

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

8/31/2020

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, and Peter J. Kershaw

Others Present: Michael Farrell, Town Administrator. Janet Pantano, Administrative Assistant, Maureen Shultz, Administrative Assistant, Police Chief Donald Cudmore, Deb Rogers, Board of Health Agent.

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.

OLD BUSINESS

COVID-19 update-Police Chief Cudmore & Deb Rogers BOH Agent.

Chief Cudmore spoke on expenditures during the Covid and the reimbursement process and the amount of \$173K that has already been spent, no firm amount of the schools spending on Covid related expenses but Mr. Anderson and Ms. Jacobs are working on those figures.

Fema Grant in the amount of \$36K-\$37K to be used for a new communication board.

Deb Rogers, BOH agent informed the Board that there are no new cases in the Town in the last fourteen days (14) surrounding Towns have five or less cases .Mr. Kershaw asked if the Town is still in the yellow, the Town is now in the grey which is good per Ms. Rogers,

contact tracing up to date, two (2) new public nurses which will be trained, Ms. Rogers recognized public school nurses for them volunteering during these times.

SELECTMEN'S REPORT

*American Legion Park- Chief Cudmore spoke on the recent activity during the week and past weekend and stated there were approximately 30 cars that were non-residents on Sunday as the weather on Saturday was not great, Mr. Dawes asked what kind of a response did the Police Department receive from non-residents, Chief Cudmore said the response was mixed, mostly cooperative but some expressed disappointment and suggested to a few upset individuals that the new resident rules can be enforced through the State of Emergency & Executive order issued by the Governor and his office could be called if so desired. Mr. Kershaw thinks it's the right decision to keep these areas closed, it's a small community which makes sense to continue on the same path. Deb Rogers, BOH agent did not want to give her personal opinion but stated that since it is the end of the season she doesn't expect a future of large groups gathering there, and the Health Department finishes up their testing of pollen after the labor day holiday, Mr. Dawes stated he thought the Board made the right decision and wished it had been done earlier and is in favor of leaving it the way it is currently . **Mr. Dawes made a motion to keep the ALP open to residents only until the state of emergency is over, and seconded by Mr. Fowler and the motion was approved by a roll call vote.***

Discussion continues:

Mr. Twiss suggested the following for the future of a sticker program for any resident who pays their excise tax to be able to go to the beach for free with this sticker, all fees will go to the Town, next summer Mr. Twiss suggested looking over the following - trash pickup, park cleanup ,payment for services including field and games usage, right side of the field was suggested for game parking ,Mr. Twiss was open for any suggestions. Mr. Twiss stated that someone needs to be monitoring the area a gate was suggested in the future, someone to work maybe a booth at the entrance for payments, every other town has fees we should too. Mr. Dawes asked or suggested about a certain time /use at own risk signs, we shouldn't do it without a fee. Mr. Fowler suggested to create a team and or Board to go over changes of suggestions like trash carry in & out, kiosk machines, East Main Street is opening soon, Mr. Dawes agrees with Mr. Fowlers idea of making a board/committee to meet and makes changes for next year which suggest members of the Board of Selectman, Parks and Recreations, Chief Cudmore to name a few to make up this team, no need to charge for this year. Mr. Twiss stated it is not that difficult , don't let the ideas get caught up in the weeds, it could it be a paid position to monitor this area, not that hard, Mr. Fowler asked about the possibility of having this a paid position for someone already on staff, Mr. Twiss commented that Towns budget is razor thin and the Town needs the income. Ms. Kershaw wants to be on the committee, revenue for the Town is a great goal, Chief Cudmore stated he would also be on the team included with some of staff. Mr. Kershaw suggested change be in effect sometime late spring of next year.

Chief Cudmore went over the many years before this conversation and many files he has accumulated over the years with a lot of history , East Main Street Park was spoken of and this location will have a draw to that facility where there are nice bathroom facilities, , suggestions have been spoken of for prior years and they had been shut down many times but now if everyone is ready to move forward , the Town can provide history the group/team was welcomed to meet at the Police Station with a suggestion to invite members of the Parks & Recreation.

Mr. Farrell stated that the current Town by Law enables the Park & Recreational Commission to be able to change the bylaw, also states that the commission is in charge of the parks, any regulations that came from an ad hoc committee could not be enforced, Parks & Recreation would have to change the by-laws.

SELECTMEN'S REPORT

Goals-The following goals were spoken of by each board member:

Mr. Twiss – Town Charter change /Org Chart review / Town Council to go over the Town by Laws/Strategic Plan, cannabis money

Mr. Fowler- Schedule four (4) workshops including the Finance Committee, Capital Improvements, Schools, Boards & Committees, go over procedures & policies, and downtown economic development.

Mr. Kershaw -review all goals and their accomplishments, 90 day reset on goals, join the Economic Development Committee and strategic planning.

Mr. Dawes-Review of procedures & policies, identify infrastructure projects, Town Administrators review and retirement, separate finance director in the future , cemetery no spaces available.

Mr. Durney- (not present-emailed goals- Status reports from the Town Administrators, Social Media, and opportunities to work with CATV (Again.)

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Dress Code update

Mr. Farrell stated that the Town has reached out to a few businesses here in Town with no return calls or some businesses not open back up at this time, and some with a long turnaround time for orders, Mr. Farrell's office is in the process of receiving samples from a Company located in Middleton who has some history with other Town Departments.

BOARD BUSINESS

Mr. Twiss suggested that any appointments in the future that those candidates should be invited to the Selectman's meeting. Mr. Fowler asked when the Town Hall would be open to the public and feels like its time to get back to having meetings inside the Town Hall, Mr. Twiss stated he feels he is not ready for the opening even though we were given one good report on the virus.

OPEN DISSCUSSION CON'T

Mr. Farrell spoke with the Board on the adoption of Chapter 90 section 10 in order to accept this it would need to be a 2/3 vote by the Board of Selectman is required, Mr. Farrell suggested we need to help ourselves and this adoption has to done before the tax rate is set and if we come up short then money will need to be borrowed , Mr. Farrell believe this will put us in a better position to put some additional revenue in for any emergencies,\$60K in the hole at this time, the Town recently received a bill from unemployment in the amount of \$12K, Mr. Dawes asked how much was the cares act and how much was spent -\$173K spent-schools and approx. \$300K left which has to be spent by December 31sr or be returned, Cherry Street figures have not been received yet.. Mr. Dawes asked about how much taxes have been collected Mr. Farrell responded that 99% of taxes from the residents have been paid, Board members seemed to want to wait and add this discussion on the next couple of agendas for a discussion, Mr. Kershaw needs more runway to make a decision this evening, Mr. Twiss asked if this could wait so there could be more time to consider and stated we have another two meeting's in the month and in agreement was Mr. Fowler. Mr. Ferrell stated if this was going to be approved it would have to be done before the tax rate is set, Mr. Twiss feels he does not want to make a decision in haste when an opportunity in the future to use the money, this discussion will be added to the September 28, 2020 agenda. Mr. Kershaw was in agreement to wait on this discussion at a future meeting. It was suggested to invite the Finance Committee members to a Board of Selectman's meeting.

WARRANT & MINUTES

Mr. Fowler made a motion to approve the July 13, 2020. August 17, 2020, and August 20, 2020 meeting minutes seconded by Mr. Dawes and the motion was approved by a roll call vote. June 29, 2020 meeting minutes will be added to the next agenda for approval.

Mr. Fowler made a motion to approve from a list of pole workers given by Kerri McManus, Town Clerk motion was seconded by Mr. Twiss, A roll call vote was taken all in favor.

NEXT MEETING

September 14, 2020

ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 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 /for Kiwanis Fundraiser
- Goals-Preliminary Discussion

