

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

Meeting Minutes April 10, 2023

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Memorial Town Hall

7:00PM-General Meeting

Verizon Channel 42/Comcast channel 9

Selectmen Present: *D. Dawes, Chair, Vice Chair P. Kershaw, G. Fowler, and D. Lamonica.*

Others Present: *Orlando Pacheco, Town Administrator.
Administrative Assistant, Maureen Shultz participating on Zoom.*

Absent: *A. Smith*

7:00PM CALL TO ORDER

Invocation-Douglas W. Dawes

Pledge of Allegiance-Douglas W. Dawes

APPROVALS / VOTES OF THE BOARD:

Residents Linda Metcalf & Jill Benas was present and spoke to the Board on a request to have a beer & wine License for Camp Dennison for their scheduled summer series concerts in the Following request.

G. Fowler motioned the Board approve a request to approve a beer & wine License for Camp Dennison for their scheduled summer series concerts starting on July 9, 2023 and ending on August 20, 2023, seconded by D. Lamonica. Roll call vote taken all in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

Fire Chief Matt McKay spoke on the Erie Fire Association No.4, Inc Lease agreement/extension-a five (5) year lease allows for two (2) one year lease extension ,

D. Lamonica motioned the Board to approve a one-year lease for the Erie Fire Association No. 4 and the Town of Georgetown from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024, seconded by G. Fowler. Roll call vote was taken all in favor.

D. Lamonica asked why the Town is not doing a five-year lease.

Chief McKay spoke on his department budget for FY24-and of the budget process which he thought was good, spoke on dry areas in Town -extreme fire dangers-no open fires are allowed in Town currently do to dry conditions.

OLD BUSINESS

Mello Host Agreement discussion- moving forward -O. Pacheco, Town Administrator is meeting with the owners tomorrow -Owners have read the draft letter.

D. Lamonica asked if Mello is ok with the language in the agreement.

P. Kershaw stated that he doesn't think it was ever submitted to Mello.

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT -EIGHT (8) ARTICLES: *O. Pacheco, Town Administrator*

Article 8 and Article 7 will be moved/ switched-Financed suggested to switch the order -both snow and ice are together.

D. Dawes inquired about a past outstanding bill from 2022

Article 1-Boards and Committee reports

Article 2-General Operating Budget -Balanced Budget *-some cuts were made on certain line items.*

O. Pacheco, Town Administrator - One time cost that were carried over that we didn't need scaled that back -not much left, spoke Talk about the budget process how it impacted the schools -budget process of flawed because they did not get what they wanted -revenues are tight we do the best we can -long term plans the Townhead-we have done a lot on the capital side only. Budget process was completed -meetings were difficult at meetings but it needed to be done ---larger cost completely out of the town size -School side for example special education -Town side for example-Health Insurance, balancing act, losing students. fees for programs. communication never said we were regionalizing schools that was never said only mentioned a possible retraction of that statement, people do not fact check.

D. LaMonica spoke on the revenue only went up by a small amount but the assessment went up by 20%.

G. Fowler spoke on revenues not coming in -free cash -that number has grown in the last three years -two words he doesn't like to say -much discussion -for the public safety -debt exclusion-spoken Whittier School, tax bills very high.

Special Education Fund

Article 3-Stabilization Fund-min of \$100K from free cash -5% of expenditures in reserve - bond rating companies like to see the

Article 4 Capital Funds

Article 5 Other Post Employment Benefits Trust Fund

Article 6 Water Department operating Budget

Article 7 Fire Department Ambulance Operating Budget

D. LaMonica asked about the Snow and Ice Deficit and asked about the final financial amounts which will be motioned on the floor of Town Meeting.

Final motion will have the exact amount of funding

Annual Town Meeting Articles

Article 1-Fund Capital Projects

A) Highway Department-\$50K

B) Fire Department -\$100K

D. Dawes asked about a grant for the Highway Department Complete Street Project to complete the complete street project asked about a grant for this.

D. Lamonica asked O. Pacheco, Town Administrator what is the amount that is going to be for at Town Meeting.

Article 2-Community Preservation Committee

To Complete the Town Hall Window project.

Article 3-To give back to free cash the amount needed to apply for the grant for the Town Hall Windows. (Return the match amount from the grant). Only to use that money on paper.

Article 4-Special Purpose Stabilization Fund -Opioid Settlement Revenues.

D. LaMonica asked about if these funds are available to fund the Public Safety Building.

G. Fowler inquired if the funding can help possibly with purchases of Narcan.

P. Kershaw asked what is the driving force and the tracking of these funds.

D. Dawes asked if we have spent any money from them as of now.

Article-5-Reserve Fund for Accrued Liabilities. Only recommending \$25K at this time.

Article 6-Prior Year Bills -G. Fowler asked what is the funding source for these unpaid bills from the Highway Department for salt.

Article 7-School PASS Program - D. LaMonica asked about shared cost with other communities

Article 6-10 in the consent calendar possibly will be moved waiting on edits from Town Council -Not part of the Operating Budget, maybe will be re-worded.

Article 8-Local Access Programming

Article 9-Municipal Light Department continuation of Operating. -all done by user fees

Article 10-Chapter 90 Reimbursement, Transportation Bond

End Consent Agenda:

Article 11-Capital Projects -Police Department, Fire Department, Town Clerk, Board of Selectman & School Committee.

D. Dawes had mentioned the Board has spent time discussing these projects. Fire Department -Oxygen Refill System -push off until later-Camp Dennison article Finance Committee not recommended -septic system approved first -Article E records retention for the Town Clerks Office -possibly take out this out, suggested to do at a later date -would you be conformable to have an IT study first.

D. LaMonica asked if the server would be on site or out in the cloud.

D. LaMonica asked is these are funded after FY24.-year life cycle time to get items ordered - if we had funding available.

Town Hall Carpet replacement at Town Hall –\$27K capital stabilization and \$20K from ARPA funds and not use free cash -total for the first floor & second floor is \$55K -would like to get it done this year.

D. Dawes thinks the carpeting needs to be addressed and the carpeting was in the Air Quality Report and is a safety issues.

G. Fowler asked if this should remain on the warrant-\$27K from ARPA funds were mentioned by O. Pacheco, Town Administrator this would be a vote at the next Selectman meeting contingent of approval from Town Meeting.

School Committee Articles -. (Facilities Department)

1.) \$100K for cell phone repeaters -hard to get reception in those brick builders and this is for district wide.

G. Fowler asked if it a safety issue.

D. Lamonica believes it is a safety issue. -what would the funding source be from.

2.) \$100K for brick and mason repairs top priority -School Committee -a safety issue start to fix it now before it gets too expensive -the finance committee has visited all these areas-try to prioritize –this would be the one we would start to do first.

3.) \$150K for flooring at the schools -they have \$25K in funds for this project.

O. Pacheco, Town Administrator would like to do all three but have to prioritize two for now.

G. Fowler asked what would be the balance be if we take this money out.

Capitalization Funding -is where the funding would be taken from.

G. Fowler asked what is the balance of the Capital Stabilization fund.

D. LaMonica asked about what was the order that the school would want these to be done as a priority -he would think it was the repeaters for cell phones reception. Repeaters seem very important and seem essential if anything happens at the school. emergency communication is essential

P. Kershaw stated that he believes the mason repairs should be a top priority, going to get worse over time cell phone repeaters would be second priority.

G. Fowler asked about air quality in reference to the rugs.

G. Fowler questioned would this need to be two separate articles-Free Cash /Stabilization Funds.

Article 12 -To eliminate the Capital Planning Committee -vote to amend the Towns General by Laws by deleting sections 63-17 through 63-25, Eliminate the by law that created the by law.

Article 13 right of way project for the rail trail-parcel that is in article 97 conservation restriction that we need to use but we need to have it removed by the state -vote to amend Chapter 57 of the Towns General Bylaw. Need some state intervention.

D. Dawes asked if the conservation commission will discuss amongst themselves -remove article 97 -best way to deal with this per the Town's Attorneys.

Articles 14, 15 & 16 still being written by Town Council

Articles 14-Erosion and Stormwater Control MS4

Article 15- Zoning by Law-amendment—40% open space in the front -all this article is fixing this error.

Article 16- Zoning amendment under site plan review electric vehicle charging. point of contention I what concerns peter -town by law/ state building code -doesn't make sense why it is there.

CPC recommendations:

Affordable Housing Trust Grant -adding a new house to our inventory.

ADA fixtures at ALP Park -swings-long term plan

Electricity added to east main street field from where it ends so they don't have to keep using the generator.

Irrigation at American legion park /mostly field and band stand and near the pickle ball field-highway will take care of the maintained \

CPC -did not approve the Lighting at the baseball fields /ALP.

G. Fowler as a member of the Community Preservation Committee spoke on the process and stated there is another meeting coming up which he believes this subject is back on as a discussion item.

D. LaMonica spoke that the CPC doesn't manage Town Meeting so if Town Meeting approves and the funds are available -I would think that CPC would have to have a very good explanation of why this would not go forward with their approval. Residents own this money - not logical to go against that.

O. Pacheco, Town Administrator mentioned that CPC had mentioned the Process. -all lighting for next July.

P. Kershaw mentioned that all the labor is 100% donated and if we wait to do this next year materials might be twice as much in money, notorious for kicking stuff down the road due to some legality on a timing issue.

Current lighting is non-compliant and was mentioned in a prior meeting by D. Twiss -CPC is going to replace the lights but not with what is currently there but is not solving the electrical load and the breakers which have too much load on them currently.

G. Fowler asked if the Town Moderator is planning on coming to a Board meeting prior to Town Meeting.

SELECTMEN'S REPORT:

The Board discussed the following dates for the Board of Selectman meetings for the next few months and as of this meeting decided on the following dates to meet- The Board decided to leave open the summer months of July & August clear of meetings for now and will possibly meeting on these tentative dates -May 15, 2023, June 5, 2023 and possible June 12, 2023-May 29, 2023 is Labor Day and June 19, 2023 is Juneteenth Holiday.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: *O. Pacheco, Town Administrator spoke on the following:*

Public Comment Legal Ruling-updated the Board on the policy will share the updated policy from Town Council with the Board members. Court has ruled cannot command civility at a meeting -policy has been sent back to Town Council.

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Application Scope-MVP Program Grant –working on it -long term capital process stormwater masterplan -we expect to provide the 25% match with mostly in-kind services-If the project is granted this will provide a long-term stormwater masterplan that has a capital planning component lined to it.

ADA Self Evaluation & Transition Plan Update-The Town has received reports back on five (5) facilities to date-all department have a copy of their respective reports and are re-viewing them. Department will have time to respond.

Green Communities: The Town has completed the most recent round of Green Communities Weatherization Work-Work was completed in both Highway Facilities, the work for the Light Department was removed because they are considering a renovation to construct a new building. This would make the measures non-compliance if they were removed in five years. Highway Barn work is completed.

Border to Boston Rail Trail Right of Way follow up-Properties have all been inspected -and certified letters have gone out from the Town's appraisal firm Howard Dono, the Town is current short some of the funding needed for the acquisitions and some re-appraisals may be needed.

SELECTMAN TIME:

D. Dawes asked on the some of the articles / projects /schools a little over than the \$300K has that been faced in the past.

D. Lamonica asked about the Charging Electrical stations and are they up and running was asked by Daryle –are they pup and running

D. Dawes asked about the Kiosk at ALP Park and who & when where parking stickers going to be given to residents -Assessors Office will be handling these stickers with the next excise tax bill for next year.

ADJOURNMENT:

P. Kershaw motioned the Board to adjourn at 9:15 P.M. with LaMonica seconded. A roll call vote was taken all in favor.

All Board of Selectman Meetings can be viewed on our Town Website at <https://www.georgetownma.gov> - Under the Community TV tab on the left side.

Documents used in the meeting:

Monthly Calendars for May June & July

Town Administrator's Report

Summer Series Concert application for beer & wine summer series. Annual and Special Town Meeting Warrants Erie Fire Association No. 4 Agreement / Extension