

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

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**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES**

**Memorial Town Hall**

**01/11/2021**

**7:00PM-General Meeting**

**Broadcast on Georgetown Cable TV via BlueJeans**

**Verizon channel 42/Comcast channel 9**

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**Selectmen Present:** *David Twiss, Douglas W. Dawes, Clerk; Peter J. Kershaw and Charles Durney, Gary Fowler.*

**Others Present:** *Michael Farrell, Town Administrator. Administrative Assistant, Maureen Shultz, Police Chief Donald Cudmore, Board of Health Agent, Deb Rogers, Fire Chief Fred Mitchell, Kevin Paicos, Ken Lombardi of NFP Services.*

**Absent:**

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**7:00PM Call to order**

Invocation-Douglas W. Dawes

Pledge of Allegiance

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](http://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.*

**OLD BUSINESS: COVID-19 update-Police Chief Cudmore & Deb Rogers BOH Agent:**

*Public Health Nurse, D. Rogers spoke on the-last two weeks tracking COVID-19, a spike in cases from the Holiday, exposures at the Police Department, D. Rogers spoke on a regional plan for the vaccine for members of public safety, vaccines are not being made mandatory, make an informed decision on getting the vaccine-privacy for residents including the public safety employees. D. Rogers spoke on the first clinics set up for the vaccine working with the community of Newburyport, first clinic will be a training session, all public health nurses and volunteers will be in line to get vaccinated, crash course, great software from the State is going to be used, Phase II has no guidelines at this time, once they get information and its up and running the vaccines should go smoothly, public health nurses all lined up and are in good*

*shape, great trial run for us to get ready for the public. D. Twiss questioned the cases pre-holiday, D. Roger will know about the increase in cases after the Holiday. C. Durney asked about the 7.0 percent of the positivity rate. D. Dawes thanked all members of Board of Health and Town volunteers for their extra hours and all the extra responsibly.*

### ***PUBLIC RELATIONS:***

*M. Farrell spoke on an agreement to use a public relations company. D. Twiss commented that the Town website is a mess, the Public Relation Company has set up the Fire Departments website, too much important information that needs to get out to the community and the sign out front is not the way to communicate everything. D. Twiss asked that if there is any current information on the public relations firm please make sure it is sent to him.*

*P. Durney would like to see what the total cost will be and make sure we all know the amount, it was requested that the cost be all on one form and asked if there are any long-term savings, thinks it's a great deal but wants to understand the total cost, further discussion is needed on this.*

*C. Durney asked about going out to bid- M. Farrell answered it was needed for this cost.*

*P. Kershaw suggested to come up with a list of what we want, need to put a group together and find out legally what does the Town have to have on their website, lets be smart this is a lot of money, questioned where are all cost are bleeding from.*

*M. Farrell stated he can find the \$6K but not sure where he can come up with the money or how we can afford the \$20K.*

*G. Fowler asked where is the added security for someone to come and clean up the website, security will be in the cloud, other companies will protect the website.*

*Chief Cudmore spoke on the Fire Departments website and how it is a more dynamic website.*

*A further discussion will take place at the next Board meeting.*

***DISCUSSION: Health Insurance Agreement / Open Discussion: Ken Lombardi & Kevin Paicos of NFP Services gave a brief background on their rolls with NFP services.***

*Spoke on the following topics:*

- *The Town of Triton is extremely interested in the plan for next year.*
- *Health Savings*
- *High Deductible plan / 20% high savings*
- *Spoke on other communities*
- *Provide a third-party administrator-manually response*
- *Medicare buy in plan -new plan*
- *Can use the same providers*
- *Save money on premium plans*
- *Plan premium will increase on July 1<sup>st</sup> from MIA*
- *Medex and Medicaid plans*
- *Negative renewals*

➤ *Estimate on savings.*

*Question was asked how long will it take to educate the employees on this plan, K. Paicos suggested to try and set up a meeting with employees, employees will also save with this plan.*

*D. Twiss asked how many employees we have on our current health care plan -Paicos answered 94 family member HMO Blue, 73-individual in the same plan, no family in deductible plan -10 individuals -PPO Plan 5, 134 Medex plan -94 HMO family plan. D. Twiss asked how to meet with employees during a pandemic, can be done on a zoom meeting. D. Twiss questioned the bidding process and why MIA would bid, not a guarantee that MIA would bid per D. Twiss. Possible 4% increase with MIA was asked, small hurdles the Town has to go through.*

*P. Kershaw asked how long to educate our employees. K. Paicos stated it would take about four or five weeks to educate the employees and be ready to go out to bid and training is free.*

*M. Farrell stated we don't offer a closed plan any longer but a third plan was offered but no one took it.*

*G. Fowler spoke on him personally paying for health insurance in a private company, each company does not have all the doctors in these plans, we work for the people, unions the biggest group of employees, education is the key, worked in great lengths with MIA.*

*G. Fowler asked what the cost is going to be for each employee and asked what the percentage is shared between the Town and Employee. M. Farrell said the HMO Plan is 60-40% and PMO is 65-35%. between G. Fowler suggested to start to have a talk with the employees, P. Kershaw, D. Dawes and C. Durney all agreed, Mr. Farrell will set it up. How accurate is the monthly payment of and the present rate for the HMO rate, asked what the payment is in the Town of Salisbury. K. Pacheco answered that the HMO Plan for Salisbury is currently is \$2, 318.82. need to watch out for the Doctors on this new plan some doctors might not be on there that might be on a new list, union negotiations, ears are open on this plan.*

*K. Lombardi spoke on the insurance family plan, positive for the employees.*

*C, Durney asked about HRA and asked about the cost to the Tow would be, asked if there is a stop gap with any other Towns. K. Lombardi replied no separate gap stop. C. Durney asked if less than 10% reach their deductible is accurate.*

*P. Kershaw questioned this plan doesn't include anyone going to the Boston Hospitals correct – K. Paicos replied no restrictions except the deductible, reduction for a rate to go to Boston hospitals, employees can get to Boston Hospital, not restriction on that same plan except for the deductible. K. Paicos stated it is a good time to bid insurance.*

*D. Dawes asked about the politics of this plan, and what if you decide later you want out of the plan-answered you have to be in the plan for a year and what about any changes do both towns have to agree, yes representatives would have to agree on any changes, any input from the school department was asked. M. Farrell spoke to Carol Jacobs, Superintendent and she has always been encouraged by Carol Jacobs to go out to bid, asked for a timeline on when this needs to be done by.*

*C. Durney motioned to move forward to have NFP to allow then speak and engage with employees regarding Health Insurance, seconded by D. Dawes-Vote was 4 to 1 in favor-D. Twiss voted nay. Roll call vote was taken 4-1 in favor with D. Twiss not in roll call.*

**NEW BUSINES: DONATION TO THE POLICE DEPARTMENT:**

*D. Twiss read an email to be included into the meeting records from resident Eileen Seaburg, from Pillsbury Lane, who is questioning a donation from the G. Mello Disposal Company to the Police Department & Fire Department in the amount of \$7,500.00 for radios. Police & Fire Department put in for a grant that they did not receive to be able to purchase the radios. Chief Cudmore spoke on the donation and his right to accept a donation for his Department to be used specifically for much needed radios. Chief Spoke on an account that he has maintained internally since 2005 that shows every donation and is always confirmed by Mary McMenemy, Town Accountant, forms are filled out for donations, if an audit is suggested to be done everything is available for that. Chief Cudmore commented any of these donations that come in all the time have nothing to do with any Boards and or Committees or any projects in Town,*

*P. Kershaw thanked Jason Mello for the donation, any project around Mello Disposal is a hot topic in Town and believes as a business owner he has every right to donate to the town, it is a hot button on what he wants to do with the Town perceiving this donation should not be deceived in a negative way. Every business should donate in their community, you did nothing wrong Chief Cudmore. Employees at Town Hall have the best interest in place, challenging times, not an attack on you, feels the transparency in Town .*

*D. Dawes spoke on the resident's comfortability on sending the Board her concerns and thanked her, Mr. Dawes believes the process works and it's a win win.*

*D. Dawes motioned to accept the donation from J. Mello Disposal in the amount of \$7,500.00 to be ear marked for the Fire Department and Police Department to be used for the purchase of portable radios, seconded by C. Durney. Vote was 4 to 1 in favor. D. Twiss abstained from the vote. Roll call vote was taken by the Board 4-1 in favor- D. Twiss abstained from the roll call vote.*

**APPROVAL:**

*D. Dawes moved to approve the common victualler's permit for the Hattie's Tea Shoppe located at 10-12 East Main Street, subject to the provision set for by the Georgetown Fire Department regarding sensor replacement, Seconded by C. Durney. The Board voted unanimously on a roll call vote.*

**WARRANT AND MINUTES:**

*P. Kershaw moved to approve the meeting minutes from November 23, 2020, and December 7, 2020, seconded by C. Durney. The Board voted unanimously on a roll call vote.*

**SELECTMEN'S REPORT:**

*C. Durney asked about the signage at East Main Street Park and about trash receptacles.*

*D. Twiss commented that Parks and Recreation were unaware they were responsible for this park, lack of communication and questioned how is it possible that the Park and Recreation Board did not know this.*

*G. Fowler got word it was ok'd by the Planning Board-was putting off any grand opening due to the COVID-19 restrictions.*

*P. Kershaw asked if the East Main Street Park was open, Answer the park is not open,*

*Chief Cudmore suggested a future meeting on the parks.*

*D. Twiss will add ALP parking on a future agenda.*

**TOWN ADMINISTRATORS REPORT:**

*Town Administrator, Mike Farrell spoke on the budget process, adjusted the salary line item by 2%, presentation will be given to the Finance Committee by Department Heads on February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021. All Town Department Budgets need to be done and returned to the Town Administrator by January 20, 2021. Open position of the Finance Clerk, Building Inspector open position, spoke of no revenue from the State, Special Town Meeting in the Spring. Assistant Treasurer has been hired from within the current staff-cut the hours down to 36 hours, now we will have to hire a replacement for her position soon.*

*D. Twiss asked about how much time that the Department Heads were given to do their budgets.*

*D. Twiss asked if there is some stability in the Finance Office, M. Farrell stated it should stable for right now based on what he knows currently. Wire Inspector position has been posted and the pay for this position is very low. Interviewed for the Building Inspector position, M. Farrell suggested the candidate meet /interview with other Department Heads and Boards and Committee Members. Police and Fire Chiefs will be meeting to interview the Building Inspector. M. Farrell thinks it's a great idea -wants to have the candidate meet with the Conservation Commission Agent, Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals and the Building Departments Admin Assistant. have the with Boards. planning and Zoning Board.*

**APPOINTMENTS:****NEXT MEETING:**

*January 25, 2021*

**ADJOURNMENT:**

*G. Fowler moved to adjourn with C. Durney seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken all in favor.*

*Meeting adjourned at 9:45 PM. Minutes transcribed by Maureen Shultz*

*Documents used in the meeting: meeting minutes from 11/23/2020 and December 7, 2020.*

