

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

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

Memorial Town Hall

10/7/19

6:00 PM Executive Session, 2nd floor meeting room

7:00 PM General Meeting, 3rd floor meeting room

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

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

Absent:

6:00PM-EXECUTIVE SESSION

To discuss strategy with respect to 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 ...;**

7:00PM Call to order

Invocation-Douglas W. Dawes

Pledge of Allegiance

PUBLIC HEARING

Public Hearing continued from April 22, 2019-SQF, LLC/Tilson Request to place a new utility pole for an AT&T Small Wireless Facility in the public right-of-way

Mr. Bonavita moved to open the public hearing for SQF, LLC/Tilson request to place a new utility pole for an AT&T Small Wireless Facility in the public right-of-way. Mr. Durney seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a roll call vote.

Mr. Farrell updated the board that there is no rush to take a vote and he is getting mixed messages from Tilson and AT&T. Mr. Fowler stated that we should have the applicant in.

Mr. Twiss moved to continue the public hearing for SQF, LLC/Tilson Request to place a new utility pole for an AT&T Small Wireless Facility in the public right-of-way to December 16, 2019. Mr. Fowler seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Durney asked to talk to town counsel to see if this is the right way to proceed. Mr. Fowler asked if Light Department can still discuss with the board. Mr. Farrell stated that they can.

Mr. Bonavita moved to close the public hearing. Mr. Durney seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Request from Knights of Columbus for a Tootsie Roll Drive on Saturday, October 18, 2019.
John Takis, Knights of Columbus member stated that he is here to request permission to hold the State wide Tootsie Roll Drive in town. He stated that it would be held on October 19th and in the square and in front of Town Hall.

Mr. Durney moved to approve the Knights of Columbus Tootsie Roll Drive on Saturday, October 19, 2019 pending approval from Public Safety. Mr. Dawes seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Youth Community Center Update
Mike Hinchliffe was present

Mr. Hinchliffe thanked Mr. DiMento and Mr. Dobie for being here tonight. He stated the ask is only \$15K from the town at the STM. Mr. Farrell stated that the grant funds of \$30K are being fast tracked and may be here before special town meeting. Mr. Bonavita stated the he heard the funds would be later. He stated that he would like to have the \$45K on the warrant.

Mr. Hinchliffe stated the GYTC group had an event at Camp Denison and went well. He stated on October 19th an open house, and on October 18th a dance, and a wellness event is being planned. He stated that there has been a lot of discussion on Facebook on the Teen Center and they cannot answer questions about insurance. He stated that their website will have a Q& A section.

Mr. Bonavita stated that we are going to town meeting and this group will be a part of Park & Rec. Mr. Hinchliffe stated that there is the Teen Center and then the Friends of the Teen Center will do the fundraising.

Mr. Fowler stated that there has been a discussion on the possibility of staffing from the YMCA. Mr. Hinchliffe stated that it was discussed as a way to staff without the State funds and they cannot take on employees without full funds. He stated now that the funds are coming that is off the table. Mr. Fowler stated that it was a short term solution. He asked what would be the staffing.

Mr. Hinchliffe stated that he has submitted a budget with Mr. Farrell and FinCom. Mr. Fowler stated he wanted to know staffing. Mr. Hinchliffe stated a Lead Program Coordinator part time, and 2 similar part time employees working with the children. Mr. Fowler stated that these staff will be under Park and Rec.

Mr. Twiss asked how would they fund the staff next year.

Mr. Hinchliffe stated would go through the regular budget process as a department. He stated the goal of the friends is to support programing. He stated operation of the center is through the town.

Mr. Twiss stated that they had an event recently that raised a lot of funds. He stated that he is in

favor of the Center but the questions on Facebook on funding for center and where these funds would come from and if there will be an increase of taxes. Mr. Hinchliffe stated that the plan is not to be a burden to the town and want to be lean and productive. He stated a cost savings to the town by using the current School space. Mr. Twiss stated that he is waiting to see how this goes forward. He stated that this will be a benefit for the kids and a good idea. Mr. Hinchliffe stated that they have received a lot of items from the community to set up the center.

Mr. Durney stated that this is similar to the Senior Center. Mr. Hinchliffe stated yes. Mr. Durney stated he is in favor but he is concerned about staffing and funding for staffing. Mr. Hinchliffe stated over the summer met with Park & Rec and the committee liked the idea of the center and approved them to work under Park & Rec. He stated that a lot of people think this should be under the School. He stated have to get open and see where it goes. He stated they plan to open Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, afterschool and then one Friday evening a month.

Mr. Dawes stated in favor of a youth center but has a concern of a new department and the funding in the future. He stated if funded fully by community funds he would be in favor of. He asked if there are after school clubs and the library has a teen room. Ms. Jacobs stated that they are working with the library as the Library has 40 students present in the afternoon. He stated ready to give a hand up but would like to see a business plan. Mr. Hinchliffe stated that they went out three years with a plan. He stated that they are asking the town for funding and to be a part of the process. Mr. Dawes stated that he is not certain of starting a new town entity. Mr. Hinchliffe stated that this was their intention. Mr. Dawes stated that he has a number that a year of funding is \$75K to \$100K. Mr. Hinchliffe stated that was for a Park & Rec Director and that is off the table at this time.

Mr. DiMento stated that the Park & Rec Program Manager can take on some Park & Rec jobs such as reserving fields. He stated will have to see how it goes.

Mr. Bonavita stated that the first year with three part-time staff, and then in the future take on some Park & Rec responsibility.

Mr. Twiss stated that if they could take over the official summer schedule of the fields, that alone would be helpful. If Park & Rec has voids and this person can get some items done would be helpful. He stated would gain some momentum if added some Park & Rec responsibilities.

Mr. Bonavita stated that he would still like to see a charge for parking at American Legion for out of towners.

Mr. Fowler asked about staffing with part-time and then moving to full-time. He stated would we have to let someone go. He asked how would this would all work with staff. He stated that no one has volunteered to join Park & Rec to help out. He stated that at the last meeting Park & Rec meeting Richard Giardelli who has been running teen events was told not to attend open house and that sat badly with him. He asked who is going to be running this program Park & Rec or the committee.

Ms. Jacobs explained how CoA works and this would work similarly.

Mr. Farrell stated that best way is to compare this is to Camp Denison. He stated Friends run Camp Denison but the Conservation Commission oversees the Camp and signs off of the bills and have an employee at the Camp.

Mr. Fowler stated that the CoA has a board that meet and all items fall under them. He stated Park & Rec, School, Board, and Friends work together. He stated is this the best management style.

Mr. Dobie stated that he is here as a member of the FinCom and not representing the FinCom. He stated that the FinCom is looking at cost control, hidden costs, ADA issues, security issues, hurting the library. He stated once started it will grow and want to control the growth. He stated N. Andover has a \$125 fee for each student using the Teen Center. Mr. Hinchliffe stated that they are looking at this. He stated that they have to work within the budget and be careful of the cost.

Mr. Surface stated that the law defines have to have a CoA and a Park & Rec but you do not have to have a Teen Center.

Mr. Hinchliffe stated that he agrees with Mr. Dobie and trying to structure to what the town wants and will work under that structure. He stated that they want to do this the right way.

Mr. Bonavita stated cannot evolve until we open.

Ms. Jacobs asked if there is an opportunity for the groups to get together and discuss. She stated BoS, School, Park & Rec, and FinCom and have a discussion together. Mr. Bonavita stated that this is what tonight is. He stated that he thinks we are in a good place.

Mr. Surface stated that the BoS craft the warrant article and present to the public.

WARRANT and MINUTES

STM Warrant for October 28, 2019

Mr. Dobie, Chair, Alicia Raspa, Wayne Snow, of the FinCom were present

Mr. Bonavita stated that we will go through each article.

Article 1: Adjustments to the Fiscal Year 2020 Operating Budget (STM19-01)

Mr. Dobie stated that the FinCom voted to support this article.

Mr. Fowler asked if we need to have a town meeting. He stated that if only having for Article 2 SPED Reserve Fund establishment and if we are not funding the account at this time why not wait for spring.

Mr. Dobie stated that they met and want to create SPED account and he explained the process and the process to fund in the Spring.

Mr. Snow stated cannot establish the fund and then fund at the same time. Mr. Farrell stated that once established the BoS and School committee have to meet and set up rules before the funds can be spent.

Discussion on article and warrant

Mr. Twiss moved to approve the Special Town Meeting Warrant for Monday, October 28, 2019 with 10 Articles as presented. Mr. Durney seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a 4-1 vote.

Mr. Twiss moved to support Article 1: Adjustments to the Fiscal Year 2020 Operating Budget (STM19-01). Mr. Durney seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Article 2: To Establish a SPED Reserve Fund (STM19-02)

Mr. Dobie stated that the FinCom voted to support this article.

Mr. Bonavita asked if there is a number to fund. Mr. Dobie stated that the School came with some funding amounts and they have to work together to come up with a number. Mr. Bonavita asked how they will come up with this number.

Ms. Jacobs explained that they will look at past years and come up with an amount and will have to establish how funds can be requested. Discussion on Special Ed costs. Mr. Dawes stated that he thinks this is a good idea. Mr. Farrell asked if the School Committee voted on the Fund. Ms. Jacobs stated that they have not but will at their meeting on October 10.

Mr. Durney moved to support Article 2: To Establish a SPED Reserve Fund (STM19-02). Mr. Dawes seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

ARTICLE 3: Equipment and Final Payment Fire Truck (STM19-08)

Mr. Dobie stated that the FinCom voted to support this article.

Mr. Twiss moved to support ARTICLE 3: Equipment and Final Payment Fire Truck (STM19-08). Mr. Dawes seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

ARTICLE 4: Utility Vehicle, Boat, and Rescue Equipment-Fire Department (STM19-09)

Mr. Dobie stated that the FinCom felt that this request should go through CIP. He stated that he will be meeting with the Police and Fire Chiefs this week and will have more information to share with his board.

Mr. Bonavita stated that if this had to go to CIP they could not get in before STM. He stated real ask is for the boat the vehicle is not as high a priority. He stated that they need the boat and trailer.

Mr. Dobie stated that he is not saying that they will not recommend funding, have to discuss with the Chiefs. Mr. Twiss stated that boat and trailer need to be purchased, and to have a lightweight boat that has handles, wider, and more stable. He stated that not not all ponds are easy to access. Mr. Dobie asked if they could divide the boat and trailer from the pickup truck. Mr. Fowler stated maybe wait until town meeting and let the STM vote.

Mr. Snow asked if CIP could meet and make a recommendation at STM.

Mr. Twiss stated wait until the FinCom meets and then vote at town meeting.

Mr. Dobie stated that the FinCom will make a recommendation at STM.

Mr. Durney moved to support ARTICLE 4: Utility Vehicle, Boat, and Rescue Equipment-Fire Department (STM19-09). Mr. Fowler seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Article 5: Stabilization Fund (STM19-04)

Mr. B explained that the Selectmen voted to fund \$300K

Mr. Dobie explained that they are recommending they fund at \$150K and are concerned about Snow & Ice and want to keep some funds for flexibility and in the spring put additional funds in if left. He stated that they want the budget to have \$300K in Snow & Ice as always in deficit. He stated that we always have something come up and would like to have the cushion. He stated after the winter if there are funds left put in account.

Mr. Dawes stated that he does not like to leave \$900K in Free Cash.

Discussion on funding

Mr. Farrell went over the dollar amounts.

Mr. Bonavita asked about putting in \$225K.

Mr. Fowler stated that he wanted to leave a certain amount of funds and is in favor of the \$225K. He stated he likes to have the funds in the Stab Fund.

Article 6: Capital Fund (STM19-05)

Mr. Durney moved to support Article 6: Capital Fund (STM19-05) with the motion to transfer \$100K from Free Cash. Mr. Twiss seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Article 7: Other Post-Employment Benefits Trust Fund (STM19-06)

Mr. Durney moved to support Article 7: Other Post-Employment Benefits Trust Fund (STM19-06) with the motion to transfer \$150K from Free Cash. Mr. Twiss seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

ARTICLE 8: Community Teen Center Funding (STM19-10)

Mr. Twiss stated that Mr. Hinchliffe asked to make the transfer \$15K instead of \$45K.

Mr. Fowler moved to make the motion at \$15K to support the Teen Center. Mr. Dawes seconded the motion. No vote taken.

Mr. Bonavita stated that the State said that they would give \$30K and the town was to match \$30K. Mr. Farrell stated that there is no match.

Mr. Surface stated that you would have to open the warrant and change the article as the dollar amount is in the article and motion.

Mr. Twiss moved to support ARTICLE 8: Community Teen Center Funding (STM19-10) with the \$45K dollar amount. Mr. Durney seconded the motion.

Mr. Fowler stated he cannot support with the \$45K.

The motion was approved by a 3-2 vote.

Article 9: Street Acceptance-Palmer Lane (STM19-03)

Mr. Fowler moved to support Article 9: Street Acceptance-Palmer Lane (STM19-03). Mr. Durney seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Article 10: Acquisition of Easements-55-65 Central Street (STM19-07)

Mr. Farrell explained that as part of the CVS project they agreed to give an easement to the Public Safety Building to make it easier for trucks to exit and enter the building.

Mr. Twiss moved to support Article 10: Acquisition of Easements-55-65 Central Street (STM19-07). Mr. Durney seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Article 5: Stabilization Fund (STM19-04)

Mr. Twiss moved to support Article 5: Stabilization Fund (STM19-04) with the motion to transfer \$300K from Free Cash. Mr. Dawes seconded the motion.

Mr. Twiss went over the numbers. He stated he does not want to leave all these funds in Free Cash. He stated that in the spring add \$50K to Sped as was discussed.

Mr. Surface stated that he feels the board should put the funds in the Stab if you have the funds. He stated that we had a lot of lean years and now the board has a choice. Mr. Fowler stated what a wonderful problem to have.

The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Request from the Planning Board for the Selectmen to approve and accept the Layout of Palmer Lane

Mr. Bonavita read the layout letter.

Mr. Twiss moved to approve and accept the Palmer Lane Layout. Mr. Durney seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

General Minutes of September 23, 2019 and Executive Session Minutes of September 23, 2019

Mr. Durney moved to approve the Executive Session minutes of September 23, 2019. Mr. Dawes seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Durney moved to approve the General minutes of September 23, 2019. Mr. Twiss seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote

OLD BUSINESS

Request from the Kiwanis for a rain date of 10/27 for their Toll on 10/26

Mr. Twiss moved to approve the Kiwanis rain date of October 27, 2019. Mr. Durney seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Fowler stated he went to the MMA meeting last Friday. He stated that MMA is looking to get some funding for Public Safety and members may want to reach out to representatives.

Mr. Twiss stated he did the Jeanne Geiger walk along with Sen. Tarr and Rep. Mirra.

NEXT MEETING

October 21, 2019 at 7:00PM in the 3rd floor meeting room

October 28, 2019 at 6:00PM at the M/H School for the Special Town Meeting

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Durney moved to adjourn. Mr. Twiss seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:50PM.

Minutes transcribed by J. Pantano.

Minutes approved November 4, 2019.

Documents used in this meeting:

- Public Hearing continued from April 22, 2019-SQF, LLC/Tilson Request to place a new
- utility pole for an AT&T Small Wireless Facility in the public right-of-way
- General Minutes of September 23, 2019 and Executive Session Minutes of September 23, 2019
- Request from the Kiwanis for a rain date of 10/27 for their Toll on 10/26
- Request from the Planning Board for the Selectmen to approve and accept the Layout of Palmer Lane
- STM Warrant for October 28, 2019
- Youth Community Center Update