

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
11/5/18
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; David Schofield, Light Department Manager; Jonathan Eichman, KP Law

Absent:

OPEN SESSION

6:00PM EXECUTIVE SESSION-2nd floor

(2) To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel, or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with non-union personnel;

7:00PM Call to order

Invocation-Douglas W. Dawes
Pledge of Allegiance

NEW BUSINESS

Informal discussion with SQF, LLC regarding the installation of small cell technology equipment.

Tim Schneider, counsel for SQF, LLC working for AT&T

Mr. Schneider stated that he is representing Tilson and they are looking to putting in a small cell pole and equipment. He stated this is for a wireless system and that they are doing this all over the country. He explained the process from the first towers until new technology and data usage. He explained instances when you have 5 bars of service but does not do anything. He stated that this is because of usage and the amount of users. He stated to solve this they are putting poles with antennae so those customers are getting better service. He stated you will be seeing this in downtowns on buildings or poles. He stated AT&T is the vendor he is working for.

Mr. Fowler stated that they are using poles vs buildings and he stated that the letter that they sent was kind of threatening. He stated that if the equipment is on a private building the town cannot get the same funds as a private owner. He asked if it is more expensive to put equipment on a building vs town property. Mr. Schneider stated that it does cost more and is not as good service as a pole. Mr. Fowler stated that he is open to increase service in town. Mr. Schneider stated he did not mean the letter to be threatening.

Mr. Sadler asked if they would be open to another area in town. Mr. Schneider stated that this is the area that the company has identified as the best area. Mr. Sadler stated that they are proposing putting the pole 10ft from the King Davis Building and why can you not put on building instead of in front of the building.

Larry Morgan, does site acquisition for Tilson. He stated that on the pole they 360 degrees of exposure and on building it does not give same range. Mr. Schneider stated to get to a building is more difficult and to put equipment on a pole is less complex.

Mr. Sadler stated esthetically the pole does not fit the character of the downtown. He stated the wires do not look good.

Mr. Durney asked for him to explain why in this spot.

Mr. Schneider stated that would put on poles and the electric department will not allow them to put on the town poles and they have the right to put up poles.

Mr. Bonavita asked Attorney Eichman what the rights are.

Mr. Eichman stated wireless do not have right under State and under Federal law but they need to try to accommodate. He stated that public right of ways are to be open to these types of agreements.

Mr. Bonavita stated that the town does not need to approve the placement. Mr. Eichman stated that the laws give government the right to not allow but would have to consider the technology.

Dave Schofield, Light Manager stated that this is new and they do not have enough information. He stated that they said no on their structures. He stated he has no guidelines for his men working on these structures. He stated that he needs to talk to other communities and see how they are dealing with this equipment.

Mr. Dawes asked the size of poles. Mr. Morgan stated that poles would be same as poles in the area. Mr. Dawes asked if he had information on RF emissions from this equipment. Mr.

Morgan stated that the emissions are very low RF emissions and this is customer driven. Mr. Dawes stated one pole and how far does it serve. Mr. Morgan stated 2,000ft. Mr. Dawes stated one document list Verizon and do they also work for them. Mr. Schneider stated that this is an error and only working for AT&T. He stated that this will be a clean pole and other carriers will want to put equipment on this pole. He stated that this is beneficial to the town. Mr. Dawes stated for equipment is for 4G and references 5G. Mr. Schneider stated that the pole is for 4G and FCC talks about 5G. Mr. Dawes asked Mr. Eichman if the information Tilson has supplied falls under MA law. Mr. Eichman stated a pole for AT&T and they can put up a telephone pole for land lines but wireless is not clear if this falls under Chapter 166. Mr. Dawes is this the only site. Mr. Schneider stated that this is the primary site. Mr. Morgan stated that this is the main site and the second is on Central Street and is away from the main source. Discussion on differences with buildings and trees. Mr. Dawes asked what other areas they have done this list locally. Mr. Morgan stated they have poles in other States and are in the same stage in Peabody. Mr. Schneider stated they are only recently doing this in MA and are a ME company. Mr. Dawes stated that he would like to see better service but this is not esthetically pleasing. He stated that you usually see these poles along a highway not in the center of a town. Mr. Morgan stated that the service is at capacity.

Mr. Bonavita stated that it is more expensive to put up tower and that AT&T is a multibillion dollar company. He stated that why do we need to do this. Mr. Schneider stated that it is for the community for better service. Mr. Morgan stated that the traffic in the downtown is tremendous. Mr. Farrell stated hope to not have poles as part of economic development.

Mr. Sadler stated that our light department has stated that they need to learn more and he would take their advice.

Mr. Dawes stated that this is a preliminary discussion and would like to learn more. He stated that esthetics is major concern.

Mr. Morgan stated that this intersection is a poor area to get a signal.

Mr. Schofield stated that if we go underground what would be the move. Mr. Schneider stated that this is a conflict with small cell technology.

Mr. Farrell asked about a co-location and if AT&T gets the pole and then if other wireless come forward what would it look like with poles. Mr. Schneider stated that SQF will own the pole.

Mr. Farrell stated that they will get the funds from the other carriers and the town can only receive the cost or \$500.

Mr. Eichman stated that the intent of the order can charge fee for cost is \$500 or \$250 and if charge more then have to justify. He stated town is not barred from charging fees. Mr. Farrell asked if they are regulated. Mr. Schneider stated that it is a negotiation between them and the carrier.

Mr. Durney asked if this is a band aid for 4G and will cover for 5G. Mr. Schneider explained that 5G will need more antennae. Mr. Durney stated that this is an issue we will have to deal with it.

Mr. Sadler stated that our Economic Development is looking at having a second story on the buildings and will this make a difference. Mr. Schneider stated that it should not as the signal goes down the roads. Mr. Sadler stated that we have to look at the best interest of the town and is this for computers or for the town residents. He asked if there decision to place the pole in this area is from bad service and complaints. Mr. Schneider stated he will see what he can find out.

Mr. Fowler stated as a board they have to look to the future and how do we do this. He stated that to allow them to put the one pole now, does not see how this will provide anything to the town. He stated that they are a cell tower company. Mr. Schneider a pole company. Mr. Fowler stated that if they have a package on how you are going to benefit the town.

Mr. Schneider stated that they should refer to their attorney for franchise fee. He stated that if there is any information or questions that they want answered let them know.

Mr. Bonavita stated why we are going to do this, it is a large pole in the downtown. He stated he does not see the bank using all the signal or the restaurants. He stated that there is a lot of information to take in.

Mr. Dawes asked if SQF is formally submitted and if they have 150 days to make a decision. Mr. Schneider stated on October 25 they filed under FCC and see what your attorneys says. He stated the town should look at this.

Mr. Bonavita stated that the issue is that aesthetically this does not work. Mr. Dawes stated if after 150 days and we deny what would happen. Mr. Eichman stated 150 day would apply and they could appeal as with cell towers.

Mr. Bonavita stated he would like to see an alternative location. Mr. Schneider asked who they can meet with to have a conversation on options. Mr. Sadler stated that if the idea is to improve coverage talk they should talk to business owners and have a plan B.

Mr. Bonavita stated that they should talk with Dave Scofield, Light Manager, Mike Farrell, Town Administrator, and John Cashell, Town Planner.

OLD BUSINESS

Park & Recreation continued discussion on a Director

Mr. Farrell gave a handout on some Park & Rec job descriptions. He stated that he gave them to Mr. DiMento and he blended them to one to fit the town.

Mr. Bonavita stated that this discussion is because the job is becoming too big for the board and to identify what the job is and the vision.

Mr. DiMento stated that he sees staff working 50% in the summer and the other 50% over the winter. He stated it would be a good position for a teacher with most hours in the summer and then flex hours in the fall/winter/spring.

Mr. Bonavita asked Mr. DiMento to go over the job description.

Mr. DiMento read the job description to the board.

Mr. Sadler asked if there is anything about overseeing projects. Mr. DiMento stated that this is in the document.

Mr. Dawes asked how many hours a week does he see. Mr. DiMento stated in the summer 8 weeks at 25-30 hours a week and 20 hours a month for the rest of the year. He stated 440 hours a year. Mr. Sadler asked about benefits. Mr. Farrell stated would be seasonal and under 20 hours a week the rest of the year so would not have to pay benefits.

Mr. Durney asked about overseeing projects. Mr. DiMento stated that they would like to make sure projects are done. He stated that now Mr. Durkee helps with some oversight of projects.

Mr. Dawes asked if they would still have a commission with an employee. Mr. DiMento stated would be similar to ConCom. He stated may be able to hire staff for swim lessons and other events. Mr. Dawes stated do you see the committee still being hands on. Mr. DiMento stated that he hopes to. Mr. Dawes stated does he see the dissolution of the Park & Rec. Mr. DiMento stated that he sees Mr. Durkee as DPW taking over. He sees that Camp Denison also needs help and once the rail trail comes in there will be more of a need.

Mr. Sadler stated that he still sees a Park & Rec committee as the staff member will need direction.

Mr. Fowler stated that he was looking at a long range plan. He went over his goals for the Park & Recreation Department.

Mr. Durney stated that this discussion started to solve a few problems and now we are at this job description. He stated that there is a disconnect and a need to put things together and see what the role is, and what the problem is, and what we are trying to solve.

Mr. Sadler stated that the East Main St Park has to be finished and the issues at American Legion Park addressed.

Mr. Dawes stated that there is no plan as to how to work on these issues and solve some problems.

Mr. Sadler that he thought this person would help free up the commission to do planning.

Mr. Bonavita stated he would not structure like ConCom and sees someone come in and be top of the house and come in and take over. He stated as we are the appointing board then they come back to this board. He stated wants more oversight as to what is going on. He stated he sees a sticker program that would subsidize this person. He stated that the employee would be taking in the funds and reporting any issues to the Police Department. He stated he would not want to see the committee like the ConCom. He likes the thought of 50% summer and then 50% the rest of the year and may progress if there is a need.

Mr. Sadler stated he does not see them not reporting to the Park & Rec and does not want them to report to the BoS.

Mr. Bonavita stated he sees them reporting to this board like the Fire Chief.

Mr. Sadler stated that he sees the people we appoint oversee the person and direct and not be this board.

Mr. Fowler stated Mr. Bonavita needs to put what he is thinking on paper so we can see it. He stated he sees a beach that is being used we may not like how but it good to see. He stated that they may need to work with KP Law on a sticker program.

Mr. Bonavita stated the commission is doing some work down at the park and the director is top of the house.

Mr. Fowler stated that each member has different areas they work on.

Mr. Farrell stated that the commission was set up by town meeting and the selectmen may not have the authority to hire for this position. Mr. Bonavita asked Mr. Farrell to look into this.

APPOINTMENTS and APPROVALS

Request from the Asst. Town Clerk to approve the poll workers for the State Election on Tuesday, November 6th.

Mr. Dawes moved to approve the list of poll workers for the State Election on Tuesday, November 6, 2018 as presented. Mr. Sadler seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Request from the Recreational Fields Study Committee to appoint Peter Burns term to expire June 30, 2019.

Mr. Bonavita read the email from the board as an update on what the committee is doing.

Mr. Fowler stated that isn't it Gale Associates that we have been having issues with on other projects. Mr. Farrell stated that this board has to sign the contract.

Mr. Dawes moved to appoint Peter Burns to the Recreational Fields Study Committee term to expire June 30, 2019. Mr. Fowler seconded the motion.

Mr. Dawes stated that the board should discuss with Mr. Coughlin the identified areas of town with over 4 acres of land.

The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

WARRANT and MINUTES

General Session Minutes of October 29, 2018

Mr. Dawes moved to approve the minutes of October 29, 2018. Mr. Fowler seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

CORRESPONDENCE

Notice from Sarah Cognata, Library Director on the retirement of Claire Spirito, Senior Library Technician

Mr. Bonavita read and signed a proclamation to Ms. Spirito for her service to the town and the letter from Sarah Cognata, Library Director.

Veterans' Day Observance-Sunday, November 11, 2018 at 11:00AM

Mr. Dawes read the letter of the events for Sunday, November 11, 2018 at Harry Murch Park. He stated that there will also be a Poppy drive on Saturday around town.

NEXT MEETING

Monday, November 19, 2018 at 7PM, 3rd floor meeting room

ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:25PM.

Minutes transcribed by J. Pantano
Minutes approved November 26, 2018.

Documents used in this meeting:

- General Session Minutes of October 29, 2018
- Notice from Sarah Cognata, Library Director on the retirement of Claire Spirito, Senior Library Technician
- Veterans' Day Observance-Sunday, November 11, 2018 at 11:00AM
- Informal discussion with SQF, LLC regarding the installation of small cell technology equipment.
- Park & Recreation continued discussion on a Director
- Request from the Asst. Town Clerk to approve the poll workers for the State Election on Tuesday, November 6th.
- Request from the Recreational Fields Study Committee to appoint Peter Burns term to expire June 30, 2019.