

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

Meeting Minutes November 27, 2023

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Memorial Town Hall

7:00PM-General Meeting

Verizon Channel 42/Comcast channel 9

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

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

7:00PM: CALL TO ORDER

Moment of Silence was done by the Board members.

Pledge of Allegiance

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- *A. Smith updated the community on the Winter Parking Ban.*
- *A. Smith announced the resignation of Carl Shrader who was the Chair of the Conservation Commission.*
- *Mentioned the new Council on Aging Director -Kristen Crockett*

ON-GOING BUSINESS: Interim Human Resource Postion :

Applicant Mr. Paul Winspeare was in attendance and gave a summary of his professional life and his current employment.

Applicant Mr. Paul Winspeare was interviewed by the Board .

OPEN DISCUSSION / INTERVIEW BY BOARD MEMBERS:

The applicant Paul Winspeare was asked if he had see the Town's Organization Chart.

Assessment for long term needs for the Town was spoken of.

Invest in poeple / training plans / saftey training/ stimulate employees .

Trust important issue, culture shift, changing perspective lenses, public process, develop training plans, new employee's policy manual was spoken of.

The Former Personnel Board was mentioned

Applicant Mr. Paul Winspeare asked O. Pacheco, Town Administrator what is the allocated budget as it pertains to the HR functions.

The Board informed the candidate that there is another scheduled interview with another candidate and they would be in touch.

DOG HEARING:

Lt. Scott Hatch and Animal Control Office Derek Jones were both in attendance .

Animal Control Officer Derek Jones requested this hearing none of the involved parties request this hearing , concerns of public safety was the reason this is being held. not any of the parties involved and felt compelled to have a public hearing for public safety concerns.

Officer Derek Jones read aloud the following reports in detail to the Board from cases that have happened since 2019-through 2023 involving Mack who lives at 4 Sage Road.

- *Report / Incident # 19-48-OF 2/4/2019 -4 Sage Road -Leash Law*
- *Incident # 20-1-OF 1/1/2020 -4 Sage Road -Leash Law*
- *Incident # 23-222-OF -Animal Complaint 05/15/2023*
- *Ref # 23-446-OF 9/30/2023-4 Sage Road -Animal Complaint*

The Police Department has documented reports of Mack attacking three different dogs on three separate occasions , running off his properties on different occasions Mack is licensed with the Town of Georgetown and current rabies vaccine which expires 3/23/2024

Seven restrictions can be implemented by the Board to the owner of the dog involved by State Statute, The Board should decide if Mack is a dangerous dog or a nuisance .

OWNER'S RESPONSE:

Mr Sidoni & Mrs. Sidoni were both sworn in by A.Smith, Chair .

Mr Sidoni & Mrs. Sidoni spoke on thier dog Mack and feel like they have made some improvements since the last incident & report regarding Mack getting lose in the neighhborhood or their home, spoke on Mack attending Doggie Day Care and read aloud a letter from Amy Murphy who wons the Dog Stop in Newburyport where Mack attends and the letetr states she supports Mack.

Spoke on the landscapers leaving the gate wide open in the morning, fence has been fixed, Mack is territorial with other dogs when they are in front of the house , they do not beleive thier dog is a dangerous dog, some dog training was suggested, padlocks on gates, owners do not want neighbors to fear their dog, the front door has been replaced.

Behaviorial concerns have been discussed with the families veterinarian , backyard is fenced in , and mentioned it was user error regarding the gates.

Questioned if Mack can he get under the fence and it was strongly suggested that it is the responsibilty of the owner to go outside everytime Mack and to be with him the entire time, it was asked if the family has ever considered a muzzle for Mack, backyard runner was suggested , a harness was suggested to be used , it was suggested a gate that not even the landscapers can open or forget to latch.

Resident Nancy Fleming , 2 Raymond Court was sworn in by A. Smith Chair. Ms. Fleming spoke on her experience with Mack who lives on Sage Road, Georgetown, Mass stated she believes that the dog needs medication, believes the dog is vicious cannot leave this dog by himself at any time, believes she has the right for peace, spoke on past attacks on her dog Gretta, , spoke on why Mack and his Family was on Raymond Court as she states it is a prvate way, feels she is being harrassed , she has not been on Stage Road for a while.

Witness Christina Fornier of Byfield, Mass was sworn in by A. Smith Chair, spoke on an incudent that took place on Janaaury 1 2020, she was walking with a friend and her three month old baby and her friend

also had a baby with her they were walking on Raymond Court as soon as they got to Sage Road a dog sprinted by them which was identified as Mack, she had her own dog Murphy with her, she stated she was so nervous, dog was growling, dog circled around us, didn't hurt the babies that were in the carriages but the dog attacked her and bit her dog and then they began screaming for help, a male owner of the dog came running over to them at the same time a female was there who ended up being Mack's female owner- female owner didn't offer any help -drove away without any concern, but the fact this dog did get out it was hard for me to bring attention to this, tired of irresponsible dog owners, find a way to leash this dog, her dog's right front paw was punctured.

D. Dawes mentioned point of order-if other people in attendance would like to speak after the testimony of Ms. Fletcher they can come up after her testimony is completed.

Mrs. Sdoni spoke on the allegations of not responding to the above incident, apologized if she acted disrespectfully and was in a panic when the situation happened, was not aware that Raymond Road was a private way.

O. Pacheco, Town Administrator spoke on the nuisance piece of this hearing and suggested it be taken up at the next Board of Selectman Meeting on December 4, 2023. .

The Board made a determination as follows:

R. Bancroft - Nuisance

D. Dawes -Nuisance - but is a nuisance to the neighborhood

D. LaMonica -Nuisance

R. Hoover -Nuisance / Dangerous

Suggestions from the Board of Selectman to be implent the following orders to the owners of Mack . These will be addressed at the next Board of selectman Meeting on December 4, 2023.

- Owner's should be outised when Mack is outside .*
- Harness on Mack when he is outside*
- Locked gated -Make it so they gate cannot not open freely.*
- Heavy duty lock for the lead .*
- Mack has not been deemed a dangerous dog but the Board does not want him back in front of the Board.*
- Suggested to muzzle the dog -the Board can wait on this suggestion*

R. Bancroft motioned the Board to close the Public Hearing seconded by D. Dawes. Roll call vote was taken all in favor.

The following Board members suggested to the go to the property at 4 Sage Road where Mack lives and report back to the Board with there findings at the December 4, 2023 meeting. R. Bancroft and D.LaMoninca and will come back with some solid plans.

NEW BUSINESS:

Letter to Whittier superintendent requesting that the new building project vote be moved from January to May Town Meeting. Keep this topic on-going business, Whittier District Vote in June, financial impact on towns decision has been pushed to be made in December, the Town can send their own letter.

The Board scheduled the next meeting dates to be on January 8, 2023 & January 22, 2023.

ON-GOING BUSINESS:

Review Solid Waste Committee By Law proposal-This was tabled to a future meeting.

VOTES BY THE BOARD:

D. LaMonica motioned the Board to approve the 2024 Town Hall Holiday Schedule seconded by R. Bancroft. Roll call vote was taken all in favor. D. Dawes suggested to not give employees a floating holiday after Thanksgiving since the Town Hall is closed on Friday's.

O. Pacheco, Town Administrator spoke on this: Main concerns. Commercial Traffic / Parish Road / Letter of support was drafted, the Town of Newbury initiated this and asked that we support this letter. D. Dawes motioned the Board to authorize a letter of support / Larkin Road Heavy Vehicle Exclusion Application, seconded by R. Hoover. Roll call vote was taken all in favor.

WARRANTS & MEETING MINUTES:

D. Dawes motioned the Board to approve the meeting minutes as presented from 10/30/2023, seconded by R. Hoover. Roll call vote was taken all in favor.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: O. Pacheco

604 B Grant Contract-The Town has executed the contact documents for the 604B Water Quality Grant that will be used for the new Watershed Based Plans for Pawtucket & Rock Ponds, the scope has been approved by MADEP and was sent to the Board in their packet, Goal will be to position the Town for a potential 319 non -point source pollution grant in 2026-work will begin in spring -water quality -R. Hoover asked if the fisheries will be looked at and it was also mentioned that the water color has changed dramatically mentioned by R. Hoover .

Pettengill House Proposal -The Town has received a proposal from the Pettengill House in Amesbury to provide substance abuse and misuse services to the Town of Georgetown residents, this funding would come from the Opioid Settlement Stabilization Fund. The Board is requested to review and provide any necessary feedback-Copies have been sent to the Police, Fire and Health Departments.

Free Cash Certification -The Department of Revenue has certified the Town Free Cash at just under \$1250,000, as well as the water and ambulance enterprise accounts. The Board should have a final document to review by the end of February.

Capital Improvement Plan Update (FY25-30). Hoping to have the Capital Improvement Committee to meet in January -has sent request out to all pertinent departments to have their request back by mid-December.

SELECTMAN'S TIME:

A. Smith mentioned the Town Tree Lightening Ceremony.

D. LaMonica motioned the Board close the meeting seconded by R. Bancroft. Roll call vote was taken all in favor.

Next Board of Selectman meeting will be held on December 4, 2023.

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:

Meeting Minutes from 10/30/2023.

Animal Control Report

Town Administrator's Report

Town Hall Schedule for 2024.

Larkin Road heavy Vehicle Exclusion Application.

Winter Parking Ban notice

Application / Resume from Mr. Paul Winspeare / Human Resource Position.

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.