

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

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

Memorial Town Hall

10/26/2020

5:00PM-General Meeting

Broadcast on Georgetown Cable TV via BlueJeans

Verizon channel 42/Comcast channel 9

Selectmen Present: Chairman, David J. Twiss, Douglas W. Dawes, Clerk; Gary C. Fowler, Peter J. Kershaw and Charles Durney.

Others Present: Michael Farrell, Town Administrator. Administrative Assistant, Maureen Shultz, Finance Committee Chair, Sheila Ruth, Police Chief Donald Cudmore, Fire Chief, Fred Mitchell, Town Assessor Thom Berube, Town Accountant, Mary McMenemy, Town Moderator, David Surface.

Absent:

6:00PM Call to order

Invocation-Douglas W. Dawes

Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Twiss read the statement listed here:

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitation on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Town of Georgetown Board of Selectmen will be conducted via remote participation to the greatest extent possible. Specific information and the general guidelines for remote participation by members of the public and/or parties with a right and/or requirement to attend this meeting can be found on the Georgetown website, at www.georgetownma.gov. For this meeting, members of the public who wish to watch the meeting may do so in the following manner: Channel 42 Verizon or Channel 9 Comcast, or on the town website at <http://gctv.georgetownma.gov/>. No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that meeting the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time, via technological means. In the event that we are unable to do so, despite best efforts, we will post on the Georgetown website an audio or video recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of proceedings as soon as possible after the.

OLD BUSINESS:

Town meeting warrant / Discussion / M. Farrell spoke on some recent changes on the Town Warrant.

Prior to discussion on the Warrant Articles, D. Twiss requested that everyone in attendance refrain from discussion on Article 12.

Article - 1

M. Farrell spoke on some recent changes-recommended that the excess levy to default to the overlay surplus account, , After the tax rate is set which is after the Special Town Meeting and the levy is confirmed the funds can be made available to the Finance Committee Reserve fund. G. Fowler asked about new growth and where it is, D. Twiss asked if the Finance Committee has been shared with this information, Sheila Ruth commented she was not aware of these recent changes, D Twiss stated he feels it is appropriate to give a copy of these changes to Finance Committee , transparency across the Board, and asked that this information get to the Finance Committee the people who approve the budget, T. Berube, Town Assessor said that all net charges will be given to the Board.

D. Dawes moved to approve Article 1 seconded by P. Kershaw. Roll call vote was taken all in favor.

Article- 2

D. Dawes asked if the new growth amount is the same-Yes.

D. Dawes moved to approve to approve Article 2 as presented, seconded by C. Durney. Roll call vote was taken all in favor.

Article 3

D. Dawes moved to approve article 3 as presented, seconded by C. Durney. Roll Call vote was taken all in favor.

Article-4

D. Dawes moved to approve article 4 as presented, seconded by C. Durney. Roll call vote was taken all in favor.

Article -5

Fire Department radios were increased by \$10,000.00 to \$40,000.00 due to the recommendations of the CIP. Chief Mitchell spoke on the article 5, six radios have been requested CIP did approve last year at original request of \$160K last year, Chief Mitchell will apply for another grant, lost a recent grant, P. Kershaw asked about how long the technology and radios will last, Chief Mitchell replied fifteen years.

D. Dawes moved to approve article 5, seconded by P. Kershaw

G. Fowler voted no on Article 5- Roll call vote was 4-1 in favor of motion.

Article- 6

CIP recommended \$40,000.00 for portable Police Radios. Police Chief Cudmore gave an update. G. Fowler asked what the difference was between portable and mobile. D. Twiss asked if Trancor was the company handling these radios-Chief Carmody answered no. 11 Mobile radios are requested

D. Dawes moved to approve Article 6, seconded by P. Kershaw. Roll call vote was taken.

Article- 7

D. Dawes moved to approve Article 7 as presented, seconded by C. Durney. Roll call vote was taken.

Article- 8

D. Dawes was good with doing this appropriation. It was asked if there are any questions for Finance Chair, Sheila Ruth -Finance will voting on these prior to Town Meeting and senses that these changes to the Warrant will be fine.

D. Dawes moved to approve Article 8, seconded by C. Durney. Roll call vote was taken.

Article- 9

D. Dawes moved to approve Article 9 as presented seconded by C. Durney. Roll call vote was taken.

Article-10

Suggested decrease to the OPEB Article from \$100,000.00 to \$50,000.00. M. Farrell spoke on the Town and how it has grown and it should start to plan for the future, a future agenda item related to cannabis sales will be added, , snow and ice budget can go up if the Board and Fincom talk about it- set the bridge at medium 104K not a good number to start with. D, Dawes spoke on excise tax on cannabis, DOR sales that may have been made in September for their first payment. D. Twiss stated he believes the Town should be funding all CIP request. D. Twiss does not want to add the cannabis money into the budget, M. McMenemy, Town Accountant informed the Board that the DOR (Department of Revenue) does not let the Town just put those funds anywhere they have to be put in the general fund or they will not certify the tax rate. D. Twiss stated it still does not have to be used in the General Fund -snow and ice budgets are always increasing. G. Fowler mentioned the accrued liability retirement payout fund that has not been used in years and suggested this start to be used again and some funding should be put in it each year so that this expense doesn't have to come out of free cash.

D. Dawes moved to approve Article 10 seconded by C. Durney. Roll call vote was taken

Article -11

D. Twiss read the Article- To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire, by donation, upon such terms and conditions as the Selectmen shall determine, an easement or other real property interest in a portion of the land located at 55-65 Central Street, and identified as Assessors Map 10B, Lot 3, for the purpose of providing improved vehicular and pedestrian access to the Town's public safety building on adjoining property, and to enter into all agreements and take all related actions necessary or appropriate to carry out this acquisition, or take any other action relative thereto.

D. Dawes moved to approve Article 11 seconded by P. Kershaw. Roll call vote was taken. It was suggested that Town Planner, J. Cashell should speak on this article.

D. Twiss recused himself.

Article- 12

Citizens Petition:

D. Twiss was not present during this portion of the discussion.

G. Fowler asked Town Council to look at offering a host agreement, try and negotiate an agreement G. Fowler not sure of what comes first ask Town Council to advise, asked about a motion that could be made on the Town floor that would benefit the Town. D. Dawes asked M. Farrell to reach out to the Mello Corp and the Citizens petition person and see how they feel about negotiating with each other & the Town. D. Dawes concerned about legal action in the future. M. Farrell informed the Board they do not have to share legal opinions but they can, but

should be with both sides. P. Kershaw happy to speak with the residents commented they did their job and are very passionate people whether we agree or not, would like to share the Towns legal opinion as much as possibly allowed with all sides. C. Durney spoke on the information from Town Council and believes the Board's hand are tied and trying to satisfy everyone is hard to do, stated that the Attorney General Office and the DPA will also be weighing in on this petition.

No Vote was taken. D. Dawes

D. Surface, Town Moderator spoke on the upcoming Special Town Meeting and its location to inquire if it has been changed to an outside area due to the potential of a big turnout and Covid restrictions, suggested that he would go over the process at Town Meeting at the beginning on all articles and how they go through a legal process and would like to have information in hand for the citizens petition from Town Council.

SELECTMAN REPORT:

D. Dawes informed the Town of the upcoming Veteran's Day Observance that will be held on Wednesday, November 11, 2020 staring at 10:45AM at the Harry Murch Park.

NEXT MEETING

November 9, 2020

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Durney moved to adjourn; Mr. Dawes seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken all in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM. Minutes transcribed by Maureen Shultz

Documents used in the meeting:

- *Draft Town Meeting Warrant*