

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

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

Memorial Town Hall

02/8/2021

7:00PM-General Meeting

Broadcast on Georgetown Cable TV via BlueJeans

Verizon channel 42/Comcast channel 9

Selectmen Present: Chairman David Twiss, Vice Chair Douglas Dawes, Clerk; Peter. Kershaw, Gary Fowler.

Others Present: Michael Farrell, Town Administrator. Administrative Assistant, Maureen Shultz, Police Chief Donald Cudmore, Board of Health Agent, Deb Rogers, Fire Chief Fred Mitchell, Lt. Scott Hatch, Ken Lombardi & Kevin Paicos of NFP, Erin Duggan, Angelo Salamone, Carl Maglio.

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. 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. Twiss read aloud and into the record a letter from Nancy Holt, RN acknowledging the staff at Town's recent COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic, including volunteers and Deb Rogers, Board of Health for their hard work, well run, organized, pleasant and professionalism and oversight provided at this Town's Vaccine Clinic.

D. Rogers spoke on recent vaccine clinics that have gone very smoothly working with and in West Newbury on Route 10, excellent communication, at least 300 people vaccinated and all vaccine sites are using volunteers, 56 new cases in Town in the last 14 days, Town still in the red, can call the Double Tree in Danvers or call 211 to be added to the waitlist, vaccine sites are on a map on the state's website. D. Cudmore referred the update to D. Rogers -working with 9 other communities -extremely well planned, spoke on scheduling. C. Ranshaw Fiorello from Council on Aging has been an excellent help, online registry a must.

C. Durney inquired about the not holding the second shot, and asked if the vaccine clinics are only on Saturday and Sunday's for now, yes D. Rogers replied, waiting for more vaccines from the State, asked was about the second shot not being held-per D. Rogers the second shot is automatically held and will be shipped out to us -no shortage -no running out.

Maximum allocation, is that per week was asked C. Durney. 945 were requested per D. Rogers - the question was asked by C. Durney is that by site or vaccinated site -D. Rogers does not know the answer as of now.

D. Dawes asked about any adverse reactions to the vaccine-D. Rogers stated some had sore arms after their first vaccine but not sick.

NEW BUSINESS: Safer Grant / Fire Department:

Chief Mitchell spoke of a Safer Grant he is looking to apply for, which allows him to hire two fulltime firefighters for the first three years, Safer Grant closes in March, The Board had the following questions: Entry pay for a new Firefighter is around \$52K to start and will include a 2% increase every year after that.

D. Twiss concerned about the fourth year after the grant is completed in three years-what happens in the fourth year due to budget restraints it would not be good to have this Firefighter not continue with the Town, the good, bad and ugly. D. Twiss asked if we are able to service the Town of Boxford. Chief said they use private services in Boxford, possibly could change in the future.

G. Fowler asked of benefits were covered under this grant-thought these grants were problematic but it would have been the time year ago before M. Farrell came aboard -asked about ambulance funding budgets.

P. Kershaw asked is this a career fire fighter, current path of an existing firefighter-Chief answered four not including himself, was questioned about retirements in the future.

C. Durney asked about writing the grant and asked how many he has written.

D. Dawes asked if this grant was open to all in the State.

Inclusive of benefits asked how much benefits would add to the budget -about \$80K in total per Chief family plan -probably grow in the future --

D. Twiss asked if anyone has been given this grant in the past-Georgetown & Rowley both have received in the past. D. Twiss commented that we are a growing community.

G. Fowler moved the motion of the Board to support Chief Mitchell and his applying for the Safer Grant but request that Chief Mitchell takes it before the Finance Committee for their input, seconded by C. Durney.

G. Fowler asked if Health Benefits are covered under this grant. Chief Mitchell answered they are covered under this grant.

NEW BUSINESS: Parking Lot / Down Town:

D. Twiss spoke on creating some revenue for the Town by putting some money into the downtown parking lot, the Town spends money on trash, to clean, test waters and bathroom use at different parks, thinks the Town should be charging a fee to non-residents, some type of sticker was spoken of and excise taxes paid would be no cost to the tax payer.

M. Farrell state invested a lot of money at the parking lot but is owned by the State and not allowed to put meters in that location. cannot put meters in there

P. Kershaw stated he believe this location is prime real estate, never really full, way of repurposing that lot, thinking outside the box, maybe retail, apartments, valid question per D. Twiss

D. Twiss spoke on bus stops, high School parking, can it be re-designed, revitalized down town – we are lacking parking and septic system.

P. Kershaw asked if the lot can be used for other purposes.

M. Farrell stated the lease has expired for the parking lot. G. Fowler has been told the lease has run out -can meters be put up -G. Fowler offered some history, farmers markets used to be there, electricity was an issue, parking is needed, it is ours again and can do what the time wants

M. Farrell stated the Town receives a small amount of funding from the Park & Ride Program in the amount between \$300-\$500 per month and it goes to the Town's Highway Department.

C. Cudmore stated Eastman Street is going to be a problem, dog parks resident only, a lot of pressure put on volunteers, suggest having a paid employee as soon as possible-good example if Camp Dennison group and suggested the Town follow them.

D. Twiss suggested to form a committee now to go over these topics and ideas.

D. Dawes asked if Parks and Recreation have a plan going forward on the parking lot and any ideas or plans going forward regarding beaches and parks.

A. Guertin from Parks and Recreation Commission stated the Park and Recreation Commission are split on this issue of payment to use the parks- no official vote but conversation on one way in and out have been discussed. The Commission has spoken on certain changes -split on payment systems, discussed many times, not everyone in agreement, hired a beach monitor on weekends for beach use, cost effective way to manage -installing a gate at one entry way -street

one way -just possible -could be some push back from residents -only suggestions at this point - fee based programs was suggested.

D. Twiss asked the Board if there are any questions and concerns and asked them to implement a plan.

D. Twiss mentioned a possible booth, cover the cost of side where the band stand is, closer to the baseball field.

G. Fowler suggested using CPC funds in the future for that area.

G. Fowler would like to attend a future meeting that Chief Cudmore suggested that should be put together for an open discussion on the downtown parking lot.

D. Twiss asked if the Town could run electricity and put a Kiosk in the parking lot.

P. Kershaw asked this to become a future action item.

OLD BUSINESS: Health Insurance discussion:

Ken Lombardi and Kevin Paicos of NFP (National Financial Partners) updated the Board on a request to MIA for an authorization letter to release information on the Town of Georgetown's account which had not been received as requested. MIA claims representative has had the letter for about two weeks now and has not responded -found him to be un-cooperative, the date a request goes two way -this particular MIA Representative has been problematic now and, in the past, -without this date where is nothing we can do for the Town of Georgetown, Paralyzed without this info -suggested to call and make a complaint outrages not to respond

M. Farrell reached out to MIA representative and was assured that the information that was requested from the Town was put in the mail, no foot dragging and was assured it had been given to underwriting per M. Farrell. Kevin Paicos spoke on problems with this person in the past from MIA, spoke his peace on the issue, if MIA doesn't reply in another week, we are done there is not enough time a 30-day window is impossible to work with-opportunity is being lost.

G. Fowler asked if and or suggested to move forward with this -not sure how we pull all things together, do we want to continue down this road, spoke on the Town's good relationship with MIA stated he believes Kevin Paicos speaking too harshly towards MIA.

D. Dawes spoke on how the other communities started with six and now down to two communities, maybe for timing it might be good to not go forward but to keep it in an ear shot when there is more time.

P. Kershaw spoke on it is what it is at this point, it would still be nice to see the comparison and should speak of it in the future, would be nice to also see the savings from both competitive quotes, feels the Board doesn't have a lot of info to make a decision, still feels the Board should push MIA to get the information, worth understanding what both would offer the Town. Suggested M. Farrell reach out again and do the leg work to compare. D. Dawes agrees.

C. Durney inquired about the data and stated if you don't have the data you can't make an informed decision.

D. Twiss stated not a feasible outcome or action.

G. Fowler moved to rescind the letter sent to MIA for information, D. Dawes second motion. All unanimously in favor on a roll call vote.

P. Kershaw wished he had gotten the information.

Georgetown Youth Community Center Update:

Erin Duggan, Director of the Georgetown Youth Community Center updated the Board on winter programs and spoke on the twenty new programs being offered, new members, Village for the youth, Steam week program, Photo Voice-New, Membership fee coming soon, assets for the youth, Spring program book, new employee recently hired -working out well with the kids, best practices work together with Newburyport.

D. Twiss spoke on the programs and stated how much his daughter likes the programs offered.

D. Dawes asked for an update on Mr. Erick Richards who was going to work for the Georgetown Youth Center-Ms. Duggan answered at this time there is no audience and the cost to have him speak is twenty-five thousand and it not something they have now in the budget.

Procedure & Policy Manual:

The Board decided to scheduled a working meeting to discuss the procedure and policy manual on February 23, 2021 at 6PM.

PR Firm Update:

M. Farrell spoke on the John Guilfoil Public Relations LLC and what they are offering to the Town in terms of a contract for service:

D. Twiss difficult budget -have a committee or a task force to work through what we want, we do not communicate from the Selectman's office, \$6K is a lot of money and spent well and received the benefits.

D. Dawes could take the time until June 30th time and try and built some funding into the budget have a line item for this expense. D. Twiss asked Chief Carmody where does the information primarily goes.

D. Dawes asked if they receive any feedback -Chief Carmody said no, he puts his own information out on Facebook. Associated Press is where articles appear.

G. Fowler mentioned that some talk was done in some length during the January 11, 2021 meeting, -questioned what are we going to get, need spreadsheets, none questioning it, we need to schedule a meeting with the Finance Committee going forward, take forward to see if it can be budgeted, don't go down the road if not budgeted, should ask how urgent it is and what will we get for our payment.

D. Twiss plans to have the Finance Committee at the Selectman's next meeting if it can be scheduled, may mention it and see what the temperature is.

P. Kershaw stated a lot of information to put out, getting the best for the money, believes it should be brought up to the Finance Committee, supports a program, a lot of information and the money is being spent wisely, may take more than one meeting, maximizing the benefit for what we are spending, the Board needs to do due diligence, suggest M. Farrell to reach back out to MIA and see's what happens.

Still trying to make it work –all in agreement mechanics need to be figured out and meet with income -can put on for July 1st meeting that's the time for an appropriation per M. Farrell.

C. Durney stated you can't go to finance and appropriate money for something we don't know what we're getting, questioned what do we want to see on our website for and that is not clear.

D. Twiss stated that tax payers in Town always seems to get pushed aside, we need to start to take hold of things and get items done and start tackling these issues.

G. Fowler suggested to use host agreement money for this expense.

APPPOINTMENTS:

CROSSING GUARD APPOINTMENT:

Lt. Scott Hatch spoke on the candidate for appointment as a crossing guard and stated he was part of the custodial staff at the High School.

D. Dawes moved the question.

D. Dawes motioned to approve the appointment of Erick Berkland as a Crossing Guard for the Town of Georgetown, seconded by C. Durney with the appointment to expire June 30, 2021.

BUILDING COMMISSIONER APPOINTMENT:

M. Farrell introduced and recommended Angelo Salamone for the position of Building Commissioner. Mr. Salamone introduced himself to the Board and gave them some history on himself.

G. Fowler asked if this position with the Town will be his primary position as Building Inspector and will it be full time. G. Fowler asked his standard question to Mr. Salamone what his answer would be if someone wanted to build a garage on a floating slab 27 X 40-what would your answer be, Mr. Salamone gave his reply that frost protection is a requirement -slabs are not user friendly -go below the frost or insult it to protect from the frost---does not recommend this be done.

P. Kershaw commented that his resume is impressive, big shoes to fill, all in for this appointment, his experience aligns well with the Town needs, good experience, suits the position very well.

D. Dawes spoke on his previous experience in two communities in Hamilton / Wenham and asked him why he left. A. Salamone answered he took advantages of these open positions during

those times, one reason I expressed why I was interested in Georgetown that the schedule of four days a week allows me more family time. D. Dawes mentioned that someone he knew recommended A. Salamone for the Building Commission position.

C. Durney asked was curious regarding big contractors, residents doing home improvements, how do you think others will see you. C. Durney commented that it was great to hear your willing to guide them through a process

D. Dawes moved to approve the appointment of Angelo Salamone as the Building Commissioner for the Town of Georgetown, seconded by C. Durney. The Board voted unanimously on a roll call vote.

D. Twiss asked if revamping the Towns by Laws was something, he has experiences in, D. Twiss asked what does he see as far as challenges out there with new developments, flipping houses. what do you see as challenging between communities as style goes Amesbury vs. Hamilton Wenham Style? D. Twiss welcomed M. Salamone to the community.

WIRE INSPECTOR APPOINTMENT:

Carl Maglio introduced himself to the Board, spoke of his experience of twenty-five years as a wiring inspector and living in the Town of Georgetown and what he plans on bringing to the Town of Georgetown, spoke on his taking of courses to keep up with the codes.

M. Farrell stated that C. Maglio stepped in for the Town of Georgetown once the former Wiring Inspector retired. M. Farrell stated the wire Inspectors' position was a stipend position within the Town, certain days available the same each week.

D. Twiss commented on an impressive resume.

P. Kershaw asked what his current compacity in the Town of Georgetown spoke that he had plenty of experience to fill the shoes.

D. Dawes moved to the appointment of Carl Maglio as Wire Inspector for the Town of Georgetown, seconded by G. Fowler, the Board voted unanimously on a roll call vote.

WARRANT AND MINUTES:

G. Fowler asked how long is the warrant open until. M. Farrell replied about six weeks into March 2021.

G. Fowler moved to open the Town Warrant, seconded by D. Dawes. The Board voted unanimously on a roll call vote.

G. Fowler moved to approve the meeting minutes from January 11, 2021 as amended, seconded by D. Dawes. he Board voted unanimously on a roll call vote.

4-1 in favor on a motion by G. Fowler to approve the meeting minutes from January 25, 2021 as presented seconded by P. Kershaw. C, Durney obtained from vote. The Board voted 4-1 in favor on a roll call vote.

TOWN ADMINISTRATORS REPORT:

M. Farrell spoke on his offer of employment to a candidate for the position of Finance Clerk.

D. Twiss stated he trust M. Farrell to make the decision on a clerical employee and wants the Treasurer Department to be in working order and stabilize that office. D. Twiss mentioned it is costly to lose staff in that office.

M. Farrell spoke in a future possible with a new position as a Finance Director / Treasurer Collector possibility in the future, this position has been proposed by M. Farrell in the past, this position has met with great opposition from the School Department and School Superintendent.

G. Fowler mentioned to look at the level playing field and suggested to get the ball rolling.

G. Fowler asked if this position could be approved by the Finance Committee.

NEXT MEETING:

February 22, 2021

ADJOURNMENT:

D. Dawes moved to adjourn with P. Kershaw moved to seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously on a roll call vote.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15PM. Minutes transcribed by Maureen Shultz

Documents used in the meeting: Meeting Minutes from January 11, 2021 & January 25, 2021.

Procedures & Policy Manual, Winter Program from the Georgetown Youth Community Center.