

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

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

Memorial Town Hall

9/23/19

6:00PM-Executive Session~2nd floor meeting room, Town Hall

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

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-Tolman v. Town-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

Kiwanis Request to hold fundraiser toll on October 26th

Dave Bogdan and Jim Withrow, Kiwanis members were present

Mr. Withrow stated that they are here for the Peanuts & Pretzels Fundraiser Toll in the Square and on Library Street from 9AM to 2PM on Saturday, October 26, 2019. He stated that they will notify Chief Cudmore and have cones out and put up signs warning of toll ahead.

Mr. Bogdan stated that this is a great fundraiser for them and they are not hitting all the same businesses. He stated they get funds from people who travel through town.

Mr. Bonavita asked him to tell them some of the things the funds raised go to.

Mr. Bogdan stated that they give high school scholarships, sponsor a family vacation at a camp at Lake Sebago for a family in need. He stated they do other events and bring hot dogs and popcorn and funds raised go to the group holding the event. He stated some of the funds were used to pay for a floor in the Teen Community Center, contributed to the Tree lighting ceremony, purchased the electronic Town Sign, the Welcome to Georgetown sign, sponsor the Senior Thanksgiving Turkey dinner.

Mr. Bonavita thanked them for all they do and stated that Kiwanis is looking for new members.

Mr. Withrow stated that they meet the 1st and 3rd Wednesday at the Knights of Columbus. He stated that on October 16th they will have a member night, location to be determined. He stated that they would post information on their Facebook page. He stated that they also sponsor the Key Club and Builders Club at the High School and these students help at functions.

Mr. Durney moved to approve the Kiwanis request to hold a Fundraiser Toll giving out peanuts & pretzels on Saturday, October 26 from 9:00AM to 2:00PM in the Square and at

Library Street. Mr. Twiss seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

GeorgetownCARE's Coalition Committee Update
Pam Lundquist, Chair and Carol Jacobs present

Ms. Lundquist gave an update on the committee and what they are doing. She stated that the funds that they use are from a contractual agreement with Mission (formerly Healthy Pharms). She stated that vape use is going up and marijuana use the same. She stated that they did a survey on assets of students in town. She stated that they are working to increase assets of students and part of this is the new Teen Community Center. She explained what they have done, curriculum, devices to detect vape use, and that Georgetown is one of the first towns in the country to have the sensors. Discussion on the sensors.

Ms. Jacobs stated that the SRO officer is also involved if there is an incident. Mr. Durney asked if there are sensors on the buses. Ms. Lundquist stated no but will look into that. She stated that they are in all restrooms and locker rooms. Mr. Bonavita stated that MIA sports group has steep consequences for vaping for students in sports.

Ms. Lundquist stated that the software that they acquired is current and includes vaping and the opioid crisis. She stated that they will do a survey next year and gather some more information.

She listed events that they have been a part of. She stated that next they want to plan some community events. She stated that they want to support departments, Police, Fire, CoA, etc.

Mr. Dawes stated that at a previous meeting the board agreed to have expand the committee from 5 to 7 members, but never voted.

Mr. Fowler moved to increase the members of the Georgetown Cares Coalition Committee from 5 members to 7 members all for a 1-year term. Mr. Twiss seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Dawes stated that they have a resident who has attended meetings and would like to be appointed as a member, Beth Bazinos. He gave some background information on Ms. Bazinos.

Mr. Dawes moved to appoint Beth Bazinos as a member of the Georgetown Cares Coalition Committee term to expire June 30, 2019. Mr. Fowler seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Resiliency Grant-Steve Przyjemski and Gillian Davies to be present

Ms. Davies gave some background information and stated that this is a municipal preparedness program funded by the State. She had a slide presentation for the board to view. She stated that we are seeing higher temperatures, flooding, and this is why the Governor started the MVP (Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program). The program is to find the vulnerabilities of your community and to see what can be done to prepare your community. She explained that once through the first part finding the vulnerabilities, then the second part includes funds to help the town the vulnerabilities, such as fix culverts, etc. She stated that first the request a planning grant, and then an action grant.

Mr. Dawes asked if this is coming from State what are the hooks.

Ms. Davies stated that community hours of staff is part of the match. She stated that there are 4 reports to submit and the consultant does all the reporting. She stated that they do not want this to be a burden for towns. He asked what happens after. She stated after the planning stage then a yearly report and then the town would apply for an action grant.

Mr. Dawes asked how many projects can you apply for. Ms. Davis stated no limit and can do multiple in a town or over years.

Mr. Przyjemski stated that this is a town wide project.

Mr. Fowler stated in the past there were fire lanes in the open space for emergency personnel and keeping these fire lanes open in open space areas is important and also could be used as walking trails.

Ms. Davies stated that this would be a project idea. Mr. Fowler asked who is BSC. Ms. Davies stated that is her company and they have engineers, wetland specialist, and she is a wetlands consultant.

Mr. Bonavita asked who would be the coordinator. Ms. Davis stated a core team, Police, Fire, Planning, Highway, and Conservation. She stated that the committee would prioritize a list of projects. Mr. Farrell stated that they had a core group that got together already and discussed and there are funds to get projects done.

Mr. Bonavita how are the applications scored. Ms. Davies explained the process.

Mr. Durney asked who is the MVP provider. She stated that they are the MVP provider or whoever the town hires. She explained that the town would receive the funds and then pay them.

Mr. Durney moved to move forward with the MVP Resiliency Grant. Mr. Twiss seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Fowler moved to authorize Mr. Bonavita, Chairman to sign the Letter of Support of the MVP Program. Mr. Dawes seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

ITEMS NOT REASONABLY ANTICIPATED BY THE CHAIR 48 HOURS IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING

Fire Department Donation

Fire Chief Mitchell was present

Chief Mitchell stated that the Fire Department received a donation of \$1,000 from Mrs. Pearson, Pond Street and he is asking the board to accept the donation.

Mr. Twiss moved to accept the \$1000 donation to the Georgetown Fire Department from Mrs. Pearson, Pond Street. Mr. Durney seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

APPOINTMENTS and APPROVALS

Mr. Dawes explained that the Eastern Essex Veterans' District has voted to add alternate representatives from each town and he has a candidate for Georgetown, Scott Daigle has volunteered and he read an email from Mr. Daigle stating his interest in the position.

Mr. Dawes moved to appoint Scott Daigle as an Alternate Eastern Essex Veterans' District Representative term to expire June 30, 2020. Mr. Fowler seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Request to Surplus Property-Michael Farrell

Mr. Twiss read the list of surplus property.

Mr. Twiss moved to approve the Surplus Property request for 5 Chairs from Mr. Farrell. Mr. Dawes seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Appointment of Peter Durkee to the Holiday Events Committee

Mr. Twiss moved to appoint Peter Durkee to the Holiday Events Committee term to expire June 30, 2019. Mr. Durney seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

WARRANT and MINUTES

Executive Session Minutes September 9 & 16, 2019

Mr. Twiss moved to approve the Executive Session Minutes of September 9, 2019. Mr. Fowler seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a 4-0 vote. Mr. Durney abstained

Mr. Twiss moved to approve the Executive Session Minutes of September 16, 2019. Mr. Fowler seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a 3-0 vote. Mr. Durney and Mr. Fowler abstained

Minutes of September 9, 2019

Mr. Fowler moved to approve the minutes of September 9, 2019. Mr. Twiss seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a 4-0 vote. Mr. Durney abstained

CORRESPONDENCE

Notice of road work from the Highway Surveyor

Mr. Bonavita read the notice of road work.

NEW BUSINESS

Request for support of House 2705-An Act Relative to Public Funds

Mr. Bonavita explained that this is a letter looking for support from the board from credit unions to take deposits.

Mr. Dawes asked if this would help the town. Mr. Farrell stated that it would not help the town.

Mr. Bonavita stated that he thinks we may get some better rates. Mr. Farrell stated that there is a process that the town goes through and the list they use to determine banks with best rates.

Mr. Twiss and Mr. Bonavita stated that they would both have to abstain as they both work for banks. Mr. Durney asked who this came from. Mr. Bonavita stated that the letter came from C. David Surface who is a resident and a president of a Credit Union and advocate for this request.

Mr. Dawes moved to allow Charles Durney, Clerk to sign the Request for support of House 2705-An Act Relative to Public Funds. Mr. Durney seconded the motion and the motion was approved by 3-0 vote. Mr. Twiss and Mr. Bonavita abstained

OLD BUSINESS/TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Close the Warrant for the Fall Special Town Meeting

Mr. Bonavita asked for any changes to the warrant. Mr. Farrell stated only change was that we owe the Georgetown Cares Committee a couple thousand dollars and will add this to Article 1.

Mr. Farrell gave the board a handout on funds the town has and funds deposited.

Mr. Farrell stated that the town received an email from the DoR and the new Free Cash number is \$1.5M. He gave a handout on end of year revenue and expenses. He explained that the funds collected. Mr. Fowler asked about new growth and that it is not shown. Mr. Farrell stated that new growth is not a revenue. Mr. Fowler stated in the past it was shown.

Mr. Farrell went over the budget numbers.

Mr. Fowler asked how much can go back to residents. Mr. Bonavita asked where we want these funds to go. Mr. Farrell stated that we have to put funds into reserves. Mr. Dawes asked the Fire Chief about radios. Chief Mitchell stated that in the spring they will be looking for funds for radios.

Mr. Bonavita stated that the DoR wants the town to fund our reserves. Mr. Fowler stated looking for funds to go back to taxpayers.

Mr. Twiss stated that we have to get back to funding the reserves so we do not have any increases to taxpayers. Mr. Dawes stated Selectmen and FinCom are in agreement to fund reserves. Mr. Twiss stated that the Public Safety building is a project in the future. Mr. Bonavita stated that the Stab Fund is one he would like to see at \$1.2M and eventually get to \$1.5M. He stated he would like to be aggressive. Mr. Farrell stated that we definitely need to fund OPEB. He stated we have \$1.1M if you take out the \$300K for snow and ice.

Discussion

Mr. Fowler moved to add to the warrant Article 4, 5, 6, to fund the Stabilization Fund, Capitol Fund, and OPEB. Mr. Durney seconded the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Fowler asked about adding to Snow and Ice. Mr. Farrell stated that we should not use free cash we get dinged from DoR when we do this. Mr. Fowler stated that he was told there was some funds in the Insurance line as this came in lower than expected. Mr. Farrell stated that he does not think this would be enough and the cushion would be used if we get more people on insurance.

Mr. Fowler stated that he was looking at the budget today, and fire department is looking to add 2 more staff, and looking for funds for the Teen Center.

Mr. Bonavita asked for recommendations.

Mr. Fowler asked if leave \$500k would that be enough.

Mr. Twiss gave numbers to fund reserves, \$125K Capital, \$150K OPEB, and \$382,775 Stab. He stated that would leave \$300K for snow and ice, \$300K for unexpected.

Mr. Fowler asked if there are any new capital projects. Mr. Farrell stated not at this time.

Mr. Farrell stated will see how FinCom feels.

Mr. Bonavita stated this may be a little aggressive and if an emergency would not have any extra. He stated take \$100K out of \$382,775 for Stab Fund. Mr. Farrell stated it took 10 years to get in this hole we do not have to get out in 2 years.

Mr. Twiss stated if take \$25K from Capital and \$82,775 from Stab Fund would give an additional \$100K.

Mr. Fowler stated that with the Stab Fund we can take funds out in the spring.

Mr. Bonavita stated for the Teen Center make this \$45K.

National Ave

Mr. Twiss asked about National Ave. Mr. Farrell stated working with Jon Eichman to do a title search.

Mr. Fowler moved to *Close* the warrant for the Special Town Meeting for Monday, October 28, 2019 at 7:00PM and to include Articles 4 Stab Fund, 5 Capital Fund, 6 OPEB. Mr. Twiss seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

NEXT MEETING

October 7, 2019, at 7:00PM, 3rd floor meeting room, Town Hall

Mr. Bonavita asked if an executive session would be needed at the next meeting. Ms. Pantano stated that there would be, for a legal settlement discussion.

Mr. Bonavita stated that he would like to continue the MRI discussion in a workshop in November.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:30PM.

Minutes transcribed by J. Pantano.

Minutes approved October 7, 2019

Documents used in this meeting:

- Executive Session Minutes September 9 & 16, 2019
- Minutes of September 9, 2019
- Notice of road work from the Highway Surveyor
- GeorgetownCARE's Coalition Committee Update
- Resiliency Grant-Steve Przyjemski and Gillian Davies to be present
- Close the Warrant for the Fall Special Town Meeting
- Request for support of House 2705-An Act Relative to Public Funds
- Request to Surplus Property-Michael Farrell
- Kiwanis Request to hold fundraiser toll on October 26th
- Appointment of Peter Durkee to the Holiday Events Comm