr. Brennan seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.**

### **New Business**

#### *Recreational Path Committee*

Dick Paganelli, Recreational Path Committee explained that on Monday he received a letter from Bay State Trails for a Grant and is asking for a letter of support from the Selectmen. He read letter of what the grant would give to the Town. Mr. Sarno stated that the Selectmen would send a letter of support.

Mr. Delaney asked if they have a full committee.

Mr. Paganelli stated that there is only him and Bob Morehouse but that he has one candidate and could use some help.

#### *ATV Meeting*

Mr. Sarno stated that there will be a meeting by Barbara L'Italien regarding All Terrain Vehicles at the Georgetown Rowley State Forest. He stated that the meeting would be held on July 19, 2005 at 7:00PM, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Town Hall 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. Mr. Brennan stated that there is a bulletin board at the forest that a notice may be posted.

#### *Georgetown Cable Access Committee*

Mr. Delaney stated that he would like to see one committee an advisory committee looking at issues such as Verizon Cable. He stated that he would like to see the operation and financial operation of the Studio to rest with the BoS. Mr. Brennan stated that he is open and would like input. He stated that there have been questions on the funds and how much is available. Mr. Delaney stated that a budget and report can be given quarterly.

Mr. Sarno stated that they should define the committee. He stated that a definition could be the Cable Advisory Committee responsibilities include, programming, training, cable access, budget negotiations, vender negotiations, and long term strategic planning. He stated that the committee could be comprised of an appointment by the School Committee a resident of Georgetown and 4 members appointment by BoS also residents of Georgetown.

Mr. Clough stated that it has been stated that it is in the contract for funds to PACT and the Schools. Mr. Delaney stated that there is but it is not that they just give them a sum it would be a proposal to the Cable Committee or Town. He stated that there have not been any proposals. Mr. Delaney stated that at the next meeting maybe they would have a candidate from the School Committee and the BoS can look at the candidates that have requested appointment.

Mr. Brennan stated he would like to thank all committee members for being filmed. He asked residents to please help fill the airwaves. Mr. Sarno stated that he would like to see someone sit down with people like Homer Tapin to get the history of Georgetown on record.

#### *Transfer Station*

Mr. Delaney stated that the deadline for bids was today and that they only had one bid. He stated that the bid received was from Mello and looks good. He thought the reason for no other bids is one the volume of tonnage is small and site assignment can take a year to get. He stated that he is looking for authorization to go to Town Counsel with the bid. Mr. Brennan asked if the list of who requested bid packets was available. Mr. Delaney stated that the information is available in the office. Mr. Delaney stated that he hopes to have this back for next BoS meeting.

#### *Town Hall Fence*

Mr. Delaney stated that he has been working with Jack Moultrie and Jim Lacey on the Downtown and part of this was to trim the hedges around the Town Hall building. He stated that the fence is in such bad shape that it should come down and at some time put a historical fence up. He stated that if the fence comes down this would affect the banners on the fence. Mr. Sarno stated that for the short term maybe they can put up the banners at the Public Safety Building sign. Mr. Brennan stated that the fence should come down.

#### **Appointments**

##### *Georgetown Scholarship Committee*

**Mr. Clough moved to appoint Pam McKay, Debbie Mulligan, and Kenneth Woodbury to the Georgetown Scholarship Committee term to expire June 30, 2006. Mr. Brennan seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.**

Mr. Clough stated that Earl Johnston has volunteered to be the Veterans Graves Officer. He stated that he had contacted the VFW and they did not have a candidate. He stated that he would just verify appointment with Mr. Johnston and they could vote at the next meeting.

**Mr. Clough moved to adjourn. Mr. Brennan seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:45PM

Minutes transcribed by J. Pantano.

Minutes approved July 25, 2005.