

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

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

Memorial Town Hall

9/12/16

6:30PM-Executive Session~2nd Floor Meeting Room

7:00PM-General Meeting~3rd floor meeting room, Town Hall

Selectmen Present: C. David Surface Chairman; Gary C. Fowler, Clerk; Douglas W. Dawes, Steven Sadler; Joseph Bonavita

Others Present: Michael Farrell, Town Administrator; Janet Pantano, Administrative Assistant

Absent:

6:30PM EXECUTIVE SESSION

Anticipated executive session in accordance with the provisions of G.L. c. 30A, sec. 21(a)(3), to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with AFSCME Council 93.

7:00PM Call to order

Invocation-Douglas W. Dawes

Pledge of Allegiance

MA State Police Wives Association- Kristin Erikson was present

Ms. Erikson asked if the wives could put up blue ribbons on Town Hall and along East Main Street to support police officers. She stated that the ribbons would be up for a month and she will put them up and take them down.

Mr. Surface stated that they will discuss and let her know. He stated he has heard of a controversy in another town and he sees no issues and supports law enforcement. He stated once we do other groups will also ask and time to be up should be limited as the ribbons look ragged over time.

Mr. Dawes stated he has no problem. Mr. Bonavita stated he has no issue and longer is okay with him. Mr. Sadler stated he has no issue and asked if we have a policy on this. Mr. Surface stated that we do not have policy as the request has not come up before. Mr. Fowler stated that the board should wait until next week to make a decision as we should check if it is okay to put the ribbons on poles with the Light department. Mr. Surface stated that we do not need a vote and if all are in agreement then okay for 30 days.

Chief Cudmore stated he would put on social media what the ribbons are for so residents would know.

WARRANT & MINUTES

Minutes 2/29, 4/11, 4/25/2016; ES 6/27 A & B

Mr. Dawes moved to approve the minutes of February 29, 2016. Mr. Bonavita seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote. 2 Abstain Sadler & Bonavita

Mr. Dawes moved to approve the minutes of April 11, 2016. Mr. Fowler seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote. 2 Abstain

Mr. Dawes moved to approve the minutes of April 25, 2016. Mr. Fowler seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote. 2 Abstain

Mr. Dawes moved to approve the minutes of June 27, 2016 A & B not to be released. Mr. Fowler seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Minutes August 15, 2016

Mr. Dawes moved to approve the minutes of August 15, 2016. Mr. Bonavita seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

CORRESPONDENCE

Letter of gratitude on performance of Police Chief Cudmore

Mr. Surface read the letter.

Police Appointments & Re-appointments

Chief Cudmore explained the appointments and reappointments and the process that they have gone through. He stated no vacancies at this time. He stated officer to fill retire in the spring will go to training and will have to shuffle. He stated that losing reserves to full time positions out of town.

Mr. Dawes stated if we train can we stipulate that they stay for a certain amount of time. Chief Cudmore stated that he does have a contract that new officers have signed a conditional agreement.

Mr. Dawes moved to approve the reappointment of Mark Anderson as a Reserve Police Officer term to expire June 30, 2017. Mr. Fowler seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Dawes moved to approve the reappointment of Jonathan Henriquez as a Reserve Police Officer term to expire June 30, 2017. Mr. Bonavita seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Dawes moved to approve the appointment of Acting Patrol Sgt. Derek Jones as Patrol Sergeant term to expire June 30, 2019. Mr. Sadler seconded the motion.

Mr. Surface asked if this would cause any budget concerns. Chief Cudmore stated no.

The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Chief Cudmore explained the Detective position change.

Mr. Dawes moved to approve the appointment of Sergeant James Rodden to Detective Sergeant term to expire June 30, 2019. Mr. Fowler seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Surface asked for a copy of the PD org chart. Mr. Dawes wanted to thank the officers and Officer Goddu for his service. He stated that all do a great job.

Mr. Surface stated that he and the Fire Chief held a great service for 9/11 yesterday.

American Legion Park Update

Chief Cudmore gave an update on the American Legion Park. He gave the board a handout on how issues at the park are going. He stated that they have had no significant calls to the Police Department. He stated that they have to work to consolidate the rules and regulations for American Legion Park, West Street and East Main Street Park. He stated that the Park and Rec is giving him information on what events and when they are being held at the parks that is helping.

Mr. Surface stated that now that summer is over the Park and Rec should set up a rules and regulations committee.

BOARD BUSINESS

Community Sign Policy

Mr. Surface asked when the sign would be going in. Mr. Farrell stated that the poles went in today and they still have to run the electric.

Mr. Bonavita read the policy. Mr. Sadler stated that they have to set the hours of operation, lead time, length of message, etc. Mr. Surface stated to state that this policy has been approved by the BoS. Mr. Farrell stated that we need hours of operation. Mr. Surface stated dim at night start at 6AM and stop at 10PM

Mr. Fowler stated that the sign ordinance may need to be updated for electronic signs. Mr. Surface stated that emergency messages can play anytime. Mr. Bonavita stated that there should be notice that the sign was paid for by Kiwanis Club.

Mr. Surface stated that a few of the new shrubs are dead can Mr. Durkee look at these and see if we can replace them.

Healthy Pharms Host Agreement Update

Dawes stated that the agreement has been sent to Healthy Pharms and their attorney. He stated that there has been no comment as of yet from them on the agreement. Mr. Bonavita asked if we have a timeline on a response. Mr. Dawes stated that they are looking for a partial occupancy permit so we should hear from them soon. Mr. Farrell stated that they have the partial occupancy permit.

45 Central Street

Mr. Surface stated that the home behind town hall is for sale again and what do they think of acquiring and removing the home for additional parking. Mr. Sadler stated that it may be a spot for a treatment plant for the downtown. He asked where we are in the process. Mr. Surface stated that he would like to give Mr. Farrell authority to investigate and come up with an offer. Mr. Fowler stated he agrees that they should allow the Town Administrator to go into discussion to purchase the property. He stated that the town cannot pay over the assessed value. Mr. Surface stated once an agreement then we have to go to Town Meeting for the funds. Mr. Bonavita asked where the funds would come from. Mr. Surface stated that to purchase the home we could use free cash for a one time purchase.

Communications Committee

Mr. Sadler stated he talked to a few people who would be interested and he found a bylaw that formed a communications committee in 1975. He stated as we are looking into social media we should have a committee and come up with a charge. Mr. Surface asked him to come up with the responsibilities for the committee. He stated that Mr. Egenberg worked on this before and it would take some pressure off the board.

Legal Access Policy

Mr. Surface asked if we have a policy and if the board could get a copy for the next meeting. Mr. Sadler asked for the policy to be online.

Debt Exclusion Policy-Fowler

Mr. Fowler stated that in 2012 the town voted on the Elm Street Bond and at the recent ATM there was no discussion and he wants to have a policy/bylaw so we can discuss at the town meeting. Mr. Farrell stated that it was legal under MGL that the article was approved at town meeting in 2012 and then on the warrant for the election ballot much later. Mr. Surface stated what we need is a timeline. He stated we need to have a discussion and get the word out somewhere for the public. Mr. Fowler stated that if we are going to have a debt exclusion then do we have to revote. Mr. Farrell stated that we do not as the wording of the article allowed either option. Mr. Surface stated does not want to handcuff a future board on how to handle bonding. Mr. Fowler stated that it would be a policy and would not be handcuffing a board. He stated that the Elm Street Bond was discussed and in the minutes of a meeting he was not at. Mr. Dawes stated that there is a 4 year span and with change in politics that some in the public were are not aware of the vote. Mr. Fowler stated that he does not remember any discussion on the project being debt excluded. Mr. Sadler stated that the board should have a plan and that will take care of issue.

Selectmen's Goals Discussion

Mr. Surface asked each member to state their goals so the public would know and other members. Each member read their goals.

Mr. Surface stated he would put together a matrix with all goals as some overlap. He stated look at BoS goals once a month. He stated that he wants to get things done.

Mr. Surface asked to move the next meeting to September 26th at 7PM.

Mr. Dawes moved to hold the next BoS meeting on Monday, September 26, 2016 at 7:00PM. Mr. Fowler seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Request of appointment of Jill Benas and Sue Clay to the CoA

Mr. Dawes moved to approve the appointment of Jill Benas as an Alternate member of the Council on Aging member term to expire June 30, 2017. Mr. Bonavita seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Dawes moved to approve the appointment of Susan Clay as a Full member of the Council on Aging member term to expire June 30, 2017. Mr. Sadler seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Fowler update board on the Senior Center

Mr. Fowler stated that the Whittier students are back onsite at the Senior Center. He stated that he attended a joint meeting last week at the site and the project is moving forward.

Strategic Planning

Mr. Farrell stated that we had an all departments meeting hosted by Mr. Trapani with a goal to get their goals to add to the strategic plan. He stated that we had a lot of good input. He stated that they plan a Facebook and webpage with goals and objectives and then send out surveys on priorities of goals and objectives. He stated that these will be online surveys and then they will hold another community meeting in November and have an action plan in January. He stated a March plan is an attainable date.

Financial Plan

Mr. Fowler asked for an update. Mr. Farrell stated that they met in August and they are working on the plan and should be done by mid-October.

Pond Street

Mr. Surface stated Mr. Fowler asked to discuss the new opening and have Mr. Durkee in and also discuss Elm Street. Mr. Fowler stated that a resident called him and requested the BoS discuss the Pond Street opening.

Mr. Bonavita asked that the Water Department come in for an update.

Mr. Surface asked that the Park & Rec to also come in for an update.

NEXT MEETING

September 19, 2016, 7:00PM, 3rd floor meeting room, Town Hall

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Dawes moved to adjourn. Mr. Sadler seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55PM.

Minutes transcribed by J. Pantano.

Minutes approved January 23, 2017

Documents used in this meeting:

- Minutes May 15, 2016
- Special Town Meeting draft warrant
- Community Sign Policy
- Legal Access Policy

BoS Minutes
September 12, 2016

- Approval of Disclosure by a Municipal Employee-Michael Anderson
- Request by Michele R. Velleman for appointment to Traffic Committee
- Request from the Town Clerk to approve Poll Workers for November 8, 2016
- Park & Rec appointments