

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

Meeting Minutes 10/3/2022

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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, G. Fowler, A. Smith, D. Lamonica,
Vice Chair P. Kershaw-Attending meeting on Zoom

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

7:00PM CALL TO ORDER

Invocation-Douglas W. Dawes

Pledge of Allegiance-Douglas W. Dawes

PUBLIC HEARING: TAX CLASSIFICATION:

D. Dawes read aloud into the record) The Georgetown Board of Selectman will hold a public hearing on Monday, October 3, 2022 at 7:00 P.M. Town Hall, Third Floor Meeting Room 1 Library St., Georgetown, Ma 01833, to determine the percentages of the tax levy to be borne by each class of property for Fiscal Year 2022 in accordance with Chapter 797 of the Acts and amendments thereto.

Thom Berube, Town Assessor was present and spoke to the Board on the Department of Revenue LA4 Comparison Report.

Thom Berube, Town Assessor stated per the Department of Revenue the Town is not at a point to do a tax rate split.

D. Dawes asked about what the Avenue Assessment will be this year, trying to get a handle on what to expect.

G. Fowler motioned the Board to move to adopt a residential factor of 1, on the recommendation of the Board of Assessor's seconded by A. Smith. Roll call vote was taken all in favor. P. Kershaw voted in favor on Zoom.

FY22 Current Tax Rate \$14.08- FY23 \$13.16.

No Motion was taken on the Open Space Discount.

"Open space is land maintained in an open natural condition which contributes significantly to the benefit and enjoyment of the public which is NOT subject to permanent Conservation restriction, held for the production of income, taxable under provisions of Chapter 61 (forest land), Chapter 61A (Farm Land) and Chapter 61B (Recreation Land).

The Board of Assessment has determined that the Town of Georgetown does not have any Classified Open Space land.

No Motion was taken by the Board on the Residential Exemption.

The exemption would be applied based upon the average residential value which is \$565,870 for FY2023.

If the property is higher in value than this average, the tax bill will be increased,

This exemption is further conditioned by the fact that it is applicable to those individuals who claim their residential properties as domiciles as of January 1.

The Board of assessors has determined that less than 1% of residential properties are not owner occupied.

No Motion was taken by the Board on small commercial exemption.

Eligible parcels must have an evaluation of less than \$1,000,000.00. or be owned by a business that employs fewer than 10 employees as certified by the Department of unemployment Assistance to the Board of Assessors. The mechanics of the small commercial exemption are similar to the Residential Exemption. Any small commercial exemption granted is borne by other commercial properties and all industrial properties.

The Board of Assessor's could not identify any properties that qualify for the small commercial exemption.

G. Fowler motioned the Board to close the Public Hearing for the Tax Classification, seconded by A. Smith. Roll call vote was taken all in favor-Roll call vote from P. Kershaw was done on Zoom.

The Board thanked Thom Berube, Town Assessor for his input on the Tax Classification hearing.

VOTES OF THE BOARD:

D. Lamonica motioned the Board to approve a request from the Council on Aging for Declaration of Surplus Property regarding a Maytag Gas Range, seconded by A. Smith. Roll call vote was taken all in favor-Roll call vote from P. Kershaw was done on Zoom.

TOWN ADMINISTRATION REPORT: *O. Pacheco, Town Administrator spoke on the the Following ARPA Funding Status Report / Plan .*

Current list of project changes was discussed- 19 Projects.

Replacement of the High School Auditorium new code compliant curtain new amount \$31, 000.00 (previously \$31,000.00).

Middle High School stair treads \$52,000.00 (previously \$60,000.00).

Replacement for a sidewalk machine -Highway Department -\$169,505 (previously \$176,000.00)

Additional request from the Highway Department \$40,050.00 for Chipper.

Additional request from Georgetown Baseball -American Legion Park Field improvements \$15,200.00.

Town Hall flooring -Grant funding.

The Middle High School flooring- carpeting might be an issue for some with allergies.

P. Kershaw asked about what are the real needs versus the wants on these requests and asked for a list to be put together including the amounts, asked for some clarity and what does the next five-year plan show for these request and spending.

O. Pacheco, Town Administrator stated some needs are higher priorities than others.

G. Fowler questioned the cost of purchasing a new front-end loader for the DPW Highway Department asked if this was the best method of using this money, as compared to in the past of leasing equipment such as a past fire department truck.

D. Lamonica inquired what the balance was in the Capitalization Fund / Stabilization Fund.

D. Dawes inquired about the \$800K used to balance the budget and stated it is good to use of ARPA funding but questioned the funding and asked if the funding that is left over and not used can it be put back in free cash or can the funding that was not used be reallocated back to ARPA funds.

G. Fowler spoke of a previous policy still in affect been had not been used in years regarding putting the money back into the Stabilization Fund, Capital Fund and or the OPEB (postemployment benefits).

O. Pacheco, Town Administrator would like to reconvene the ARPA discussion beyond the items/projects proposed once the Fiscal Year Operating Budget has been closed out and any projects approved by the Board are paid and reconciled with the Town Accountant.

Fire Department Radios-ARPA Funding Request

The Fire Department has requested ARPA funding request to purchase new radio's only for the use in the New Ambulance in the amount of \$7,086.00.

D. LaMonica asked for clarification of \$2.7K for portables radios and \$100K for truck radios for the Fire Department was appropriated at last year's Town Meeting, Contract fees, frequency changes, seems like a large amount of money.

G. Lamonica asked for clarification if these are the Motorola radios that were approved last year.

D. Dawes suggested that the Fire Department come back to the Board at a future meeting to update on their radios need to get a better handle on this seems we spend money every year.

G. Fowler spoke on the purchase of the Motorola radios that were purchased year ago which were rather expensive and were the best to purchase not sure what was spent that year.

P. Kershaw requested a list be put together from the Fire Department and or Police Department on what the plan for the future needs are based on frequency needs are for radios and what is coming down the pike-looking for some clarity maybe a three year or five-year plan would be helpful.

O. Pacheco spoke on the amounts of \$27k for portable radios and \$100K for Truck Radios this would be part of their Capital Plan.

D. LaMonica motioned the Board to approve the ARPA request from the Fire Department to purchase radios to be used for the Fire Department's Ambulance in the amount of \$7086.50 seconded by G. Fowler. Roll call vote 4-1 on favor. G. Fowler voted nay on motion.

Website-ARPA Funding Request

REVISE Government website Proposal was gone over which included the pricing based on using ARPA funds to purchase a new lease and re-vamping our current website which includes a design quote for a grand total of \$17,800.00.

O. Pacheco informed the Board on the Building Department new permitting system which is in process of being installed-

Discussion on the following:

- *Search Options*
- *On-Line Forms*
- *Training session*
- *Our current IT Department pitting in security systems currently in place on computers and laptops.*
- *See Click Fix was mentioned not sure anyone uses it or if it is functioning at this time*
- *A. Smith suggested to create a team to work on design, support, and training.*
- *17 weeks progress to get this up and running.*

G. Fowler spoke on the proposal for training and inquired if they come back after the initial training if needed if there are some that might have problems.

D. Lamonica suggested using ARPA funds for the initial first payment and then to pay the remainder in the next years to also use ARPA funding so that there will be no problem regarding the use out of the Town budget, asked about the contractual amount.

D. Lamonica motioned the Board to authorize the spending of \$6,475.00 from ARPA Funds to pay for the first initial year to REVISE Government website, seconded by A. Smith. Roll call vote taken 4-1 G. Fowler voted nay on motion.

Selectman Time: Public Comment on future agendas.

D. Dawes mentioned having an addition to some Board of Selectman meetings suggested by A. Smith on Public Comment.

A. Smith spoke on her request to have a section at the end of a Board of Selectman agenda for a space for Public Comment, a place where residents can speak on topics, concerns, engaging with the community, not every meeting, time frame to speak possible three (3) minutes, Board not to answer, not obligated to make any promises during this time, place to give the public a forum.

G. Fowler suggested and commented that anyone now who wants to come before the Board fills out an agenda request form, suggested it be done at the end of the meeting, after the Boards business has been completed.

D. Lamonica suggested the Board to encourage residents to come to their meeting and inquired about having public comments added to the website.

P. Kershaw (speaking from Zoom) had no problem with this suggestion as long as we continue to follow the guidelines of the open meeting law and maybe get an idea of what a person wants prior to being on the meeting.

D. Dawes spoke of having guidelines written out for the public to follow prior to having this discussion on an agenda.

Selectman Time:

G. Fowler informed the Board and residents that there is meeting of the Community Preservation Committee is meeting tomorrow October 4, 2022 and reminded everyone there is still a window open for projects.

A. Smith informed residents of the upcoming open house at the Georgetown Electrical Department to be held on Thursday, October 6, 2022 from 2-4Pm and refreshments will be served.

Adjournment:

G. Fowler moved to adjourn at 8:37 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:

LA4 Comparison Report

ARPA Funding Request / Spending Request

Revise Custom Design Quote

Five Year Capital submissions & Preliminary Recommendations

Copy of BitCon Corporation Contract

Surplus Property-Senior Center-Gas Range

Reports from the Town Assessor on the Following for the Tax classification Hearing:

Residential Factor-Open Space Discount -Residential Exemption and Small Commercial Exemption.