

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

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

Memorial Town Hall

8/17/2020

6:00PM-Executive Session~6:30 Executive Session

7:00PM-General Meeting ~ Broadcast on Georgetown Cable TV via Blue Jeans

Verizon channel 42/Comcast channel 9

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

Others Present: Michael Farrell, Town Administrator; Janet Pantano, Administrative Assistant; Maureen Shultz, Administrative Assistant; Don Cudmore, Police Chief; Deb Rogers, Health Agent; Fred Mitchell, Fire Chief; Steve Przyjemski, ConCom Agent; Thom Berube, Assistant Assessor; Anala Guertin and Erin Duggen, GYCC, Sarah Cognata, Trevor Souther.

Absent:

6:00 P.M. EXECUTIVE SESSION To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the governmental body and the Chair so declares ...; 6:00PM KP Law update

6:30 P.M. EXECUTIVE SESSION To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the governmental body and the Chair so declares ...; 6:30 PM Union Police Negotiations

7:00PM 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 meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

COVID-19 Update-Police Chief Cudmore & Deb Rogers BOH Agent: *Police Chief Cudmore spoke about a press release his department has put out to the community. Mr. Twiss informed the Board that the Town of Peabody has the same amount of cases. Police Chief Cudmore spoke on the yellow status now in Town and that his Department put a press release out and staying within all the State guidelines and advisories for public safety. Lt. Hash working with Cares Act - might be a long-haul regarding PPE equipment. Questioned funding on the cost of opening the schools.*

Board of Health Agent Deb Rogers spoke on the Town now being in a yellow zone with the Covid cases using the states metric system , the Health Department only found out through social media about the change and was not informed through the State, this information should be directly sent to the Board of health and it was not done that way. Ms. Rogers spoke of a business here in Georgetown that had not been following the state and the Labor Standards rules on mask, making sure this business understands it's not only the 6 feet part-trying to educate the Towns Businesses which are being cooperative. Mr. Twiss asked about our number of cases compared to other surrounding communities-Ms. Rogers did not have their information with her but believes the Town's cases will be going down. Ms. Rogers stated the website is updated each day in the afternoon on the covid information.

Mr. Twiss asked about American Legion Park, Chief Cudmore replied that is it a challenge for parking, beach is being monitored had some conversation with the Parks & Recreation Department, working on a team approach, it is challenging to say the least. Mr. Twiss spoke about trash bags being filled, closed to non-residents and the he is not taking this lightly. Chief Cudmore has been receiving and going through the message to try and see what is true and what is not true, trying to get to the bottom of these reports. Officers are present at the beach in uniform and non-uniform.

Mr. Durney asked if there is someone who is competent down at the beach, asked Chief Cudmore if he felt they are using the right candidate, Chief Cudmore says it comes down to authority, Chief Cudmore thinks the town should be doing more, limited funding and staff , change our current motto , need to fund our properties, Covid is not a Police Department issue, parking is a police issue, trying to limit the amount of people / trash is a problem, trash receptables filled with empty liquor cans.

Covid-19 update Library.

Sarah Cognata updated the Board on phase 3 and spoke on scheduled curbside pickup, curbside printing, museum passes, appointments for computers only for 45 minutes, patrons can be scheduled to pick up books and deliveries are going forward, things are going well. Ms. Cognata

is looking for some feedback from the Board. Mr. Durney asked if the Library was asking for specific hours to offer these services. Ms. Cognata replied no.

New Business: GYCC update-Anala Guertin & Erin Duggan:

Ms. Guertin spoke on their mission statement, attendance of 40 students were attending when closed due to the Covid, hoping they can re-open soon prior to the schools opening, Trevor Souther spoke on the kids wanting to come back before school in small groups. He stated that the youth were engaged with the center when the closing happened, he stated they hope they can open to some extent in the future before schools open, suggested a few outside events if they can't open in September also having a small group so that the youth know they we still open for them. Mr. Fowler asked about on-line courses to keep the kids' social engagement going forward. Ms. Guertin spoke on how hard it is to engage on line especially not knowing the kids.

Fire Department Covid-19 Grant Update-Fire Chief Mitchell:

Chief Mitchell spoke on the personal equipment grant that was received. Mr. Twiss asked how long the funds will last. Chief Mitchell believes the funds will last about a year. Chief Mitchell updated the Board that there has been over \$30,000.00 in grant money received, which is a team effort.

Adoption of chapter 92/ Section 10 B

Mr. Farrell spoke on the Appropriation from the Marijuana excise tax funds which are earmarked for stabilization funds. He stated funds for Covid related issues not sure if the state or the town revenue will make it through this year, budget was level funded , can do budget transfers, the Town has to make a decision prior to the tax rate being set by if they want to adopt Chapter 92/ Section 10B, which is usually by the end of September/ October . Mr. Twiss suggested the Board look over the information that that was given to them by Mr. Farrell and bring this item back to the next agenda.

Chapter 61 A Discussion

Mr. Berube, Town Assessor spoke on two (2) parcels of farmland on Jackman Street. Mr. Berube spoke that the Town would have the right of first refusal if it were coming out of Chapter 61A. The Town may be able to take action at some point. Mr. Twiss asked what would the Town do with this land, could it be used for commercial was asked, could make some money for the town. Mr. Twiss spoke on past land that was given to conservation and the Town is starving for revenue and it would be nice to preserve some land in Town. Mr. Dawes asked about the Towns tax revenue collection where are we now, Mr. Farrell sated he did not have those numbers available tonight. Mr. Przyjemski, Conservation Agent spoke about lots 20-2 / 20-1 / 20-6 /- brook flows along the left side, there are two brooks, thirty-year bridge crosses over route 95. Mr. Dawes what was the involvement for the Town to act on this and what is the process. Mr. Farrell replied it would have to be a Town Meeting vote either at a fall or spring Town Meeting at which time the Board could act.

Mr. Fowler asked about back taxes which have paid as of today going back five years. Mr. Fowler asked about Zoning and would like to keep the land as commercial not residential. Mr. Berube said the Town could have up to a year to purchase. Mr. Fowler spoke on the open land trust, possible to use some CPC funds and or grants. Mr. Przyjemski stated that Greenbelt could be helpful if the town wants to keep it agriculture. Mr. Twiss spoke on an over 55 Community. Mr. Farrell stated the Town can't keep up passing up on tax revenue. Mr. Kershaw asked Mr. Farrell to update the board on what the three owners want, and thinks it would be more lucrative for the owners to sell the land. The Board asked Mr. Berube to keep the Board updated.

Dress Code & Personal Appearance Discussion/Update: *Mr. Fowler read aloud the proposed language to the Board. Mr. Twiss stated he receives emails from many residents on the subject of employees not being identified when out doing inspection. The Fire Department, Police Department Electrical Department and the Highway Department all have Town apparel on when out in the public. Mr. Twiss believes Town Hall staff should all have id's especially those departments that go out on inspections. Mr. Twiss does not agree with everyone at Town Hall wearing an official town of Georgetown shirt but does agree that all town employees should have a photo id. Mr. Farrell stated that the Fire Department has the ability to do a photo id and the Town would only have to pay the cost of stock. Mr. Durney commented that he believes it is a safety issues and that everyone at Town Hall should have a photo id.*

Mr. Durney moved to approve the following be added to the Dress Code & Personal Appearance Section of the personnel bylaws *"all employees as their official capacity for the Town of Georgetown must display a photo id as part of their required duties and additionally an employee who as a requirement of their duties must enter a private property for an inspection will wear an official Town shirt and or jacket to identify themselves motion seconded by Mr. Dawes . Motion was approved by a unanimous roll call vote.*

Mr. Kershaw supports the change. Mr. Dawes supports the change.

Mr. Przyjemski asked about the funding for these upgrades, Mr. Farrell said he will find the money.

SELECTMEN'S REPORT

Th Board agreed tentatively with the following schedule of their fall Meeting Schedule for August 31, Sept. 14, 28; October 5, 19; Nov. 9, 23; Dec. 7, 21, 2020.

Mr. Twiss asked that the goals for FY21 from the Board members be added to the next Selectman's agenda.

August 17, 2020

Mr. Fowler spoke on the re-opening of Town Hall. Mr. Twiss does think this is the best time to open to the public since the Town is now in the yellow zone for covid cases and suggested we wait a little while and see what happens.

Mr. Fowler asked about the e-mail from former Selectman Saddler regarding Mello Disposal and asked if anyone had followed up and questioned if taxes were a. Mr. Farrell stated taxes have been paid. Mr. Fowler spoke on tipping fees regarding Mello Disposal and spoke on a host agreement which are mostly part of a Planning Board decision which is not in the Boards purview per Mr. Twiss.

WARRANT and MINUTES

Mr. Fowler moved to approve the meeting minutes from May 27, 2020, June 8, 2020 and June 15, 2020, Mr. Dawes seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

Mr. Fowler moved to approve the State Primary Warrant and the Presidential Warrant Mr. Twiss seconded the vote. The motion was a unanimous roll call vote.

APPOINTMENTS and APPROVALS

Mr. Dawes moved to approve the re-appointment of Charles Durney to the Affordable Housing Trust term to expire 6/30/22, Mr. Kershaw seconded the motion. 4-0 Roll call vote was taken. Mr. Durney abstained from the vote.

NEXT MEETING: 8/31/2020

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Fowler moved to adjourn. Mr. Durney seconded the motion and the motion was approved by roll call vote.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 P.M.

Minutes transcribed by Maureen Shultz / Approved on 8/31/2020

Documents used in this meeting:

Chapter 61A discussion
DLS Bulletin / Adoption of Chapter 92, Section 10b
Dress Code & Personal Appearance Discussion/Update
State Primary Warrant

