

Memorial Town Hall, 1 Library Street, Georgetown, MA 01833
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BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES
Memorial Town Hall
11/26/18
7:00PM-General Meeting~3rd floor meeting room, Town Hall

Selectmen Present: Joseph Bonavita, Chairman; Douglas W. Dawes, Clerk; Gary C. Fowler, Steven Sadler, and Charles Durney

Others Present: Michael Farrell, Town Administrator; Janet Pantano, Administrative Assistant

Absent:

7:00PM Call to order

Invocation-Douglas W. Dawes
Pledge of Allegiance

APPOINTMENTS and APPROVALS

Approval of the Police Chief contract

Mr. Bonavita invited Chief Cudmore to come forward. He explained that the board will vote tonight to renew his contract expiring June 30, 2019.

Police Chief Cudmore explained he gave a packet to the board with his resume and history and he stated he has received a lot of support from this board. He stated he lives in town and feels it is important that he does. He asked that they renew his contract for 3 years and that he will work to support the town and the board as he has done.

Mr. Bonavita explained the process that the board went through and gave the salary and that the number is the medium of the area. He stated that the contract does not have the vacation/sick time buy back and they asked for 1 year notice of the Chief's retirement, and that he does not have to print his schedule. He asked for comments.

Mr. Sadler thanked the Chief for his time and feels he is a leader for the town and helps where he can with town, school, or wherever. He stated that he would like to see a higher amount but with budget cannot do so. Chief Cudmore stated that he is honored and he keeps his contract light.

Mr. Durney echoed Mr. Sadler and he stated contract is simple, no games and just wants to be paid fairly.

Mr. Dawes agreed and that he has one of the harder jobs in the community and deals with some sensitive issues and handles them with grace. He stated he agrees with the numbers but would have approached it in a different manner. He stated that he looks forward to the next 3 years.

Mr. Fowler stated that he is proud of him and commendable that he is still here after all these years and that he has had a great role to get the department to where it is. He stated that the vote will not be a unanimous vote it is a budgetary issue for him.

Mr. Bonavita stated that he is a true leader and his vision to protect the town is exemplary. He stated that he makes sure the town comes first.

Chief Cudmore stated that the support of his staff and this board is great.

Mr. Dawes moved to approve the Police Chief contract for 3 years from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2022. Mr. Sadler seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a 4-0 vote. Mr. Fowler abstained.

CORRESPONDENCE

Letter from Mayor of Tallahassee, FL thanking the Light Department

Mr. Bonavita read the letter from the Mayor of Tallahassee Andrew Gillum thanking the Georgetown Light Department for their assistance after Hurricane Michael. He congratulated Mr. Schofield and his staff for their efforts.

NEW BUSINESS

Recreational Fields Study Committee-Contract approval

Mr. Farrell stated that there was a mix-up on who was to sign the contract. He stated that it is this board who is to sign. He stated that we have an executed contract that has been written by our legal counsel.

Mr. Bonavita asked Mr. Farrell to go over the highlights of the contract.

Mr. Farrell stated that the contract is for \$25K and was approved at the Annual Town Meeting and he read highlights. He stated that they will visit sites in town West St., Middle/High School upper fields, National Ave. 27 acres, and the Greenway parcels west of Martel Way.

Mr. Sadler asked when the board voted to sell National Ave. Mr. Farrell stated that it would be this board to make that decision.

Mr. Fowler asked if there was a timeline in the contract. Mr. Farrell stated that there is not an end date. He stated that this board must decide to go forward on these parcels.

Mr. Sadler stated that this company has been brought up before as not coming up with good numbers.

Mr. Farrell stated that this company has already done some engineering on some of these parcels in town one being the upper High School fields.

Mr. Fowler stated that the scope of work is a plan or estimates. He asked if the scope would include estimates. Mr. Farrell stated that cost estimates are included.

Mr. Dawes stated that this committee should contact the Town Planner and Dan Coughlin who has identified some bodies of land in town over 5 acres.

Mr. Fowler stated that we have appointed this board and they have worked with Gale before.

Mr. Bonavita stated the board can vote at the next meeting and have a member of the committee present and someone from Gale.

Mr. Fowler stated putting something on the National Ave could draw more businesses.

Mr. Sadler stated that whoever buys National Ave. could donate a portion of the land that they are not using.

OLD BUSINESS

Park & Recreation continued discussion on a Director

Mr. Bonavita stated that this item is still here to discuss.

Mr. Dawes stated that he has not seen Park & Rec members and they should be involved in process.

Mr. Bonavita stated that he has had discussions with Carol Jacobs and a new director could also be involved in the new teen recreation center at the Perley School. He stated that they would also contribute to the salary. He stated he has invited her to the next meeting to discuss.

Mr. Fowler stated to also invite the Park & Rec.

SQF, LLC installation of small cell technology equipment

Mr. Farrell stated had on agenda in case they answered the board's questions.

Mr. Bonavita asked for the Planning Board to be involved.

Mr. Sadler stated that he talked to Mr. Hoover and they would like to be involved.

Mr. Dawes stated that they have to discuss with the Light Department, they have to find out if this falls under FCC, and if the application they submitted is a legal application, and if a decision is required in 150 days.

Mr. Farrell stated that the BoS are sole proprietors of the right of way.

Mr. Fowler stated that we need to send this to the Planning Board and if there is a bylaw the town should adopt to protect the town. He stated that the light department had some safety concerns. He stated also that the FCC rules are for 5G and they are proposing this pole for 4G. He stated that he is not opposed to go to legal with this project.

Mr. Bonavita stated that it was only a minimal amount that the town will receive. He asked if there is a way for the town to be the leaser and they pay us.

Mr. Farrell stated that he and Mr. Schofield had this discussion and it would be in their realm and would not be out of order. He stated that the applicant wants to get away from the cell tower concept.

Mr. Sadler stated that why are we going along with the FCC and if there is a State law go with that. He stated that he agrees send to the Planning Board as this falls under the Masterplan.

Mr. Fowler moved to send a letter on this project to the Planning Board to see how this will affect the downtown. Mr. Sadler seconded the motion.

Mr. Dawes stated that they need to do our due diligence and the board should get input from other boards.

Mr. Farrell stated that our attorney recommends a bylaw on esthetics.

Mr. Dawes stated that at the end the BoS has the licensing authority.

Mr. Bonavita stated that have to discuss at highest level and have open communication with boards.

The vote was approved by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Fowler stated that we need to know if this was an official submittal and if we have 150 days.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Financial Policy discussion

Mr. Farrell stated that he would like to have some kind of discussion with the objective to approve these policies before the annual town meeting. He stated that we will have to go out to bond this summer and with a good set of financial policies they would look more favorable. He stated that these were developed by UMass Collins Center for Topsfield. He stated Topsfield recently went out to bond and had their rating improved because of these policies.

Mr. Sadler stated that the board asked for the FinCom to review. Mr. Farrell stated that they will discuss this week as they had a recent meeting that had no quorum.

Mr. Sadler asked if this board wants to review or have the FinCom.

Mr. Dawes stated that there are numbers in the document that he wants to know if they are Georgetown's or Topsfield's.

Mr. Farrell stated he transferred the percentages into dollars and they are the best practices from the DoR. He explained the percentages and numbers in the document.

Mr. Fowler stated that this is worth having. Mr. Dawes stated that he agrees that the document just needs some adjustments for Georgetown.

Mr. Farrell explained the Free Cash numbers over the years.

Discussion

Mr. Durney stated that we should have the FinCom dive in and then have them send back their recommendations.

Mr. Bonavita stated that we have to make the FinCom accountable so we can move forward. Mr. Farrell stated that the FinCom wants to move forward. Mr. Bonavita asked if we want to meet together with FinCom. Mr. Fowler stated that he went to a FinCom meeting and the policy falls on the BoS.

Mr. Bonavita asked Mr. Farrell what he sees.

Mr. Farrell stated that he gets the budget to FinCom in 2 months so they have time now to look at this.

Mr. Bonavita asked if they should give them a date to have this back to the board. Mr. Farrell stated to have back by the middle of January. The board agreed and Mr. Farrell stated that the board's second meeting in January would be a good timeline.

Holiday hours and 2019 meeting calendar discussion

Mr. Farrell stated that staff is wondering what is the pleasure of the board with the Christmas and New Year holiday on a Tuesday.

Mr. Bonavita asked the board how they feel. Mr. Fowler stated a half day on the 24th. Mr. Dawes stated that a half day on the 24th. Mr. Durney stated his office closes at 3PM. Mr. Sadler stated at discretion of departments. Mr. Bonavita stated that he sees a half day on 31st and he sees the 24th as a full day off and a sacred holiday for him. Mr. Fowler stated that year end the 31st a whole day. Mr. Bonavita stated to the departments the 31st is a full day and to close early at the discretion of the department. He stated he would poll the board

Mr. Fowler close on the 24th and the 31st a full day.

Mr. Durney stated a half day for each.

Mr. Sadler stated a half day for each.

Mr. Bonavita close on the 24th and the 31st a full day.

Mr. Dawes close on the 24th and the 31st a full day.

Mr. Bonavita stated that the majority is close on December 24th and the 31st a full day.

Mr. Bonavita asked the board to look at the 2019 meeting calendar. Members were okay with the dates.

Approval of Declaration of Surplus Property-Library

Mr. Dawes moved to approve the Declaration of Surplus Property for the Library. Mr. Durney seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Approval of Executive Session Minutes of November 5, 2018

Mr. Dawes moved to approve the Executive Session Minutes of November 5, 2018. Mr. Fowler seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Fowler asked if the minutes can now be released. Mr. Farrell stated that yes they could be as the item was settled.

WARRANT and MINUTES

Minutes of September 17, 2018 and November 5, 2018

Mr. Fowler moved to approve the Minutes of September 17, 2018. Mr. Dawes seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a 4-0 vote. Mr. Durney abstained

Mr. Dawes moved to approve the Minutes of November 5, 2018. Mr. Durney seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Snow and Ice Operations & Winter Parking Ban from the Highway Department

Mr. Durkee stated that the Winter Parking Ban starts December 1st. He asked that residents remove basketball nets or any other property from the right of way.

Mr. Bonavita read the Winter Parking Ban that starts December 1, 2018 to April 1, 2019.

Mr. Dawes asked about the Heather Way plowing issue and if he had any calls. Mr. Durkee stated that he has talked to a couple residents. He stated that the residents have to deal with the posts and if not removed then they will have to plow themselves.

Mr. Bonavita asked if he had his staff in the last storm. Mr. Durkee stated they came in at 8PM to end of shift the next day and he had to call in some contractors.

Mr. Sadler asked about the Moulton Ave clean-up and that a resident indicated that test results of the contaminants are still high. He stated that they are looking for a new solution. He stated a plume is making its way to the pond. He asked when the town gets involved. Mr. Farrell stated he would talk with the Health Department tomorrow as they are the monitoring agent for the town. He stated that it would be a federal clean-up order.

Board Business

Mr. Sadler stated that he has heard Mr. Bonavita is working with Jeff on a Tree Lighting and wanted to be sure if on town property we are covered for a liability. Mr. Bonavita stated that he talked to Mr. Farrell and we are all set.

Mr. Bonavita stated that he is working on a holiday tree lighting with Jeff and Maria's. He stated that it would be on Sunday, December 2nd from 5PM-8PM at Harry Murch Park, and also a Star of David to honor the holiday of Hanukah and a Pastor and Rabbi will be present. He stated there will be some vendors out with pizza and hot chocolate, some baked goods. He stated that he is asking the business to stay open for some holiday shopping. He stated will be a great event. He stated that Library Street would be shut down for the vendors.

Mr. Sadler stated where not a town event is there anything we have to do with Police Detail, etc.

Mr. Farrell stated he did not think there was anything they had to do.

Mr. Dawes thanked him and Jeff and stated that there use to be a ceremony in front of town hall when there was a tree out front and nice to see this return. Mr. Dawes asked if the Light Department is helping with the lights. Mr. Bonavita stated Mr. Schofield is and is very excited about the event. Mr. Bonavita stated that it is all coming together even though there was short

notice. Mr. Bonavita stated cars can park at Park & Ride. He stated Dana at the Building Supply offered his lot and we have the High School. Mr. Dawes stated that he just asks for folks to be respectful of the Veterans monuments.

NEXT MEETING

Monday, December 3, 2018 at 7:00PM-3rd floor meeting room

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Dawes moved to adjourn. Mr. Sadler seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00PM.

Minutes transcribed by J. Pantano.

Minutes approved December 17, 2018.

Documents used in this meeting:

- Executive Session Minutes of November 5, 2018
- Minutes of September 17, 2018 and November 5, 2018
- Letter from Mayor of Tallahassee, FL thanking the Light Department
- Snow and Ice Operations & Winter Parking Ban from the Highway Department
- Recreational Fields Study Committee-Contract
- Park & Recreation continued discussion on a Director
- SQF, LLC installation of small cell technology equipment.
- Financial Policy discussion
- Holiday hours and 2019 meeting calendar discussion
- Police Chief Contract
- Declaration of Surplus Property-Library