

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

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

Memorial Town Hall

11/12/2020

6:00PM- Selectman General Meeting

Broadcast on Georgetown Cable TV via BlueJeans

Verizon channel 42/Comcast channel 9

Selectmen Present: *Chair David Twiss, Vice Chairman; Douglas W. Dawes, Clerk; Gary C. Fowler, Peter J. Kershaw and D. Surface, Town Moderator.*

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

Absent: *C. Durney*

6:00PM Call to order

D. 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 that.

Roll call vote to open meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion & possible vote to consider an adjustment of the quorum requirements for the November 16, 2020 Special Town Meeting.

D. Surface, Town Moderator spoke about dropping the quorum at the Special Town Meeting and stated it would not hurt to do this, suggested to drop the quorum to 50 and believes the articles will pass. What if we don't get 100 attendees it doesn't hurt to drop the quorum. Financial articles make a lot of sense and the Finance Committee seems to be in favor, not going to safe guard against the 100 people, never know on a big group.

P. Kershaw not turning people around at Town Meeting no matter what.

*P. Kershaw asked M. Farrell, Town Administrator if he has received any response from the 50-ton group- M. Farrell replied they are communicating with the Town's Council.
G. Fowler suggested not to be having any other discussions.*

M. Farrell spoke on Article 12 and suggested not to forward to Town Meeting in the spring-no legal binding to do that.

D. Surface, Town Moderator thanked Chief Cudmore and Chief Mitchell for all their assistance with setting up the Special Town Meeting and acknowledged Mike Anderson for all his efforts.

P. Kershaw made a motion to adjust the Special Town Meeting quorum to twenty-five (25) seconded by D. Dawes.

G. Fowler stated the only way he would vote to support the motion to lower the quorum is that the Board only move ahead with Articles 1, 2, 3, 11 and 12 as housekeeping articles G. Fowler suggested to the Board that Article 1, 2, 3, 11 and 12 be postponed, , I don't see them as housekeeping, no way that anyone cannot bring the articles up.

D Twiss respectfully disagreed with G. Fowler and did not want to hold the Public Safety Departments in a lurch, and does not want the Public Safety Departments from not being able to communicate with other Towns. D. Twiss asked if there was any further discussion at which there was none. P. Kershaw supports Public Safety and wants them to get their equipment that they need. D. Twiss stated there is a lot of important articles -move forward with the adjustment to 25.

Roll call vote was taken, D. Twiss, P. Kershaw, D. Dawes, D. Surface, Town Moderator all in favor on the roll call. G. Fowler voted no on the motion and voted no on the roll call vote.

D. Dawes clarified with Chief Cudmore and Chief Mitchell on a time frame on when they can get their equipment / radios approved at the Special Town Meeting- Chief Mitchell responded he could get his equipment the next day-Chief Cudmore replied immediately. P. Kershaw supports public safety relating to the Police & Fire equipment/ radios.

Roll call was taken P. Kershaw, D. Twiss, D. Dawes and D. Surface approved the roll call, G. Fowler voted no on the vote and no on the roll call

Point of order was asked by G. Fowler if the Governors information regarding setting a quorum needs to be included in this agenda -M. Farrell stated the notice of the quorum possibly being changed was posted at least seven (7) days ago.

ADJOURNMENT:

G. Fowler motioned to close the meeting with P. Kershaw seconded the motion -Roll Call was taken all in favor.

NEXT MEETING

November 16, 2020

Meeting adjourned at 6:20 PM. Minutes transcribed by Maureen Shultz

