

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

Ph. (978) 352-5755 □ Fax (978) 352-5727

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

Memorial Town Hall

11/4/2020

3:30PM-Emergency Board of Selectman General Meeting

Broadcast on Georgetown Cable TV via BlueJeans

Verizon channel 42/Comcast channel 9

Selectmen Present: *Vice Chairman; Douglas W. Dawes, Clerk; Gary C. Fowler, (Called in), Peter J. Kershaw and Charles Durney. D. Surface, Town Moderator, Thom Berube, Town Assessor,*

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

Absent: *David Twiss, Chairman*

3:30PM Call to order

D. Dawes 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 that.

Roll Call Vote to open meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

Special Town Meeting -Quorum /Update / Decision:

D. Surface stated he is not moving the location of the Special Town Meeting since it has been scheduled at the High School -indoors might provide a smaller crowd but not a guarantee, it could go on the Fall Town meeting if the Board of Selectman choose -trying to avoid large crowds.

Open discussion: Set Quorum of 10 (ten) for the meeting-need a vote-No Vote was taken. Suggestion of moving Article 12 -Citizens Petitioner to the Fall Town Meeting

D. Dawes stated the Town Warrant has already posted no need to take any votes.

C. Durney stated leave everything the way it is now and go order the tent for Town Meeting.

P. Kershaw -move forward with Town Meeting and get the tent.

C. Durney suggested the Town Meeting will be a super spreader and questioned where the communication broke down.

Municipalities are except from the COVID-19 rules on their Town Meetings per Mr. Farrell, Town Administrator

Mr. Farrell, Town Administrator spoke on his conversation with the petitioners from Article 12 in which there was a request to have the Planning Board and the Conservation Committee not have any input-Mr. Farrell told them that the Board of Selectman cannot weigh in on what other Boards and Commissions have input on not in the Board of Selectman's jurisdiction to be involved. D. Surface agreed that it would be on a pass over the article too many people.

Provisional votes were suggested by the Town Assessor, Thom Berube

Tax rate will not happen if there is no Town Meeting per Town Assessor, Thom Berube.

C. Durney asked what a provisional vote will get us?

G. Fowler spoke on the phone to the Board he believes the Board could be in violation of the open meeting law-suggest not to have Town Meeting at this time, believes the Board is on thin ice, cost of the tent is a waste of money no matter how much funding could be reimbursed back to the Town.

G. Fowler called the point of order on the motion by C. Durney

G. Fowler objected to this emergency meeting and left the meeting at approx.-4:30PM.

D. Dawes move to have Article 12 be moved to the Fall Town Meeting, seconded by Kershaw – No roll call vote take -Motion was then withdrawn from P. Kershaw seconded by C. Durney, Roll call vote all in favor.

P. Kershaw believes we should have a Town Meeting.

For some that are suggesting no Town Meeting -M. Farrell reiterated that the Town over Spent \$408K which has to be put back in the budget if this is not done the Department of Revenue will not certify the tax rate.

NEXT MEETING

November 9, 2020

ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 PM. Minutes transcribed by Maureen Shultz

Documents used in the meeting:

- *Special Town Meeting Warrant*

