

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

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

Memorial Town Hall

02/14/2022

7:00PM-General Meeting

Verizon channel 42/Comcast channel 9

Selectmen Present: *D. Dawes, Chair, Vice Chair P. Kershaw, G. Fowler, D. Twiss, A. Smith*

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

7:00PM Call to order

Invocation-Douglas W. Dawes

Pledge of Allegiance

PUBLIC HEARING:

Transfer of existing off premises all alcohol from CJ Liquors, Inc dba Johnny's Place, 69 East Main Street, Georgetown, Mass to Mokunj LLC dba "RT 133 Liquors, Manager will be Mr. John Coppola.

In Attendance: John Copola, Kinjal Patel, and Dave Dharmesh.

Previous owner John Copola spoke on his 40 years that he has been in business in the Town and has agreed to stay on as the manger for now.

D. Dawes asked about their experience and what they might be thinking of as hours of operation.

D. Twiss asked if all the checks and balances are completed including all permits for the sale of tobacco from the Board of Health and inquired as to what the new plans are from the new owners. John Copola stated he is up to date on all his permits except his dumpster permit which doesn't expire until March 1, 2022.

P. Kershaw asked the new owners when their new opening date might be.

Dave Dharmesh spoke on the plans of not continuing with the deli of the store and only having a liquor store at this point, will be spending a lot of money on renovations and will be applying for new sign permits in the future.

A. Smith welcomed the new owners to Georgetown.

O. Pacheco, Town Administrator stated it is not welcome news that there will be no more sandwiches, sad to see you go and appreciates Mr. Coppola's craft.

D. Twiss motioned the Board to approve the Transfer of existing off premises all alcohol from CJ Liquors, Inc dba Johnny's Place, 69 East Main Street, Georgetown, Mass to Mokunj LLC dba "RT 133 Liquors, Manager will be Mr. John Coppola seconded by P. Kershaw. A roll call vote was taken all in favor.

G. Fowler motioned the Board to close the public hearing, seconded by D. Twiss. Roll call vote was taken all in favor.

APPOINTMENTS AND APPROVALS:

Candidate Jay Ogden for the Zoning Board of Appeals was present the Board asked the following questions.

D. Dawes thanked Mr. Ogden for volunteering with the / need people that are familiar with Zoning and he believes Mr. Ogden is, Town and happy to see that he is familiar with zoning in the Town of Georgetown.

A. Smith mentioned Mr. Ogden's long and skilled experience and inquired if he could bring cases to the ZBA Board with an open attitude and will he be able to look beyond his own experience as a developer.

P. Kershaw inquired as to what the reasons are that Mr. Ogden is applying to volunteer on the ZBA Board and also thanked him for volunteering.

G. Fowler thanked Mr. Ogden for stepping forward, believes change is inevitable and there needs to be a good process to move forward.

D. Dawes commented that having History in town is important and asked Mr. Ogden when he can start on the Zoning Board of Appeals committee and thanked him for stepping forward.

D. Dawes asked Mr. Ogden's son Nathan who was in attendance what badge he was working on for Boy Scouts and he replied he is working on the citizenship in his community badge. D. Dawes asked him if he understood the process everyone is going through at this meeting.

G. Fowler motioned the Board to appoint Mr. James Ogden to the Zoning Board of Appeal with a term to expire June 30, 2027, seconded by P. Kershaw. A roll call vote was taken 4-1 in favor of motion. A. Smith voted nay on the motion.

VOTES OF THE BOARD:

D. Twiss motioned the Board to approve a request from the Kiwanis Club to host a toll day to be held on Saturday, May 7, 2021 from 8-1PM with a rain date for Sunday, May 8, 2022 from 8-1PM seconded by P. Kershaw. Roll call vote was taken all in favor.

NEW BUSINESS:

Meeting dates for March 14, 2022, March 28, 2022, April 11, 2022 and April 25, 2022 were discussed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Capital Improvement projects: Orlando Pacheco, Town Administrator discussed:

- Request received to date from the Department Heads were briefly discussed*
- Robust list.*
- Items / request on these documents will need to be moved around -the list gives an idea on what to expect on the horizon.*
- Police & Fire Departments created a great 5-year plan.*
- Immediate needs from other departments, they need to address some of their items sooner than later with the Finance Committee.*
- School Department a lot of immediate needs.*
- Heavy slant in FY23-28- 5-year plan*
- Schools looking for a HVAC upgrade -green communities -possibly.*
- Library & schools were looking for a small amount of money for their HVAC system (Library).*
- Schools are more involved than roof top units -items lingering for a while.*
- High School Auditorium curtains -fire retardant grade -public safety issue.*
- Department items have been lingering for a while –utilizing some of the ARPA funding to make these go away is a suggestion.*
- D. Twiss suggested using ARPA funds for these public safety concerns stated that is what the ARPA funds should be used for.*
- Procurement presently is longer and slower process right now/ time component.*

- *Sidewalk machine -The Highway Department only has one, replaced timely is very important.*
- *The Board was asked if they have any questions for Department Heads.*
- *Suggestion to move faster which will put us in a better position for next fiscal year.*
- *Town / Department budgets getting prepared now.*
- *Department Heads will be meeting with the Finance Committee soon on their proposed budgets.*
- *O. Pacheco, Town Administrator will prove a wish list for the next meeting*
- *Electric COA Van for the Senior Center -needs to be able to support itself*
- *services are needed might if not enough miles are being used it is not a good financial decision.*
- *D. Twiss asked if there are any energy grants that the Town could obtain., Finance Committee is an Advisory Board -big items on the Capital Plan*
- *P. Kershaw inquired on upgrades to older building instead of looking at new building at what point do we decide, patching an old business, attracting new talent with a new building, need to plan appropriately for new building, when do we stop spending money on an older existing building*
- *Oil to gas-new construction.*
- *O. Pacheco, Town Administrator will prove a wish list for the next meeting.*
- *Suggestion to move faster with these requests which will put us in a better position for next fiscal year.*
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VOTES BY THE BOARD: Continued

A. Smith motioned the Board to approve meeting minutes from January 10, 2022, seconded by P. Kershaw. Roll call vote was taken 4-1 in favor, D. Twiss abstained from the vote since he was absent from meeting

A. Smith motioned the Board to approve meeting minutes from December 6, 2021 as presented seconded by P. Kershaw. Roll call vote was taken 4-1 in favor. G. Fowler abstained from vote since he was absent from meeting.

SELECTMAN'S TIME:

P. Kershaw spoke on recent meetings regarding National Avenue, lot of work accomplished at these meetings. everyone's input was great, property appraisal has been completed, RFP being worked on by O. Pacheco, Town Administrator . Great team effort by all involved. RFP needs some fine tuning –northern parcel. -

G. Fowler asked if someone new coming to town and working for the Town looking down the road are there any new valuable properties for municipal use.

P. Kershaw spoke on American Legion Park & parking revenue source - previous meetings on this parking situation -the town is responsible for all cleanup and maintenance. D. Twiss gave an update on parking suggestions from last year like a kiosk.

D. Twiss talked about American Legion Park regarding trash, cleanup, maintenance of the parking lot, recommended Kiosk or pay to park for two or three hours, have had different proposal, relatively inexpensive and spoke on the revenue stream, sticker to pay. O. Pacheco, Town Administrator suggested the pay by plate program.

G. Fowler stated this issue of parking at the American Legion Park will be on a Traffic Meeting agenda soon.

A. Smith spoke on Grant for the CPC -to pilot native species gardens around town and will do a presentation to the CPC Board in April.

D. Dawes spoke on a recent MMA workshop meeting in which he virtually attended and one idea was to designate an area in Town of 50 acres for development by 2023, a lot needs to be done - fliers have been created -hoping people understand -designate a 50-acre parcel, if the Town does not designate the 50 acres the Town will not be eligible to receive certain grants in the future, public hearing will be done on this subject in the near future. A lot of questions still need to be answered.

G. Fowler met with Lieutenant Scott Hatch and is in the process of setting up a Traffic Study to meet has a tentative date recently tried to attend a Community Preservation Committee Meeting that was being held on zoom but had some trouble getting on and stated he wished more meetings here in in person.

TOWN ADMINISTRATION REPORT:

MVPC -Two (2) TIP projects:

Rail Trail -Progressing nicely-design stage at 75%.

Reconstruction of Route 97- A Public Hearing was held last week, right of way may have to be absorbed by the Town, Federally and State funded project, bike lane, widening the roadway, sidewalk reconstruction, a year and half for the project to be completed.

P. Kershaw asked who manages this project from the Town.

G. Fowler asked how involved is this and does the Town have to go through this and who funds this project and will the town have to absorb some of the cost.

A. Smith spoke on the possibility of a wildlife underpass.

O. Pacheco state they are looking at the possibility of the Highway Department to manage this project but O. Pacheco, Town Administrator will find out if that is the plan.

Green Communities Grant Award: *The Town has received \$199, 999.00 dollars to implement a weatherization plan for the school building, library and COA building -will work with the project expediter, waiting on a reply from the DOR for a Notice to proceed.*

D. Dawes asked about \$140K in funding that the Penn Brook school received with a fairly new school why would they need weatherization?

O. Pacheco, Town Administrator responded about a in depth study into the building as a whole, maybe replace some components primarily pump installation window installation.

Bond Refunding: *Town Treasurer Alex Williams and Orlando Pacheco, Town Administrator working on trying to work on a bond refunding to re-structure the Town's existing debt to try and receive a lower rate. A call has been scheduled with Moody's in the next weeks.*

32 Lisa Lane RFP:

The Town has issued an RFP through the Affordable Housing Trust -Property is no longer in the Affordable Housing inventory and will be sold at the market rate, unit is for a large family, Affordable Housing Trust would like to take the money and reinvest the funds into new projects, bids due on February 28, 2022.

Wage & Classification Study:

O. Pacheco, Town Administrator informed the Board that the Wage and Classification Study - should be given to them by the end of the month.

GYCC staffing update:

D. Dawes asked about the GYCC staff changes-Erin Duggan has left the GYCC and an Avery Vickers has replaced her position.

SELECTMAN TIME CONTINUED:

D. Dawes mentioned he had received an e-mail update from the Board of Health on the following

Number of Covid cases are down to six (6) cases, Vaccination status is at 70%, 46.6% have received the booster shot -Mask mandates were spoken of with the state lifting the mandate on February 28, 2021.

D. Dawes read aloud the Community Preservation Committee warrant placeholders.

O. Pacheco spoke on the Freedom of Information request from a resident regarding text messages, getting to be tricky, letting the board know there is some tricky things regarding texting, personal cell phone use was spoken of and the Town Administrator thinks residents should have direct access to the him, but it was suggested to be careful while communicating with board members, storage & social media.

G. Fowler question public record of a text.

D. Dawes suggested we look at the employee handbook.

ADJOURNMENT:

G. Fowler moved to adjourn with D. Twiss seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken all in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40PM. Minutes transcribed by Maureen Shultz, Administrative Assistant

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 Meeting:

Application from Johnny's Place, 69 East Main Street-for a transfer of liquor license.

Meeting minutes from December 6, 2021 and January 10, 2022.

Board of Health update-Covid.

Application & resume from Jay Ogden-Zoning Board of Appeals candidate.

Meeting agenda request from Kiwanis Club.

Capital Improvement Plan request.