

Memorial Town Hall, 1 Library Street, Georgetown, MA 01833
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BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

MEETING MINUTES

Memorial Town Hall

05/17/2021

7:00PM-General Meeting

Broadcast on Georgetown Cable TV via BlueJeans

Verizon channel 42/Comcast channel 9

Selectmen Present: David Twiss, Chair, Vice Chair Douglas Dawes, Clerk; Peter. Kershaw, Gary Fowler, Newly Elected Member Amy Smith

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

7:00PM Call to order

Invocation-Douglas W. Dawes

Pledge of Allegiance Douglas W. Dawes

D. Twiss 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 that.

Re-Organization of the Board:

M. Farrell, Town Administrator, proceeded with nominations and explained the process, once the new chair has been nominated the chair will take over the meeting immediately and then will continue to ask for nomination for the Clerk position to the Board in the appointment process.

P. Kershaw asked to take the floor for a moment and wanted to speak on the last year experience in regards to the chairman and my thoughts on the last year on accomplishments including the work by the Board such as the new Boards and Committee's Handbook that was update. M. Farrell, Town Administrator-should not allow due to past practices in which a conversation had taken place prior to a vote.

P. Kershaw nominated D. Twiss as Chair

G. Fowler nominated D. Dawes as chair.

P. Kershaw would like to explain why he would like to speak on behalf of D. Twiss as Chairman and the past year on the Board.

G. Fowler stated he thinks there is no problem with having a discussion on a vote-Roberts rule should apply to have discussion on a vote.

Nominations closed for the chair per M. Farrell, Town Administrator.

P. Kershaw asked M. Farrell, Town Administrator are you telling me there is no discussion?

G. Fowler agrees with P. Kershaw and believe a discussion can/should take place prior to a vote.

M. Farrell stated it has never come up before and he is staying with past practices.

All in favor of D. Twiss for Chair.

P. Kershaw voted I for D. Twiss /

D. Dawes onstained from vote since he was nominated also for Chair,

D. Twiss voted I for D. Twiss.

A. Smith voted I for D. Twiss (Error was made in vote-See below-A. Smith misunderstood the vote)

A. Smith voted Nay for D. Twiss.

A. Fowler voted I for D. Dawes as Chairman

B. Smith voted I for Dawes

C. Dawes voted I for D. Dawes.

P. Kershaw voted Nay for D. Dawes. -P. Kershaw is requesting a discussion.

M. Farrell, Town Administrator announced D. Dawes as the New Chairman.

D. Dawes asked P. Kershaw to address the Board on what he was asking to speak about.

P. Kershaw spoke about the new policy & procedure book that was recently updated by the Board and spoke about the terms to serve as Chair which was recently modified in the book, past year very challenging and we work well together. P. Kershaw spoke on changing the leadership on a Board every year and how that can leave inefficiencies, like a lose rutter on a ship -open and honest dialogue -communication outward and inward is what the community wants and has not gotten from Town Hall.

D. Dawes welcomed Amy Smith to the Board.

COVID UPDATE:

W. Holt, Board of Health agent spoke on the State's new guidelines of reopening and rescinding the state of emergency effective June 15, 2021.

Re-opening plans:

G. Fowler questioned if the Board / Town has to follow the state guidelines on opening, asked if the Town can still require mask, concerned with the upcoming events at the American Legion Park, inquired about the Public Library and what their plans look like for reopening looking forward to returning to the library.

W. Holt, Board of Health Agent spoke on any business / company can make mask mandatory at their businesses, answered about Town Hall employees who might be apprehensive on not wearing a mask, any employee that might be apprehensive about the re-opening can continue to wear a mask, up to the Board of Selectman to decide on what the rules will be on the re-opening Town Hall, outdoor guidelines are out there from the State.

D. Dawes thinks the Board has to be pretty clear to take a phased approach to opening, the Governor now has allowed this to happen, it was asked what does Council on Aging have for plans for re-opening, M. Farrell, Town Administrator stated they are taking appointments still at this time, Library assisting with anyone who needs / wants a book the staff will get the books for their patrons. B. Holt said he would forward the plans submitted to him from the Council on Aging and the Public Library to the Board.

P. Kershaw asked how many vacancies are there on the Board of Health.

D Twiss asked about several folks who have applied.

D. Dawes requested appointments to the Board of Health be added to to the next Selectman's' agenda. P. Kershaw asked that the applicants attend the next meeting,

G. Fowler asked is the next meeting in June is going to be at Town Hall,

D. Twiss said it would be up to the Chair to decide.

D. Dawes asked what the Board members think about having the next meeting at Town Hall.

D. Dawes thinks the town/board should follow the state guidelines.

G. Fowler stated he would like to see something written for the Board see it in phased guidelines.

M. Farrell, Town Administrator spoke on the local state of emergency which will need to be rescinded at the next Board of Selectman meeting.

P. Kershaw thinks the Town should align with the state, have a modified plan for people at Town Hall, we will open up but it won't make a lot of sense if we don't follow the states guidelines.

D. Twiss stated anyone not vaccination you need to wear a mask, those who don't feel safe can continue wear mask.

Final Draft of the re-opening plans will be forwarded to the Board soon by W. Holt, Board of Health Agent and M. Farrell, Town Administrator.

A. Smith inquired about the capacity of attendees at a meeting held at Town Hall and if there is any information on this, do we need to limit access and would that be part of the re-opening plan. W. Holt stated no capacity limit by the State has been issued.

New Business: Town Meeting Update / Warrant Articles :

D. Surface, Town Moderator, spoke on the upcoming Town Meeting and its location and time, welcoming announcement from the Governor on ending the state of emergency.

G. Fowler opened the Special Town Meeting warrant seconded by D. Twiss stated was no discussion pretty cut and dry.

D. Twiss motioned the Board to add Article 2 for the appropriation of free cash for the snow and ice deficit FY2021 (STM21-02), seconded by G. Fowler. No discussion -All in favor on a roll call vote.

D Twiss motioned to close the Special Town Meeting seconded by G. Fowler. Roll call vote was taken all in favor.

Annual Town Meeting Warrant discussion to add two new warrant articles:

H. LaCortiglia spoken to the Board of changes to the By Law changes- Planning Board Chairman Harry LaCortiglia requested to be on the agenda to ask the Board to add two additional warrant articles to upgrade the Town's by Laws-the Annual Town Meeting to be held in June, 2021.Discussion Upgrade of the Town's by Laws by planning board members. The Board took no action on these items-The Board has already closed the Town Warrant for the Annual & Special Town Meeting.

D. Dawes has yet to see the modified plans of the proposed by law changes.

D. Twiss request came from H. LaCortiglia to D. Twiss not to all members of the Board, proper procedure was not followed that is why it did not end up getting this added as a warrant article.

G. Fowler mentioned it was not posted on the agenda, G. Fowler personally would not vote in favor of an article this late in the game, this can wait till the Fall Town Meeting -not a normal policy buy we have changed policies before suggested the Board could meet on this next week but still would not be in favor of this article being added at this point.

D. Twiss stated the intent was to bring this to the Fall Town Meeting.

P. Kershaw agrees that this article be put on the Fall Town Meeting for the reasons already stated.

H. LaCortiglia surprised no information was sent to the Board by the Town Planner, invited the Board to his meeting in a few weeks.

D. Dawes feels the proposed articles regarding by law changes need to be added to the annual town meeting and thinks they can wait until the Fall Town Meeting.

A Smith asked if there is an advantage to wait to put on the fall town meeting but believes the Chair has answered that already.

Summer Concert Series:

An update was given to the Board by Jill Benas and Karen Rowe on the upcoming concert summer series.

Line-Item Transfer was discussed by M. Farrell, Town Administrator

G. Fowler inquired if there was money that could be covered.

D. Twiss asked about any new information on Excise Tax and asked if the Town was still going to be late -M. Farrell Town Administrator stated no news at this time.

Deficit in legal services-normally a year would be \$80K -well over the \$100K mark at this point,

M. Farrell, Town Administrator spoke on the following items relating for a need for a transfer.

- Board of Health agent payout*
- Health Insurance Cost*
- Retiree of Inspectional Services.*
- Whittier School District giving the Town a credit.*
- Rescue Plan monies, hoping will be available to help make up for the deficit by June 30, 2021.*

(See Votes of the Board.)

VOTES BY THE BOARD:

D. Twiss motioned to approve meeting minutes from April 26, 2021, as presented seconded by G. Fowler. Roll call was taken all in favor.

Line-Item Transfer was spoken of:

D. Twiss motioned the Board to approve the line-item transfer as outlined in the agenda packet, seconded by D. Dawes. Roll call vote was 4-1, G. Fowler abstained from the vote.

TOWN ADMINISTRATION UPDATE:

The Board of Selectman will rescind the State of Emergency at their next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

D. Twiss moved a motion to adjourn with P. Kershaw moved to second the motion. The Board voted unanimously on a roll call vote to adjourn.