

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

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**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES**

**Memorial Town Hall**

**10/04/2021**

**7:00PM**

**Verizon channel 42/Comcast channel 9**

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**Selectmen Present:** *Chair Douglas Dawes, Peter Kershaw, Gary Fowler and Amy Smith*

**Late Arrival:** *David Twiss*

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

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**7:00PM Call to order**

*Pledge of Allegiance Douglas W. Dawes*

*Invocation-Douglas W. Dawes*

**New Business: Water Department / Discussion Capital Improvement Plan:**

*Marlene Ladderbush, Supervisor of the Water Department & Water Commission Chair Jeffrey McClure spoke on a project in Boxford & Their Capital Project Plan / West Street Water Treatment Plan was discussed:*

**Boxford Community Project Discussion.**

*55 Plus community -New Project*

*LEC Engineering -had done the original work -have not heard back / will advise*

*No plans / no drawing / concerning.*

*History of plant was given -twenty (20) years old -paid for now / great thing.*

*Boxford Project is requiring five (5) irrigation wells -Questioning this amount of need for that many units.*

*Could be using 1/2 million gallons a day -this is a concern*

*Possibly use some of the ARPA funding.*

*Annual Town Meeting vote for funding.*

*Board of Selectman in Boxford has approved this project.*

*Explanation of Biological Treatment was discussed.*

*Climate Change issues.*

*Rising water levels.*

*Project regulated by DEP*

*No direct comment by DEP / outside of the Town jurisdiction*

*D. Dawes commented that he had heard the Board of Selectman has approved this project in Boxford.*

*D. Dawes asked if a letter had been sent to the Board of Selectman in Boxford -No Letter had been sent due to Georgetown having no jurisdiction but e-mails to Boxford has expressed the concerns to them.*

*P. Kershaw asked if irrigation will be defined.*

**Capital Project Plan: Biological Treatment / Town's Water Plant:**

- *Town's Water Plant is twenty years old and the bond will be off the books this summer.*
- *Past history of the water plant was given by Water Commission Chair Jeffrey McClure*
- *Treatment Plant starting to show its age.*
- *Additional work needs to be done now.*
- *Iron & Magnesium levels are increasing.*
- *Need to supply better water for the Town residents.*
- *Biological Treatment -best way to go.*
- *Pre-treatment –two- step process -fix what we have in place 20-year filtration system / go to special town in the near future and ask for funding for three quarters of a million-dollar project.*
- *Completion has to be done in the off year -next winter.*
- *Operationally very difficult to keep plant running smoothly.*
- *Backwash waste a lot of water.*
- *Water does not flow smoothly.*
- *Water loggers will be up and coming.*

*D. Dawes asked if the water rates would be going up-Answer not there yet to give an answer.*

*D. Dawes asked re-Placement of sewage treatment –no problems with Town as of today.*

*D. Dawes commented about the beaver issues in Town / area is growing, asked how to treat the beaver issues.*

*G. Fowler asked about the water issues is it with drawing from the Town or only due to the beavers.*

*P. Kershaw asked about the cause and the root of the iron and magnesium rising in the water.*

*Iron & Magnesium rising is natural with New England water, standing waters not good, no more dredging of the water area -surface water just sitting there.*

*We waste a lot of water –vessels back in shape -to put in the biological treatment -no need for chemicals.*

*G. Fowler questioned the Town drawing water and or beavers. referred to a land on the other side of Town that is owned by the Town -well pumps are it worth to get better wells.  
-Average use of water hasn't really changed much-climate change issue -land on the other side of towns for wells-pump all across town -better wells -is it worth it.*

*Water Commission Chair Jeffrey McClure mentioned he was not aware that the Town owned land on the other side of Town or owned by the Water department.*

*D. Dawes asked about piping in the Town -water need some looking at -0certain areas -breaks - not so much per Marlene -possible new main -cost is an issue -Doug some areas are about 100 years old -pretty good shape with our water pipes—*

*A. Smith asked about Biological Treatment with regards on bugs / consume iron / other Towns already using this approach with great results.*

**Georgetown's Redistricting / Town Clerk / Precincts:**

*Kerri McManus, Town Clerk spoke on the states redistricting precincts in the Town.*

*G. Fowler asked what is the reason behind this change and how many residents will it affect.*

*K. McManus answered to balance people in each precinct / demographic in each precinct.*

*Small number of residents will be impacted with these changes / about 800 new residents/ Precinct 2 will now be precinct 3.*

*A letter to the residents who will be affected by this change will be sent out by the Town Clerks office.*

*D. Twiss motioned to approve the redistricting of the precincts in the Town of Georgetown as presented by Kerri McManus, Town Clerk, seconded by P. Kershaw. Roll call vote was taken all in favor.*

**Appointments / Vote by the Board:**

*D. Twiss made motion to appoint the following to the Affordable Housing Trust members to the Affordable Housing Task Force, Charles Keilty, David Surface, Shawn McGee, Peter Kershaw and Timothy Ruh, seconded by G. Fowler. Roll call vote was taken all in favor.*

*G. Fowler suggested to make it a policy to do this this appointment each year.*

*D. Twiss made the motion to the Board to appoint Joe Bonivito and David Schofield to the Holiday Event Committee seconded by G. Fowler. A roll call vote was taken all in favor.*

**Town Administrator's Report:**

*M. Farrell, Town Administrator spoke on procedures and policies regarding event Committees & fundraising in Town.*

*Cannot solicit money -not allowed / Fundraising Board should have a donation account -could have a very specific account -right now very generic account / Board is the sole agent of that account.*

*\$572.00 balance in account -can be used for anything -was never designated for any purpose New money the donates should include letter and say what its for Fundraising Boards has to have a donation Account.*

*If funds have not been designated for any purpose -they can be used for any purpose.*

*501C3 -Friends accounts -tax deduction if so desired -set up an account this way is the easiest way to handle fundraising.*

*Line item in the budget can be created*

*If money doesn't get spent it goes back to general fund*

*D. Dawes asked if funds get to zero balance does it still stay on the books -M. Farrell was not sure of the answer to that question -will have to get an answer back to the Board.*

*Illegal to accept donations from a town employee.*

*P. Kershaw asked for clarification on someone who wanted to donate.*

*G. Fowler asked about where to direct any donations -All donations would have to be accepted at a Board of Selectman Meeting and a separate vote on where to spend it per M. Farrell.*

**Selectman Report:**

*P. Kershaw continues to meet each week regarding National Avenue.*

*D. Dawes spoke on the Town Administrator search -gave the Board an update from MRI Consultants- including the Boards role of the Selection Committee not the Screening Committee.*

*D. Twiss updated on the search for a new Fire Department Chief and there next scheduled meeting which will include going over essay questions that will be returned next week, starting to get the pool of candidate down so interviews may start.*

*D. Dawes spoke on the Town Administrator search -timeline has a changed -MRI will pick the final candidates-nine (9) candidates as of now. No less than three candidates and no more than 5 candidates were requested by D. Dawes to MRI Consultants. No executive session for next week's schedule. Think of follow up questions. Set up a schedule to meet with candidate -possibly an hour each meeting.*

*G. Fowler asked about the time line changes and asked if the Board isn't involved why would it slow the speed of the process down.*

*D. Twiss asked if the Board will get something from MRI on the final candidates/ guidelines will be given to the Board by MRI, will MRI try and get the list down to as low as possible.*

**Adjournment:**

*D. Twiss made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15P.M seconded by A. Smith. A roll call vote to adjourn.*

