

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

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**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES**

**Memorial Town Hall**

**5/27/2020**

**6:00PM-General Meeting ~ Broadcast on Georgetown Cable TV via BlueJeans**

**Verizon channel 42/Comcast channel 9**

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**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; Police Chief Donald Cudmore, Health Agent Deborah Rogers; David Surface, Moderator

**Absent:**

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**6:00PM Call to order**

Mr. Bonavita 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 the.*

Meeting called to order with a roll call vote.

Invocation-Douglas W. Dawes

Pledge of Allegiance

**OLD BUSINESS**

*COVID-19 update-Police Chief Cudmore & Deb Rogers BoH Agent*

Chief Cudmore stated that during the last week he has met with Deb Rogers and Mike Farrell and discussed opening our town. He asked that this be discussed on Monday, June 1<sup>st</sup>. He stated for now they are trying to work on the short term and long term of how we will handle the opening. He stated he has had some complaints on masks and dealing with this on a day by day basis. He stated on the CARES funding we have a task force and we are working with Mr. Farrell and Officer Hatch will be working on the funding also.

Ms. Rogers stated that we now have 44 positive cases in Georgetown. She stated that she is keeping up on all the information. She stated that they are trying to keep up on Phase 2. She

stated hopefully they can find out soon how to help business open. She stated that she has had complaints on both sides and have handled with information.

Mr. Bonavita asked how our numbers compared to other towns. Ms. Rogers stated only 8 in Newbury but has not compared to other towns.

Mr. Bonavita stated that we have had requests from Pomadori's and The Spot for outdoor seating and want to help to keep businesses open. He stated that he would like to help The Spot.

Mr. Fowler asked if the Parks would be on the agenda Monday. Mr. Bonavita stated that it would be.

*Intention to vote to adjust Town Meeting Quorum-David Surface, Moderator to be present*

Mr. Bonavita stated an email went out about reducing quorum and asked Mr. Farrell to explain.

Mr. Farrell stated he talked to Town Council and the law has not passed to change the quorum and does not recommend taking any action. He stated that he recommends moving forward with 100 voter quorum. Mr. Durney stated that the email he sent did not have the wording on the reduction of quorum. He stated a good idea to stay with 100 quorum. Mr. Dawes asked if we will have the full warrant or a reduced warrant with just a budget warrant. Mr. Farrell stated that the board can reduce if they want to. Mr. Twiss asked how we will get the notice out. Mr. Farrell stated usual ways Facebook, Website, Georgetown Connect, and School Blackboard. Mr. Durney stated that we have to get the information out on safety measures.

Mr. Surface asked about the tellers. He stated that he would like to go over to the school with Kerri McManus and Mike Anderson and map out the area. He asked who town council would be. Mr. Farrell stated Tom McEnaney. Ms. McManus stated that she has tellers, sneeze guards, and will use the early voting machines to check voters in. Mr. Surface stated that we have to have a plan. Mr. Fowler stated that people are itching to get out so may have a crowd.

*The Annual Town Meeting and Special Town Meeting Warrants for June 15, 2020*

The board went over the Town Meeting Warrant for June 15, 2020.

*Article 2: General Operating Budget/Reserve Fund (ATM20-02)*

Mr. Farrell explained the budget article and stated that for the vocational schools there was a large increase. He stated that he budgeted \$86,307 and need an additional \$66,000 for Essex Regional Vocational School and Whittier Vocational had an increase, so need a total of \$108,163 and can make up with Free Cash.

Mr. Bonavita stated this is not ideal but best option. Mr. Farrell stated otherwise we would have to make cuts. Mr. Fowler stated the he does not want to use Free Cash, this may affect our bond rating and maybe we could take funds from the School budget. Mr. Bonavita stated a few students does not reduce teachers, or facilities. Mr. Durney asked if this is a recurring issue. Mr. Farrell stated this is the second year and last year he was out and was missed. He stated it cost us \$20K per student for the vocational school and we do not spend that much on our students.

Mr. Twiss stated that he should be getting the numbers in a timely manner. Mr. Bonavita stated that if the Georgetown Schools could give us these numbers. Mr. Farrell stated that they usually don't get the numbers from Essex until October.

Mr. Fowler asked if this would open up open enrollment and does this help our budget. Mr. Farrell stated that this number is on the Cherry sheet.

**Mr. Twiss moved to add \$108,163 from Free Cash to Article 2 of the ATM June 15, 2020.  
Mr. Durney seconded the motion.**

Mr. Fowler stated we also had the funds to add to the levy. Mr. Farrell stated that this may not happen revenue is looking better. Discussion

**The motion was approved by a 4-1 roll call vote.**

*Article 3: Fund Transfer (ATM20-20)*

To be passed over

*Article 4: Stabilization Fund (ATM20-03)*

*Article 5: Capital Fund (ATM20-04)*

*Article 6: Other Post-Employment Benefits Trust Fund (ATM20-05)*

**Mr. Fowler moved to pass over Articles 4, 5, 6. Mr. Twiss seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous roll call vote.**

*Article 7: SPED Reserve Fund (ATM20-21)*

**Mr. Fowler moved to pass over Article 7. Mr. Dawes seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous roll call vote.**

*Article 8: Water Department Operating Budget (ATM20-06)*

*Article 9: Fire Department Ambulance Operating Budget (ATM20-07)*

*Article 10: Local Access Programming (ATM20-08)*

*Article 11: Municipal Light Department Continuation of Operation (ATM20-09)*

*Article 12: Chapter 90 Reimbursement, Transportation Bond (ATM20-10)*

Board stated these articles are to be voted on.

*Article 13: Amend General Bylaws, Chapter 121 (ATM20-17)*

**Mr. Twiss moved to pass over Article 13. Mr. Fowler seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous roll call vote.**

*Article 14: Accept General Laws Chapter 41, Section 110A (Town Clerk) (ATM20-11)*

*Article 15: Accept General Laws Chapter 200A, Section 9A (Treasurer/Tax Collector) (ATM20-15)*

Mr. Farrell stated that these two articles should be voted on and housekeeping articles.

*Article 16: Acquisition of Right of Way for Border to Boston Recreational Trail (Rail Trail Committee) (ATM20-12)*

*Article 17: Community Preservation (CPC) (ATM20-13)*

*A: Community Preservation General Budget*

*B: Community Preservation Community Housing Category, "Affordable Housing Trust Grant"*

*C: Community Preservation Historic Resources Category, "Peabody Library History Room Enclosures"*

*D: Community Preservation Historic Resources Category, "Historic Perley Building ADA Doors"*

*E: Community Preservation Historic Resources Category, "Camp Denison Fire Suppression".*

*F: Community Preservation Historic Resources Category, “Perley School Preservation”*

*G: Community Preservation Open Space/Recreational Land Category “Open Space Pond Preservation – testing and treatment”.*

*H: Community Preservation Open Space/Recreational Land Category, “Universal Access Trails Feasibility Survey”.*

*I: Community Preservation Open Space/Recreational Land Category, “Arboreal Initiative”*

Board to leave STM Articles 14-17 on the warrant.

*Article 18: Dog Licensing Bylaw update (Police & Town Clerk) (ATM20-19)*

**Mr. Twiss moved to pass over Article 18. Mr. Dawes seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous roll call vote.**

*Article 13: Amend General Bylaws, Chapter 121 (ATM20-17)*

**Mr. Dawes moved to reconsider Article 13. Mr. Twiss seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous roll call vote.**

**Mr. Twiss moved to accept Article 18. Mr. Dawes seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous roll call vote.**

### Special Town Meeting

*Article 1: Adjustments to the Fiscal Year 2020 operating budget*

**Mr. Twiss moved to accept STM Article 1. Mr. Fowler seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous roll call vote.**

*Article 2: Appropriation of Free Cash for the Snow and Ice Deficit FY2020*

Mr. Farrell stated that the Snow and Ice deficit is \$100,315. He stated that \$500K left in free cash, and the board vote to leave in the account \$300K and that will leave \$200K.

**Mr. Twiss moved to accept STM Article 2 to cover the Snow & Ice deficit. Mr. Dawes seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous roll call vote.**

### *Board Business*

Mr. Dawes wanted to thank all those who participated in the Veterans’ Day ceremonies and stated that it was very moving. Mr. Bonavita stated that Mr. Dawes should be commended for all the work and commitment he put in to hold this event.

### NEXT MEETING

Monday, June 1, 2020

### ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:22 PM.

Minutes transcribed by J. Pantano.

BoS Minutes  
May 27, 2020

Minutes approved August 17, 2020.

Documents used in this meeting:

- Intention to vote to adjust Town Meeting Quorum-David Surface, Moderator to be present
- The Annual Town Meeting and Special Town Meeting Warrants for June 15, 2020