**WARRANT**

**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING**

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS**

**October 28, 2019**

ESSEX, ss. To the Constables of the Town of Georgetown, in the County of Essex, Greetings.

In the Name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of said Town, qualified to vote in the elections and in Town affairs, to meet at the Georgetown Middle/High School, 11 Winter Street, Georgetown, Massachusetts, on Monday, October 28, 2019 at 7 o’clock in the evening then and there to act on the following articles:

The town meeting was called to order by the Town Moderator, David Surface at 7:06 PM once a quorum was met. He called upon Joseph A. Bonavita, the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen to lead the Special Town Meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance. Next, Selectman, Douglas W. Dawes was called on to offer an invocation. David Surface referenced the Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 39 Section 15 that it was his responsibility to preside and regulate the proceedings, decide all questions of order and that under section 17 he had the authority to remove anyone due to disorderly behavior.

David Surface said he would entertain a 5-minute time limit for discussion of warrant articles.

*Harry LaCortiglia made the motion and it was seconded by Joseph Soucy*.

The following non-residents of the Town of Georgetown were present at the Special Town Meeting:

David Adam, Fire Department

John Cashell, Town Planner

Jonathan Eichman, Town Counsel

Michael Farrell, Town Administrator

Ann Gill, Treasurer/ Tax Collector

Lt. Scott Hatch, Police Department

Carol Jacobs, Superintendent

Tina Los, Essex County Asset Builder Network Director

Bryan McGonigle, Georgetown Reporter

Mary McMenemy, Town Accountant

Colleen Ranshaw-Ficoello, Director of the Council on Aging

**Article 1:**  **Adjustments to the Fiscal Year 2020 Operating Budget *(STM19-01)***

To see if the Town will vote to amend the vote taken under Article 2 of the 2019 Annual Town Meeting warrant for the purpose of adjusting line items in the FY 2020 budget, and other departmental transfers if needed, and to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money for this purpose, or take any other action in relation thereto.

*Finance Committee, Sheila Ruth made a motion, which was seconded by Steve Epstein to amend the vote taken under Article 2 of the 2019 Annual Town Meeting warrant for the purpose of adjusting the following line items in the FY2020 budget as follows:*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Account Name** | **Line Item**  | **Increase** | **Decrease** |
| Selectmen - Holiday Lights | 01122570 | 1,000.00 |   |
| Georgetown Cares  | 01693570 | 2,226.15 |   |
| Free Cash |   |   | 3,226.15 |

VOTED: The Town Voted YES MAJORITY VOTE

**Article 2:**  **To Establish a SPED Reserve Fund *(STM19-02)***

To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of G.L. c.40, §13E, thereby authorizing the Town to create a reserve fund to be utilized in the upcoming fiscal years, to pay, without further appropriation, for unanticipated or unbudgeted costs of special education, out-of-district tuition or transportation; and further, to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money to said fund, or take any other action in relation thereto.

*Finance Committee member, Steve Epstein made the motion and it was seconded by Harry LaCortiglia that the Town accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40, Section 13E, authorizing the Town to create a reserve fund to be utilized in the upcoming fiscal years, to pay, without further appropriation, for unanticipated or unbudgeted costs of special education, out-of-district tuition or transportation.*

Steve Epstein made a suggestion that the wording, “unanticipated **OR** unbudgeted costs” be changed to “unanticipated **AND** unbudgeted costs”. The Moderator consulted legal counsel and the state statute had to be accepted as written.

VOTED: The Town voted YES MAJORITY VOTE

**ARTICLE 3: Equipment and Final Payment Fire Truck** ***(STM19-08)***

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of $100,000 (One hundred thousand dollars) for the equipment and final payment of a fire truck, including any costs incidental or related thereto, or take any other action in relation thereto.

*Fire Chief, Fred Mitchell made a motion and it was seconded by Steve Epstein that the Town transfer from Free Cash the sum of $100,000 (One hundred thousand dollars) for the equipment and final payment of a fire truck, including any costs incidental or related thereto.*

VOTED: The Town voted YES MAJORITY VOTE

**ARTICLE 4: Utility Vehicle, Boat, and Rescue Equipment-Fire Department** ***(STM19-09)***

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of $75,000 (Seventy-five thousand dollars) for the purchase of a Utility Vehicle, Boat and Rescue Equipment, including any costs incidental or related thereto, or take any other action in relation thereto.

*Fire Chief, Fred Mitchell made a motion and it was seconded by Sheila Ruth that the Town transfer from Free Cash the sum of $75,000 (Seventy-five thousand dollars) for the purchase of a Utility Vehicle, Boat, and Rescue Equipment for the Fire Department, including any costs incidental or related thereto.*

VOTE: The Town voted YES MAJORITY VOTE

**Article 5: Stabilization Fund *(STM19-04)***

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money to be added to the Stabilization Fund, or take any other action in relation thereto.

*Finance Committee member, Ed Dobie made a motion and it was seconded by Harry LaCortiglia to transfer from Free Cash the sum of $300,000 (Three hundred thousand dollars) to be added to the Stabilization Fund.*

A discussion ensued. Steven Epstein of the Finance Committee asked to amend the sum to $200,000. Ed Dobie seconded his suggestion.

Town Moderator, David Surface asked the town to vote on the amended article.

VOTE: The town voted NO MAJORITY VOTE

David Surface then asked the Town to vote on the original motion.

VOTE: The Town voted YES MAJORITY VOTE

**Article 6: Capital Fund** ***(STM19-05)***

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money to be added to the Capital Fund, a special purpose stabilization fund created by vote of the May 4, 2009 Annual Town Meeting pursuant to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40, Section 5B, said funds to be further appropriated by Town Meeting for improvements and/or repairs to municipal buildings and infrastructure, or take any other action related thereto.

*Alicia Raspa of the Finance Committee made the motion and it was seconded by Joseph Bonavita to transfer from Free Cash the sum of $100,000 (One hundred thousand dollars) to the Capital Fund, a special purpose stabilization fund created by vote of the May 4, 2009 Annual Town Meeting pursuant to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40, Section 5B, said funds to be appropriated by a future Town Meeting for improvements and/or repairs to municipal buildings and infrastructure.*

VOTE: The Town voted YES MAJORITY VOTE

**Article 7: Other Post-Employment Benefits Trust Fund *(STM19-06)***

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money to be added to the Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund, created by vote of the May 7, 2012 Annual Town Meeting pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c.32B, §20, or take any other action in relation thereto.

*Finance Committee member, Sheila Ruth made a motion and it was seconded by Alicia Raspa to transfer from Free Cash the sum of $150,000 (One hundred fifty thousand dollars) to the Other Post-Employment Benefits Trust Fund, created by vote of the May 7, 2012 Annual Town Meeting pursuant to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 32B, Section 20.*

VOTED: The Town Voted YES MAJORITY VOTE

**ARTICLE 8: Community Teen Center Funding** ***(STM19-10)***

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of $45,000 (Forty five thousand dollars) for the Community Teen Center, including any costs incidental or related thereto, or take any other action in relation thereto.

*Selectman, David Twiss made a motion and it was seconded by Board of Selectmen Chair, Joseph Bonavita that the Town transfer from Free Cash the sum of $30,000 (Thirty thousand dollars) for the Park and Recreation Commission to fund the Community Teen Center at the Perley School, including any costs incidental or related thereto.*

Discussion ensued promoting the benefits of the youth center as well as concerns over future funding.

VOTE: The Town voted YES. MAJORITY VOTE

**Article 9:**  **Street Acceptance-Palmer Lane *(STM19-03)***

To see if the Town will vote to accept as a public way the roadway known as “Palmer Lane”, as heretofore laid out by the Board of Selectmen in the location depicted on the plan entitled: “Definitive Subdivision Plan ‘Palmer Lane’ - A Public Lane Serving Four Single Family Residences - Assessors Map 10, Lot 15, 2 Tenney Street, Georgetown, MA,” dated Feb. 2016, last rev. 6-23-16, prepared by Civil Construction Management, Inc. and recorded with the Essex County Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 455, Plan 80, a copy of which has been placed on file with the Town Clerk, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire, by purchase, gift, eminent domain or otherwise, and upon such terms and conditions as the Board deems appropriate, interests in land sufficient to establish and provide for the use of said Palmer Lane for all purposes for which public ways are used in the Town of Georgetown, or take any other action in relation thereto.

*Harry LaCortiglia made a motion and it was seconded by Steve Epstein to approve Article 9 as printed in the warrant.*

VOTED: The town voted YES MAJORITY VOTE

**Article 10:**  **Acquisition of Easements-55-65 Central Street *(STM19-07)***

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire, by purchase, gift, eminent domain or otherwise, and upon such terms and conditions as the Board deems appropriate, interests in land at 55-65 Central Street, identified as Assessors Map 10B, Lots 3 & 4, for general municipal purposes, or take any other action in relation thereto.

*Selectman, David Twiss made a motion and it was seconded by Harry LaCortiglia to approve Article 10 as printed in the warrant.*

VOTED: The town voted YES MAJORITY VOTE

*A motion was made to dissolve the 2019 Special Town Meeting.*

VOTED: The town voted YES UNANIMOUS VOTE

The Special Town Meeting dissolved at 8:04 PM.

A True Copy Attest

Kerri A. McManus

Town Clerk