

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

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

Memorial Town Hall

5/11/2020

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

Verizon channel 42/Comcast channel 9

Selectmen Present: Joseph Bonavita, Chairman; Charles Durney, Clerk; Gary C. Fowler, Douglas W. Dawes

Others Present: Michael Farrell, Town Administrator; Janet Pantano, Administrative Assistant; Police Chief Donald Cudmore; Health Agent Deb Rogers; Town Clerk Kerri McManus; Gillian Davies

Absent: David J. Twiss

6:02PM Call to order

Mr. Bonavita took a roll call vote on attendance and 4 members were in attendance. Mr. Twiss was not present.

Mr. Bonavita read the statement below:

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

Mr. Bonavita thanked the Emergency Management Team, Essential Businesses, Police, Highway, Essential Staff, Town Hall staff and stated that the town is in good shape.

OLD BUSINESS

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

Police Chief Cudmore & Deb Rogers BoH Agent were present remotely.

Chief Cudmore updated the board and public that in the 2 months of quarantine no staff members have been sick, and not one sick call. He stated that he talked to Ms. Rogers and there are now 34 cases of COVID-19 in town and she will update the board. He stated that we will be opening soon and have to make some decisions. He hopes we can open as smoothly as we closed. He stated that the outdoor sign with the TM notice is getting tired. He stated he is looking to replace at about \$10-\$15K and hopes to find a grant.

Ms. Rogers stated that we have 2 new cases and hopefully no more and people have been wearing masks. She stated the Governor put out a 4 stage plan. She stated that there is some legislation on Town Meeting and will share when she receives.

Mr. Bonavita stated on the 4 stages he did not see a lot. Ms. Rogers stated that they also did not get a lot of guidance but businesses that do not have a lot of public interaction and can keep distancing and not hands on will open first.

Mr. Bonavita stated that he is in favor of opening public areas.

Chief Cudmore stated that they need a set of guidelines for social distancing and have not received new guidelines for parks, playgrounds, sports, etc. He stated that he hopes to get this information ahead of time to get ahead of the curve. He stated that he has a document from Gloucester on opening and can share to see if it works for Georgetown.

Mr. Durney asked if anything has happened that they are concerned about. Chief Cudmore stated a couple of instances on non-conformance, but they have educated and have been handled the situations.

Mr. Bonavita asked how we are doing for funding for nurses. Ms. Rogers stated 3 public Health nurses and had \$10K from the State and down to \$98. She stated and the School Nurses have stepped up Ms. Doherty and Ms. Hatch and they are helping out. She stated that she has applied for any funding she can and she stated that she is having a hard time doing her own work with all the COVID 19. She stated that they have hired a soil inspector to help out.

Chief Cudmore read list of the Governors 4 stages that he just received.

Mr. Bonavita asked Mr. Farrell what options are there for funds if needed.

Mr. Farrell stated he will discuss later, as he just got the information late today. He stated that we do have the reserve fund and we will be moving some line items around. He stated that we have \$100K to use but must be careful as revenues are down and we run lean. He stated he has told departments to spend what they need to get their job done.

Mr. Fowler asked how this compares with a storm. Chief Cudmore stated he has already submitted to MEMA and we will get 70% back for COVID-19 costs. He stated not a lot of costs, a lot for cleansers to keep the business going.

Mr. Fowler asked if we know how many businesses shut down and if any calls. Chief Cudmore stated the closing has been relatively smooth and Ms. Rogers stated the same.

Mr. Bonavita stated that there was a situation of some people lost in the woods last week and the Police and Fire did a great job getting everyone home safe.

Deb Rogers left the meeting.

Town Election/Town Clerk update-Kerri McManus

Kerri McManus, Town Clerk was present remotely.

Ms. McManus stated that the date of June 22nd is good and other towns have had their elections and 6-8% are voting with most voting absentee and 25% coming in. She stated that she has talked about limiting the hours of the polls. She stated she would like to see 8-10 hours with a 2 hour break for dinner and to clean the polls. Mr. Bonavita asked how the polls would work. Ms.

McManus explained one check in and one check out, three wardens and her, and will mark floor to space out 6-ft, and have a one-way flow, masks must be worn and polls cleaned between each voter.

Mr. Fowler asked about early voting and explanation. Ms. McManus explained that for the local election there is no in person early voting, there is early voting and an absentee voting. She stated that these are the same and is confusing. She stated that elections will be Monday, June 22, 2020 at Penn Brook Elementary School with time to be determined. She stated Town Meeting on June 15th at the High School. Mr. Farrell stated he would like to discuss town meeting this evening.

Mr. Fowler asked about the ATM warrant listing the Elections and that it would need to be adjusted.

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Grant/Letter of Support- Gillian Davies

Gillian Davies, BSC Group was remotely present.

Ms. Davies explained her position with the MVP Grant and working on another Grant for the town for next year. She stated that the project that came up is a project at the Park & Ride lot in the center of town and she described the project, to control the stormwater at this site, plant trees, repair culvert, potential work with the auto body shop on their parking area to keep runoff out of the wetland. Mr. Farrell stated that there is a schematic in their packet on the project.

Mr. Dawes asked if a match of funds is required for the grant.

Ms. Davis stated that there is and this is for the feasibility study, permits and cost. She stated there is a 25% match and can be in kind services by the town. She stated that when it is time to do the construction, we can look at partners such as DOT. She stated she has talked to them and they were supportive. Mr. Durney stated does she need a support letter. Ms. Davis stated that would be for the study and they did that and now the cost would be for staff labor.

Mr. Fowler stated that he sees something on the plan for lights and the EDC has discussed this area and Mr. Durkee came before them for a better parking area for the businesses. He stated that maybe some CPC funds may be available for the project.

Mr. Bonavita asked how was this project was chosen. Ms. Davis stated that as part of the grant there was a discussion with the staff and community members to offer sites and they went out and reviewed and this place was one. She stated that 3 ideas came forward and this one had the most interest. She stated that they will provide the town with the other projects in other locations so they can use these for future grants.

Mr. Fowler moved to allow the Chairman to sign the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Grant Letter of Support to the Environmental of Affairs for the Library Street Project. Mr. Dawes seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

WARRANT and MINUTES

Minutes of April 27, 2020 for approval

Mr. Durney moved to approve the minutes of April 27, 2020. Mr. Dawes seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

*The Annual Town Meeting and Special Town Meeting Warrants for June 15, 2020
Town Meeting Quorum*

Mr. Farrell stated that he has not heard back from counsel and will have to review next week. Mr. Fowler stated he wanted to discuss holding the meeting and reduce the quorum. He stated and if we do reduce the warrant would be only financial articles.

Mr. Farrell stated that if the board changes the quorum it would only be a temporary change and can only reduce by 10% which is from 100 to 90, and can only discuss budget articles and that is not clear. He stated that as he reads cannot vote on CPC, Revolving funds and only vote on Article 2 the budget. He stated if we do not hold a town meeting, they would have to get approval from the State on the 1/12 budget.

Mr. Fowler stated that he took the quorum as 10% which would be 10. Mr. Farrell stated that we need a better interpretation on this as this is not how Legal interprets.

Mr. Bonavita stated ask Mr. Surface, Moderator to attend next meeting.

SELECTMEN'S REPORT

Revised Selectmen meetings: 5/18, 6/1, 6/15 ATM, 6/29, 7/13, 8/17

Board members were okay with the adjusted meetings to reflect the new ATM date and election date.

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Grant

Chief Cudmore stated that he wanted to chime in on the Library St project discussed earlier. He stated that the town uses the parking lot and to modernize and add lighting would be great. He stated that this is an important project and he, Peter Durkee, ConCom, Water, Light, already on board and he would help in any way to push the project forward.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Line Item Transfers FY20

Mr. Farrell stated that he just received the transfers tonight and suggests we review next week.

APPOINTMENTS and APPROVALS

FY21 Appointment list for review

Mr. Bonavita asked about sharing the open positions. Mr. Durney stated that on the website you can find all open positions for the month or when they expire.

SELECTMEN'S REPORT

Mr. Fowler stated that starting early has some people confused as the board always started at 7PM and now at 6PM with the update to COVID-19. Mr. Bonavita stated that the 6PM update is important for the public to view. Discussion on posting.

Mr. Bonavita stated add to sign that the BoS meet at 6PM.

NEXT MEETING

Monday, May 18, 2020 at 6PM.

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 7:40PM.

BoS Minutes
May 11, 2020

Minutes transcribed by J. Pantano.

Minutes approved June 1, 2020.

Documents used in this meeting:

- Minutes of April 27, 2020 for approval
- COVID-19 update-Police Chief Cudmore & Deb Rogers BoH Agent
- The Annual Town Meeting and Special Town Meeting Warrants for June 15, 2020
- Town Election/Town Clerk update-Kerri McManus
- Town Meeting Quorum
- Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Grant/Letter of Support- Gillian Davies
- Revised Selectmen meetings: 5/18, 6/1, 6/15 ATM, 6/29, 7/13, 8/17
- Line Item Transfers FY20
- FY21 Appointment list for review