

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

Meeting Minutes October 30, 2023

Ph. (978) 352-5755 ☐ Fax (978) 352-5727

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Memorial Town Hall

7:00PM-General Meeting

Verizon Channel 42/Comcast channel 9

Selectmen Present: *A. Smith, Chair, D. Dawes, D. LaMonica, and R. Hoover*

Others Present: *R. Bancroft, Selectman participated on Zoom
M. Shultz, Administrative Assistant participated on Zoom.*

Absent: *Orlando Pacheco, Town Administrator.*

7:00PM: CALL TO ORDER

Moment of Silence was done by the Board members.

Pledge of Allegiance

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

A. Smith thanked Fire Chief Mckay for inviting a board on a training exercise at Tin Lizzy's former restaurant.

D. LaMonica thanked the Property owner for letting the Town use their property which is invaluable for trainings, great resource for the Town.

A. Smith informed the Community of a forum to be held on Wednesday, November 1st from 6-8PM at the Town Library on the Whittier School Building Project.

VOTES OF THE BOARD:

Superintendent Margaret Ferrick & Mike Anderson, Director of Operations for the schools were present and spoke about a request on an approval of \$40K expenditure for a student information system .

The Board discussed the following :

Questioned data of the current system that is not correct was it a system error of a data entry error.

Questioned if the School has already exhausted all the funding sources from the state and federal money.

What is the intial cost , \$17,K is what the school has currently to use for the balance of this system .

The Board will ask O. Pacheco, Town Administrator what is the Balance of the RPA funding currently.

New system was discussed.

Former system was from 2014 which was called Rediker.

The current School system that is being used does not communicate with our other platforms & programs.

Current system creates alot of work and is not productive.

Former School Superintendant Carol Jacobs had written a letter on what the future goals were and one was on future technology for the School Dept.

This was not budgeted currently and was not known it was a need prior to the new Superintendant.

Moving in the direction of Chrome Books .

School moving forward with google for next year.

Impact on not having accurate data was shared with the Board

Information is wrong in many areas.

ARPA balance was asked.

The School is asking for help with the inital cost , takes 6-8 months to upgrade the system to the new one.

VOTE OF THE BOARD:

D. Dawes motioned the Board to allow this ARPA expenditure of \$40K for a student information system , seconded by D. LaMoninica . Roll call vote was taken all in favor.

NEW BUSINESS:

D. Dawes spoke on the Veterans Day Services in the Town which will be on Saturday, November 11, 2023 at 11:00 AM at the Harry Murch Veterans Park and daylight savings times was spoken of.

Joint meeting with the Planning Board (MBTA Communities Legislation) will be held on November 13, 2023.

Meeting dates for the Board of Selectman for November & December 2023 were discussed.

ON-GOING BUSINESS:

HR Services. -The Board had resumes from candidates interested in the positon of the HR Director for the Town of Georgetown. One day in person and another day by phone if needed. Resumes have been shared with the Board.

Each Board member spoke abut the candidate they have spoken to .

We are hiring for a part time -interim position -until we hire a full time person if the Schools decided not to share this position then the Town will need a full time person .

WARRANTS & MEETING MINUTES:

D. Dawes motioned the Board to approve meeting minutes from September 25, 2023 as presented , seconded by R. Hoover. Roll call vote was taken the Board voted 4-1 in favor, D. LaMoninca abstained from vote.

D. Dawes motioned the Board to approve the meeting minutes from October 20, 2023, as presented seconded by D. LaMoninca . Roll call vote was taken all in favor.

VOTES BY THE BOARD:

D. Dawes motioned the Board to approve a surplus computer equipment (Old) that is aged out and has been replaced from the Public Library, 2 Maple Street, Georgetown, Mass, seconded by R. Hoover. Roll call vote was taken all in favor.

ITEMS NOT REASONABLY ANTICIPATED BY THE CHAIR 48 HOURS IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING.

A. Smith informed the Board of a recent Open Meeting Violation that filed against the Chair (A. Smith) and the Board of Selectman from a joint meeting of the Board of Selectman that was held with the Conservation Commission on October 23, 2023.

The process requires that the complaint is shared with the Board .

The Complaint was filed by Kevin Wood, 8 Pine Plain Road, Georgetown, Mass.

BOARD DISCUSSION :

The description of the violation was discussed .

Defective agenda , agenda items that were discussed not on the agenda such as :

e-mail correspondences, trespassing threatening emails ,budget concerns , new Conservation Agent , hours, trust , payroll fraud, hiring a moderator for a future meeting with the Conservation Commission.

A. Smith read the resolutions that were suggested by Kevin Wood.

A. Smith read her brief response to the Board.

The Board was asked what action should be taken for this violation

The Chair sets the meeting agenda -not hard to do -agendas usually writes itselfs - straightforward.

BOARD REVIEW :

The Board was asked what action should be taken for this violation .

D. Dawes stated the agenda could of been more specific. .

R. Hoover spoke on a possible phrase that would cover you in a agenda when you dont know what poeple would be talking about at any time.

D. Lamonica stated you can in his opinion and looking back at any Board and Committee 's past meetings and agendas there are definnate deviations , can 't be helped ,understands their concerns, makes sense to him what is the end states looks like we appoint to their commisision we can hold them accountable –we should be telling them how to operate and vise versa , what actins are not being done , suggested have a meeting from Chair to Chair instead of having both Boards meet, cannot prove intent, complicated issue , doesnt believe from his seat nothing intential or calculated - it was mentioend in the meeting about the courage for both groups to enter this type of a meeting -new territory-some bumps in the road not a clear template to follow- agenda could be added to a little bit -his opinion feels strongly -Mr Wood was saying rogue board public body and to not re-appoint-this attitude either or is distoring how poeple deal with each other black and white response disagrees more-disbanding will add gasoline to the fire and will make things worse, end result is solving a issue where their is no trust, blanket statements, goals to start to develop trust , mutually agree to move forward , not ok to say that Town Hall should be burned down.

R. Hoover mentioned that he believes that trust should be something we strive for and should be at the top of the list how we operate as a community.

D. Lamonica mentioned that he believes trust needs to be earned.

R. Bancroft explained the Conservation Commission is held by its By Laws –they do not operate or abide by thier own regualtions not the same as others .There has to be a uderstading for the Conservation Commisission to be free to operate under its by law and cannot be told what to do by another body.

Mr. Wood questionesd how we got to this point of the joint meeting, also referred to

how a joint meeting ended up taking place on October 23, 2023-A. Smith referred to a meeting on August 28th meeting where a vote was taken.

R. Bancroft brought up an agenda item that is on each agenda as (Items not reasonably anticipated by the Chair 48 Hours in advance of the meeting).

Board members discussed agenda topics.

A. Smith will write a response to the violation of the open meeting law that was spoken of.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

A. Smith gave the Town Administrator report to the Board. O. Pacheco, Town Administrator not present at meeting.

- *Potential CPC Projects-American Legion Parks & Penn Brook School Field Lighting (Georgetown Baseball), Upgrade the system, design a rebuild of the West Street Fields, Design lighting at East Main St. Fields, VFW Greenway Updates, Fitness Court at Perley School, ADA Complaint playground at Perley School.*
- *Middle High School Building Electrification Study-. The Town has worked with B2Q Associates has completed a Building Electrification Study for the Middle-High School. The Study was paid for in conjunction with grant funds from National Grid. The opinion of Probable Cost does not include utility incentives or any additional funds.*
- *COA Director Search-The Town is moving forward with a new COA Director, Kristin Crockett of Wenham, Mass and she will start her new position on November 20, 2023.*
- *Police Chief Transition, O. Pacheco, Town Administrator is currently working with Chief Cudmore and Chief Sedgewick on a transition plan. His anticipated start date, assuming we can complete contract negotiations in the near future, would be December 1, 2023. This will leave some transition time with Chief Cudmore who will vacate the position formally on December 8, 2023. I have worked up a draft contract for KP Law to review that will be given to the Board to negotiate the terms.*
- *Electric Vehicle Charging Station @ Perley School- O. Pacheco, Town Administrator was able to work with the School Dept and Light Department to re-design the location for an electric vehicle charging station at the Perley School. We secured a grant of up to \$50,000 toward the installation from MADEP. We hope to complete the installation by the end of the calendar year*

Next meeting will be held on November 13, 2023. Joint Meeting with the

Planning Department. .

ADJOURNMENT:

D. LaMonica motioned the Board to adjourn at 8:32P.M. with R. Hoover 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:

Town Administrator's Report

Surplus Property Request Form.

Applications for candidate for HR Director.

Meeting Minutes from September 25, 2023.

Meeting Minutes from October 20, 2023.

ADJOURNMENT:

D. LaMonica motioned the Board to adjourn the meeting at 8:32PM, seconded by R. Hoover. Roll call vote was taken all in favor.