

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

Meeting Minutes February 12, 2024

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Memorial Town Hall

7:05PM-General Meeting

Verizon Channel 42/Comcast channel 9

Selectmen Present: *A. Smith, Chair, D. Dawes, R. Bancroft and R. Hoover*

Others Present: *Orlando Pacheco, Town Administrator.
M. Shultz, Administrative Assistant participated on Zoom.*

Absent: *D. LaMonica*

Left Early: *R. Bancroft*

7:00PM: CALL TO ORDER

Moment of Silence was done by the Board members.

Pledge of Allegiance

PUBLIC COMMENT:

APPOINTMENTS:

R. Bancroft motioned the Board to appoint Adam Elmore as a full time Patrol Officer for the Town of Georgetown until June 30, 2024, seconded by D. Dawes. Roll call vote was taken all in favor.

NEW BUSINESS:

State budget earmarks - Rep. Kristin Kassner & Senator Bruce Tarr spoke openly to the Board on the following items:

Now is the State budget season, upcoming items , need to keep a radar on what is needed from the Town, legislative questions, projected revenue will be less , certain things with an estimate amount would be helpful, additions to Chapter 90, Cyber security grant to available by the State to apply for, budget meetings been going on for a few months, Capital Plan, Public Safety Building, Governor has the first shot at the budget, bridges are important to Towns, Bridges are important to the Town, finding way to find federal money , inflammation reduction act, connect buildings with fiberoptics & equipment, aging water system, infrastructure working on a long-term planning, topics specific -MBTA communities, regional approaches, industrial profiling, economic development, evolution of opportunity, revenue shortfall.

O. Pacheco, Town Administrator was thanked by Senator Tarr for sending the Capital Plan in early in the budget process, gave timeline on the budget, two different forms -lower amount and then capital funding for big projects like the Public Safety Building -these plans are kept year after year,

Creating a fund for public safety buildings -there is a need -very little support from the State presently, Formulas are in place right now in the State -long-term planning with regional partners, Chapter 70 -formula –does not treat communities equally, Town facing an override will bring cuts, reform chapter 70 you need a pool of money-declining state revenue is going to make it hard -set the stage, cause for concern but not panic, slow down in construction-driver of income but still effects the budget, cost of living and quality of life,

R. Hoover mentioned that cash is king -we need the money now.

D. Dawes mentioned revenue shortfall / Cannabis money, rainy day account.

A. Smith asked Senator Tarr how is doing with getting the state to adopt the song “Road Runner” the official State song.

Rachel Left early 43 minutes into the meeting

ON-GOING BUSINESS:

Whittier building project - Kurt Slivinski and Michael Hinchcliffe in attendance:

- Someone needs to be responsible to coordinated numbers these need to be out sooner than this information not later but now -needs plan*
- Invite them back don't need a big process*
- Get the information out correctly -every town has a seat at the table*
- Whittier agreement should have this built in*
- Kurt Slevoski was asked if he represents Georgetown was asked by R. Hoover and wants to know who he represents, wearing two hats –*
- An understanding of a flow of information –establish a better flow of information –*
- Communications across the Board and the Town*
- December meeting all voted for about moving forward with this project -all the people voted for the project.*
- D. Dawes motioned the Board to approve \$5000 of ARPA funding for a request of using Muni Trac meeting transcription, seconded by R. Hoover.*
- Georgetown needs to be adequately represented*
- Flow of communication broke down*

Continued Appointment:

*D. Dawes motioned the Board to appoint Dan Birarelli, 54 West Main Street Georgetown, Mass an alternate wiring inspector for the Town of Georgetown, Mass, **through June 30, 2024** seconded by R. Hoover. Roll call vote was taken all in favor*

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

No school tomorrow and the Council on Aging will also be closed due to the incoming weather.

O. Pacheco, Town Administrator let his staff know that they could work remotely if they are uncomfortable driving in the snow/weather.

Board and Commission Vacancies-Town needs volunteers -Conservation Commission has a vacancy, anyone interested please out to the administrative assistant to the Board of Selectman.

The Board thanked the Public Safety Departments regarding the fatal car accident last Saturday and the Board send their condolences and also their concern to the injured parties. Terrible accident this past Saturday.

NEW BUSINESS:

Annual Town Meeting discussion: O. Pacheco, Town Administrator wanted to make sure the Board has a handle on the warrant,

Consent agenda -Light Department continuation -does not need to be on the consent agenda for the Warrant - only should be if someone wanted to stop the operation of the Light Department- Light Department has asked to remove it.

Moderator and some Department Heads have some questions -accurate handle on the warrant - getting ready for Twon Meeting what's been put out there -Doug and Amy

Warrant Articles would like by mid-April.

D. Dawes motioned the Board to open the Annual Town Meeting Warrant and close by March 28, 2024, seconded by R. Hoover. Roll call vote was taken all in favor.

ARPA REQUEST MUNI TRAC.

The Board was asked to use up to \$5K -for Muni Trac which transcribes meeting minutes, help with compliance issues, free up some staff time, is being used at Beacon Hill.

To be used for the following Boards: Board of Selectman, ZBA, Conservation Commission and possibly Planning Board. Minimum \$3K startup cost.

A. Smith mentioned the Board of Assessors could use this software.

Board of Assessor could use this program was suggested by A. Smith.

Use it for everything should be consistent across the Board was mentioned by D. Dawes.

Concern is the financial situation I wonder if we want to put a whole on spending any money was questioned by R. Hoover.

D. Dawes motioned the Board to approve up to \$5k to support a request to use ARPA money to purchase Muni Trac, seconded by R. Hoover. Roll call vote was taken all in favor,

SOLID WASTE COMMITTEE:

Amending the bylaws from 1971 -amend it and to expand to deal with solid waste mass DPW plan 2030 goals -spoke on mattress disposal , how to handle mattress various waste, emend and up to date, could help the Board of health, Recycling services, composting, textiles, manage helps, invite our health agent to a meeting on these matters –composed of the 5 voting members -Board of Health, Board of Selectman and Conservation Commission , and two resident, resident could also include research, need to deal with our solid waste , lightbulbs how to get rid of, needs to be kept simple with the goal. Will invite the Board of health -would like this to be on the Warrant.

MELLO HOST AGREEMENT:

Moving forward with the agreement, updated version was asked to be given to the board for review, not trying to influence anything, more tomorrow than we do today, final version of the agreement, schools to be done with no added cost, truck traffic / want to make sure we have done everything we have done to get the best agreement, will be on a future agenda.

MINUTES & WARRANTS:

R. Hoover motioned the Board to approve meeting minutes from November 27, 2023, seconded by D. Dawes. Roll call vote was taken all in favor.

R. Hoover motioned the Board to approve meeting minutes from January 22, 2024, seconded by D. Dawes. Roll call vote was taken all in favor.

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

SELECTMEN'S REPORT:

R. Hoover spoke on Select Board progress list is included in packet -gathered from each cardmember what their priorities are fast forward -work in progress -trying to get a project priority list which the select board has oversight on =and a comment section -short term financial plan -long term plan-raven expenses, keeping track-economic development plan went over spread sheet / project list -became clear we have any idea what incoming down the pike - no one clearing house where it can be found-Long Term Strategic Plan , overview and to track our success on items that have been completed -February 23rd Deadline for a review from a Board.

R. Hoover spoke on progress and status of a new Newsletter, referenced an airport informational item he saw at an Airport Terminal which helped him clarify where he was and where he was going and thought it was a great idea. A. Smith to not get hung up the name of the newsletter and possibly use both sides of the paper.

-don't get hung up on the name -suggested to use the back of each of the pages, informational newsletter-call center 311 center -can we create a separate e-mail to a random email for residents that need help.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: *O. Pacheco, Town Administrator reported on the following:*

- MV Vision Zero-MVPC initiative is for the Town to participate in the process to evaluate the high injury network of both vehicle & pedestrian accidents-The current data from 2017-2022 shows where Georgetown is represented in comparison to the MVPC average. The MV Vision Zero does have a dedicated page that you may review at Merrimack Valley Vision Zero-MVPC for more detailed information. Fatak accident -Mill Street-speeding humor error. More reporting this won't be the last time you hear about this.*
- MIIA Wellness Grant-The Town has received a \$10, 000 MIIA Wellness grant for healthy partnership for employees and we will be supporting Community Agriculture partnership which will delivery fruits& Vegetables to the Twon Hall for employees.*
- EOHLC MBTA Communities Follow up-Follow up meeting was held with Secretary Ed Augustus from the executive Office of Housing and Liveable Communities-They are understanding the Town concerns regarding the number of units and will respond to the Town.*
- Municipal ADA Improvement Grant (s)-Two (2) grants have been received from the office on Disability -One is to fund Assisted Listening Devices at Town Hall for those are hearing impaired, the other grant will be used to fund an ADA Beach wheelchair and beach matt for disabled individuals looking to access the Town beach at American Legion Park.*
- Tech Team Formation. – trying to find ways to improve the dialogue between Boards and Departments, things can drag on too long, trying to save time, hand out to anyone looking for information, will be meeting every two weeks, great way to communicate, our next meeting will be in a couple of weeks -making sure everyone is on the same page.*

Public Comment *-Kevin Wood 8 Pine Plain Road, Georgetown, Mass. The follwoing concerns were spoke of by Kevin Wood addressed to the Baord of Selectmn*

Controversary between the Board of Selectman and the Conservation Commisision , stated that this is not being handled or fixed as it was suppose to be, selective enforcement, Conservation Agent visitied a proprty on the lake and allowed trees to be removed with no

meeting, approval letter, trees were not marked , stated that nothing has been done to fix this problem, wetland laws were violated , Conservation Commsison was ordered to issue an order of condition to Mello and as of this date it has not been done ,this is selective enforcement -this is corrupt -you have a obligation to hear these complaints.

R. Hoover stated that he wanted the Town to know that these issues are being handled, and it is imoportant for the Town to know we are not doing anything.

D. Dawes motioned the Board to adjourn meting at 9:20PM, seconded by R. HooverM,. Roll call voting was taken all in favor.

ADJOURNMENT: *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:

TA Report

Select Board Progress List / Spread Sheet

Draft Newsletter / Town.

Meeting Minutes

ADJOURNMENT:

D. LaMonica motioned the Board to adjourn the meeting at 8:32PM, seconded by R. Hoover. Roll call vote was taken all in favor.