

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

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

Memorial Town Hall

11/01/2021

7:00PM-General Meeting

Verizon channel 42/Comcast channel 9

Selectmen Present: *D. Dawes, Chair, Vice Chair P. Kershaw, D. Twiss, A. Smith and G. Fowler.*

Others Present: *Michael Farrell, Town Administrator. Administrative Assistant, Maureen Shultz.*

7:00PM Call to order

Invocation-Douglas W. Dawes

Pledge of Allegiance

VOTES BY THE BOARD:

D. Twiss motioned the Board to approve the modification / revised Legal Boundary Description presented by Kerri McManus, Town Clerk regarding precincts 2 & 3, seconded by P. Kershaw. A roll call vote was taken all in favor. K. McManus informed the Board that the residents will know the changes when the census is mailed out.

D. Twiss motioned the Board to approve the Georgetown's Public Library surplus property as presented, second by P. Kershaw. Roll call vote was taken all in favor.

D. Twiss motioned the Board to approve a one-day liquor permit for the Hatters Tea Shop, 10 E Main Street, to be held on Tuesday, November 23, 2021 from 5-7PM, seconded by A. Smith, No Police Detail required. Roll call vote was taken all in favor.

ADA SUBCOMMITTEE:

Anala Guertin, Parks & Recreation spoke on her request to appoint members for a one-year term to form the ADA Subcommittee for American Legion Park. (See appointments for recommendations to this Committee)

APPOINTMENTS:

D. Twiss motioned the Board to appoint Jill Benas, Anne Berardi, Zhen Wu, Jenelle Walsh, and Craig Marchionda to the ADA Subcommittee for the American Legion Park, for a one-year term to expire in June 30, 2022 seconded by P. Kershaw. Roll call vote was taken all in favor.

G. Fowler asked if the applicants are Georgetown residents.

D. Twiss inquired about plans to pursue ADA Grants.

D. Twiss motioned the Board to appoint Kate Cook and John Colton to the Recreational Path Committee members for a one-year term to expire in June 30, 2022, seconded by P. Kershaw. Roll call vote was taken all in favor.

G. Fowler stated that it is time to move forward on the Rail Trail, we are behind in funding, Merrimack Valley Planning suggested to give an update at a future meeting, suggested he will reach out to see if we can figure out something to move this along, nice trail in Newburyport we keep moving backwards in this process, possible extra monies in the Metropolitan Planning-Council, he reach out to some of the legislators.

FIRE CHIEF SEARCH UPDATE:

M. Farrell spoke on a change request from MRI Consultants for a new advertisement in the newspaper for the new Fire Chief and didn't want to approve that change without consulting with the Board. New suggested salary of \$125K to \$135K from MRI Consultants and the Search Committee, wage and salary survey would have been completed with fresh numbers but have not received them

D. Dawes asked if the Board should bring up the proposal that was sent to them from the Fire Department. Good take on the proposed candidate and have them run through the MRI process -if we follow and except the proposal the candidate would be Deputy Chief for the Department and acting Chief Savage would stay on for the next year.

D. Twiss spoke on the Search Committee's suggestion that the salary should be increased from the salary that was listed, the Search Committee did not get enough qualified candidates, asking for all the qualifications is a reason for a suggested salary in the range of \$125-\$135K with a suggestion of the new salary could go as \$145K, the current salaries of the Fire Chiefs in Topsfield & Middleton where discussed which both of those positions are getting paid higher than the suggested salary for Georgetown.

D. Dawes doesn't know if the Fire Department warrants a Fire Chief at a salary of \$145K.

D. Dawes stated he can live with a salary for a new Fire Chief within the salary between \$125-\$135K but higher than that not sure he can live with that amount.

A. Smith asked asked what experience that the Chiefs in Topsfield and Middleton have.

D. Twiss asked if the Command Staff at the Fire Department was and if they were asked what was their response. D. Twiss stated he did not want to spend the money on a search if the Board was going to go with an internal candidate, it was asked if the Command Staff was asked on their opinion regarding a new Chief, has heard a lot of chatter, we need to get things right, asked if the proposed candidate should be at the next meeting along with Chief Savage. D. Twiss suggested that the Board resolve this proposal first and at some point, talk to the Fire Department,

A. Smith questioned the proposal and asked if it was to groom an internal candidate, stated it is a different outcome from the original proposal.

P. Kershaw asked what do we get if this goes back to the MRI Assessment center, questioned hiring within and spending money with MRI, what would make us think this candidate will be ranked higher going through MRI, delays the inevitable.

A. Smith asked if the Board should elaborate who the person is for the record. From the Fire Department.

G. Fowler spoke of the agreed salary of \$125-135, salary clarification was made on another amount. G. Fowler was convinced with the salary and about the members talking about how hard Chief Savage is working and putting in so much time and now a few days later we get a proposal from the Fire Department which includes Chief Savage staying on longer, believes the Board might be in too much of a hurry to act and believes they should have had Chief Savage before the Board last week. G. Fowler asked if M. Farrell, Town Administrator spoke with MRI, Consultants on putting a hold on the process for now. M. Farrell, Town Administrator did not recall that request. G. Fowler stated as a Town we have the choice to promote within and put MRI on hold.

M. Farrell, Town Administrator informed the Board he has asked that MRI Consultants not advertise the position right now until he had time to discuss with the Board.

P. Kershaw stated he values Chief Savages opinion. -fine with putting things on hold for now with MRI Consultants.

P. Kershaw recommended only Chief Savage attend the next Board of Selectman meeting.

D. Dawes suggested if the command staff was uncomfortable speaking of a candidate for Fire Chief, they could use a secret ballot.

G. Fowler asked M. Farrell, Town Administrator what he thought MRI, Consultants are going to feel about putting a hold on the process for now, M. Farrell, Town Administrator said he did know, spoke on a new job description that has been completed, G. Fowler asked if this is information is something we should have for the next meeting. G. Fowler asked about the Search Committee meetings and if a physical report was available from them on their meetings.

BOARD OF SELECTMAN REPORT:

D. Dawes invited resident to the Veterans Day Celebration that will take place on November 11, 2021 starting at 11AM at the Harry Murch Park.

A. Smith spoke on the upcoming public hearing for the renewal of cable licenses which will be held on November 10, 2021.

P. Kershaw gave an update on National Ave-making progress -G. Fowler asked if more information could be given, the following was spoken of -working closing with the owner of the property , owner of land willing to work with the Town, wants to do good by the Town, not

impeding progress, both will benefit equally , couple of options, developers reaching out to the owner, spike strip owned by owner, can go out to bid if that is what is decided , some task being done, wetland delineation we have, getting accurate flood plain data, appraisal cost , a lot of moving pieces , Merrimack Valley Planning willing to sign on with very little cost, eventually will get an agreement with the Town, keeping action items going, standing meeting .D. Twiss asked if the land is zoned for commercial /industrial use. G. Fowler asked if the Town will have to fall through the process that was used before. M. Farrell, Town Administrator stated the Town can put an RFP out to the highest bidder. G. Fowler was not comfortable with that. D. Twiss gave his opinion on the sale of the land including the spike strip. D. Twiss asked about subdividing the land.

D. Twiss informed the Board of an upcoming Economic Development meeting to be held on November 9th , 2021 at the Georgetown Town Hall.

ADJOURNMENT:

D. Twiss moved to adjourn with G. Fowler seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken all in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM. Minutes transcribed by Maureen Shultz