

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

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

Memorial Town Hall

10/15/18

7:00PM-General Meeting~3rd floor meeting room, Town Hall

**A part of this meeting will be a joint meeting
with the Traffic Committee**

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

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

Absent: Gary C. Fowler

7:00PM Call to order

Invocation-Douglas W. Dawes

Pledge of Allegiance

PUBLIC HEARING

Tax Classification Hearing

Mr. Bonavita read the public hearing notice and opened the public hearing.

Thom Berube, Assistant Assessor to be present

Mr. Berube stated this is the annual tax hearing required to set our tax rate. He explained the documents that he provided the board. He explained each classification and the board voted.

1. Classification

Mr. Dawes moved to recommend a residential factor of one.

Mr. Durney seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

2. Open Space Discount

Mr. Berube stated that the board did not have to vote to set an Open Space Assessment.

No motion

2. Residential Exemption

Mr. Dawes 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. Dawes moved to adopt the Small Commercial Exemption. Mr. Durney seconded the motion.

Mr. Sadler asked what the benchmark is to accept this type of exemption. Mr. Berube explained that it is the property owner who benefits not the business owner.

The motion was not approved by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Bonavita asked the audience for questions.

Mr. Peter Wayco 91 Lakeshore Drive asked how you set the tax rate. Mr. Berube explained the process

Mr. Dawes moved to close the Tax Classification Public Hearing. Mr. Sadler seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

New Business

Request to discuss Speed Limit on Lakeshore Drive-David Twiss, Ryan Martin, and Mark Scenna to be present/Traffic Committee also to be present

David Twiss, 19 Lakeshore Drive, Ryan Martin, 22 Lakeshore Drive, Mark Scenna, 36 Lakeshore Drive, James Stafford, 13 Lakeshore drive present
Police Chief Donald Cudmore present.

Sgt. Rodden, Peter Durkee, Highway Surveyor Traffic Committee members present.

Mr. Twiss read a prepared statement on the Lakeshore Drive area and stated that there are 10 Penn Brook School bus stops, no sidewalks, no places to stand waiting for the bus, hills in the area, old and outdated signs, lack of traffic measures, He gave out a map of the area showing suggested improvements. He read a letter from Dennis McNulty who was unable to attend, on the streets. He explained the map and the different locations on the map.

Mark Scenna, 33 Lakeshore Drive, read a prepared letter. He stated that 30MPH is too fast for a side street with old signage.

James Stafford, 13 Lakeshore Drive in town for 3 years and does not feel that 30 mph is appropriate.

Ryan Martin stated that they have 66 signatures on a petition to change the speed limit. He stated clearly there is a problem and an issue. He stated that 25MPH is what they are asking for and is recommended by the Police Chief.

Kevin Fair, 16 Bailey Lane stated he works out of his house and has a special needs child and he watches his child carefully and should have a sign special needs child in the area. He asked for a sign.

Kristine Nicholas, 104 Lakeshore Drive stated that she lived here when the culvert was closed and it was great, cars drove 25mph and she feels the speed should be slower than that. She stated that the street should have a sign "No through Way", emergency vehicles only.

Michael Gentile, 57 Lakeshore Drive stated that there should be two jersey barriers to block the street and that would solve the issue.

Mr. Bonavita asked if this is an all-day issue or rush hour. Residents stated both.

Mr. Twiss stated that cars run the stop sign and it is residents as well.

Lauren MacDonald, 6 Bailey Lane stated that she was involved when culvert was repaired and she does not see the town closing the road. She stated it was closed just to fix the bridge and she stated speeders are local residents also. She stated that it is dangerous to walk the street.

Randy Makhholm-Lavina, 114 Lakeshore Drive explained stated that the road is dangerous for adults and kids and explained issues with her walking along the street and also dangerous with ice and snow.

Pete Wakco, 91 Lakeshore Drive stated he is at the beach and this is between two hills and has almost been taken out a few times. He stated hills are blind.

Mr. Martin stated that MVPC did a traffic study and asked if there was a copy of the study and stated he had two proposals for improvements. He stated that they are not experts and are asking for support and advice from the board and those who know better.

Proposal A: Mr. Martin went over the proposal, reduced speed, speed bumps removable for winter, signage, blinking speed sign, reshaping of the road for a harder turn, jersey barriers over Bailey Lane Bridge.

Proposal B: Mr. Martin went over the proposal, reduce speed limit, signage, blinking stop signs, repainting of the stop lines, removable rumble strips.

Mr. Twiss stated that a resident recorded that 1200 vehicles passed his home in two days.

Mr. Bonavita thanked the group for the presentation and asked the Police Chief Cudmore and Sgt. Rodden to come forward.

Chief Cudmore stated he is in favor of slowing the traffic down on these streets. He stated that he and Mr. Durkee have been working to slow down traffic in town with T intersections. He stated he will go over his recommendations for the Lakeshore area and then he would go over the process. He gave a presentation on the area and streets. He stated that there was a MVPC Study done in 2010 and at the time the town could not lower speed limits. He stated he would share the study. He stated that the area is very congested and he does have a motorcycle officer on duty for Halloween. He stated that he has a grant for a mobile light up speed sign but it is on backorder and would be for all areas. He read police statics for the area. He handed out information on how the State sets speed limits. He went over the document. He explained types of roads. He stated that in 2016 the State came out with the Modernization Bill and in the bill the community has authority to make changes in speed limits and he read the way it works and the signage. He stated that there are 30 other areas in town with similar speed limit problems. He read that signage must come from MA DOT catalog. He explained that if adopted it would not change regulated roads. He explained the process to reduce to 20mph and the areas that can be changed, Schools, Day Care, Hospital, etc. He stated that the board can adopt the section of the law to limit speeds on town roads to 25mph, and they have to let the DOT know, and post signage.

Mr. Dawes stated that by adopting would the board make the town a 25mph community.

Mr. Bonavita stated that if the board votes all streets but regulated streets would be 25mph.

Chief Cudmore read a section reducing on any or all streets. He stated all streets would require signage at all roads leading into town and would be at a cost.

Mr. Sadler asked if the Traffic Committee has met and has a recommendation. Chief Cudmore stated that the Traffic Committee has not discussed Lakeshore Drive. He stated that he did present this Modernization Policy to the Traffic Committee and they did not recommend for the town at the time.

Mr. Dawes stated that when he talked to Chief Cudmore they discussed how to prevent cut-through traffic and to have no left turn or no right turn. Chief Cudmore stated that we do have these options and he is not in favor of closing tributary roadways. He stated that Georgetown has a lot of traffic. He stated that we have to have enforcement with signs.

Mr. Dawes stated that he drove the road and he was more comfortable driving at 15-20mph.

Mr. Martin asked if there are any other speed calming ideas that they would recommend. Chief Cudmore stated that a couple temporary speed bumps were put down on Pentucket Ave and if they worked he is not sure. He stated if these were put on Lakeshore would have to determine if they would be effective. He stated NH is putting a rumble strip on roads to slow drivers down.

He stated we need 10 signs to cover the streets. Chief Cudmore stated Mr. Durkee may have Handicap child signs. Mr. Durkee stated he would talk to the resident.

Mr. Bonavita asked for feedback from the Traffic Committee.

Mr. Durkee stated that the bylaws need changes so the town can have signage only residents or no turn.

Sgt. Rodden stated he would recommend lowering the speed limit to 25mph and a T at Hamilton Terrace.

Mr. Bonavita asked if the Traffic Committee is in favor of the 25mph speed limit.

Mr. Durkee stated he would rather see all the town done so buy all signs at once instead of piece meal.

Mr. Bonavita asked the cost of the signs.

Mr. Durkee stated \$175 a sign. Mr. Cudmore explained the streets that would need signs on Lakeshore. Mr. Durkee stated for Lakeshore would be at a minimum of 6 signs. Chief Cudmore stated would have to look at where the signs could go.

Mr. Sadler asked that the Traffic Committee meet and to make a recommendation on what should be done and the cost. Mr. Durney stated a plan with associated costs and to look at the whole town vs just some streets. Mr. Dawes stated that there is a lot of traffic in town and he uses cut thru's.

Chief Cudmore asked residents to not approach drivers if they see issues but to call the Police.

Mr. Twiss stated that they would gladly attend the Traffic Committee meeting and would pay for the first sign.

Mr. Bonavita asked what the process is to go to 20mph.

Chief Cudmore stated have to go to DOT and have an engineering study before the speed can be reduced to 20mph and meet the requirements.

Mr. Farrell asked if anyone has looked at Waze or Google Maps and if being used trying to change.

Chief Cudmore stated once permitted the speed would automatically be changed on Waze or Google Maps. Mr. Farrell stated that residents can petition to the apps to have their road removed.

Ms. McDonald stated 25mph is good for the whole town is good. She stated that they have the culvert and is there a chance to make road closed for emergency vehicles only.

Mr. Bonavita stated that nothing more important than the safety of our children or residents. So with that being said he is in favor of going forward with the vote for tonight.

Discussion on the process.

Mr. Dawes moved for the Board of Selectmen to adopt/opt into G.L. c.90, §17 to designate 25mph in thickly settled streets under the Municipal Modernization Act. Mr. Durney seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Dawes moved that the Board would act to lower the speed limit to 25mph on lower Bailey Lane, Taylor Street, Beverly Drive, Hamilton Terrace, and Lakeshore Drive and then ask the Traffic Committee to look at the rest of town. Mr. Durney seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Veterans' Services update Karen Tyler to be present

Mr. Bonavita invited Ms. Tyler forward.

Ms. Tyler explained what Chapter 115 and the benefits to Veterans. She explained the process and limits and went over the graph.

K of C Tootsie Roll Drive Sat. Oct. 27th - John Takis to be present

Mr. Takis stated that he is here to schedule the Tootsie Roll Drive for October 27th 9-12PM. He stated he would ask to hold the drive in the center of town but may be only hold at the lights in front of Town Hall depending on attendees. He stated that they will wear reflective vests and have cones out.

Mr. Dawes moved to approve the Tootsie Roll Drive for the Georgetown Knights of Columbus on Saturday, October 27, 2019 from 9AM to 12PM. Mr. Sadler seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Update from Water Commissioners on water condition and merger

Nick Lawler, Water Commissioner was present.

Mr. Lawler stated that the TTHM is from using chlorine in the water and he explained the disinfection and that it is a necessary thing to keep us all safe and healthy. He explained the process and why used and how. He stated that this is not a chronic issue. He explained why this happened and that they had to use a different well and this well had a higher number of TTHM. He stated that it takes a year to get approval for a new well to be approved. He stated in summer there are higher levels because of temperature. He stated residents can take measures a filter with a carbon filter. Shower with open windows or run fans. He stated if they buy bottled water buy it from a MA distributor.

Mr. Bonavita stated on next testing do they believe they will be under 80TTHM limits. Mr. Lawler stated that they should be until next summer.

Mr. Bonavita stated that there are some new businesses coming on line that will be using more water and will we have enough. Mr. Farrell stated that they have asked the companies to get in touch with the Water Department. Mr. Lawler stated next summer would be the issue. He stated that if they know the demands than they will meet those demands. He stated that they do not want to turn away business.

Water/Light Department Merger

Mr. Bonavita asked about the merger.

Mr. Lawler stated that both boards met in August and are in favor of the merger. He stated that he does not know if residents are in favor. He stated they did a survey and the report is due back this week. He stated early expectations are the town is in favor. He stated that once approved there will be community meetings, etc. He stated once they know what the boards concerns are the sooner they can answer them.

Mr. Bonavita stated that Mr. Sadler had a spreadsheet with questions on the merger and he will forward the spreadsheet to the water department and board.

Mr. Sadler asked about the water tower and when it will be finished. Mr. Lawler stated that they had an issue with the contractor and should be done soon. He stated that the old towers will come down soon.

APPOINTMENTS and APPROVALS

Request for a Common Victualler License-Nicolini House of Pizza-Mauro Lucio Nicolini to be

present

Mr. Nicolini explained that he wants to open Nicolini House of Pizza at 21 West Main Street the former Pizza Factory location. He stated that he has worked in the restaurant business for a while and worked at the Pizza Factory previously.

Mr. Dawes asked when he plans to open. Mr. Nicolini stated in three weeks he plans to open.

Mr. Durney asked hours. Mr. Nicolini stated he will be open 7 days 10AM to 9:30PM. Mr.

Sadler asked if they will deliver. Mr. Nicolini stated that they will to town and neighboring towns.

Mr. Dawes moved to approve the *Common Victualler License* for Nicolini House of Pizza to expire December 31, 2018. Mr. Sadler seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

OLD BUSINESS

Park & Recreation continued discussion on a Director

Mr. Bonavita stated that this discussion will be moved to the next meeting due to the time.

WARRANT and MINUTES

Approval of General Session Minutes September 17 and 24, 2018

Mr. Dawes moved to approve the General Session Minutes of September 17, 2018 as presented. Mr. Sadler seconded the motion. Mr. Dawes rescinded the vote.

Mr. Dawes moved to approve the General Session Minutes of September 24, 2018 as presented. Mr. Sadler seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Farrell stated that we had a request of information on the Opioid Lawsuit from the attorneys. He stated that he believes he has worked this out. He stated that they want a lot of information by Thursday and he told them the timeline was absurd. He stated that they have given the town until October 29th to generate the information. He stated that he is meeting with the Fire Chief, Police Chief, and Town accountant tomorrow and may ask to drop out.

Mr. Bonavita asked about 45 Central Street and when the home will be demolished. Mr. Farrell stated National Grid shut off the gas at the street today and the contractor will start this week or Monday to demolish the building.

SELECTMEN'S REPORT

Mr. Bonavita stated that he is joining with Georgetown Insurance on a coat drive and bins will be in town until end the end of November.

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

Mr. Dawes moved go into Executive Session under section 7 to comply with the provisions of any general or special law and not to return to open session. Mr. Sadler seconded the motion and a roll call vote was taken.

Mr. Durney-yes

Mr. Sadler-yes

Mr. Dawes-yes

Mr. Bonavita-yes

The motion was approved.

ADJOURNMENT

General Meeting adjourned at 10:00PM

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Approval of Executive Session Minutes of September 17, 2018

Mr. Dawes moved to approve the Executive Session minutes of September 17, 2018 Session 1 and seal those records until they no longer effect the decision. Mr. Sadler seconded the motion and a roll call vote was taken.

Mr. Durney-abstained

Mr. Sadler-yes

Mr. Dawes-yes

Mr. Bonavita-yes

The motion was approved.

Mr. Dawes moved to approve the Executive/General Session minutes of September 17, 2018 Session 2 and seal those records until they no longer effect the decision. Mr. Sadler seconded the motion and a roll call vote was taken.

Mr. Durney-abstained

Mr. Sadler-yes

Mr. Dawes-yes

Mr. Bonavita-yes

The motion was approved.

NEXT MEETING

Monday, October 29, 2018 at 7:00PM, 3rd floor meeting room, Town Hall

Mr. Sadler moved to adjourn. Mr. Dawes seconded the motion and a roll call vote was taken.

Mr. Durney-yes

Mr. Sadler-yes

Mr. Dawes-yes

Mr. Bonavita-yes

The motion was approved.

Meeting adjourned at 10:05PM.

Minutes transcribed by J. Pantano.

Minutes approved on October 29, 2018.

Board of Selectmen Minutes

October 15, 2018

Documents used in this meeting:

- Tax Classification Hearing
- Approval of General Session Minutes September 17 and 24, 2018
- Water Department notice on water standards
- Veterans' Services update Karen Tyler to be present
- Request to discuss Speed Limit on Lakeshore Drive-David Twiss, Ryan Martin, and Mark Scenna to be present/Traffic Committee also to be present
- K of C Tootsie Roll Drive Sat. Oct. 27th - John Takis to be present
- Request for a Common Victualler License-Nicolini House of Pizza-Mauro Lucio Nicolini to be present