

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

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**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES**

**Memorial Town Hall**

**06/22/2021**

**6:00PM-Working Meeting**

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**Selectmen Present:** Douglas Dawes, Chair, Vice Chair Peter Kershaw, David Twiss, Amy Smith, Gary Fowler.

**Others Present:** Michael Farrell, Town Administrator. Administrative Assistant, Maureen Shultz, Police Chief Donald Cudmore, Acting Fire Chief Chuck Savage.

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**6:00PM Call to order**

**New Business:**

*D. Dawes asked the Board members what & how they felt about doing the hiring of a new chief with the assistance of a search committee that will be formed. All members decided to go with doing an internal task of creating a Search Committee to hire a new Fire Chief.*

**Search Committees-Fire Chief Discussion:**

*The Board was asked by D. Dawes how they felt on hiring an outside firm or have a search committee formed within the Town with current employees-such as a representative from the Police & Fire Department, two Selectman, and a current Fire Chief and or a retired chief from another community.*

*G. Fowler asked if the Fire Department is ready to move the department further ahead at this time -Acting Fire Chief Savage answered he believes they are ready. G. Fowler commented that any companies that might be hired to do a search of a new Fire Chief could come up with more candidates than the Town could.*

*D. Twiss concerned with information -personnel information getting out on a candidate, and thinks the Board has to have control over that. D. Twiss asked if any of the consultants would only handle the applications, including all-confidential material. M. Farrell would ask the consultant firms and get back to the Board.*

*A. Smith feels this can be completed within the Town and not to use an outside source/ company for the hiring of a new Fire Chief.*

*Chief Cudmore spoke on his concern was with the confidential material. Chief spoke on making sure perspective applicants go through a Financial & Phycological Testing. Fire Department needs a new leader, possible that Lt. Hatch be on the Search Committee but not as a voting member because he knows many in the field-would have to recuse himself. Chief Cudmore believe that two from his department is too much to serve on the committee, believes there is a calming affect at the Fire Department currently.*

*Acting Fire Chief Chuck Savage spoke on the following on hiring a new Fire Chief: morale at the station and what the staff was looking for in a new Chief, internally how the Fire Departments staff is feeling on having a new Chief, Current Fire Chief from Topsfield was mention as a possible member to the Search Committee, Fire Department will continue to run and suggested not to be in a rush set a time frame.*

*P. Kershaw stated that he believes the hiring of a new Fire Chief can be done within the Town and not using an outside company, stated there is a lot of talented people in Town. P. Kershaw spoke on the Search Committee and thinks that committee will have to be meeting often, will have deadlines to meet, and will be held accountable. P. Kershaw suggested to think about the number of members of the Committee so that it doesn't get too large.*

*M. Farrell, Town Administrator clarified a question regarding meeting with a candidate in an open forum and or executive forum.*

*Replacement of a new Town Administrator / Interim Discussion:*

*D. Dawes inquired about M. Farrell's last date here in Town and suggested it be put out there on social media if M. Farrell was alright with letting this new out-M. Farrell was fine with letting the residents know.*

*G. Fowler has some ideas and questioned if the Town would need an interim for three (3) months*

*G. Fowler asked about our current Town Accountant, Mary McMenemy and asked if she would be interested in being the Finance Director. A part time employee will be hired in the future in the Town Accountant's office.*

*M. Farrell will supply the Board an update on the cost of hiring an outside firm for both the Town Administrator's position and an interim TA position from three outside consulting firms.*

*P. Kershaw suggested to have another scheduled meeting of the Board in the near future. Comprehensive list was spoken of for it to be 90 days or 180 days.*

*The Board would like an interim in as soon as possible with M. Farrell's last day being September 30, 2021.*

*American Relief Plan Act:*

*D. Dawes spoke about the American Relief Plan Act, and was asking how can and what can this money be spent on.*

*M. Farrell says this money needs to be tracked on how it is being spent.*

*G. Fowler asked about any resident who might want to ask for reimbursement for any loss they might have had during covid. G. Fowler wants the money to be given back possibly to the Community. G. Fowler asked how much Town Government money can they spend on a loss.*

*Town Holidays:*

*M. Farrell spoke about the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Holiday this year in 2021 which is on a Sunday that week- It was suggested that the Town honor Monday, July 5, 2021, as the observed holiday with all Town Hall offices closed -the Board agreed.*

*M. Farrell informed the Board that next year the Town will have to recognize Juneteenth Holiday which is now a State & Federal Holiday.*

*Board of Selectman goals for FY22:*

*D. Dawes spoke the Board on their current goals and asked that it be added to the next agenda for a discussion and requested that each member send their goals to Mr. Dawes prior to the next meeting.*

*D. Twiss spoke about the on-line State Ethics test that everyone should be taken-A reminder from the Town Clerk had been sent out recently. D. Twiss briefly informed the Board that you can be fined from the State Ethics Commission if they find you have violated any laws-Just an FYI.*

*American Legion Park: Discussion:*

*G. Fowler spoke in brief about the American Legion Park regarding some parking issues, overcrowding, public property destruction -the following motion was proposed. G. Fowler motion that we the Board of Selectman & Selectwomen hereby order American Legion Park open for Georgetown residents and their guest, scheduled public events are closed to non-residents and their property in Georgetown, we further order that a subcommittee will be formed and appointed for the implementation of plans and or policy for a re-opening of said park to the public by the end of June 30, 2022 FY22, seconded by D. Twiss. Roll call vote was taken 4-0-1 in favor.*

*D. Dawes would like to see what Town Council thinks of this suggestion.*

**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*