

Memorial Town Hall, 1 Library Street, Georgetown, MA 01833
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BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES
Memorial Town Hall
3/26/18
6:00PM-General Meeting~3rd floor meeting room, Town Hall

Selectmen Present: Joseph Bonavita, Chairman; Douglas W. Dawes, Gary C. Fowler, C. David Surface, and Steven Sadler, Clerk (by remote participation)

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

Absent:

6:08PM Call to order

Mr. Sadler joined the meeting remotely by phone.

Invocation-Douglas W. Dawes
Pledge of Allegiance

NEW BUSINESS

SRO Discussion-Chief Cudmore to be present

Mr. Bonavita stated that a lot of residents are concerned after the incident a few weeks ago at our school and have attended the school forum.

Police Chief Cudmore, Superintendent Carol Jacobs, and Barbie Linares, School Committee, Chair came forward.

Chief Cudmore explained the SRO (School Resource Officer) position in the schools over the years. He stated that the SRO now helps with traffic duty in the morning and afternoon which takes him out of the schools. He stated that the public is asking for more coverage and security in our schools. He proposed one SRO to Penn Brook and one to the M/H School. He stated that there are also some security improvements that need to be made to the Schools as they are not up to date. He stated that he has added coverage from his staff and reserves but it is at a cost. He stated that the school and parents like the coverage. He stated when school is not in session he uses the SRO in other areas and this helps to offset his use of reserves.

Mr. Bonavita asked how many officers does he have now and how many they should have by standards. Chief Cudmore stated standards are at 2 per 1000 in population and we have 11 full time officers. Mr. Bonavita asked if we to hire an SRO how long would this take. Chief Cudmore stated he has an officer as a reserve that has all their training and could start right away and would save the town money as they would not have to pay for the training.

Ms. Jacobs explained what the SRO does at the school besides security, has held assembly's on bullying and drugs, been called in on discipline issues, and some have taught a class. She stated that at the M/H School he meets with kids at lunch.

Chief Cudmore explained NEMLEC (North Eastern Massachusetts Law Enforcement Council) and STAR (School Threat Assessment and Response System) program that he uses. He gave information on what other towns and states are doing with SRO's.

Ms. Jacobs stated that this is not in their proposal but has been brought up that it would cost \$250K for metal detectors and a monitor. She stated that the SRO cost less and is more of a deterrent. Ms. Linares stated that the School Committee is in favor of an SRO and it is concerning that he is not at the M/H School as often. She stated at the forum there was a lot of concern on safety and parents want a Police Officer in the schools and it makes parents and students feel more secure.

Mr. Surface stated that if we add the SRO then in the summer we could use the extra officer in other areas especially at the parks. Chief Cudmore stated he has tried within his budget to have officers at charitable events. Mr. Surface stated that he is in full support of the SRO.

Mr. Dawes asked if they are looking for just one officer. Chief Cudmore stated yes he is only looking for one officer. Mr. Dawes asked if we could have a crossing guard instead of officer directing traffic at the schools. Chief Cudmore stated the crossing guard is not authorized to direct traffic.

Mr. Dawes asked what the goal of an SRO is. Ms. Jacobs stated safety, to assist the community, for students to feel safe, and for students to talk to officer if they see an issue, and parents will have the security of having an officer present.

Mr. Sadler asked that if the SRO's are permanently in the schools will they have an office with computers and will they be provided with what they need to be successful. Ms. Jacobs stated that they would work to find access for the SRO. She stated that they would have to work out the logistics. Chief Cudmore stated that they will work to get the officers what they need, he stated that he gives this first priority.

Mr. Fowler asked if this SRO is one of the officers he is requesting in the budget. Chief Cudmore stated that he is only asking for one officer.

Pam Lundquist, School Committee member stated that the SRO has spoken at the school in assembly's, on vaping, sexting, bullying, and with CVS on opioids.

Mr. Bonavita asked the Chief to discuss the upgrades to the M/H School and Penn Brook. Chief Cudmore stated he would like to have a School Task Force. He stated that he wants to implement safety improvements. He stated communication has been an issue and maybe it is time for the town to have a Public Relations Company.

Ms. Jacobs stated that she met with Mike Anderson, School Facilities Manager and what was identified after the Parkland incident was we need changes to our entrances to schools and some safety measures once students are in the classrooms. She stated they have a plan approved by the School Committee that will include a device at the doors that guests will have to identify themselves at and show an ID. She stated over April vacation they will work on the M/H School entrance. She explained that they will put some metal supports and sheetrock so a wall will enclose the entrance and make guest go to the office. She stated that part of the wall will go to ceiling and part will be an 8ft. wall, there will be a window with hurricane glass at the office, and once approved you would get buzzed through the appropriate door. She stated that this is important as people are asking what we can do and this is a quick improvement. She stated that they want to buy lobby guard and she explained what this is, that it checks if a person is on the sex offender list and would print out an ID for guests. She stated at the Perley there is no way to secure the front door, so they will keep the door locked and direct guest to the Kiosk. She stated that they will lock the office door and add a window. She stated that the doors are locked to the Senior Center and students now have lunch in the gym. She stated they will have panic buttons and the fire doors will lock. She stated at Penn Brook it was built with the public areas all

separate from the school area. She stated in classrooms they teach ALICE and doors will be locked. She stated that they want to purchase night guard and she explained how this works. She stated that they also have cameras at the schools with servers and need to provide one more server. She stated following the forum parents did ask for metal detectors with a wand but would need someone to operate this. She stated they are researching our own guards or outsourcing. Chief Cudmore stated that we do not want to make schools a prison but be proactive and reduce risk. Ms. Jacobs stated safety first.

Mr. Dobie, FinCom Chair came forward.

Mr. Bonavita asked how much would it cost for the SRO for 3 months and then the full year. Chief Cudmore stated that the annual is \$76K-\$108K with benefits and for 3 months \$27K. Mr. Bonavita asked for the cost of repairs. Ms. Jacobs stated at \$88,846 plus \$10K a year. Mr. Bonavita asked where we would get the funds for the rest of the year. Mr. Farrell stated that it depends if you look at the big picture. He stated that for the short term pay for security at the STM out of capital fund that has \$104K and the reserve fund has \$100k but that cannot be spent on the School. Mr. Surface stated that the funds for the SRO are for Police. Discussion on funds from the Reserve Fund. Mr. Dobie asked if we could eliminate some Capital items from the ATM warrant. Mr. Farrell stated that the Highway truck is on its last legs and the security at the Town Hall and Library need to be funded. He stated his recommendation is to use the \$100k marijuana funds. He stated that that they legally have to pay the town for 5 years. Mr. Bonavita stated that we cannot count on this yet. Mr. Dobie stated that he sees an override for 2 officers and for the security for all buildings. He stated after the incident in Florida we have the opportunity to do this right. Mr. Surface stated we could get a bond. Mr. Dobie stated an override would have the funds every year. Discussion

Mr. Fowler stated he is not for any overrides. He stated that the voters would have to come out and support if they want an override. Mr. Dawes stated that if the residents want these items we have to find the funds. He stated that we have to discuss the short term now. Mr. Dawes asked about the additional officers. Chief Cudmore stated just one full time officer. Mr. Bonavita asked if we could take \$27K from Free Cash. Mr. Surface stated that would have to be the Reserve Fund to have the funds now. He stated take funds from the Reserve Fund until July and work to get the funds for FY19. Mr. Farrell stated FY19 budget is \$95K in deficit. Mr. Dobie stated that the FinCom is meeting tomorrow and can discuss. Chief Cudmore stated that if he has the officer he will be able to reduce Reserve Officers and save some funds. Discussion

Mr. Sadler stated that we have to look at how to get the funds. He stated that he would be shocked if the community would not fund. He stated that this is a high priority. Mr. Bonavita stated he agrees and we have to have a package to provide the town. Mr. Surface stated we can vote to use funds from the Capital Fund at STM and Reserve Fund for short term. Mr. Dobie stated that tomorrow can fund the SRO for the short term and then look at the long term. Mr. Sadler asked if officer would take a short term position. Chief Cudmore stated he will have to see if the officer will take the position. Discussion on options for officer. Mr. Dobie stated tomorrow discuss the short term for SRO and long term SRO and then go back to the safety issues. He stated he has worked with Mr. Farrell for a few years and we will be able to work something out.

Mr. Hinchcliffe, School Committee stated their concern is if we have to cut the budget they will have to look at their budget again.

Mr. Surface stated that he would want to use marijuana funds for capital and not SRO.

Mr. Bonavita stated that money is an issue, but kids are most valuable treasure and safety is a concern.

Mr. Dawes stated that he will have an answer on when we will receive the marijuana funds tomorrow.

Mr. Surface moved for 2 minute recess. Mr. Dawes seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Sadler no longer remotely attended the meeting,

OLD BUSINESS

Plastic Bag Ban Public Discussion

Mr. Bonavita opened the Public Meeting for the Plastic Bag Ban.

Richard Mullen, resident stated other communities have learned after 5 years they should have done more education instead of the ban. He stated all the stores collect bags and recycle them. He stated he recently went to a talk on what is done with coke bottles and they are used for many things. He stated educate and recycle is a way to go.

Mr. Bonavita stated 61 communities have gone down this path and ban plastic bags. He stated he would like to go this path and let the town vote. Mr. Dawes stated single use bags have multiple uses and we put waste in them tie them up and put in a plastic bag and our lawn bags are plastic. He stated to date there is 8 billion tons of waste he listed different amounts. He stated that it is better to recycle. He stated that he would recommend to not push forward at this time and to invite Mello Disposal in and have retailers educate consumers. He stated that this is a feel good movement and plastic is a bigger issue and that he has read how long different items take to break down.

Rose McPherson, resident stated that she recycles everything and they take to Mello Transfer Station. She stated some residents do not because they do not want to pay. She stated that she agrees with Mr. Bonavita that this is a small thing and we should also recycle plastic and Styrofoam and have to start somewhere. She stated that we have to educate the public. Mr. Dawes stated not saying never vote but have to vet properly.

Mr. Bonavita stated that we sent out a notice to every retailer in town and none have come out. He stated one business has 6 locations and the other locations have a plastic bag ban. He stated understands retailer side and most adults know they can recycle and there are bins but not enough people do it. He stated that who will educate the public. Mr. Mullen stated if you show residents how the bags are used the people will return to stores. Mr. Bonavita stated that a lot of people don't have the time to learn about recycling.

Mr. Surface stated that this Public Meeting is to get information and then for the board meet to vote.

Mr. Fowler stated does the town want to ban single use bags and also Styrofoam? He stated that the regulation mentions Styrofoam. He stated he agrees with Mr. Mullen that education is needed. He stated he worked to make steel cans and then came aluminum cans which is the most recycled product. He stated that education is important and economics will drive recycling.

Mr. Bonavita closed the public meeting.

Health Insurance Discussion-Sue Shillue, Consultant and Larry Tereso, MIIA to be present

Mr. Bonavita asked for an update from Ms. Shillue and Mr. Tereso.

Ms. Shillue stated that she worked for the town to negotiate a 2% increase in healthcare and also asked for another product an HMO Blue Cross product.

Mr. Tereso explained that the new plan cost 7% less than the other offered plans. He stated this is a limited network plan and is only for employees that live in MA.

Mr. Fowler asked if an employee chooses the plan do they have to stay with it all year. Mr.

Tereso stated that you have to stay unless you have a qualifying event. He stated that MIIA will allow a change if primary doctor moves out of the plan, this would be a qualifying event.

Mr. Surface asked if this is just a one year renewal. Ms. Shillue stated yes just a one year renewal. Mr. Tereso stated that rate holds are just one year. Mr. Tereso stated that MIIA has agreed to add the 3rd plan and a 2% increase. He stated employees would save if they elect the limited network plan and have a 7% savings. Mr. Surface asked if we have to go to the employees for approval.

Ms. Shillue stated may have to impact bargain the plan. She stated they would have to review with the Town Administrator.

Mr. Pittella asked if the new plan must go to the Insurance Advisory Committee before a vote.

Mr. Fowler stated that he wants to offer this plan to staff. Mr. Pittella stated that his members are getting older and use the benefits and does not think they will choose the new plan. Mr.

Fowler stated he wants to go down the road and look into adding this plan. Mr. Farrell stated that it would not affect the budget. He stated that we have until July 1st to vote to add the plan.

Mr. Surface stated that the board should authorize Mr. Farrell to look into the limited plan

option. Mr. Dawes stated that this will allow employees to save funds. Mr. Pittella stated that majority of people will use the insurance and would be shocked if any members take the plan.

Ms. Shillue stated that she agrees and only a handful of staff will take the plan. Mr. Pittella stated MIIA is making money off the town and rates are high. Ms. Shillue explained she was hired by the town to negotiate with MIIA.

Mr. Tereso explained how the MIIA plan is performing.

Recreational Marijuana Regulations discussion-Planning Board to be present

Rob Hoover, Chair; Bob Watts, Harry LaCortiglia, Tillie Evangelista, Planning Board members; John Cashell, Town Planner and Attorney Eichman were present

Mr. LaCortiglia moved to open the planning board meeting. Mr. Hoover seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Hoover stated that goal is to discuss the Recreational Marijuana Regulation.

Attorney Eichman read categories, 8 different categories manufacturing, retail, cultivation, micro, craft, co-op, transporters. He stated that the categories are not so important. He stated that the town voted on a moratorium on all types and in May at the ATM the board will have regulations to allow, permit, or prohibit recreational marijuana. He explained the process as the State will look at the town Zoning Bylaws and if the establishment can be located in town. He stated that prohibition on sales in town would require an ATM vote and ballot vote. He stated that any approval will fall under the State recreational marijuana regulations, or under the regulations we have now. The boards have to decide what they will allow now and where will we allow it.

Mr. Surface stated we have a medical marijuana in town can we limit to no more. Attorney Eichman stated that a company may convert to recreational and the town cannot limit if it is the same business. Mr. Surface stated that the town has already said we will not oppose HP a recreational facility if they propose to sell recreational. Mr. Farrell stated that it would be the life of the agreement that the board would have not oppose HP.

Mr. Hoover stated that all the categories are what the town will allow under the ordinance.

Mr. Fowler stated that we cannot say none in regards to dispensaries. He state he is in favor of one maybe two. He stated that his concern is consumption and cafes. Mr. Cashell showed the CB district which is in the downtown area and is being taken out of the medical marijuana district. He stated that the recreational marijuana is in the overlay district. He read a draft copy of the proposed bylaw amendment for recreational marijuana and showed the areas on the map. Attorney Eichman stated that the CB district will remain, we have just removed the Medical Marijuana from the CB district.

Mr. Cashell stated Recreational Marijuana applicants still have to have a host agreement with the BoS and then a Special Permit with the Planning Board.

Mr. Surface asked if we can cap the number of stores. Mr. Cashell stated that have to allow 20% of allowed package stores which would one in Georgetown. He stated that Georgetown only has 3 package stores. Mr. Surface asked if the board can limit Medical and Recreational dispensaries. Attorney Eichman explained. Mr. Surface stated he is concerned on what will go on in this district.

Mr. LaCortiglia stated that the retail sales tax is only on retail recreational marijuana.

Mr. Bonavita stated that the town does not want too many dispensaries and have market value of homes go down. Mr. Hoover asked if we need to come to a consensus of how many dispensaries. Mr. Cashell stated can limit to not more than 20% of package stores.

Attorney Eichman stated have to be careful on the wording.

Mr. Dawes stated that he has talked to realtors in other states and property values have not gone down in states with marijuana. He stated the formula establishes the floor. He stated he is happy to have the just one business.

Mr. Fowler stated that if the town has one recreational store and if done in the right way and if someone wanted to put in a high class restaurant allowing marijuana he is not against that.

Mr. Dawes stated that the moratorium is allowed only so long. He asked if the town can have a moratorium on cafes. He stated that there has not been anything in the regulations on social consumption.

Ms. Evangelista stated that the BoS issue the host agreement. Mr. Fowler stated that to prohibit the town has to have a zoning bylaw and general regulations.

Mr. Farrell asked if the letter of non-opposition still exists. Attorney Eichman stated for medical marijuana it does but not for recreational at this time, but they need a host agreement. Mr.

Farrell asked if they can deny the host agreement. Attorney Eichman stated that you may not be able to.

Mr. Watts stated that there were good questions tonight and he feels the town has to do a risk assessment. He stated that he is glad to see some research done by the board. He stated that there is tax revenue and that should be part of the matrix. He asked the Police Chief's opinion of risks. Chief Cudmore stated that enforcement is an issue and is a complicated question.

Mr. Bonavita stated additional revenue is not top priority. He stated that Georgetown is a family community and those who he has talked to are not wanting more marijuana dispensaries.

Mr. Hoover asked to summarize what he has heard on facilities. He stated that Mr. Fowler stated 3, Mr. Surface and Mr. Bonavita 1, and Mr. Dawes 1 retail, but open to laboratories and other types of marijuana businesses.

Ms. Evangelista asked who is enforcing and regulating marijuana. Mr. Surface and Mr. Dawes stated the State and that HP self-tested and found the pesticide and reported it to the State as is the process. Mr. Bonavita stated that HP would be fined and their reputation would be ruined if they sold tainted product.

Mr. Surface stated if the town moves to 3 recreational sales dispensaries and we want them to be classy does the open us up to litigation. Mr. Cashell stated that we do not have to mention this in the bylaw at this time and in the State regulations it states town to have 20% of liquor stores.

Mr. Bonavita asked to talk to Mr. Sadler for his feedback as he is not present. Board agreed

Chief Cudmore asked if the sections of the special permit that relate to the PD be included as in the medical marijuana bylaw. Mr. Hoover stated yes it would be.

Mr. LaCortiglia moved to adjourn the Planning Board meeting. Mr. Hoover seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

CORRESPONDENCE

Notice of resignation of Janice McGrane from the Rock Pond Bylaw Committee

Mr. Bonavita thanked Ms. McGrane for serving. Mr. Bonavita asked Chief Cudmore if they need a new member appointed. Chief Cudmore stated that the board had a couple of alternates and one could be appointed. He stated that the Chair of the committee should be contacted.

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

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Budget

Mr. Farrell stated he wanted to discuss the budget but that was blown out in the beginning of the meeting. He explained what he has done. He stated legal budget is low, revenues are on target, and budget is 65% spent at 75% of the year. He stated that the FinCom has not had meetings because of the weather. He stated that Attorney General's office came out with the Equal Pay regulation and it came with a tool to calculate salaries and we now know where we stand and can come into compliance in 3 years.

ATM & STM Warrants for Monday, May 7, 2018

Mr. Bonavita stated that the board has not had a discussion on town meeting quorum and does the board want to discuss. Mr. Fowler stated that we can discuss when we go over the warrant. Mr. Dawes stated have Mr. Durkee in to discuss appointed to elected.

Mr. Bonavita asked about the demolition of 45 Central Street. Mr. Farrell stated still need \$10K.

APPOINTMENTS and APPROVALS

Request for reappointment to the Board of Registrars from Hank Wolf to expire 3/31/21

Mr. Dawes moved to reappoint *Hank Wolf* as a *Board of Registrar* term to expire March 31, 2021. Mr. Surface seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Police Chief Cudmore requests the reappointment of Jeffrey French as reserve police officer term to expire 6/30/2018

Mr. Dawes moved to reappoint *Jeffrey French* as a *Reserve Police Officer* term to expire June 30, 2018. Mr. Surface seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Surface stated that when he was first elected he said that after 3 terms he would decide if he would run again. He stated that he will not run for re-election. He stated that he would like to stay on the Affordable Housing Trust. He thanked the community for their support of the years.

Mr. Bonavita stated that we do not always gel as a board, and we do not always agree but we have to be able to get along. He stated that he wanted to apologize to the board and to Mr. Fowler for his actions at the last meeting. He stated that his emotions got the best of him.

NEXT MEETING

Monday, April 9, 2018 at 7PM, 3rd floor meeting room

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 9:55PM.

Mr. Fowler moved to adjourn. Mr. Surface seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Minutes transcribed by J. Pantano.

Minutes approved on April 9, 2018.

Documents used in this meeting:

- Executive Session Minutes March 12, 2018 and March 15, 2018
- Minutes of February 12, 2018
- Notice of resignation of Janice McGrane from the Rock Pond Bylaw Committee
- SRO Discussion-Chief Cudmore to be present
- Plastic Bag Ban Public Discussion
- Recreational Marijuana Regulations discussion-Planning Board to be present
- Health Insurance Discussion-Sue Shillue and Larry Tereso to be present
- ATM & STM Warrants for Monday, May 7, 2018
- Request for reappointment to the Board of Registrars from Hank Wolf to expire 3/31/21