

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

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

Memorial Town Hall

6/29/2020

6:00PM-General Meeting ~ Broadcast on Georgetown Cable TV via BlueJeans

Verizon channel 42/Comcast channel 9

Selectmen Present: Charles Durney, Clerk; Gary C. Fowler, Douglas W. Dawes; and David J. Twiss, Peter J. Kershaw

Others Present: Michael Farrell, Town Administrator; Janet Pantano, Administrative Assistant; Rene Davis and Romina Manelo, Powers and Sullivan; Ann Gill, Treasurer/Tax Collector; Mary McMenemy, Town Accountant; Deb Rogers, Health Agent; Police Chief Don Cudmore; Carl Shreder, ConCom Chairman; Steve Przyjemski, ConCom Agent

Absent:

6:00PM Call to order

Mr. Farrell read the statement listed here:

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitation on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Town of Georgetown Board of Selectmen will be conducted via remote participation to the greatest extent possible. Specific information and the general guidelines for remote participation by members of the public and/or parties with a right and/or requirement to attend this meeting can be found on the Georgetown website, at www.georgetownma.gov. For this meeting, members of the public who wish to watch the meeting may do so in the following manner: Channel 42 Verizon or Channel 9 Comcast, or on the town website at <http://gctv.georgetownma.gov/>. No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that meeting the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time, via technological means. In the event that we are unable to do so, despite best efforts, we will post on the Georgetown website an audio or video recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting.

Invocation-Douglas W. Dawes

Pledge of Allegiance

Re-Organization of the Board

Mr. Farrell read the instructions for election of new chair.

Nominations for Chair:

Mr. Durney nominated David Twiss

Mr. Fowler nominated Doug Dawes

Votes for D. Twiss: Votes for D. Dawes:

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Fowler	__yes	Fowler	_____
Dawes	_____	Dawes	_____
Durney	__yes	Durney	_____
Twiss	__yes	Twiss	_____
Kershaw	__yes	Kershaw	_____

Mr. Farrell stated that there were 4 votes for Mr. Twiss and he was nominated the new Selectmen Chairman.

Mr. Twiss asked for nominations for Clerk

Nominations for Clerk:

Mr. Durney nominated Mr. Dawes

Votes for Mr. Dawes:

Fowler __yes
Dawes abstained
Durney __yes
Twiss __yes
Kershaw __yes

Mr. Twiss stated 4 votes and one abstention for Mr. Dawes

Mr. Dawes was nominated the new Selectmen Clerk.

NEW BUSINESS

FY19 Financial Report-Romina Mameli & Rene Davis

Romina Mameli & Rene Davis were present via BlueJeans.

Ms. Davis stated that she will go over the audit and answer any questions. She thanked them for having them in tonight. She stated that they have already started the audit for next year and explained the process. She stated that there is a very tight budget in Georgetown and we spent 99% of budget.

She discussed OPEB liability and Essex Regional Retirement System. She stated that they do not have a management letter this year and all concerns from last year were addressed. She went over last years and what the town did to comply. She asked for questions.

Mr. Farrell stated that the Town Accountant and Treasurer/Tax Collector are present tonight and do a great job.

OLD BUSINESS

COVID-19 update-Police Chief Cudmore & Deb Rogers BoH Agent

Chief Cudmore and Deb Rogers were present via BlueJeans

Chief Cudmore welcomed Mr. Kershaw to the board.

Chief Cudmore stated that they are waiting for a new phase and working now with restaurants.

He stated that he has not had many PPE calls. He stated Lt. Hatch is working on funding with Ms. McMenemy and Mr. Farrell. He stated that expenses were not overwhelming for the town.

He stated that he has been asked about the Concerts at the Park and until we have guidance from the State he does not see how they can be held.

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Ms. Rogers stated that there have been 59 positive cases in town. She stated that at this time she is reading the guidelines and they are confusing, not black and white. She stated that she had a meeting on inspections and how to hold them. She stated that there will be no surprise food inspections. She stated that their goal is for businesses to comply and this will be the process for the next year.

Mr. Twiss asked about mosquito spraying. Ms. Rogers stated the spraying will be the same as in the past. She stated that they spray problem areas and residents can call for spraying. She stated EEE is in the fall. Mr. Twiss asked if she had a breakdown on cases. She stated that we are a little higher than neighboring towns. She stated that social distancing is still recommended.

Mr. Durney asked if the beach water was tested. Ms. Rogers stated that they did and the beach did pass and is ready to go.

Mr. Dawes asked how often she gets guideline updates. Ms. Rogers stated that twice a week at least and sometimes more. Mr. Dawes read a MMA Report about large events and if we have small events such as the concerts. He stated that he did not know the numbers who attended concerts in the past. He stated that there can be 40-50 people. Ms. Rogers stated that outside live entertainment is not allowed and may be allowed in Phase 3. He asked if Phase 3 would start July 6. Ms. Rogers stated that she did not know when.

Mr. Durney asked about the beach being open and if there are other guidelines that have to be in place. Ms. Rogers stated will need a beach manager to monitor the beach to keep social distancing, etc. She stated that the bathrooms are cleaned daily and soap provided. She stated that they will have to be sure cleaning is maintained and her department does not have the man power to enforce rules at the beach. Mr. Durney stated that the board wants to open the beach, but we do not have the resources and cannot follow the guidelines.

Mr. Farrell asked Mr. Fowler if the Park & Rec met and if they discussed the beach. Mr. Fowler stated that they are ready to open but leaving up to the Selectmen. He stated starting bathroom cleaning July 1st and will have open in am and clean midday and clean again at the end of the day. Mr. Fowler asked the capacity for events. Mr. Farrell stated that the Building Inspector did not have an open space plan, but by septic plan can have maybe 30 people. Mr. Twiss stated if opening the beach will need social distancing guidelines and markings. She stated she went to another beach and they had signs and had someone to allow someone in and out and marked areas. Mr. Twiss stated need a sanitation program for the playground before opening. Mr. Fowler stated that GYCC director was available to work at the park and funding was an issue. Mr. Farrell stated that he talked to Mr. DiMento and Anala Guertin and the GYCC position was not funded over the summer and if works will not have funds for fall at GYCC. He stated that they will be paying his unemployment over the summer.

Recreational Rail Trail-Request

Chris Roop was present via BlueJeans

Mr. Roop stated that the rail trail is proceeding but on hold because of the virus and public hearing has been delayed. He stated in the meantime and the trail is incomplete they cannot direct people to use the trail and we are part of the East Coast Greenway and want to put signage to direct through town on the Greenway. He stated that they have come up with a route with minimal use of major roads.

Mr. Dawes asked about long distance cyclist groups or individuals. Mr. Roop stated generally smaller groups and occasionally some small groups. Mr. Dawes stated that off beaten path and if

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small groups. He stated that he is working with some homeowners on some tight areas and will put up some signage.

Mr. Durney stated lower Bailey Lane and that residents have weighed in on the trail. Mr. Roop stated he has worked with Gagnon's and are happy to go with plan as is.

Mr. Dawes moved to approve the request from the Recreational Path Committee in conjunction with the East Coast Greenway Alliance to post ECG signage for a bypass route in Georgetown until the Rail Trail is constructed. Mr. Durney seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

Conservation Commission discussion-Carl Shreder

Carl Shreder and Steven Przyjemski was present via BlueJeans

Mr. Shreder stated that he watched the meeting and heard some concerns about the ConCom and board members to be reappointed.

Mr. Twiss stated that there are some concerns with a home passing papers. Mr. Shreder stated there is only one issue that he knew of and was with an engineer. Mr. Dawes explained the issue and that they need an okay and the homeowner had an issue. He stated that Mr. Przyjemski took care of the issue and have been issuing emergency orders. He stated that there is a difference between a meeting and hearing. Mr. Twiss stated that they are aware of this and communication needs to be had. Mr. Twiss stated that they need to know the level of communication between residents and the board and if it is happening. Mr. Shreder stated that he talks with agent weekly. Mr. Dawes asked the board how to handle this issue. Mr. Farrell stated that Mr. Shreder is working with town council and a discussion has to be done in Executive Session. Mr. Twiss stated that there have been a garden of complaints on members and this has to be addressed. Mr. Farrell stated that board members are not afforded the same rules as an employee. Mr. Shreder stated if discussing a member then should have that member be present. Mr. Twiss stated that he would be open to a meeting with the board member. He stated that they want to make sure the issue is rectified and addressed.

Mr. Twiss stated he will move to hold a meeting with commissioners. Mr. Dawes stated that he has a procedural point and he asked Mr. Shreder if he has only one complaint. Mr. Shreder stated that he is gathering information and does not anticipate a long investigation. He stated that two members are up for reappointment and have nothing to do with this issue. Mr. Shredder asked for any additional questions. Mr. Twiss stated he can gather the information and set a meeting for members. Mr. Fowler asked if we have a complaint. Mr. Twiss stated a few complaints and some are against the law. Mr. Fowler stated that some of what we talked about regarding opening up the town hall, we were told things are going fine. He stated that he talked to Mr. Shreder and they stated cannot hold hearings and some boards are holding hearings. He stated that staff had clothing that identifies them. He stated that how do people know who they are. Mr. Farrell stated that they have business cards and we do have badges made 10 years ago. Mr. Twiss asked if only the agent can do site walks. Mr. Shreder stated that a member can do a site walk and issue an order and has to be ratified by the board at the next meeting. Mr. Przyjemski stated that he has asked his board to call him with issues and he will go out. Mr. Twiss stated that staff should have a polo or identifying identification.

Mr. Twiss asked when the town hall will open. Mr. Durney stated it has been scheduled for July 13th. Mr. Farrell stated July 13th for staff and July 20th for the public and need to have signage and training for staff. Mr. Durney stated with the staff meeting be a Zoom meeting. Mr. Farrell

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stated that will hold a meeting at 8AM for staff and another if needed with social distancing. He stated hearings still cannot be held as you cannot have large crowds and have to allow the public to attend.

Mr. Kershaw asked if ConCom can have a hearing on Zoom. Mr. Farrell stated that have to have a two way conversation and allow people to speak. He stated up to the State. Mr. Kershaw stated that he sees that this would be an issue. Mr. Przyjemski stated that he is talking with the School and Library about holding meetings. He stated that the most concern he sees are with small projects and the large projects are fine waiting. Mr. Fowler stated that it is up to the State and who are we holding up. Mr. Przyjemski stated the projects before them are 5 open septic systems and they were issued under emergency regulations, 2 small deck pools, Tidd Junk Yard, and Mello Transfer Station. He stated that large issues are okay it is the small projects that do not understand the wait. Mr. Durney asked for an explanation of the hearing and meeting. Mr. Shredder stated a hearing is a State and Local meeting and is a legal meeting with a legal process.

Mr. Kershaw asked how this would happen at the High School Auditorium. Mr. Shredder stated that that they use manual plans and use the cameras in the studio and camera's to zoom in. Mr. Przyjemski stated that those could be done at a small venue to get some projects through and do not have a large audience. Mr. Twiss asked the difference of projects. Mr. Przyjemski explained the Notice of Intent and a Notice of Conditions and then a CoC. He stated that he has over 100 projects that he is overseeing. Mr. Twiss asked for a list of the projects. Mr. Przyjemski stated that he would forward the list to the board. He explained the open CoC cases and close out process.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

National Ave Bid Update

Mr. Farrell updated the board on the National Ave bid. He stated that they have a copy of the bid and response of the RFP. He stated last week they had meeting on National Ave. He stated that they went over the submittal and found some flaws in it. He stated that the review team would like to meet with the team. He stated that the map was not very good and the access is not very good, one lot is land locked and they need a utility easement to get to the largest portion. He stated they have a lot of homework to do and would be good to sit with a rep of the boards. He stated that this will not happen quickly as most want to start tomorrow. He stated could have dual hearings to speed up but not with Covid. He stated that would like to get everyone together over the next few weeks. He stated a robust project but not sure if we can get permitted.

Mr. Kershaw asked if the boards have gotten together over the project/property and what is the best way to build on this location, or do we have a task force. Mr. Farrell stated not an official task force mostly because of conflict of interest. He stated that the Planning Board made a land lock parcel and a task force would be a good thing. He asked if the EDC has looked at the parcel. Mr. Dawes stated EDC should look at this parcel.

Mr. Twiss stated that EDC has look and maybe Mr. Shredder or Mr. Przyjemski could weigh in. Mr. Przyjemski stated that you could do on dry land and the issue is the spite strip on one lot and access issues on second lot. He stated that impossible to give a feeling without more information and the plan looks like it has been faxed numerous times. Mr. Twiss stated that the EDC should review. He stated that there are challenges to access this property. Mr. Przyjemski stated that how the town subdivided the property, created their own hardship. Mr. Durney asked for the list of reviewers and for clarification on asking for up to 7 host agreements over a 3 year period. He

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stated going from 6 to 13 host agreements. Mr. Farrell stated that the town has only one growing facility, and will have transportation, research, and testing.

Mr. Farrell stated task force committee would be Doug Dawes, Steve Przyjemski, John Cashell, Les Godin, and Thom Berube. Mr. Twiss asked for an EDC member to be added to the committee.

Mr. Fowler stated that when this group came before the board do we feel that this is a good fit for the town and is this the fit we want to see. He stated are there better uses. He stated not a good review of what goes in here and the board should meet with Rowley, as the property abuts them. He stated that we need to put in more time.

Mr. Kershaw stated that the property is landlocked and projecting a business, a task force needs to be formed and he will champion this project, there are some inherent issues and why subdivided. He stated so we can pick and choose and cart before the horse.

Mr. Twiss stated that bulk of the property is dry and biggest issue is access. He stated if we figure out how to get in, it will be easier to develop. He stated that the spite strip makes access difficult and will have to go over the buffer zone.

Mr. Kershaw asked if he and Mr. Przyjemski could access the lot, and walk the lot together. Mr. Przyjemski stated that the lot is easily developable and the spite strip is the issue. He stated a lot of issues are not ConCom. He stated he can only help with what he can. Mr. Shreder stated the board does allow work in buffer zones with appropriate waivers. Mr. Farrell explained the spite strip and how it was purchased to force the town sell to them.

Mr. Fowler stated that the RFP says the town will provide access and we cannot do this. Mr. Farrell stated he agrees.

Grant and Cares Funds

Mr. Farrell stated wanted to update the board on Grant money and that he has applied for CARES funds and the departments got together with expenses of Covid. He stated that the town is eligible for \$108K and \$34,288 from that will be receiving from FEMA for Covid FY20 and still have funds for FY21. Mr. Twiss what was the money spent on. Mr. Farrell stated some Fire and Police PPE. Mr. Twiss stated some expenses for opening of Schools. Mr. Farrell stated that will mostly be for School except for Desi funds. Mr. Twiss asked what other funds will we need and these will add up fast. He stated FinCom and Schools need to work together.

Mr. Kershaw asked who is overseeing the school plan. Mr. Farrell stated School Board and Governor and DESI. Mr. Farrell stated Mike Anderson submitted a plan for summer school and he has not worked on fall yet, as he needs guidance.

Legal Update

Mr. Farrell stated that the board will have a legal update at the next meeting in Executive Session.

Vacation

Mr. Farrell stated he will be on vacation from 7/1 to 7/13. Mr. Fowler asked if we need an interim. Mr. Farrell stated he will be available if needed and only out 5 days.

BOARD BUSINESS

Mr. Dawes asked about the job posting for the Administrative Assistant Position. Mr. Farrell stated posted last week and have 20 resumes and he hopes to hire someone at the beginning of

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August and will have them work with Ms. Pantano as much as possible. He stated that he would like someone with municipal experience and advertised in MMA, NHMA, and on Indeed.

The Spot

Mr. Dawes asked for the post and chain to be moved back against the building at The Spot at night. Mr. Farrell stated that he will look into it.

WARRANT and MINUTES

Minutes of May 18 and June 1, 2020

Mr. Fowler moved to approve the minutes of May 18, 2020 and June 1, 2020. Mr. Durney seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

APPOINTMENTS and APPROVALS

Appointment requests/Conservation Commission

Mr. Twiss stated a request from Logan B Umberger for appointment to ConCom and he read his request. Mr. Dawes stated that we should invite these applicants to come before the board.

Mr. Twiss read the request from Ezequiel Gesualdi for appointment to ConCom.

Mr. Twiss stated would be beneficial to invite both to a meeting. Mr. Przyjemski stated that both current board members have made an interest to be reappointed. Ms. Pantano to provide the letter requesting reappointment. Mr. Twiss asked that both ConCom members Rachel Bancroft and Elizabeth Clark be invited to the next meeting

ITEMS NOT REASONABLY ANTICIPATED BY THE CHAIR 48 HOURS IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING

SELECTMEN'S REPORT

Mr. Dawes stated that the Healthy Pharms host agreement was created and it formed a Substance Abuse Committee and changed to Georgetown Cares. He explained committee and that they received funds and have spent some and read the mission statement. He stated that some items fell through and had \$5K left and wanted to provide \$2500 to CoA and to GYCC. He stated that the requests were denied and funds will go to free cash. He stated that the committee approved the funds to be used in a way and he is protesting the denial.

Mr. Farrell stated he denied as is general fund money and the original request was to donate to both groups and our auditors have stated that you cannot use general fund monies for donations. He stated that the next day after denial he received an invoice for services rendered from both groups. Mr. Dawes stated that we do not audit these groups and asked the board to rescind the denial. Mr. Twiss stated that are we required to use the funds for drug abuse. Mr. Farrell stated that DoR changed the rules and our auditors have said no and Town Counsel is providing a report. Mr. Fowler stated that it should go back to Mission or if not go into the general fund then appropriate in the fall for Georgetown Cares. Discussion on funds and that they have to spend before June 30th.

Mr. Durney stated to make a decision next meeting when we have Town Counsel opinion. Mr. Farrell stated have until July 15th to pay FY20 bills. Mr. Fowler stated that not sure if funds should go to general fund.

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Mr. Twiss welcomed Mr. Kershaw to the board and thanked Mr. Bonavita for his time as a Selectmen.

NEXT MEETING

July 13, 2020 via BlueJeans

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Durney moved to adjourn. Mr. Dawes seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

Meeting adjourned at 9:03PM.

Minutes transcribed by J. Pantano.

Documents used in this meeting:

- Minutes of May 18 and June 1, 2020
- FY19 Financial Report-Romina Mameli & Rene Davis
- COVID-19 update-Police Chief Cudmore & Deb Rogers BoH Agent
- Conservation Commission discussion-Carl Shreder
- Recreational Rail Trail-Request
- National Ave Bid Update
- Appointment requests/Conservation Commission