

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

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

MEETING MINUTES

Memorial Town Hall

6/7/2021

7:00PM-General Meeting

Broadcast on Georgetown Cable TV via BlueJeans

Verizon channel 42/Comcast channel 9

BOARD MEMBERS Present: *Doug Dawes, Chair, Vice Chair Peter Kershaw, David Twiss, Amy Smith, Gary Fowler.*

OTHERS Present: *Michael Farrell, Town Administrator. Administrative Assistant, Maureen Shultz, William Holtz, Board of Health Agent, Police Chief Donald Cudmore, Acting Fire Chief Chuck Savage, and Lt. Scott Hatch.*

Veterans Update:

Karen Tyler, Veterans Service Director spoke on an upcoming luncheon that will be provided for Veterans and will be held on July 3, 2021 with donations from Newburyport Bank, deadline to RSVP is June 24, 2021. Georgetown's Council on Aging will provide information at their center and posters will be distributed throughout the community.

Correspondence:

Jill Benas gave an update on the upcoming summer concert series to take place at the American Legion Park -beer and wine license to be approved D. Dawes complimented the way they have handled the alcohol during past events. See votes of the Board for liquor approval.

Heidi Mongeau spoke on an upcoming event called Heavens Child Concert to be held on July 10, 2021, Ms. Mongeau shared the message of Christ and Hope and is trying to promote the event.

D. Dawes suggested this event go through the Parks & Recreation Committee; Board of Health is approving this event. No vote needed by the Board a/Selectman.

D Twiss asked about a police detail which was not needed per Chief Cudmore and no alcohol will be served.

Review / Special Town Meeting Warrant:

P. Kershaw asked if the Board can approve the warrant as one vote.

M. Farrell spoke of the past practice of putting the votes of the Finance Committee and the Board of Selectman in the Town Meeting Guide which can have an effect on how the resident's vote.

G. Fowler spoke that the Finance Committee is an advisory committee no objective on voting the articles not sure of the need of the Board of Selectman voting, if the Board didn't support an article we would not put on the warrant.

D. Dawes spoke on voting to approve the Special Town Meeting as presented with six articles and asked if anyone has an objection if it is voted as a one vote.

D. Twiss disagrees with G. Fowler respectfully and stated if the Board votes the Annual Town Warrant as a whole document, he would have to abstained from the whole warrant due to one warrant that is on there that he would be recusing himself from.

D. Twiss asked the amount of money that were missing from the articles. -M. Farrell stated the Finance Committee would be providing the amounts.

P. Kershaw asked about the dollar amounts, and suggested if the Board is not going to accept the articles without the dollar amounts then the Board should move on and wait.

M. Farrell, Town Administrator suggested the Board set up another meeting prior to Town Meeting to take up the articles with the funding amounts in the article.

Special Town Meeting Warrant / Articles.

D. Dawes read the Articles of the Special Town Meeting Warrant:

Article 1- Motioned by A. Smith and seconded by P. Kershaw to approve article 1 as presented. Roll call vote was taken 4-1 in favor. G. Fowler abstained from vote

Article 2-Motioned by D. Twiss and seconded by P. Kershaw to approve article 2 as presented. Roll call vote was taken 4-1 in favor. G. Fowler abstained from vote.

Article 3-Motioned by D. Twiss and seconded by A. Smith to approve article 3 as presented. Roll call vote was taken 4-1 in favor. G. Fowler voted nay on motion.

Article 4 motion by D. Twiss and seconded by A. Smith to approve article 4 as presented. Roll call vote was taken all in favor 5-0.

Article 5- No action taken on this article / article was passed over on the advice of Town Council.

Article 6 Motion by D. Twiss and seconded by P. Kershaw to approve article 6 as presented.

D. Twiss asked why there is no vote from Finance and why is there no dollar amount. D. Twiss stated he is not happy there is no dollar amount there as of this vote. Recommendation to Finance on this article would be \$55K from M. Farrell. Roll call vote was taken 4-1 in favor. G. Fowler abstained from vote

G. Fowler stated he is not happy of having no dollar amount in article 6.

Review / Annual Town Warrant / Meeting:

D Twiss asked why the Finance Committee votes are not on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant or available to the Board, questioned why there are no votes from the Finance Committee and appropriations on the articles, M. Farrell, Town Administrator was going to inform the Board of their votes, moving money one place to another and then take a vote, the board should of know what the Finance Committee voted on and what their vote was

G. Fowler spoke on past Town Meetings that the motions would be done early but the financial amounts of the articles did not come until the day of Town Meeting, this is nothing new, funding of article has always been the job of the Finance Committee to make these recommendations, spoke on article two (2) operating budget which he intends to not approve not happy that the Finance Committee wants to take money out of the stabilization fund.

D. Twiss stated that he wants to make it clear that the reason the Board did not vote the Annual Town Warrant as a whole is because there is no dollar amounts in the articles and wants the Board and the Finance Committee to meet together regarding the final numbers.

D. Twiss stated he has a problem with making financial decisions without the amounts and is extremely frustrated and not comfortable with voting on these articles. -D. Dawes shared his sentiments.

The Board did not take any actions on the Annual Town Meeting articles.

D. Dawes suggested a new meeting will be scheduled for June 14, 2021.

Covid 19 update:

W. Holt, Board of Health Agent gave the Board an update Covid 19- The Town of Georgetown is currently in gray status which is a low level, three cases in the last week, no positive cases in Town as of today, good news that surrounding Towns are also in the gray status, 55% of residents have been vaccinated, 12-15-year old's vaccinations were briefly spoken of, Governor Baker has put no limits on businesses opening soon. The State recommends anyone not vaccinated should continue to wear a mask and continue with social distances. Governor Baker is planning on ending the State of Emergency on June 15, 2021-The Board of Selectman will need to vote to rescind the State of Emergency.

Lt. Scott Hatch, Georgetown Police Department spoke briefly on his department and stated everyone following all the regulations and recognized Bill Holt, Health Department for his update.

Board of Health recommendations/ update:

W. Holt, Board of Health Agent should consider re-opening all public building with certain guidelines in place. Limit reentry to buildings, clear signs at the door with rules, suggest social distance signs, all persons wear face coverings in the common area of Town Hall, non-vaccinated individuals are recommended to wear a mask but not a requirement, only allow access to certain areas, no public restrooms, safety screens in offices that don't have them currently, hand sanitizers in every office for the public to use, COA and the Public Library limit their ability to be open to everyone-slower opening, public meetings can take place after June 15th, 2021, Governor Bakermight continue to let virtual meetings continue but the Town will have to wait and see when that may take place.

A. Smith motioned to rescind the Town's State of Emergency on the recommendation from Governor Charlie Baker effective June 15, 2021, seconded by P. Kershaw.

G. Fowler asked the Board to add as an agenda an item to discuss allowing only resident to use the American Legion Beach and suggested coming up with some guidelines.

D. Dawes asked M Farrell, Town Administrator if the Board has the right to make restrictions at the American Legion Beach when the State of Emergency has ended. M Farrell, Town Administrator believes you cannot make that restriction,

W. Holt, Board of Health Agent is waiting to hear from the library on their guidelines prior to the States guidance, they are looking for some of direction.

D. Dawes stated each building is different, we should let each building set their plans and have the Board of Health can work with all departments separately

Twiss residents -senior center open venues to re-open -more than a handful or residents to mention this at this meeting.

W. Holt, Board of Health Agent has a copy of the Council on Aging re-opening plans and will send to the Board.

D Twiss states that since we asked for a re-opening plan then we should approve that plan, what is the point of asking for a plan -deferred to M. Farrell, Town Administrator.

G. Fowler motioned to approved the re-opening plan as presented, seconded by D. Twiss. The Board took a roll call vote all in favor

P. Kershaw asked about the official date of reopening Town Hall which will be June 15,2021.

Correspondence:

Erin Duggan, of the Georgetown Youth Community Center gave an update and presentation on the Georgetown Youth Community Center on their program updates and their summer activities.

D. Twiss inquired about a Town Parade.

D. Dawes inquired about any fundraising that has been done and mentioned there is a lot of supporters in Town.

Selectman's Report: Fire Chief discussion:

Acting vs. Interim

Acting Fire Chief to be done by the Christmas Holiday.

D. Twiss commented people will want to work here in Georgetown and the Fire Chief's position is a very highly coveted position.

D. Twiss stated that the Town should use the former Fire Chief Al Beasley as a side board.

G. Fowler wants to schedule a working meeting on the Fire Chief Discussion on or around June 22, 2021.

Workshop scheduled for Fire Chief search committee to take place on June 22 @ 6PM at the Town Hall.

P. Kershaw asked who should be in attendance.

D. Dawes suggested a person from Public Safety, all the Member of the Board of Selectman, member from the Fire Department, need to have something set in motion on how are they going to structure this committee.

D. Twiss suggested a larger pool on the committee however only a certain amount able to vote and the remaining would be advisory to the committee, the Committee once it is formed will design the guidelines.

M. Farrell spoke on his experience with the hiring process and believes an outside firm will keep things on track, too many people on a committee can take too long, their needs to be one person in charge, too many opinions hard to get a census.

P. Kershaw spoke on his concern with or without a private firm, one person needs to be held responsible, the process can go on and does not happen quickly.

A. Smith inquired about a hiring panel along with members of the Selectman.

Lt. Hatch, Georgetown Police Department, spoke on the process and believes the Fire Department knows what they need and he knows how the day-to-day operations are at that Department.

Votes by the Board:

D. Twiss motioned to approve a wine and malt license to be used/or the Summer Concert Series at the American Legion Park on the following dates, July 11, July 18, July 25, 2021 and August 1st, 8th, 22nd 2021 and August 29, 2021 for a rain date, G. Fowler seconded the motion. Roll call vote was taken all in favor.

Town Administrator's Report / Building Fee's Waived:

M. Farrell, Town Administrator asked the Board to approve a past policy of waiving building permits on all Town entities and put it in writing. This policy does not include Plumbing and Electrical permits.

G. Fowler motioned to approve a letter from the Board to waive all Building fees for Town entities seconded by P. Kershaw. This does not include Building and Electrical permits per M. Farrell, Town Administrator.

Cannabis Revenue Review: M. Farrell, Town Administrator spoke in the following:

Cannabis Revenue Review-Fiscal Year 2021 was spoken of/ \$730,359.34 in total. Host Agreements -Healthy Pharms, two categories/ money will be certified in September, Cares Act & OPEB / Stabilization fund, adult use only/ 3% sales above 4 million dollars, money will be certified in September, adult use \$200K medical, 3% sales above 4 million dollars for the Town, local excise tax.

D. Twiss spoke on his thoughts of using these funds for a regular budget habit we will then find ourselves in a horrible predicament in the future.

D. Dawes asked if the Town Accountant can give the Board an update on a monthly basis.

D. Dawes spoke on the cannabis revenue funds should go in to the Capitalization Fund-saving account.

Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund update:

The Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund which provided you with the latest state information with no concrete guidance on spending as of yet, replacement revenue was spoken of, guidance on how to apply has been given. D. Dawes recommended that the Finance Committee and the Board of Selectman should meet together to decide where the money should be spent.

M. Farrell, Town Administrator suggested that the Department Heads to be included.

M. Farrell, Town Administrator suggested this funding should go to the Finance Committee like the Town does with the regular budget.

D. Dawes stated that the Finance Committee has expressed their interest in being on some type of committee on this subject.

Board of Selectman time:

D. Dawes confirmed a working meeting to be held on July 1, 2021.

G. Fowler motioned to adjourn meeting with a second motion by D. Twiss.

Adjournment:

G. Fowler motioned to adjourn the meeting with P. Kershaw moved to second the motion. Roll call vote was taken all in favor at 7:45PM.

Minutes transcribed by Maureen Shultz.