

**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**  
**5/20/19**  
**7:00PM-General Meeting~3<sup>rd</sup> floor meeting room, Town Hall**

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**Selectmen Present:** Joseph Bonavita, Chairman; Douglas W. Dawes, Clerk; Gary C. Fowler, Charles Durney, and David J. Twiss

**Others Present:** Janet Pantano, Administrative Assistant

**Absent:** Michael Farrell, Town Administrator

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**7:00PM Call to order**

Invocation-Douglas W. Dawes

Pledge of Allegiance

*Memorial Day Observance*

Mr. Dawes read the letter from American Legion and VFW Veterans regarding the Memorial Day Observance Events.

Mr. Bonavita welcomed Mr. Twiss to the board.

*Reorganization of the Board*

Mr. Bonavita stated that it is the board's policy after elections to reorganize at the first meeting after the election. He stated that Ms. Pantano will take the nominations for Chair and the new Chair will take the nominations for Clerk.

Nominations for Chair:

Mr. Durney nominated Joseph Bonavita as Chairman of the Selectmen.

Ms. Pantano asked for other nominations. There were none and a roll call vote was taken.

Votes for Bonavita:

Fowler \_\_\_N\_\_\_

Dawes \_\_\_N\_\_\_

Durney \_\_\_Y\_\_\_

Twiss \_\_\_Y\_\_\_

Bonavita \_\_\_Y\_\_\_

Ms. Pantano stated that Mr. Bonavita was voted as Chairmen for the year and passed nominations to the Chairman for the Clerk position.

Nominations for Clerk:

Mr. Bonavita asked for nominations for Clerk of the Selectmen.

Mr. Bonavita nominated Charles “Kip” Durney as Clerk of the board. He asked for any other nominations. There were none and a roll call vote was taken.

Votes for Mr. Durney:

Fowler     \_\_\_Y\_\_\_

Dawes     \_\_\_Y\_\_\_

Durney     \_\_\_Y\_\_\_

Twiss     \_\_\_Y\_\_\_

Bonavita   \_\_\_Y\_\_\_

Mr. Durney was voted as Clerk.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

*Public Hearing continued from April 22, 2019-SQF, LLC/Tilson Request to place a new utility pole for an AT&T Small Wireless Facility in the public right-of-way*

**Mr. Durney moved to open and *continue* the SQF, LLC/Tilson request to place a new utility pole for an AT&T Small Wireless Facility in the public right-of-way to *June 24, 2019*. Mr. Fowler seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.**

**Mr. Durney moved to close the public hearing. Mr. Fowler seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.**

Mr. Pinto asked if the town will get a rental fee from the venture. Mr. Fowler and Mr. Twiss stated \$270 a year. Mr. Durney stated that this is regulated by FCC. Mr. Twiss stated he has been reviewing the documents as he is new and there is an appeal to the FCC regulation that has not been given a decision.

**NEW BUSINESS**

*Police Chief Cudmore Memo regarding parking at 51 West Main Street*

Mr. Bonavita read the memo from Chief Cudmore.

Mr. Fowler asked if this should come before the Traffic Study Committee.

Mr. Twiss explained the parking situation on parking based on the ZBA decision. Mr. Dawes asked if the ZBA discussed the on street parking. Mr. Twiss explained parking on street was not discussed. Mr. Fowler stated as a board do, they see a need for additional parking in the downtown. He stated that this will be a good project for the town and asked if we have to send to EDC or Traffic Study.

Mr. Bonavita stated EDC has not discussed parking in downtown and would if presented.

Mr. Dawes stated that parking may be eliminated in front of the building.

**OLD BUSINESS**

*Water Department Discussion-Nick Lawler to be present*

Mr. Bonavita stated he invited Mr. Lawler to come in and talk about what the Water Board talked about at their meeting after the town meeting decision not to go forward with the merger.

Mr. Lawler stated the boards are still focused to move forward. He stated that the board did vote for a 25% increase this summer and another 25% increase in rates in the winter. He stated that they have projects under way and then upgrades to the Treatment Plan and maybe a future rate

increase to cover the Treatment Plant bond. He stated that another issue is the building and it is not in good condition. Mr. Lawler stated that the Light Dept will be asking the Water Dept to leave the building so they can add a generator. He stated that the Light Dept will be renovating their building and the Water Dept may be able to join in their building. He stated that the town wants a qualified Water Manager and he stated that they have to find someone.

Mr. Twiss stated Groveland and Rowley are also having an issue getting someone. He asked what are the chances of finding someone with qualifications. Mr. Lawler stated that this is a problem. He explained issues. Mr. Twiss asked if Littleton has always been merged. Mr. Lawler stated that they have been for a long time.

Mr. Fowler asked if there are some things that can be done without the merger. Mr. Lawler stated it will be more difficult to do without the merger. Mr. Fowler stated that people are concerned with salaries at Light Department and health benefits and will the Water Department want these same benefits and people are envious of these. He stated if you put something in front of the public a few times it may go forward. Mr. Lawler stated that the board took a lot for granted and should have been more prepared. Mr. Fowler asked about getting a company for 3 years. Mr. Lawler stated they have to hire a manager. He stated that they have to pick up the pieces and move forward.

Mr. Twiss asked if they cannot find someone and get to the fall what is plan B. Mr. Lawler stated a company could come in but they need a manager for the department. He stated that they could go back to town meeting in the fall.

Mr. Pinto, 114 Thurlow stated that he thinks the water is good and at town meeting there was not enough information.

Mr. Bonavita stated that at town meeting there needed to be more information.

Mr. Lawler stated only 150 people at town meeting. Mr. Bonavita asked how many at Littleton. Mr. Lawler stated 1200 and the towns are the same size.

Mr. Twiss stated if something went home with students that could have affected the votes and attendance. He stated that if in fall they do not have a manger then they should do a mailer. Mr. Lawler stated that the residents will get a mailer on increase of rates soon. Mr. Twiss stated if they can show the savings then at town meeting the merger may get the votes. Mr. Lawler stated that he is not sure the water board is in support of going back to the town. He stated that he is in favor of going back to the town. He stated that the board wants to move on and look for a manager. Mr. Bonavita stated he is afraid that they will be back at square one.

Mr. Fowler asked who pushes the projects. Mr. Lawler stated the board does here and that is not usual. Mr. Fowler stated that the board is not changing and the time may be right. He stated that residents may think rate increase is because the vote did not go forward.

Mr. Dawes stated that the public needs to know that the boards work in these areas and are professionals and need the trust of residents. He stated that the overall structure change for the town needed to be presented.

Mr. Lawler stated that the boards worked well together over this project and if they need anything to let him know.

#### *Stantec/MassDOT-Border to Boston Trail request for comments*

Mr. Bonavita stated they are looking for comment from the town. He stated that he would have to review before a comment. Mr. Dawes stated that the Georgetown trail has been moving very slow. Mr. Fowler stated that Georgetown has been pushed back a few times and other projects are being pushed forward.

Board asked for Rail Trail to come in and update the board.

### **APPOINTMENTS and APPROVALS**

*Request from Sarah Cognata, Librarian to surplus property*

**Mr. Durney moved to approve the request from the Library to surplus miscellaneous property as presented. Mr. Twiss seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.**

*Request from Colleen Fiorello for appointment of Martha Lucius as an Alternate to the Council on Aging term to expire June 30, 2020*

**Mr. Fowler moved to appoint Martha Lucius as an Alternate to the Council on Aging term to expire June 30, 2020. Mr. Twiss seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.**

### **WARRANT and MINUTES**

*Minutes of April 22, 2019 and May 6, 2019*

**Mr. Durney moved to approve the minutes of April 22, 2019. Mr. Fowler seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote. Mr. Twiss abstained**

**Mr. Fowler moved to approve the minutes of April 22, 2019 and May 6, 2019. Mr. Durney seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote. Mr. Twiss abstained**

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

#### **SELECTMEN'S REPORT**

Mr. Bonavita stated that the board wants to schedule the Fire Department Report workshop. He asked who the board wants to attend. Board stated Fire Chief and a Fire Department representative. Mr. Fowler stated that it would be good if the negotiations were finished and they need to have the department in order.

Mr. Dawes stated should have expectation on how issues will be addressed and rectified. He stated eventually will be 24/7 365-day department and will need a new building.

Mr. Durney stated that the document is quite extensive and they have to start out small and find some quick wins and something to get done short term and then a meeting on the more intensive issues.

Mr. Dawes stated that there are efforts to move forward and the department cannot go on as it is going and steps have been taken and have to move on.

Mr. Bonavita stated they will need the Fire Chief present. He stated June 3<sup>rd</sup> is a possibility. He stated that Police Chief had some information to share and he will reach out to him.

Mr. Fowler stated that he attended the Boy Scout Eagle Scout ceremony for Francis Wood and wanted to congratulate him on achieving this goal.

Mr. Dawes stated that he wanted to acknowledge his project was that he GEO mapped all the fire hydrants in town.

### **NEXT MEETING**

Monday, June 10, 2019-7:00PM 3rd floor meeting room, Town Hall

### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:20PM.

Minutes transcribed by J. Pantano.

Minutes approved on June 10, 2019.

Documents used in this meeting:

- Public Hearing continued from April 22, 2019-SQF, LLC/Tilson Request to place a new utility pole for an AT&T Small Wireless Facility in the public right-of-way
- Minutes of April 22, 2019 and May 6, 2019
- Police Chief Memo regarding parking at 51 West Main Street
- Stantec/MassDOT-Border to Boston Trail request for comments
- Water Department Discussion-Nick Lawler to be present
- Request from Sarah Cognata, Librarian to surplus property
- Request from Colleen Fiorello for appointment of Martha Lucius as an Alternate to the Council on Aging term to expire June 30, 2020