

Memorial Town Hall, 1 Library Street, Georgetown, MA 01833
Ph. (978) 352-5755 □ Fax (978) 352-5727
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES
Memorial Town Hall
11/4/19
7:00PM-General Meeting~3rd floor meeting room, Town Hall

Selectmen Present: Joseph Bonavita, Chairman; Charles Durney, Clerk; Gary C. Fowler, Douglas W. Dawes, and David J. Twiss

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

Absent:

7:00PM Call to order

Invocation-Douglas W. Dawes
Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Bonavita stated that the town had a Special Town Meeting last week and thanked those who came out and attended and voted.

PUBLIC HEARING

Tax Classification Public Hearing-Assessors to be present

Thom Berube, Assistant Assessor to be present

Mr. Bonavita read the Public Hearing notice. The meeting was opened with a roll call vote.

Mr. Berube stated that this public hearing is required to have every year. He stated that there are 4 decisions for the board to make tonight and he read them off. He stated that the Selectmen vote on each class. Mr. Berube explained each class.

Mr. Bonavita asked how do we get to 15% as we are at 9.5% and able to shift some burden. Mr. Berube stated that you would have to add \$60M to Commercial class before shifting some residential to commercial. He stated even at 15% you are still overwhelming the commercial. He stated that you really need to be at 20-30% to make a difference. He stated that we are a bedroom community.

Mr. Fowler asked how are we growing is residential and commercial growing at the same rate. Mr. Berube stated that this is a year values are looked at and industrial buildings have increased in value.

Mr. Twiss stated can we offset the tax burden with some industrial. He asked when will new industry get added. Mr. Berube explained the process. Mr. Twiss stated that new growth industrial adds to the tax revenue. Mr. Berube stated that \$15.92 will be the new tax rate.

1. Classification

Vote: Vote Yes to follow recommendation of the Assessors

Mr. Fowler moved to recommend a Tax Classification Factor of 1 (one). Mr. Dawes seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

2. Open Space Discount

Mr. Berube stated that the town does not have any in town and does not need to vote.

3. Residential Exemption

Mr. Berube stated this is for communities with a lot of vacation homes such as the Cape.

Vote: Vote NO to follow recommendation of the Assessors

Mr. Fowler moved to establish a Residential Exemption. Mr. Durney seconded the motion and the motion was not approved by a unanimous vote.

4. Small Commercial Exemption

Mr. Berube stated same here exempt shifting from small to large commercial. He stated that we do not have enough businesses to do this.

Vote: Vote NO to follow recommendation of the Assessors

Mr. Fowler moved to accept the Small Commercial Exemption. Mr. Dawes seconded the motion and the motion was not approved by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Fowler moved to close the public hearing. Mr. Durney seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

The board signed the Assessors form.

APPOINTMENTS and APPROVALS

Housing Authority joint meeting to appoint Juliette Rec as a member until the next election

Housing Authority Members present: Diane Drinan, Director; Frank Harper, Robin O'Malley. Juliette Rec was present

Ms. Drinan explained the issue with DHS on elected position a year ago and that Ms. Rec was not on ballot but she had kept her on as a member and this has to be corrected and the appointment tonight would be until the next town election. She stated that she did not have a quorum tonight so the Housing Authority will vote at their next meeting.

Mr. Durney moved to approve the appointment of Juliette Rec as a member of the Georgetown Housing Authority until the next town election May 11, 2020. Mr. Dawes seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Request for the Appointment of Jeannine Dion to the Town Scholarship Committee term to expire June 30, 2019

Mr. Durney moved to approve the appointment of Jeannine Dion to the Town Scholarship Committee term to expire June 30, 2020. Mr. Dawes seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Request from Spiros Energy for a Class II Used Car License

Mr. Twiss moved to approve the Class II Used Car License for Spiros Energy to expire December 31, 2019. Mr. Fowler seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

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

Park & Rec-East Main Street Bid

Mr. DiMento stated that the Park and Rec wants to move forward with the bid. Mr. Farrell asked who is the project manager. Mr. DiMento stated Planning Board has someone. Mr. Cashell stated that Mr. Varga who does inspections for the Planning Board will be the Project Manager. Mr. DiMento stated that no one has been notified that the bid was awarded. Mr. Farrell stated that the low bidder should be notified that and he stated that he is not sure why Gale is not taking care of this as they handled the bid. Mr. Fowler stated that he would like to see Mr. Farrell oversee the project. Mr. Dawes asked the bid amount. Mr. DiMento read the amount. Mr. Fowler stated that enough funds for the project but not enough funds for the OPM and they will have to come to the town for this. Mr. Dawes asked the amount for the OPM. Mr. Fowler stated \$12K and may be less from Mr. Varga. Mr. Dawes asked when would they start. Mr. DiMento stated soon as they can work until December 15th. Mr. Durney asked how long did it say it would take to do the work. Mr. DiMento stated that he did not know how long. Mr. Dawes asked if this will be the end. Mr. DiMento stated that yes this is for the completion.

Mello Disposal Update on Carleton Drive location-Jason Mello to be present
Nancy McCann, Attorney and Jason Mello, Owner were present

Mr. Bonavita stated that Mr. Mello is looking for a recommendation for his project from the Selectmen.

Mr. Mello read a letter of his family's history in Georgetown and his business in town and how they came to be. He gave a printout of this history. He gave information on the new transfer station.

Ms. McCann explained the process and that the DEP is requiring them to enclose the current location at East Main Street. She stated that they have located an alternate location on Carleton Drive. She stated that they met with the departments last week and wants the board to know the benefits of this business staying in town. She stated with a new site they can build to suit and design to meet all requirements and make the public experience better. She explained what a transfer station is just a sort and distribution business. She stated that residents can bring trash, construction trash, recyclables, but no hazardous materials. She stated all trash is processed and out within 72 hours.

Scott Cameron, Engineer showed the plans and what the site will look like. Mr. Bonavita asked the height. He stated that the building would be about the height of a single-family home.

Mr. Dawes stated that at times the traffic has been backed up down East Main St trying to get into the transfer station. Mr. Mello explained the new location and the second lane for commercial and that residents will have a separate drop off area and that they will have 2 scales. Mr. Dawes thanked his family for service to the town.

Mr. Durney asked if sorting is done in the building. Mr. Mello stated that they pull into the building and explained the sorting area. Mr. Durney asked about odor and sound. Mr. Mello stated that will be less at new location. Ms. McCann stated that the doors face RT 95 so sound goes that way. Mr. Durney asked timeline. Mr. Mello stated 6 months from approval.

Mr. Fowler stated they have to be in compliance with State and disappointment losing them as a tenant. He stated no one talks about trash but we all generate trash. He stated will always call the transfer station the dump. He stated that he does not have pick up and asked what will be the change for residents. Mr. Mello stated will try to keep rates as low as possible.

Mr. Bonavita stated that this was driven by Mass DEP and will be a better transfer station. He stated traffic will be better. He asked if there are plans for the current land. Mr. Farrell stated that the Highway Department would like to expand. He stated current site is 2 acres and not sure if Highway would use all the land. He stated that they are looking to put a solar field on the landfill and that would be a revenue producing project. He also thanked Mr. Mello for all his family has done for the town. He stated for process they still have to go before Planning, ConCom, and he asked if DEP is in favor of site. Mr. Mello stated DEP will not approve until the town does first.

Ms. McCann stated that they already filed with the Planning Board and will file with the ConCom in the next few weeks.

Mr. Bonavita asked Mr. Cashell where is the Planning Board in the process. Mr. Cashell stated that the project is coming in next week for a public hearing and will be sending out for review to Larry Graham. He stated that he had a meeting with the departments last week and departments have sent comments to him.

Ms. McCann stated that there will be replication and filling of wetlands and the changes are a benefit for the public and residents.

Mr. Dawes stated that they are asking for a letter of support and does not want any board to feel like the board is stepping on anybody's toes. He stated should be a letter to be read at the public hearing. Ms. McCann stated should state that for the benefit of the town and residents.

Mr. Bonavita stated that would be a letter that the board supports the project and all that the Mello's have provided to the town and hopes the boards take that into consideration. Mr. Fowler stated that he would like to see a draft letter. Mr. Bonavita stated that we need a motion for a letter of support. Mr. Dawes stated as a board a signed letter of support, the increase of tax revenue, additional land for Highway Department.

Ms. McCann stated that the board looks at the project in a different way as Planning and Conservation. Mr. Bonavita stated that the board is trying to have good communication with the boards. Mr. Fowler stated that the Mello's have been good neighbors.

Mr. Bonavita stated that he would work with Mr. Farrell on a letter and asked for a motion for him to sign a letter of support.

Mr. Durney moved for Mr. Bonavita to draft a letter of support for the Mello Transfer Station project on Carleton Drive. Mr. Fowler seconded and the motion was approved by a 4-0-1 vote. Mr. Twiss abstained

OLD BUSINESS

Green Communities Energy Reduction Plan-John Cashell to be present

Mr. Cashell gave an overview of the Green Communities project and the \$140K grant funds that the town would be available to obtain and in subsequent years a \$250K grants. He explained the process and that an energy audit was done over the summer of town buildings and schools. He stated waiting now for the Georgetown Energy Reduction Plan and explained issue with data and will have to put in an additional year of data. He stated that the goal is 20% savings and is almost \$1M dollars. He explained how the grant funds could be used. He stated the ESCO did a lot of energy updates of lighting but LED's came in after the audit. He thanked his admin Andrea Thibault for all her work on the project and MVPC. He stated that the board has an Energy Reduction Plan from Merrimac to look at and the Georgetown plan will be the same with just Georgetown data.

Mr. Dawes stated that this is for town buildings and is there anything for residents beside MassSave. Mr. Fowler stated that there may have been something in the electric bill about being eligible for some project.

Mr. Cashell stated because we have one commercial business that pays to an outside electric and not to Georgetown Electric that allows the town to be eligible for the grant. He stated that we will have to have a CIP program for the energy projects.

Mr. Twiss stated that Mr. Durkee could use a pre fab metal building and use these funds. He stated that to build a brick and mortar is more expensive.

Mr. Dawes stated with more communities signing on does that dilute the funds. Mr. Cashell stated no they are adding additional funds.

Mr. Cashell stated at their next meeting November 18th he will come back with a final Energy Reduction Plan. He stated that the plan must be submitted by November 23rd.

WARRANT and MINUTES

Minutes of October 7, 21 and 28, 2019

Mr. Twiss moved to approve the minutes of October 7, 2019. Mr. Durney seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote. Mr. Fowler abstained.

Mr. Twiss moved to approve the minutes of October 21, 2019. Mr. Durney seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote. Mr. Fowler and Mr. Bonavita abstained

Mr. Twiss moved to approve the minutes of October 28, 2019. Mr. Durney seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

CORRESPONDENCE

Resignation of Dianne Collins from the Town Scholarship Committee

Mr. Bonavita thanked Ms. Collins for her time on the committee.

Veterans' Day Observance Information-November 11

Mr. Dawes read the letter on the Veterans' Day Observances and if rain then held at the Fire Department. He read the proclamation and the board signed the proclamation.

Holiday Celebration

Mr. Bonavita stated that flyer for event went out in the light bills. He stated the event will be held on December 1st from 5-8PM at Harry Murch Park.

SELECTMEN'S REPORT

Proposal to not increase taxes in 2020

Pass over for now.

Mr. Twiss stated he asked for this on the agenda. He stated that there are a lot of items to take into effect to lower taxes. He stated that the State may have some funds coming back to the town and if this happens there could be a discussion.

Mr. Bonavita asked if Monday, November 25 would work for members for a workshop on the Fire Department MRI study discussion. He asked members to let him know and that they could also meet earlier if needed.

Surplus Property

Mr. Bonavita stated that the Fire Department had a request to surplus 2 old boats.

Mr. Twiss moved to declare the two boats for the Fire Department as surplus as requested. Mr. Durney seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

NEXT MEETING

Monday, November 18, 2019 at 7PM, 3rd floor meeting room, Town Hall

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Durney moved to adjourn. Mr. Twiss seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45PM.

Minutes transcribed by J. Pantano.

Minutes approved November 18, 2019.

Documents used in this meeting:

- Tax Classification Public Hearing-Assessors to be present
- Minutes of October 7, 21 and 28, 2019
- Veterans' Day Observance Information-November 11
- Resignation of Dianne Collins from the Town Scholarship Committee
- Green Communities Energy Reduction Plan-John Cashell to be present
- Mello Disposal Update on Carleton Drive location-Jason Mello to be present
- Housing Authority joint meeting to appoint Juliette Rec as a member until the next election
- Request from Spiros Energy for a Class II Used Car License
- Request for the Appointment of Jeannine Dion to the Town Scholarship Committee term to expire June 30, 2019