

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

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**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES**

**Memorial Town Hall**

**02/22/2021**

**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.*

**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:**

*D. Rogers spoke on the recent vaccine clinics, six total clinics done so far, great resource is using the 211 number to help with scheduling a vaccine, 40 positive cases this week-numbers are decreasing this week. decrease in the daily numbers, every week the Town request vaccines and has been denied every week for weeks. Senator Bruce Tarr attended the recent clinics, impressed with all the communities working together, talks on getting mega site for vaccines has been ongoing,*

*D. Dawes asking if the town only gets one type of vaccine re is only one specific vaccine being used. D. Rogers spoke on the Maderna vaccine-sticking to the one that is better- we will get what whatever we can get =staying with the same vaccine to give the second dose -makes it easier.*

*D. Twiss spoke about the number seeming to be going down, s seems to be going down -get back to green steady -make some headway on the vaccines would be great.*

*C. Durney asked what the threshold was to be able drop to yellow.*

*P. Kershaw asked about if they get the three thousand number of vaccines, how fast would they have to use them, D. Rogers stated they are trying to use 1500 per day -possible will know more tomorrow after her meeting with the State. Crunch the number 750 per day for 5 days or 1500 per day -two days, pushing for affordable housing to get the shots*

***FY 21 BUDGET DISCUSSION: M. Farrell spoke on the following:***

***Progress Budget***

*Schools increase by 2.5 % very low-tentatively balanced budget –Clear Gov (encouraged for all to go on)*

- *63% of funds already spent*
- *Energy Cost-on target*
- *Line-item transfers occur on May*
- *Went through each line item-Departments Budgets*
- *In a good place with expenditures*
- *Debt service -pay in two payments*
- *Fire Dept salaries at 58%*
- *Expenses below 50% fire department*

*D. Twiss inquired about the boiler at the Police Station and asked if it was working? Chief Cudmore stated \$10K before the year started, circulating pump -alternates equipment, the boiler is working ok, Chief Cudmore willing to wait until May, does not want to transfer-maybe some wiggle room.*

*D. Dawes asked about any recoverable overages through COVID-19 funding, averages, possibly more Federal money, hoping we can recover and help apply for everything.*

***FY 22 BUDGET DISCUSSION: M. Farrell spoke on the following:***

- *Non-personnel expense under 2%*
- *GYCC & Recreation -25% Increase (not sure its sustainable - Recreation & GYCC will say it's about the water rate -but it has to be more than just water)*
- *Water Rate –more than just water.*
- *Essex & Whittier Schools-big increase -15.5% increase –*
- *County Retirement -7.3% increase every year.*
- *Finance Committee meets every Wednesday night-Scheduled Department Heads to attend in different meetings to present their budgets.*
- *Insurance Coverage -hoping will go down.*

*D. Twiss asked for clarification on “Other Unclassified” –M. Farrell response that it was the Liability & Property Loss.*

*M. Farrell spoke on working with Mia for loss prevention, pipes froze and broke at the High School due to leaving the windows open for fresh air due to COVID-19, best practices. practices.*

*P. Kershaw asked what if any programs we have done, they offer free programs for loss prevention, the Town per M. Farrell stated they do give us grant money to be proactive and attend meetings/ programs, P. Kershaw suggested the Town should take care of the infrastructure, rates can go up without fixing anything, should be fixing things around Town - curious of what they are offering.*

*C. Durney commented it is a good idea to invite the School Department to at least understand their view.*

*D. Twiss asked that Carol Jacobs, School Superintendent is invited to the next Selectman's meeting.*

*P. Kershaw asked about loss prevention from MIA-programs -if we spent a little money*

*D. Dawes spoke on a recent Board of Directors meeting for Veterans Services, assessment went down due to a 242 person decline in population, Assessment went down almost which became a \$1300.00 dollars savings.*

*D. Twiss stated that historically that is the amount needed for new flags or around that amount. Needed for purchasing new flags.*

#### **MISSION MEDICAL HCA DISCUSSION:**

*D. Dawes spoke on the final year of the medical marijuana host agreement, last payment, HCA money should be coming in May of 2021-time to renegotiate the medical host agreement, state rules have not changed- says 3% fee on medical cannabis, physical plant has sold, excise tax \$52K cannabis-adult size, \$90K minimum of \$200K each year, TINK has opened for business in Town, should reach out to for medical.*

*D. Twiss asked D. Dawes if he would reach out to the company to start the conversation regarding renegotiating the host agreement, D. Dawes will schedule a meeting.*

#### **FIANCE DIRECTOR:**

*M. Farrell spoke on the consulting form of Clifton Larson Allen Consultants that has been filling in and getting paid to work in the Treasurer Collector's office, total of three applicants have applied for the Town Treasurer position, this is a big problem, creating a position of a Finance Director/ Treasure/ Collector, range in other communities range from \$100K-\$150, we cannot get that money, we are not in a great position.*

*D. Twiss spoke on the consultants getting paid a premium-new person the same amount of money 12 months at the cost of the consultant's weeks pays -can we split the difference.*

*G. Fowler inquired -only largest communities have Finance Directors, best to have it be one person for everything, the only way to get on board is having everyone agreed including the Finance Committee.*

*P. Kershaw asked what are the larger communities doing -do they have one or two people doing this position-M. Farrell said they normally have one or two positions-possibly a finance director and an assistant, suggested one for both town and school*

*M. Farrell commented that it is very rare to have one person doing all these jobs-most communities have two position's*

*G. Fowler asked how the school payroll works.*

*D. Dawes asked what the motion would be if they have to authorize the increase in pay - treasurer / collector.*

*G. Fowler asked if applicants need municipal experience and questioned that no applicants have this.*

*D. Twiss has no data -public data -if we had chart of expenses / payroll for these positions from surrounding communities, other communities are not the same size and we don't share services like other communities*

*D. Twiss asked M. Farrell to send new information on the communities with updated pay scales.*

*D. Dawes reminded everyone it is a 32hour working / reach out to the School Department and have them included in the discussion.*

*C. Durney asked what the Town was hiring for -what position. would like to at least know why the pushback from the School Department on combining positions.*

*P. Kershaw asked who are we hiring is it for a treasurer, increase pay to around 100K per M. Farrell, work schedule will be 4 days a week with the hours to be ten a day.*

*P. Kershaw stated that the Board is speaking about the Treasurer/ Collector position, wants to be clear -Finance Director & Treasurer Collector very different positions.*

*D. Twiss suggested he would like to implement a time card system in place at Town Hall, questioned if anyone at Town Hall is working till 8PM -M. Farrell corrected the hours are from 8-6PM for the four days a week not until 8PM for the Treasurer / Collector's Office.*

*D. Twiss suggested that the six-figure range of pay is something we need to get into.*

#### **SELECTMEN'S REPORT:**

*The Board discussed the following dates for next meetings -April 12, 2021, April 26, 2021. May 17, 2021-The Board will also be meeting on May 3, 2021 prior to Town Meeting.*

#### **NEXT MEETING:**

*February 23, 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 10:00 PM. Minutes transcribed by Maureen Shultz*