

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
3/27/17
7:00PM-General Meeting~3rd floor meeting room, Town Hall

Selectmen Present: C. David Surface Chairman; Gary C. Fowler, Clerk; Douglas W. Dawes, and Joseph Bonavita

Others Present: Michael Farrell, Town Administrator; Janet Pantano, Administrative Assistant

Absent: Steven Sadler

7:00PM Call to order

Invocation-Douglas W. Dawes
Pledge of Allegiance

OLD BUSINESS

Public Safety Use of 45 Central St. Property

Police Chief Cudmore and Fire Chief Mitchell were present.

Mr. Surface stated that the Chiefs are here to discuss 45 Central St. and options for the area. He stated that the board will hold a public hearing and look at options for the property. Chief Cudmore stated that they met with an engineer to review options for the property. He stated that with the 10 year CIP they are looking into the future of the building. He stated that they asked for \$15K from CIP for a plan. He stated that he did a draft 9 step plan to look at the process to make changes at the public safety campus. He discussed having one dispatcher for police and fire with one entrance and not have duplicate staff.

Mr. Surface stated that the board has filed for a demolition permit for the home. He asked if we have heard from the Historical Commission. Mr. Farrell stated that not yet and they have 30 days and we are close to that.

Chief Cudmore stated that he does not want to pave the parking lot until we know what we will do with the property. He stated that we have to look at the whole campus.

Chief Mitchell stated that when the building is removed it will open up the view for the vehicles exiting the building. He stated that they need to expand the department for the increased residents and calls. He stated that they need a training room for both Police and Fire. He stated safety is an issue for the building as once you enter you are in. He stated that they have no living quarters for staff. He stated to meet the response times they need to staff 24/7.

Mr. Bonavita stated that he likes the idea of a two story building.

Chief Cudmore discussed the HP parking and issues with steps to the PD. Mr. Bonavita asked if they had a dollar number for the addition. Chief Cudmore stated no it would depend on square footage.

Mr. Dawes stated with the growth of our town that we have to make sure our public safety is funded.

Mr. Fowler stated that he makes a lot of meetings and it came to his attention in the 10 year plan the improvements that they are looking for. He stated they are going in the right direction and would like them to look at regionalization and look at a regional lockup.

Chief Mitchell stated that he has talked with the Chief in Groveland about some shared ambulance service.

Chief Cudmore stated that he is not in favor of dispatch leaving but he would be the regional host.

Mr. Surface stated that he is glad that they are looking at shared services and shared costs are also something we should look at.

Community Compact IT Grant

Chief Cudmore stated that he and the Fire Chief have met with Mr. Farrell on the IT Grant and he has come up with a project for the back of the house IT as they updated the front of the house. Mr. Farrell handed out a project information packet. Chief Cudmore explained the project and cost of phase I is \$52K.

Chief Mitchell stated that he is looking at an alerting system and updating their reporting software to IMC the same program as the Police Department. Chief Cudmore explained the IMC contract and what software they have. Mr. Surface asked if this is one project.

Mr. Farrell stated that the project comes in at \$135K. He stated project would be submitted this week.

Discussion on radios.

Chief Cudmore stated that in the future all town buildings need to be connected by fiber.

APPOINTMENTS and APPROVALS

Request from Police Chief Cudmore to appoint Officer Adam Raymond as a Detective

Chief Cudmore gave background on Officer Raymond and how he was selected for this position.

Mr. Dawes moved to appoint Officer Adam Raymond as a Detective beginning on April 1, 2017 to the Georgetown Police Department term to expire June 30, 2019. Mr. Bonavita seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

CORRESPONDENCE

Letter from Jeff Gillen, Chair Georgetown CIP

Mr. Surface read Mr. Gillen's letter and asked the board to keep to their SoP to commit funds to capital improvement. He stated the committee is aware of insufficient funding available but with the Marijuana funds coming available if some of these funds could be used for capital projects.

Mr. Surface stated that he would like to see the marijuana funds used for one time expenditures.

Chief Cudmore stated he is a member of the CIP committee and they have been meeting each week and do not want to lose any steam and the dots are not connecting. Mr. Fowler stated that the Senior Center has taken a lot of funds and left a shortfall for other projects.

Snow and Ice Deficit

Peter Durkee, Highway Surveyor was present

Mr. Durkee stated that we have had 67 inches of snow, 7 plowable storms and gone out 14 times.

He stated that they had a truck accident in January and have had to call out an additional truck for that route. He stated have spent \$192K and he has an additional \$30K from the last storm. Mr. Farrell stated that will leave us with \$100K in Free Cash.

Mr. Dawes stated that the roads in town were very good compared to other towns after this last storm.

Discussion on routes and how and when they go out.

Letter from Selectmen Fowler

Mr. Surface read the letter from Mr. Fowler. Mr. Surface stated that they are looking at new positions as they come up. He stated that this is a daunting task. He stated that some of these boards have their own hiring authority. Mr. Fowler stated that they discussed the police officer and Town Planner and discussed jointly. Mr. Farrell stated that the BoS is the salary setting authority. He stated that they set the classification system. Mr. Surface stated that the board sets the range but not the salary. Mr. Fowler stated that we should have met with the FinCom and worked together on salaries. He stated that we sign the warrant weekly if someone went out of budget could we not sign. Mr. Surface stated that we could not do that if the department has the funds. He stated that we have to look at the current staff and new staff. Mr. Fowler stated that we have to look at all.

Recreational Marijuana Discussion

Mr. Surface stated that he has researched and some towns have banned recreational marijuana.

Mr. Dawes stated that there is a clause in the Healthy Pharms agreement that they cannot be prohibited from selling marijuana. Mr. Surface stated that the State has now pushed out to July 2018 as they work on regulations. Mr. Dawes stated any applications to sell have to be

submitted to the Town. Mr. Fowler read the clause #17 from the Healthy Pharms agreement. He stated he is concerned on Cafes and they need to meet with the Planning Board. Mr. Dawes stated from a policing standpoint if Healthy Pharms was allowed to sell recreational marijuana it would be in one place. He stated that the board has to proceed cautiously.

Mr. Surface stated that he just wants to keep the discussion open.

Health Insurance Discussion

Mr. Surface stated at last meeting the board decided to keep our current plan with a 4% increase.

He stated that he asked Mr. Farrell to put together a spreadsheet with the current plan and the optional benchmark plan which would have been less, also the HMO and PPO plans. He stated biggest difference is the deductibles our current has none and others have deductibles.

Mr. Farrell explained the differences in the plans and costs. He gave a handout on the costs and went over the spreadsheet.

Mr. Surface stated that Mr. Sadler recommended we hire a consultant to help Mr. Farrell with the insurance review and he agrees. Mr. Fowler stated that to add this to the budget now would be difficult and maybe we could find the funds somewhere else. Mr. Surface stated that this is 10% of our budget and \$15K is a small amount for a consultant. Mr. Bonavita stated that we got the proposal last week and if we had the information earlier could have made a more informed decision. He stated he was unhappy with the information provided by our provider.

Mr. Surface asked that we find out if it is our information or MIIA's information.

Mr. Fowler stated that they could have MIIA in to a meeting and let us and employees know of other options.

Mr. Farrell stated he would be in favor of hiring a consultant to look at health care for next year.

Mr. Dawes moved to request \$15K in the budget to hire a Health Care Consultant for next fiscal year. Mr. Surface seconded the motion.

Discussion

Mr. Bonavita stated he would want to hear first what a consultant could provide and their value.

The motion was not approved by a 2-2 vote.

State of the Town Update

April 3, 2017 at 6:00PM

Mr. Bonavita stated that he is working with Mr. Farrell on the State of the Town.

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

SELECTMEN'S REPORT

BoS Procedures, Policies, and Regulations Manual

Mr. Surface stated get the final back to boards and review.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Senior Center Update/Closeout

Mr. Farrell stated that the new Senior Center is very busy and they have about \$34K left in the budget and still have a urinal to be installed.

Mr. Surface asked for a breakout of all spent and where the funds were spent.

Mr. Surface asked for Park & Recreation to come to the next meeting.

Perambulation of the Bounds

Discuss at next meeting.

NEXT MEETINGS

Monday, April 3, 2017 @ 6PM State of the Town

Monday, April 10, 2017 @ 7:00PM

ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:25PM.

Minutes transcribed by J. Pantano.

Minutes approved April 10, 2017.