

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

**Meeting Minutes 04/11/2022**

**Ph. (978) 352-5755 □ Fax (978) 352-5727**

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES**

**Memorial Town Hall**

**7:00PM-General Meeting**

**Verizon Channel 42/Comcast channel 9**

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**Selectmen Present:** *D. Dawes, Chair, Vice Chair P. Kershaw, G. Fowler, D. Twiss, A. Smith*

**Others Present:** *Orlando Pacheco, Town Administrator.  
Administrative Assistant, Maureen Shultz participating on Zoom.*

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**7:00PM CALL TO ORDER**

*Invocation-Douglas W. Dawes*

*Pledge of Allegiance*

**CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARING:**

*D. Twiss motioned to continue the public hearing from March 28, 2022 for a change of manager, change of officers & directors, change of ownership for Georgetown Flatbread, 258 Andover Street, Georgetown, Mass seconded by P. Kershaw.*

*Jill Mann, Legal Counsel representing the Spot Restaurant, 19 West Street, Georgetown, Mass was present.*

*Meeting was held later to give time for the proposed Manager to be in attendance -See Continued public hearing below.*

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

*Jill Mann, Legal Counsel from Mann & Mann Law Offices representing the Spot Restaurant, 19 West Street, Georgetown, Mass was present.*

*D. Twiss motioned the Board to open the public hearing for a change of manager for the The Spot Restaurant, 19 West Main Street, Georgetown, Mass seconded by P. Kershaw.  
Roll call vote was taken all in favor.*

*Attorney Jill Mann introduced the proposed new manager Glen Chickering to the Board.  
Restaurant and staff were discussed.*

*G. Fowler questioned the reason the application and paperwork has many areas that are blacked out. Understand identity theft -copies of licenses do not come out good to be able to read -scanning make it grainy-if there no reason to see it why give it to the Board, the original copy is in the Selectman office. Spoke on expired license from a previous applicant. Expired license and expired Passport are a valid identification per Attorney Jill Mann*

*P. Kershaw has been there recently place is packed good to see people out.*

*D. Dawes asked if they do take out, do people utilize the parking out back, and is there is an agreement with the Eagle Building for parking.*

*D. Twiss motioned the Board to approve a change of manger to Glen Chickering for the Another Spot restaurant, Inc dba The Spot Restaurant, 19 West Main Street, Georgetown, Mass seconded by P. Kershaw. Roll call vote was taken all in favor.*

*D. Twiss motioned the Board to close the public hearing seconded by P. Kershaw. Roll call vote was taken all in favor*

### **VOTES OF THE BOARD:**

*Amendment to Intermunicipal Agreement/ Larkin Road-2.8 section was discussed: Water Main & Electric Service Installation, Maintenance and Conveyance, section 2.8 was left out of the original agreement this section means work can go forward.*

### **Contractor& Developer John Colantoni updated & discussed with the Board on the Following items:**

- *Parrish Commons*
- *Frustrating having to wait for this amount of time to complete projects/No utilities*
- *Foot print for two Town House*
- *Spoke on his ideas for future projects*
- *Spoke of the easement*
- *Order of Conditions*
- *Culvert Replacement*
- *No change to the septic and draining system*
- *Possible Georgetown residents only*
- *Town Council has approved –Town of Newbury will be taking this up at their upcoming meeting.*

### **51 West Main -Update to the Board**

- *Framing Town Houses*
- *Tons of compliments*
- *Peter Durkee, Highway Supervisor was recognized for being so helpful.*
- *Rain Garden at the end -filtering into the meadows -all done the right way.*
- *Work to be starting soon.*

*D. Dawes asked if the main building can be refurbished.*

*D. Twiss asked what the commercial use is.*

*D. Dawes asked about the price points of the Town houses will be.*

*P. Kershaw thanked Contractor& Developer John Colantoni for carrying this project*

*D. Twiss motioned the Board to approve Amended Section 2.8 of the Intermunicipal Agreement/ Larkin Road, seconded by P. Kershaw. Roll call taken all in favor.*

### **Continued Public Hearing:**

*D. Twiss motioned the Board to open the continued public hearing for Georgetown Flatbread seconded by P. Kershaw. Roll call vote was taken all in favor.*

*Jill Mann, Legal Counsel from Mann & Mann Law Offices spoke on behalf of the Georgetown Flatbread.*

*Proposed new manager Jamie Edwards was present.*

*G. Fowler asked the question he had asked at the earlier public hearing on the application and questioned as the reason that parts of the application and paperwork has many areas that are blacked out.*

*D. Twiss motioned the Board to vote to approve the change of manager as Jamie Edwards including the change of officers & directors and change of ownership as presented for the Georgetown Flatbread, 258 Andover Street, Georgetown Mass seconded by P. Kershaw. Roll call vote was taken all in favor.*

### **VOTES OF THE BOARD:**

*D. Twiss motioned the Board to approve a one-day liquor permit for use at Camp Dennison on June 5, 2022, for wine, beer and a champagne toast a fifty-year anniversary for a renewal of vows which will include fifty guests, seconded by P. Kershaw. Roll call vote was taken all in favor.*

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

*D. Twiss motioned the Board to enter into executive session at 8:00P.M to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares, in the second-floor conference room and to reconvene into regular session in the third-floor meeting room seconded by G. Fowler. Roll call vote motion all in favor. The Board entered into regular session at approximately at 8:32PM*

### **TOWN MEETING WARRANT:**

*D. Twiss motioned the Board to open the Town Meeting Warrant to approve an additional article seconded by P. Kershaw. Roll call vote was taken all in favor.*

*O. Pacheco, Town Administrator spoke on adding the following warrant articles:*

*Article 19: Town Hall Windows: to see if the Town will appropriate \$50, 000.00 from free cash for the purpose of restoration and replacement of the windows at the Georgetown Town Hall / purposes of a Matching Grant, the Town has to show a match in place.*

*Article 20: Affordable Housing Trust Grant: additional letter regarding 32 Lisa Lane, Georgetown, Mass- Community Preservation Community Housing Category: to appropriate the amount of \$750, 000.00 from the Community Preservation Fund to the Georgetown Affordable Housing Trust.*

*D. Dawes spoke on cannabis money going into free cash and inquired where has it all gone, mentioned he would like to take money received for the past year from the host agreement medical and retail and put it in the Stabilization Fund and Capital Projects funds.*

*D. Twiss asked how much money currently is in free cash, mentioned the Town needs to keep \$300K in the account.*

**Discussion on the following items:**

- *Balanced still has to be budgeted*
- *Structural deficit*
- *Storm Water Erosion control article also in the Spring Town Meeting*
- *Education and service*
- *1.4million dollars*
- *Questioned what was spent on budgetary item -difference of \$8K spent on budgetary needs*
- *Planning Board articles will be postponed to a Spring Town Meeting*

*D. Twiss spoke on his request in 2019 when he wanted money to be put into significant deposit into the Capitalization Fund, Stabilization Fund and OPEB -some people not were not happy with that idea -that had to be agreed upon -we need to not get in a habit of putting funds into these programs, does not think the Town should depend on cannabis money for the budget.*

*G. Fowler spoke of 20% of new growth -there has been new growth has been hidden in the budget somewhere, not just the need to find new revenue we also need help with some spending problems.*

*G. Fowler spoke on Article 11 -Proposed amendment to dog licensing by law: commented on the number of pages in this article, questioned if they should we be looking at increasing these fines, asked if the fees are set by the State, believes the increase of these fees are too high, not big on increasing things but realizes as the Town operates certain things, different fines at different times, mentioned that the Board has made wording changes to warrant articles in the past.*

*P. Kershaw asked about if there was any information on a pay fee with other communities.*

*D. Twiss asked if we are looking at a two and half override in the future.*

- *Fixed cost*
- *New growth*
- *Health insurance*
- *Plan design could be changed*
- *GIC plan is possible in the future / may or may not save money.*
- *Absorbing from the fiscal year*
- *Override where you are and where you want to be.*
- *Plug the gap -do what we want example of having the library open on Thursdays-Youth center -examples -goals and objective.*

- *Expedited permitting process does the Town have one.*

*D. Twiss made a point if we continually torture people and businesses in their process of permitting gave an example of 51 Main Street, Georgetown, Mass which took two years for a new business –\$800K assessment of the project, tax rate was spoken of and mentioned this project would have given the Town \$84K and mentioned how important that amount of money would have been for the benefit of the budgetary deficit.*

*G. Fowler mentioned tax incentive, new growth can get beat up quickly with everyone's budget, workshop with the Planning Board was suggested.*

*G. Fowler motioned the Board to Close the Warrant as printed with the exclusion of article J and the addition of articles 19 & 20, seconded by D, Twiss. Roll call vote was taken all in favor.*

**TOWN ADMINISTRATION REPORT:** *O. Pacheco, Town Administrator spoke on the following:*

**BUDGET UPDATE DISCUSSION:**

- *Debt service*
- *Hold all department to 2%*
- *School Budget*
- *Use out of free cash -\$250K to plug the budget deficit not sure this is feasible*
- *Operating deficit.*
- *Departments need some flexibility.*
- *Concerned with Police Department because of Police Reform.*
- *Suspend the action of a full time Fire Department.*
- *Positions will need to be looked at.*
- *Regionalization.*
- *Fixed costs keep going up.*
- *Health Care increase / not sustainable for employees.*
- *Better at spending the Town's money.*
- *Health Care Plan & discussion*
- *Unemployment reserve*

**Wage & Salary update/survey:**

- *Job descriptions are complete -MRI should be in attendance at the next meeting*
- *Salary scale*
- *Salary survey-cannot happen overnight*
- *High low-grading system*

**Opioid Settlement:** –

- *Subdivisions agreement on how municipalities can spend the money.*
- *Paperwork was looked through*
- *Possible allocating some funds to the Georgetown CARES and or the GYCC.*

**Grant Applications:**

*Wetland and Drainage Grant -Rear parking lot MASS DOT -Proposal being put together/ wetland a little unhealthy need more protection.*

**604 B Water Quality Grant** –*Looks at how to improve an impaired water body -Rock Pond was mentioned. Working with other departments.*

**MMFP grant Town Hall windows:** *Going forward.*

**Green Communities Grant:** *Small Bridge grant being worked on.*

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Planning Director reporting to the Town Administrator:** *O. Pacheco, Town Administrator recently spoke to the Town's Labor Council and General Laws Chapter 41, Section 81A - suggested to the Board to give it a read, in order to change you will need a Special Legislation and or Town Charter.*

**Human Resource person reporting to the Town Administrator:**

*The Town will need to find a person willing to share this role, not limited y any special.*

*G. Fowler inquired about finding a person to share. if changes are made here at Town Hall as to reporting special legislation that is more of a routine thing, is it-it is a process.*

*G. Fowler mentioned a DOR report that was spoken on when the Former TA was here-might be starting point -not sure if he is agreement with a Town Charter but might be able to change.*

*D. Twiss suggested that a decision needs to be made on implementing a Town Charter and or a By Law change and spoke on quorums about Town Meetings.*

*A. Smith mentioned some residents are not even aware there is a Town Meeting*

*P. Kershaw commented on the phrase “we have always done it that way “change is needed - time changes everything.*

*A. Smith spoke on clarification about process and addition of adding positions that will cost the Town money based on the previous budget discussion.*

**Selectman Time & Discussion:**

*Board members discussed upcoming meeting dates for May and June, Town Election and Town Meeting.*

*Board discussed keeping meetings on the second and fourth Mondays of each month.*

*D. Dawes mentioned that National Grid dropped off documents to the Conservation Commission.*

*P. Kershaw praised O. Pacheco, Town Administrator for jumping into the meetings and being a critical team member and thanked him for all he does at the Board of Selectman meetings which has made it refreshing to be part of the Board.*

*D. Dawes mentioned a MIIA Wellness Grant that M. Shultz, Administrative Assistant applied for and received which gave employee's stand-up desk, benches for outside use at the Town Hall and to be part of a CSA Program to deliver fruits & vegetable to the Town Hall.*

**ADJOURNMENT:**

*G. Fowler moved to adjourn at 10:05 P.M. with P. Kershaw seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken all in favor.*

*Meeting adjourned at 10:05PM. meeting minutes transcribed by Maureen Shultz, Administrative Assistant.*

*All Board of Selectman Meetings can be viewed on our Town Website at <https://www.georgetownma.gov> Under the Community TV tab on the left side.*

**Documents used in the meeting:**

*Two Applications for liquor license changes from the Spot Restaurant and Flatbread*

*Draft Town Meeting Warrant*

*One day liquor application from Camp Dennison*

*Amendment to the Intermunicipal Agreement / Larkin Road*

*Opioid Settlement / Agreement*

*Calendar for upcoming meetings*