

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
Second Floor Meeting Room
8/17/05
9:30 AM

Selectmen Present: Peter Sarno; Chairman; Richard Clough, Clerk; Lonnie Brennan

Others Present: Stephen Delaney, Town Administrator; Jack Moultrie, Highway Surveyor; Charles Brett, Building Inspector; Janet Pantano, Administrative Assistant;

Absent:

Call to Order

Mr. Sarno called the meeting to order at 9:30A.M.

Mr. Clough moved to go into Executive Session for a collective Bargaining Issue. Mr. Brennan seconded the motion and a roll call vote was taken.

Mr. Clough yes
Mr. Brennan yes
Mr. Sarno yes

Mr. Clough moved to go adjourn Executive Session and return to Regular Session. Mr. Brennan seconded the motion and a roll call vote was taken.

Mr. Clough yes
Mr. Brennan yes
Mr. Sarno yes

10:06AM

Bailey Lane Bridge

Mr. Moultrie gave a handout to the board regarding opening the bridge one-way. Mr. Brennan stated that Mr. Moultrie's recommendation is a gate for emergency vehicles only. Mr. Moultrie stated that Earth Tech did not recommend opening one side to too much traffic. He stated that to open one side would further deteriorate the road. Mr. Sarno stated that not many emergency vehicle drivers are going to get out and open a gate.

Mr. Brett stated that he agrees with the gate. Mr. Brett stated that in the winter the Highway would have to plow the bridge. Discussion on fire trucks and hydrants. Mr. Moultrie stated that he does not see an issue with the hydrants and that he talked to the Fire Department. He stated that he wants to work with the board and the town. He stated that everybody agrees that the road should be open. He stated that this is the fourth bridge to collapse in town. Mr. Clough gave a handout to the BoS and Mr. Moultrie. Mr. Moultrie explained the code and that it is difficult to go forward. Mr. Clough asked if we could replace the culvert now and then the road. Mr. Moultrie stated that he could do this but why not do everything at once. He stated that the flooding has always been an issue. He stated that the box culvert costs \$100,000 just for the

material. Mr. Sarno asked for the permitting time. Mr. Moultrie stated that this could take 4-8 months because of the location, and that the Feds get involved, and endangered species. Mr. Moultrie stated that a lot of residents are not concerned as it is not in their backyard. Mr. Sarno asked about the gate. Mr. Moultrie stated that you do not want to put a lot of funds into this. Mr. Brennan stated that this has gone on since December. He stated that they have to just gate the bridge and then get the funding to repair.

Mr. Brennan moved to go forward and put a gate at Bailey Lane Bridge for emergency access only and distribute keys to all emergency vehicles. Mr. Clough seconded for discussion.

Mr. Clough stated that he sees an issue with keys. Mr. Brett suggested a lock box. Mr. Brennan asked if they can request the Police to go through nightly so they know where the key is.

Mr. Brennan moved to amend his motion and add a lock box and request that the Police Department go through weekly. The amended motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Brett suggested asking Mr. Lappen at Georgetown Shopping Center to donate the fire gate that he would no longer be using.

Mr. Moultrie stated that he would work with Mr. Delaney on an article for the Bridge for Town Meeting. Mr. Clough stated that the Board and Departments should back up this article.

Discussion on funding and what funds to go for at the Fall Town Meeting. Mr. Moultrie stated he would recommend ask for the \$77,000 for the engineering at the Fall Town Meeting and at the ATM go forward for the bridge repair.

Mr. Sarno asked when the gate would go in. Mr. Moultrie stated that in 30days he could have the gate in.

Mr. Sarno asked about the downtown project. Mr. Moultrie explained what was happening with contamination at the Getty Station and the status of the road way at Library Street. He stated that he has some ADA issues with the new sidewalks. He stated that they should be 42 inches wide but with the telephone poles they may not have this. He stated that the poles may also be in the way for plowing. He stated that they now estimate to be finished in December. He stated that he is requesting that Library Street be open before school starts and he hopes to have line painting in Park & Ride done by then also.

Zoning Issues

199 Andover Street

Mr. Sarno stated he had questions on 199 Andover Street. Mr. Brett stated that he talked to Joel Bard and the owner would be out of there by the end of the month. Mr. Sarno asked if the man has still been practicing his business. Mr. Delaney stated that he has asked for a letter from K & P for the record so with the next owner this does not happen again. He stated that they need something on file so this does not happen again. Mr. Brett stated that it would be helpful to have on record. Mr. Sarno stated that once we get the response this should be sent to the owner. Mr. Delaney stated that once they receive the letter it should be sent to the owner and his attorney.

Central Street/Atherton

Mr. Brett stated that he has talked to the Atherton's and had them clean up the site and they are only parking one vehicle on site. He stated that they can not operate a business out of site. Mr.

Delaney asked how this is defined. Mr. Brett stated that if he keeps only one truck and everything under cover and is not disturbing anyone he is okay to stay. Mr. Brett stated that Mr. Atherton is looking to move the business. He stated that this was a garage and Mr. Tolman signed a paper that he would not have a garage on the site. Mr. Sarno asked if a landscaping business can be operated as a home business. Mr. Brett stated that it could if this was his home. He stated that it is only a garage. Mr. Brett stated that this is in the RA district. Mr. Brett stated that if a neighbor calls to complain about a business running in a neighborhood he does nothing until he gets the complaint in writing. He stated that there are many businesses that are illegal and have been running for 20 years. Mr. Sarno stated that any violation should be dealt with. Brett stated abutter on North Street with Duffy Bridges starting diesel at 6Am. He talked with him and they handled. Mr. Brett stated he has a list and if he has a complaint then he deal with the issue. Sarno stated that he does not know all the laws and he does not. Sarno stated that if there are no abutters does he deal with these. Brett stated that one unregistered vehicle is allowed on site.

Central Street/Old Brennan Farm Stand Site

Mr. Brett stated that a two family with two unregistered vehicles is allowed. He stated that this is a residential district. Mr. Brett stated that he cannot run a business from this site would have to go to ZBA. Mr. Sarno stated Mr. Brett does not shut down a business unless he has a written complaint. Mr. Brett stated that most times they can resolve any issues. Mr. Brennan stated that Mr. Brett is leaving any businesses in a residential district status quo but what stops others from starting a business in a residential district. Mr. Brett stated give him a complaint. Mr. Clough stated that in the past Georgetown had a lot of residents with shoe businesses at their homes.

199 Andover Street

Mr. Brett stated he was up there right away when he received a complaint.

Atherton/Lakeshore Drive

Mr. Brennan stated that the Atherton's run a lawnmower service at their home is this allowed. Mr. Brett stated that this is okay as long as there are no fumes.

Mr. Brennan moved for a 5 minute break. Mr. Clough seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Transfer Station/Mello

Mr. Sarno asked Mr. Delaney if he took care of the side letter. Mr. Delaney stated that the letter was done.

Evaluation forms

Mr. Delaney had copies of the evaluation form that he used for employee evaluation. Mr. Sarno asked if Town Accountant, Police Chief evaluations had been done. Mr. Delaney stated that he has done evaluations on Toni Mertz, Chief Mulligan, Beverly Knapp, and Pam Wood. Mr. Sarno stated that the Police Chief and Town Account contracts have to be negotiated by December. Mr. Delaney stated that only his evaluation is public. Mr. Sarno stated that human resource evaluations are confidential. Mr. Delaney stated that they are except for his. Discussion that the Town Accountant position is under the Finance Director and that the Police Chief reports to the BoS but does report to the Town

Administrator. Mr. Sarno asked if they should they give them a heads up that they are starting the process and ask if they have comments. Mr. Sarno asked about the Finance Director/Town Administrator. Mr. Delaney explained that the Finance Director was a separate position that was eliminated. Mr. Sarno stated that Mr. Delaney is the Acting Finance Director. Mr. Delaney stated that the position has to be with no compensation under the Town Administrator. He stated that he would like to keep the position as is. Mr. Sarno stated that it is not fair to put other duties on a position. Mr. Delaney stated that they could boost salary with no mention of Finance Director. He stated that the flaw with the past the Town Administrator was that she had no control over budget. He stated that within the Finance department all employees have taken extra workloads. Mr. Sarno stated that Mr. Delaney would like to have the position stay the same. Mr. Delaney stated that if you take away the authority from the Town Administrator this would be unacceptable. Mr. Clough stated that if Mr. Delaney is happy then he does not feel they should change the position. Mr. Sarno agreed with Mr. Clough.

New Treasurer/Tax Collector

Mr. Sarno asked how Ms. Cuomo is doing. Mr. Delaney stated that she is at school this week and is doing well. Mr. Clough asked if she will pick up the HR piece. Mr. Delaney stated that they already do and he plans for them to do more.

Town Accountant, Town Administrator & Police Chief Contracts

Mr. Sarno asked Mr. Delaney to put questions to Town Accountant and Police Chief and himself regarding new contracts. He stated that he would like to set up a preliminary meeting in October. Mr. Delaney stated that there only needs to be one question that their contract is up and what are their thoughts. Mr. Brennan stated he would like to do this differently. He stated that he would like to sit down with each first and then modify goals. Mr. Sarno stated that they could start this in September.

Vacation Time carryover

Mr. Delaney stated that he and Ms. Mertz have vacation time for FY05 that was unused and he is requesting a motion to carryover the time. He stated that he has 51 hours and Ms. Mertz has 46 hours. Mr. Sarno asked for an update on sick time for employees and buy back.

Mr. Clough moved to allow Mr. Delaney, Town Administrator and Toni Mertz, Town Accountant to carry over FY05 vacation time, 51 hours for Mr. Delaney and 46 hours for Ms. Mertz, to be used by the end of September. Mr. Brennan seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

130 North Street

Mr. Sarno asked about the status of the liens on 130 North Street. Mr. Delaney stated that the liens are still in place. He stated that the septic is approved and once the lot is sold the liens would be paid and the funds would go into the general fund.

Taxes

Mr. Delaney stated that they are close to a deal for the \$130,000 approximately owed in back taxes on the Chaison property. He stated that in FY04 the former treasurer started the process for collection of back taxes and sent out demand letters and then did nothing else. He stated that we now have to resend the letters and start again. He stated that the FY05 demand letters will be going out this week and that this usually starts the cash flow.

Town Meeting

Mr. Delaney stated that a date of October 17, 2005 has been proposed for Fall Town Meeting.

Appointments/Cable and Government Study Committees

Mr. Delaney stated that they have received a few requests for the Government Study Committee, Jim Lacey and Sharon Freeman.

Mr. Brennan stated that on the Cable committee he gave the board a list of who has applied and a list of agenda items for their initial organization. He stated that the School gave a recommendation of Paul Swain. Mr. Clough stated that Mr. Swain can not get a stipend for this position. Mr. Sarno stated that they would have to check if a non resident can vote.

Verizon

Mr. Sarno asked if the board should look into Verizon Cable. Mr. Brennan stated that he thought the Cable Committee was to look into this. Mr. Sarno stated that the Cable committee would be able to let the BoS know their opinion. He stated that the BoS make the decision.

Cable

Mr. Brennan stated that he could move for all seven names on the list. He asked how the board feels. Mr. Sarno stated that he would not support Mr. Davidson, Mr. Young or Mr. Epstein. Mr. Brennan asked how they felt appointing Mr. LaCortiglia to this committee. Mr. Clough stated that he does not feel Mr. LaCortiglia would be a good candidate. Mr. Brennan asked Mr. Clough how he felt about these candidates. Mr. Clough stated that Mr. Davidson withdrew his request and that he does not support Mr. Epstein. Mr. Brennan asked how he feels about Mr. Young. Mr. Clough stated that Mr. Young goes south for the winter and he has an issue appointing members who are not in Town all year.

Mr. Clough moved to appoint *Stuart Egenberg, Stephen W. Melofsky, and Lynn Messman* to the Cable TV Advisory Board for a term ending June 30, 2006. Mr. Brennan seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Brennan asked how they set a date for a meeting with this board. Mr. Delaney stated that they could set up a joint meeting after their September 26 meeting.

Union Cemetery

Mr. Delaney stated that the issue started with the fence and ownership. He stated that Chris Comiskey has done a lot of work researching deeds, etc. Mr. Delaney stated that has gone to Deb Eliason, Kopelman & Paige and they are still waiting to sort this out. He stated Dick Elliott has given two briefcases for safekeeping until the issue is resolved. He stated Kopelman & Paige is looking into what the Town should do. Mr. Sarno stated that any legal fees should come out of CPA, because they caused this by agreeing to put in a new fence. Mr. Clough stated that if the corporation is dissolved then the funds would go to the Town and could be used for legal fees. Mr. Delaney stated that there is \$18,000 in the account.

Beer/Wine license at Scotty's

Ms. Pantano stated that an application taken out but nothing has been turned in.

Mr. Clough moved to adjourn. Mr. Brennan seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Meeting adjourned at 12:35PM

Minutes transcribed by J. Pantano.

Minutes approved November 7, 2005.