

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

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

Memorial Town Hall

9/14/2020

6:00PM-General Meeting

Broadcast on Georgetown Cable TV via BlueJeans

Verizon channel 42/Comcast channel 9

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

Others Present: Michael Farrell, Town Administrator. Administrative Assistant, Maureen Shultz, Police Chief Donald Cudmore, Board of Health Agent, Deb Rogers, Fire Chief Fred Mitchell, Lt. Hatch, Officer Dechene, Mr. Red Kelley, Mary Saunders Member of Georgetown Historical Society.

Absent:

6:00PM Call to order

Invocation-Douglas W. Dawes

Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Twiss read the statement listed here:

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitation on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Town of Georgetown Board of Selectmen will be conducted via remote participation to the greatest extent possible. Specific information and the general guidelines for remote participation by members of the public and/or parties with a right and/or requirement to attend this meeting can be found on the Georgetown website, at www.georgetownma.gov. For this meeting, members of the public who wish to watch the meeting may do so in the following manner: Channel 42 Verizon or Channel 9 Comcast, or on the town website at <http://gctv.georgetownma.gov/>. No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that meeting the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time, via technological means. In the event that we are unable to do so, despite best efforts, we will post on the Georgetown website an audio or video recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of proceedings as soon as possible after the.

NEW BUSINESS: RADIO FIBER PROJECT

Chief Cudmore, Chief Mitchell, Red Kelley, Lt. Hatch, and Officer Dechene spoke on the Radio Fiver Project / Community Compact IT Grant. Discussion Radio Fiber

The Following items were discussed by the above participant's -No vote was taken by the Board.

- *Open discussion on the process of putting fiber in Town Hall and all safety buildings*
- *Fiber is in future -connecting all buildings*
- *Project has been coming for a couple of years- Big project but we have to move forward with it-six figure expense project*
- *Will provide phone & internet cost savings*
- *No more copper for residents in Town*

- Chief Cudmore phone systems always going down at the station, heavy rain interrupts the radio system and phone lines.
- Experience from Officer Dechene, who works in three communities that all have the same problems.
- Grants being researched to apply to- Governor's Office has up to \$200K grant -Bonded project-Town received this supplication on September 9, 2020 and is due on October 15, 2020.
- Chief Cudmore spoke with the schools and they are ready to move forward.
- Chief Cudmore stated the biggest challenge to this project is just doing it.
- Project has to go out to bid.
- T1 project was approved at Town Meeting last year
- Mr. Red Kelley has been reaching out to many companies of behalf of the Town
- Mr. Red Kelly spoke on two methods -Ring Design & Star Design
- Project has to be procured through the Town Administrators office.
- Project would need to be completed by January 30, 2022 per Mr. Farrell

Mr. Kershaw asked what is the percentage of getting this grant -Chief Cudmore not sure it is the first time applying for this type of grant and whatever amount the grant does not cover the Town will have to pay the remaining.

Mr. Farrell spoke on a previous grant that was received a couple of years ago -Fire Chief Mitchell commented that the Town did not receive the entire grant -Communication grant. Mr. Twiss asked what came to the Town in regards to this Grant -Mr. Farrell informed the Board he will pass the letter that was received along a password so the Board can go on and do some research and it can also be sent to the Board to review at the next Board meeting.

Mr. Durney is curious if the approach to upgrade a system is done this way. Mr. Red Kelley answered yes this is the way to secure a new system if the Town is using their own system, pay me now or pay me later, Mr. Durney commented that it makes sense but wants to look at different options to make an informed decision.

Mr. Twiss asked Mr. Kelly about the options and stated communication is key, Mr. Kelly explained the fiber options / power side, Mr. Twiss asked who does the money go to from the grant and who is paying, Mr. Kelly does not know the answer at this time. Mr. Twiss questioned Chief Cudmore who is the "we" he is referring to. Chief Cudmore stated that there was a sub-committee that was formed, library equipment was mentioned as options.

Mr. Fowler asked about Capital Funds and free cash-electric lights, gas generators, asked Mr. Kelly about the life expectancy of the program -higher and or lower end, will the program be outdated and asked about the savings over the years, Mr., Kelly stated a 20-30year expectancies his estimate- switch 8-10 years. Fiber has some headaches such as when a big storm and or a truck hits a pole. Mr. Mr. Kelly physical cable always beats fiber. Mr. Fowler asked if the Town electric company can assist Mr. Kelly stated target ready.

The discussion of the Radio Fiber Project will be added to the next agenda.

NEW BUSINESS: LASER FISCHER/ TOWN CLERK DISCUSSION

Kerri McManus , Town Clerk spoke on the Laser Fische Program that she would like to implement in the Town's Clerk office in order to keep and start an electronic filing system for her records past and present, this programs give public access to records, the Public Library has been using this program for their historical records and has had a great response , Mr. Twiss thanked Ms. McManus for her letting the Board know about this program.

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING DATE:

A discussion took place on setting a date for the special Town meeting. Mr. Twiss suggested November 16th which he said was a good and available date for the Moderator, Mr. Farrell stated that Town Meeting will need to take place prior to the tax bills being mailed out. Town Meeting warrant has to be posted by September 29th, 2020, Tax Bills need to be out before Town Meeting. Mr. Twiss believes turnout for Town Meeting is not going to be an issue and the Town had the largest turnout for the election a few months ago, all hands-on deck for the Town Meeting. Mr. Durney believe this is a good date, Mr. Dawes all set with the date, Mr. Fowler had some questions about the date regarding the date for taxes, but agreed with the proposed date. Kerri McManus, Town Clerk suggested a later date for the Town meeting Town Warrant to be posted by September 29, 2020.

Mr. Fowler made a motion to open the Special Town Meeting Warrant as presented in the agenda packet for September 14, 2020, seconded by Mr. Dawes. A roll call vote was taken all in favor.

Mr. Fowler made a motion to approve the Special Town Meeting date to be held on Monday, November 16, 2020, seconded by Mr. Durney. A roll call vote was taken all in favor.

OLD BUSINESS: COVID-19 update-Police Chief Cudmore & Deb Rogers BOH Agent:

Chief Cudmore briefly spoke on the reimbursement plans from FEMA and MEMA no figures yet have been received, storage trailer for equipment warm or cold was spoken of, Ms. Rogers spoke on no new cases in the last two weeks, great news, Ms. Rogers has been looking over covid plans at the public library, schools, youth sports, Council on Aging and Action Ambulance with everything looking great at this point , pond testing has ended for the season which means beaches should be closed and no public swimming, the flu shot season here and extremely important for the elderly to receive their flu shot. Mr. Twiss asked about the possibility of Town Hall re-opening and his concern regarding information he received about people not wearing their mask in Town Hall and asked about partitions in place in certain offices were residents might frequent more, Ms. Rogers did not want to give her personal opinion but feels having residents calling ahead to come to the building might be best for now a lot of thing going on in Health Department , also stated that there are already plastic partitions in all the Town Hall offices and she has seen the staff in Town Hall following the rules in the Building and said mask do not need to be worn when a person is in his/her own office and keeping the 6ft distance, the possibility of looking at some future meeting dates at Town Hall, Mr. Fowler spoke on no more than twenty five people and there has to be some ground control, current meetings have no interaction with public, Mr. Kershaw stated that it is time to re-engage as a Board and is painful to watch the meetings on the TV, measure stick on how we do it, Mr. Dawes would like the Town Hall open sooner than later but wants an a opening plan, Mr. Durney believes meetings are more fruitful in a room stated the third floor in Town Hall is not within the State Guidelines -not

the best ventilated space, suggested the space be revisited or move the space possible to the High School or Library and requested Mr. Farrell reach out to Janet Morrissey and her group on some options.

DISCUSSION / ADOPTION OF CHAPTER 92, SECTION 10B:

Mr. Farrell, Town Administrator gave some updates and information to the Board member on his support of adopting Chapter 92 / Section 10B-Action would need to be done prior to Town Meeting sooner than later, revenue shortages, every little bit is going to help the Town, only way to regain loss revenue is to lay employees off as the budget year goes on -only option, if was mentioned that the Town is \$60K in the whole presently , taking money out of the Stabilization fund is the same as adopting Chapter 92, Section 10B.

Mr. Durney asked Mr. Farrell, Town Administrator for his recommendations -Mr. Farrell replied his recommendation is to adopt it, question was asked what is the down side to adopting this.

Mr. Kershaw asked about the 2/3rds vote at the Selectman's level to adopt, extra funding in revenues / Finance Committee reserve funds.

Mr. Fowler asked about pulling the needed money out of the stabilization funds-could call a special Town meeting, inquired about the weekly amount for emergency funds, asked to see hard numbers. Spoke of extra funding due to the State of Emergency expenses, Mr. Fowler cannot support this, asked if the Town can add to the reserve fund.

Mr. Twiss stated we have other avenues for money, no idea what the future holds, no secondary measure to pull the trigger on this adoption.

Mr. Dawes stated he is not in favor of adopting, feels the Town always faces unexpected expenses, spoke on tax revenue in the Town which has been 99% in favor.

SELECTMEN'S REPORT:

Mr. Kershaw inquired about the upcoming Halloween holiday -No plans have been set as of now, Chief Cudmore informed the Board that depending on what phase is regarding the Covid at the time of the holiday, hoping the Governor will make a decision, Chief Cudmore will update when more information is received.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Farrell informed everyone of some great news, made the announcement that former Administrative Assistant Janet Pantano had her first grandchild on Monday, September 14, 2020 named Oliver and both mom and baby are doing great!

WARRANT & MINUTES:

Ms. Mary Saunders Historical Society member spoke on the following event.

Mr. Fowler made a motion to approve a request from Georgetown Historical Society for an event to be held at the Union Cemetery on October 24, 2020 with a rain date for October 25, 2020, seconded by Mr. Durney. A roll call vote was taken all in favor.

Mr. Dawes made a motion to approve the June 29, 2020 meeting minutes as amended seconded by Mr. Durney. A roll call vote was taken all in favor.

NEXT MEETING

September 28, 2020

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Durney moved to adjourn; Mr. Dawes seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken all in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM. Minutes transcribed by Maureen Shultz

Documents used in the meeting:

- *COVID-19 update-Police Chief Cudmore & Deb Rogers BoH Agent*
- *Meeting minutes*
- *Letter request from the Swampscott Historical Society*
- *Draft Town Meeting Warrant*