

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

Meeting Minutes January 9, 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 A. Smith.*

Others Present: *Orlando Pacheco, Town Administrator on Zoom
M. Shultz, Administrative Assistant on Zoom
Fire Chief Matt McKay*

Absent: *D. Lamonica*

7:00PM CALL TO ORDER

Invocation-Douglas W. Dawes

Pledge of Allegiance-Douglas W. Dawes

NEW BUSINESS:

Safer Fire Department Grant -*Fire Chief Matt McKay was present and spoke on the following:*

D. Dawes welcomed Fire Chief Matt McKay—Grant and Budget Season were discussed the Department did not get the Safety Fire Department Grant that they had applied for back in October, and we also did not receive the Assistance for Firefighter's-Radio grant we also had been waiting for.

We will re-apply again -the Safer Fire Grant is for staffing -federal grant to supply extra funding resources—adding Firefighters, grant is fully funded for three years for two Firefighters if the grant is awarded to us and then after the three years is over it is the Town financial responsibility of these positions

G. Fowler asked if this is a national or a federal grant.

- *Grant would allow for an addition of two new firefighters to the four currently here in Town.*
- *Three on shift at all times*
- *Safety Grant will pick up the value for the first three years-then the Town will pick up cost. -*
- *24/7 coverage.*
- *Georgetown Fire Department has used many models to apply for grants.*
- *Some tweaks will need to be made on applying next time.*
- *No real feedback is given when grant is not given.*
- *Shifting the dollars for full time.*

- *Georgetown is considered suburban.*
- *Spoke about the loss of staff.*
- *Household income is looked at.*
- *Maintain three on shift all the time*
- *Many communities applying for these grants.*
Revenue from the ambulance / EMT program –has nothing to do with department requirement
- *Hours of recertification*
Spoke on minimum response
- *Town of Newbury awarded this grant -two firefighters received in 2023.*
- *Town of Amesbury awarded 8 firefighters in 2022.*
- *Town of Groveland & Town of Rowley both received two firefighters*
- *National & Regional Issue -EMT shortage –we go to Groveland & Boxford to cover Shortages for coverage -mutual call up three and half percent-shortage continues.*
- *Billable revenue.*
- *Call volume going up*
- *Increase in residents*
- *Planning ahead for next year –want to reapply again –staffing for adequate -extra funding to meet minimum staffing –fully funded -looking to hire two firefighters for three years - after the three year the cost will need to be taken up from the Town.*

D. Dawes asked how many firefighters do we currently have.

D. Dawes asked about how full-time staffing will help with the per diem staffing and how is it determined how many full-time firefighters are needed.

P. Kershaw spoke about the balance between per diem with full time, does it reduce the need for part time staff.

D. Dawes asked if this has any impact on Erie 4.

G. Fowler asked what qualifications have been made, are they unattainable through part time and per diem.

G. Fowler mentioned the Finance Committee had a stance on this grant last year when it was put before them School Department not happy with Finance with their grants, finance always falls back on the Town.

O. Pacheco, Town Administrator spoke on lowering the standard to attract younger professional with less experience it will work against us in the grant process, need to engage in Congressman Seth Moulton's office and other area representatives for letters of support.

P. Kershaw commented about the good relationship with Groveland and Rowley why did they get approved and not us.

G. Fowler motioned the Board to support Fire Chief Matt McKay's request to apply for and support the Safer Fire Department Grant seconded by A. Smith. Roll call vote was taken all in favor.

D. Dawes mentioned the recent swearing in ceremony of Fire Chief Matt McKay and congratulated Former Chief Savage on his retirement and thanked him for the service to the Town.

Fire Chief Matt McKay spoke on how he was overwhelmed with the ceremony and the Community support which he does not take lightly.

Capital Improvement Committee-ARPA Request was discussed:

Fire Chief Matt McKay spoke on ARPA request - \$550K to replace Engine 4 -lead time long time - maybe a year long process, reality is that Erie is not easy for them to buy a fire truck not feasible any more, talked about a quint –dual truck -multiple purpose truck -a lot of money for a fire truck – becoming used in communities near us,

G. Fowler inquired and checked that the new fire truck would/could be housed at Erie 4-valuable resource-needs to keep this building running.

O. Pacheco, Town Administrator had spoken with department heads many times on the Capital Plan, and spoke with them about long term plans and liabilities are, we do expect this document to change year from year, getting ready for Town Meeting -Finance Plan being put together, prioritization of department request for approved items from the Capital Funds information on a excel sheet and memo was given with the ARPA request to the Board.

\$205K request from the Highway Department request -Front End loader – (Last year's request) \$50K less than expected.

\$35, 000 for the paving of the Town Hall parking lot –Electric vehicle charging station are now installed which will allow for the Town Hall parking lot to be re-paved prior to Town Meeting

Balance of the Capitalization Stabilization Fund is approximately \$330,000.

O. Pacheco, Town Administrator would like to purchase these items through ARPA funding.

G. Fowler motion the Board to approve the the ARPA funding for the following projects- 205K for replacement of a Front-End loader for the Highway Department, \$550K request from the Fire Department for the replacement of Engine 4, and \$35K for the repaving of Town Hall seconded by P. Kershaw. Roll call vote was taken 3-1 in favor G. Fowler voted nay on motion.

Police Chief search: June 30, 2023 will be Police Chief Donald Cudmore's Last date of employment with the Town as he is retiring. A plan will be in place, will look at internal candidates first, Deputy Chief Scott Hatch interested in this position, will post internally first.

G. Fowler asked if we the Board is making this choice/ appointment.

VOTES OF THE BOARD:

G. Fowler motioned the Board to approve the meeting minutes from November 21, 2022 as presented seconded by A. Smith. Roll call vote was taken all in favor.

G. Fowler motioned the Board to Open the Annual Town Meeting Warrant, seconded by P. Kershaw. Roll call vote was taken all in favor.

0 National Avenue Extension – Document had been reviewed by Jonathan Eichman from Kopelman & Paige, P.C.-\$10, 000.00 deposit is not in the document, have to hold the price they bid on.

G. Fowler asked if the deal falls through does the Town keep the money.

O. Pacheco, Town Administrator explained how it works if the project fails and the Town would receive the funding back said it depends on the reason, example if they walk away or if the Town is at fault, cannot go up on price if the land goes up in price, cannot go back and increase the sale price.

P. Kershaw motioned the Board to approve the extension of the sales and purchase agreement for National Avenue -January 1, 2023 through January 1, 2025, Seconded by A. Smith. Roll call vote was taken all in favor.

P. Kershaw suggested if the Board could get a six-month review from the Howland Corporation.

G. Fowler asked about figures in the document and why they were not in the document which he believes they should be.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT: O. Pacheco, Town Administrator spoke on the the Following:

Electric Vehicle Charging Stations Revised: Modification from the DEP to transfer the charging stations earmarked for the Senior Center / Perley School to the American Legion Park -This item should be on the next agenda for the Parks and recreation agenda.

D. Dawes asked if they are going to be placed at the Public Library.

G. Fowler asked if they are cost effective to be at the Perley School.

Septic Regulations: *The Board of Health has posted a meeting /hearing on adopting the modified septic regulation for their January meeting-Any interested parties may attend and also can request a draft copy from the Board of Health office.*

Town Hall Window Restoration: *Town Hall window restoration bids have been received and the Town has awarded the project to Homer Contracting of Arlington, Mass -Total bid was \$421,000.00, bids have been received -We are now working with our architects now on the final contract and will start on the first \$70,000 of work immediately-Work must be completed by June 30th. The remainder of the work will have to wait until the Community Preservation Committee funds are received after Town Meeting in May 2023.*

G. Fowler mentioned he didn't get a positive feeling from Community Preservation Committee about this window project from some of the members there was a lot of discussion taking place, need to keep it Historical, Historical Committee did not want to go that route with single plane windows, a lot of money was spent on this building -years back when some work was done on the windows it was done so the windows were not to be open, spoke of other departments that were looking for some Capital request and mentioned some smaller projects that might not get approved at Town Meeting , mentioned request from the Affordable Housing & Town Clerks office, a lot of projects in front of Community Preservation Committee .

P. Kershaw asked if the Town Hall window project will be getting new storm windows. Any idea of an energy improvement -heating.

A. Smith asked about the asbestos lead mitigation.

Green Communities Grant: *Department of Energy Resource -has awarded the Town of Georgetown a grant in the amount totaling \$71, 944, for weatherization work at the Highway Department and Municipal Light Department, the Town is plowing through all the recommended energy efficiency measures, weatherization work to be done with the hopes it is done before the end of February.*

D. Dawes asked about Administrative Assistant pay and what was that for, O. Pacheco, Town Administrator stated it was extra pay for Andrea Thibeault for the extra work on this project. Additional reporting work

Potential ATM Articles: Annual Town Meeting will be held on May 1, 2023-A preliminary list of articles have been prepared-the list does not include any of the pending items with the Planning Board. The Following is the potential list, Town Officer Reports, General Operating Budget/Reserve Fund, Transfer to Capital Fund, Transfer to stabilization Fund, Transfer to OPEB Trust, Appropriation to Special Education Stabilization Fund, Water Department Operating Budget, Fire/Ambulance Enterprise Budget, Local Access Programming Appropriation ,Municipal Light Department Continuation of Operation (Consent Calendar), Authorization to Expend Chapter 90 Funds (Consent Agenda), Fire Department to manage traffic (Amend Chapter 245/250-) , Fund Capital Items (multiple) , Rescind Article 19 of May 2022 ATM (50K for Town Hall windows), Camp Dennison Borrowing Authorization, (Caretaker Residence), Eliminate Capital Planning Committee, Section 63 17-25 of the Georgetown Code, CPC Projects (multiple).

Brief discussion on the following Town Meeting Articles took place, School operating Budget / Capital Budget, Special Education Cost, possible elimination of the Capital Planning Committee.

D. Dawes informed the Board on a season greeting card he had received for the Board from Mr. Thom Byrne who recently was part of a dog hearing in Town, the note thanked the Board for their time and patience and mentioned that he believed the dog hearing although he didn't agree with the end outcome, he stated it was conducted with a sense of fairness.

Next Agenda Items were addressed:

O. Pacheco, Town Administrator mentioned the Finance Committee would like to schedule a joint meeting with the Board of Selectman in the future.

P. Kershaw mentioned the discussion of a charter change to become a standing item on the agendas, suggested to start high on the discussion and facts,

G. Fowler asked P. Kershaw about a Government Study

O. Pacheco, Town Administrator spoke on the discussion of town charters and mentioned to P. Kershaw that he might want to start at high levels but with details -suggested that MRI and possibly the Collins Institute, could be helpful, two other communities were mentioned who just implemented a charter change.

A. Smith mentioned that she believes we have a classic form of government and would like to have the Comcast contract renewal on as an agenda item.

A. Smith mentioned to add to the next agenda the Comcast license.

D. Dawes would like to add the extension of National Avenue

O. Pacheco, Town Administrator mentioned and recognized National Law Appreciation Day for all in the Town of Georgetown and in every community, state and in the world to be recognized.

ADJOURNMENT:

G. Fowler moved to adjourn at 9:15 P.M. with P. Kershaw seconded the motion. 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:

Potential Town Meeting Articles

Capital Improvement Plan / ARPA spending request

Meeting Minutes from November 21, 2022

Town Administrator's Report

O National Avenue extension / Purchase and Sales extension