

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

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**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES**

**Memorial Town Hall**

**11/15/2021**

**7:00PM-General Meeting**

**Verizon channel 42/Comcast channel 9**

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

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

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**7:00PM CALL TO ORDER**

*Invocation-Douglas W. Dawes*

*Pledge of Allegiance*

*A. Smith spoke on the Native Indian Heritage in the month of November each year.*

**NEW BUSINESS:**

*D. Dawes and the Board welcomed Mr. Orlando Pacheco to their meeting and informed the residents of his start date in Georgetown which will be on Monday, January 3, 2022.*

**VOTES BY THE BOARD:**

*D. Twiss motioned the Board to approve the meeting minutes from September 27, 2021, as presented seconded by P. Kershaw. Roll call vote was taken all in favor.*

*D. Twiss motioned to approve the meeting minutes from November 1, 2021 as presented seconded by P. Kershaw. Roll call vote was taken all in favor.*

**OLD BUSINESS:**

*D. Dawes updated the Board on upcoming events from the Holiday Committee.*

*D. Dawes read the winter parking band for 2021 which starts December 1, 2021 and goes through April 1, 2022.*

**UPDATE: Police Chief Cudmore spoke to the Board on the following:**

*1. **Generator** at the public safety -ARPA recovery funds will be paying for the generator, is supposed to be funding that, delivery after thanksgiving, 30 days to pay per Chief.*

*2. **Heating** issues at The Police & Fire Department, older system with new boiler, there will be a cost to repairs that have already been made.*

*D. Dawes asked if the building wasn't getting any heat currently, Chief Cudmore replied yes heat is working for now.*

**3. Crossing Guards** -difficult task, independent organization to deal with crossing guards, suggest a company that can handle Crossing Guards / candidates are difficult to find, suggested future discussion with the school department, request to reach out to the Traffic Study Committee and have this work on this.

*D. Twiss asked the Chief if he wanted to use the meeting forum to reach out to volunteers for the crossing guard positions.*

**4. Staff / Recruitment**

*Three full time vacancy in the police, and three in dispatch, one replacement of an officer, requesting a lateral transfer from another Town.*

*Police reform /academy/ bridge academy/ stuck in vortex until everyone is trained / leave the dispatch to go back to the private sector/ hits the number every year not this year, will lose a Reserve Officer but gain a full time Officer.*

*D. Twiss motioned the Board to appoint Tyler Skene from a Reserve Officer to a Full-Time Officer seconded by P. Kershaw. Roll call vote was taken all in favor.*

*P. Kershaw asked about recruiting.*

**5. Traffic**

*Man power, traffic officers /running of stop signs –going to be added to the budget /enforcement and traffic flow -solar signs a failure -new signs, Dave Schofield of the Light Department was thanked / pedestrian strip in front of the post office.*

*D. Twiss mentioned the e-mails he receives per month / 25 speed limit / trailer with speed on it / people driving way over the speed limit near the schools /not everyone stops for the pedestrian stop. Speed bumps can't go on certain road cannot be used do to plowing per D. Twiss.*

*D. Dawes asked if there is anything that can be done in the roadway.*

*Georgetown Police Department staffing needs to increase we are approaching nine thousand residents in Town.*

*G. Fowler asked Chief Cudmore if there were three items being sent to the traffic committee, spoke on mandated Police reform, and asked Representative Lenny Mira who was present to speak on this, and asked how this has affected the Town and asked what items he was working on, stated due to the Police reform the Town has lost officers due to training.*

*D. Dawes stated he believed the Police Department needs 15 officers.*

**6. Grant / Outreach / Town of Rowley: Letter of Support for the CIS Program.**

*Applying for grants, asking for support from the Town of Georgetown as a commitment of partnership in the Regional, Component Jail Diversion Program -connection with Lahey Behavioral & Mental Health /coalition and outreach programs, will provide some dates in the future they will be in the Town of Georgetown working with the Police Department.*

*D. Dawes asked about opioid litigation and if funding could be used for the Outreach program.*

*D, Twiss motioned the Board to allow Chief Cudmore to participate in the CIS -Community Implementation Strategy for the Town of Georgetown Police Department working with the Town of Rowley, effective immediately seconded by G. Fowler. The Board took a roll call vote all in favor.*

**6. Dog Licenses**

*Looking into the Spring Town Meeting for possible change to dog licensing, new By-laws working with the Town Clerk and animal control.*

**7. Jake breaks**

*Commercial vehicles coming through the community / noise ordinances /town of Boxford does have a noise ordinances /would like to put before the Traffic Committee.*

**8. Feasibility study**

*Was given to the Board from Chief Cudmore / only building that has not received any renovation is at the public safety buildings -phases / timelines/needs departments to be involved, asking for advice on how to present this to the Board -*

*D. Dawes motioned the Board to appoint Chief Cudmore as acting Town Administrator from November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021 to January 3, 2022, seconded by D. Twiss. A roll call vote was taken all in favor.*

**PETER DURKEE, HIGHWAY SUPERVISOR –MEADOW BROOK / RISING WATER:**

- *Mosquito control needs to be involved*
- *Many issues in Town with flooding*
- *Beaver control / concerns / beaver damns/*
- *Long term process to fix / not simple*
- *Beaver deceiver*
- *More work needs to be done by National Grid*
- *Only knew a week ago about the turtles.*
- *Temporary pipe can be installed in one day*
- *D. Twiss asked how wide is the culvert.*

*P. Kershaw thanked Peter Durkee, Highway Supervisor for his efforts. Biggest issue is with National Grid which could have fixed this a long time ago, -they dragged their feet, homeowners / residents have potential big problems with their homes, fence two feet under the water, not happy with how National Grid handles things, asked Representative Lenny Mirra reflecting on*

*the information, no data to back, how do they get away with treating our residents and mentioned that Peter Durkee, Highway Supervisor takes a lot of heat on these issues.*

*Representative Lenny Mirra spoke on the recent e-mail chain he received that was many emails which took him time to go through, apologized for not jumping on the issue sooner, stated he has a new contact at National Grid and will reach out to him directly, we need to make it an emergency, was out in the area today and was amazed at the Eastern side on how the water is, suggested to remove the debris, National Grid does not have enough people.*

*P. Kershaw asked what the next step, should National Heritage be called.*

*D. Twiss suggested to Representative Lenny Mirra to write a letter to the Governor and the Lieutenant Governor to let them know about this situation, residents are losing property approximately twenty (20) homes affected, complete insanity to let beavers and turtles cause this much problems to homes, unacceptable and it's time to get the state on Board.*

*G. Fowler asked if National Grid dragging their feet due to the whole Rail Trail.*

*D. Dawes stated that a flood study was suggested*

**RESIDENT COMMENTS:**

*Peggy Kennedy of 11 Brook Meadow Lane, six months actively speaking with Town, no water flow for 6 months of being flooded out, site visit today, best solution is to replace the culvert now, labor and materials we have now, if the work had been done prior this would not be an issue now, we are in an emergency situation, our homes are being flooded, 30-year resident, National Grid does not live in Town, needs to be done by the end of November before the winter arrives.*

*P. Durkee, Highway Supervisor has offered the pipe and man hours to help.*

*7 Kenneth Road resident spoke on behalf of her mother Peggy Kennedy and their family home, which has never seen water like this, very upsetting, getting pushed out her house, has done some research on her own and suggested a look into the Mass Audubon Society*

*Resident Anita Carbonaro who has worked in the Health Care System and Conservation stated that their properties are more important than turtles, things should have been done a month ago winter coming we have no choices.*

*D. Dawes stated we have a process that has been in place we have to go through it.*

*Resident Larry Hanson, Oregon Street, spoke on chains of e-mails, spoke on the permit process for the neighborhood to be built was all approved and now we have a problem with culvert, water just rushing in and the water has no wear to go, losing footage on his home, water not decreasing, we pay our taxes, we need action. Appreciates Representative Lenny Mirra's getting involved and stated that it was his fence under water, asking for some action to be taken.*

*Residents stated they never heard about endangered turtles before.*

*D. Twiss asked Peter Durkee, Highway Supervisor if there is a risk that the road can wash out at the end of at the end of Meadowbrook- Peter Durkee, Highway Supervisor answered yes is can wash out.*

*Resident Ms. MacDonald spoke on her frustration, this started in 2016, we don't know what to do, asked the Board and Representative Lenny Mirra if the Town has applied and asked for funding infrastructure money sitting at the state level and asked for some of that funding, we need an answer this is acceptable, where does it leave us residents.*

*Representative Lenny Mirra suggested the town get a list together along with a dollar amount and submit it to the state to apply for some of the infrastructure money, suggested to speak with other communities and other Board of Selectman for support, not receiving info from National Grid, which they said they would get back to me by Wednesday.*

*G. Fowler suggested to send an action letter be sent to National Heritage about this meeting along a with a copy of meeting note.*

*Police Chief Cudmore spoke on an Emergency and if an emergency happens, what and who is in charge in Town, Chief Cudmore knows what he is in charge of if an emergency occurs, suggest this be looked at by the Town and the Board, in case of roads washing out, flooding, road collapses and what equipment we might need, also suggest the Board of Health get involved.*

*G. Fowler made motion that the Board of Selectman contact Seth Moulton's office either by a call or a letter by Wednesday, and if no response by Wednesday the Board will call an emergency meeting seconded by D. Twiss.*

*Peter Durkee, Highway Supervisor stated if the Town gets fined it could be a substantial amount of money.*

*D. Dawes thanked all the residents for coming to the meeting.*

*D. Twiss suggested the Town planner and the Building Inspector look and provide plans one what and how many septic systems that could be in jeopardy.*

#### **FIRE DEPARTMENT DISCUSSION:**

*Fire Chief proposal /Internal Candidate was presented to the Board -Fire Department personnel present were- Fire Administrator/Brian Coolidge / Acting Fire Chief Chuck Savage and Captain Michael Bridges.*

*Detailed proposal was sent to the Board by Chief Savage.*

*Internal Candidate -Captain Matt McKay/ 20 years with the Fire Department / as a future chief all members of the Fire Department are on Board with this, educated, lacked in a few*

*requirements that would need to be completed with an end date, requested to work all the different shifts, well spoken, has been asked to build morale back-up in the Fire Department.*

*The Georgetown Fire Department is requesting the Board of Selectman to post pone the search for a new Chief for one year.*

*Acting Chief Savage will stay on in Georgetown until December 2022.*

*Requesting that the Active Chief Chuck Savage promote Chief Matt McKay to Deputy Chief,*

*D. Dawes asked if he would leave his other job while going through the process of the submitted proposal.*

*Chief Savage stated no he would continue with his other job and would dedicate his time to Georgetown with no guarantee to be promoted to Chief, wants to be successful in Georgetown, no budget / or increase for Deputy Chief position.*

*G. Fowler commented he has heard Matt McKay's name before and thought that the former Chief Mitchell was grooming Mr McKay prior to his leaving.*

*Fire Department Member Brian Coolidge spoke on Matt McKay experience and believes he will make a good candidate won't be stepping over anyone and has paid his dues to the department and he has worked closely with Matt McKay.*

*Chief Savage and D. Twiss will work together to complete a modified proposal and will return back to the Board at a future date.*

*G. Fowler request to see this new proposal before the next meeting of the Board. Looked over the MRI (Municipal Resources, Inc) proposal -we asked M. Farrell, Town Administrator to put MRI on hold -where do we stand with MRI -what is the MRI 's answer about being put on hold, look over the MRI requirements to hire -we did well on internal candidates -like to go forward without MRI -but has no problem to put MRI on hold, asked the Board what they think about this.*

*D. Twiss spoke on that he measures everything to keep track of all long and short goals, believes that by September the Board should know if this proposal is going to work,*

*D. Twiss had asked previously of Chief Savage for him to go back and speak with his command staff and see what their thoughts are, Fire Chief Savage stated his staff is overwhelming in support of Matt Mc Kay.*

*D. Twiss questioned how he would feel if in house if it was someone that was jumping the ladder.*

*It was questioned about the hours they think Matt McKay would have to put in.*

*P. Kershaw asked why this candidate wasn't considered in the beginning. D. Twiss replied on the process needing to meet every single one those qualifications -requirement was to be captain for five year -very strict requirement-that is the reason he was not considered.*

*P. Kershaw in favor of promoting from within, hate to see anyone fail due to a technically.*

*D. Dawes asked if Chief Savage received MRI proposal for an internal candidate*

*D. Twiss motioned the Board to accept this proposal including dates and measurement tools, G. Fowler second the motion. The Board took a roll call vote all in favor. G. Fowler wanted to vote on it at the December 6<sup>th</sup> meeting*

*G. Fowler concerned that the Police Department may end up with a deficit and hopes that does not happen.*

*Representative Lenny Mirra spoke and stated he voted against the mandate bill which ended up passing, our concerns where not heard -we were not taken seriously -hard to retain personnel everywhere across the commonwealth not sure it can get amended at this point, bill was pushed through too quickly.*

*G. Fowler suggested sending a letter and asked if that would that be helpful on behalf of the Police Department.*

*D. Twiss stated politics by media.*

*D. Doug asked if there is and discussion in the legislation on changing this.*

*Representative Paul Tucker from Salem is also working with Chief Cudmore on changing this mandate.*

#### **BOARD OF SELECTMAN REPORT**

*D. Dawes gave the Board an update on the Employee Wage and Study Classification and their scheduled interviews with HRS Consulting.*

*G. Fowler asked about the timeline of the study to be completed.*

*The Board decided that their next meeting dates which will be on December 6, 2021 and December 20, 2021.*

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

*G. Fowler motioned the Board. Twiss moved to adjourn with A. Smith seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken all in favor.*

*Meeting adjourned at 10:15 PM. Minutes transcribed by Maureen Shultz*

*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.*

