

Memorial Town Hall, 1 Library Street, Georgetown, MA 01833
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BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES
Memorial Town Hall
Third Floor Meeting Room
12/11/06
7:00 PM

Selectmen Present: Richard Clough, Chairman; Lonnie Brennan, Clerk; Matthew Vincent

Others Present: Stephen Delaney, Town Administrator; Janet Pantano, Administrative Assistant; Stuart Egenberg, Chuck Davis, CATV Committee; Jack Moultrie, Highway Surveyor; Alice Girrior, Bob Davidson; Stephanie Lee, Verizon

Absent:

Call to Order

Mr. Clough opened the meeting at 7:04 PM.

Verizon Public Hearing

Peter Bowman, Verizon; Seth Bonder, Attorney for Verizon; William Hewig, Town Counsel; Stuart Egenberg and Charles Davis, CATV Committee. Mr. Egenberg stated that the CATV Committee has been in negotiations with Verizon on competition with Comcast to offer Cable TV service to Georgetown. He stated that they have met and have come up with a License and that this meeting is open to public for comment. He stated that if there are no concerns then they can sign off on the license tonight and service to the Public will be available as soon as next week.

Mr. Bowman explained the services that Verizon would offer to the public. He explained the fiber optics and digital service that they have put into the town.

Richard Coco, 1 Andover St asked about Verizon services.

Mr. Bowman stated that residents can go to the web page and put in their phone number and services available will be shown.

Mr. Vincent asked about Verizon internet being provided to public buildings.

Attorney Bonder stated that there are statutory minimums that they have to provide to the Town. He stated that in the License they will provide \$175,000 grant to purchase services. Mr. Vincent asked if in other towns they have provided this service. Mr. McGrath stated not in Georgetown or any where else. Mr. Vincent asked about HD stations. Mr. McGrath stated that none provide 1080i or HD that he is aware of. Mr. Vincent stated that they have a HD on cable now but that they are not in use.

Mr. Vincent stated that there are educational channels that are not used now can they pool these with other towns. Mr. McGrath stated programming with funds is up to the town. Mr. Vincent stated that this is an option in the future to go another path. He stated that it would be forward of them to look into networking with local Towns. Mr. McGrath stated that the system was set up a while ago. Mr. Brennan asked about the addresses of municipal buildings in Exhibit. Attorney Hewig stated that he added the addresses to the License agreement.

Mr. Egenberg stated that the License Agreement includes a Peg Grant for a total of \$175,000 payable as \$100,000 within 90 days; \$25,000 paid on 3rd year anniversary; \$25,000 paid on 5th year; \$25,000 on 10th year. He stated that the CATV Committee voted and recommends this contract. Mr. Brennan thanked the CATV Committee for all their work on this license.

Mr. Vincent asked what neighborhoods would be covered. Verizon stated the same as the Comcast License. Mr. Clough asked if someone had a 300ft drive how much would it cost to install. Mr. McGrath stated that they would run the fiber optic to the house. He stated that 83% of the community is eligible to receive services now. Discussion on underground conduit and that they can not dig between the months of November 15 to April 15 under the Town bylaws. Mr. Clough asked that if the board approves this license this evening would services be available next week. Mr. Bowman stated that they would be. Mr. Delaney asked what would be the impact on the Comcast license and the 2 ½ percent given to the Town yearly. He stated that there is still 6 to 7 years on the Comcast license. He asked if Comcast would still be obligated to pay this amount. Mr. Egenberg stated that Comcast must pay no matter how many subscribers they have. Mr. Hewig stated that overall subscribers usually increase.

Richard Coco, 1 Andover Street asked about the quality of service and bundled services. Mr. Bowman stated that they would be offering fiber optics to each home so they would not be sharing the system that this is dedicated fiber optics to your home.

Pete Zibell, 214 North Street asked when he can sign up. Mr. Bowman stated by Thursday or Friday of this week if the License is signed tonight. Mr. Zibell asked how you can sign up. Mr. Bowman stated that you can call Verizon or order online.

Jack Moultrie, 35 Elm Street asked how many years is the contract and do they require a Town Meeting vote. Mr. Bowman stated that the contract is 15 years. Mr. Hewig stated that there is a stipulation in the law that you can do this without Town Meeting approval.

Paul Rondeau, 17 Pingree Farm Road asked if it would cost extra for HD service. Mr. Bowman stated that there are different charges for different packages and that they offer very professional services.

Mr. Brennan asked about the final list of Town Buildings to receive connections.

Mr. Zibell asked if the service would include basic channels. Verizon stated that basic service would include your regular channels 4, 5, and 7.

Mr. Brennan asked about separate drops at the Public Safety Building. Mr. McGrath stated that they would provide separate drops at the temporary Library and the permanent Library. Mr. Brennan stated that the CoA has a Senior Center at the First Congregational Church and would they provide a drop there and the Brocklebank Museum. Mr. McGrath stated that they could provide to the Senior Center and would have to see about the Museum.

Mr. Brennan moved to close the Verizon Public Hearing. Mr. Vincent seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Brennan moved to approve the Verizon License as amended in schedule B for Verizon Cable for the Town of Georgetown. Mr. Vincent seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

New Business

Joint meeting with the FinCom and Moderator to appoint members to the Personnel Board

7:56PM FinCom called to order by Phil Cannon.

Mr. Delaney stated that the Personnel Board now has two current members and that this is a five member board. Mr. Delaney read the bylaw related to the Personnel Board and how members are appointed. He stated the wording is confusing on how the members are appointed and that he had Brian Riley of Kopelman & Paige review the bylaw. He stated that the counsel opinion stated that members to the Personnel Board are appointed by a joint vote of the BoS, Moderator, and FinCom.

Ms. Gerraughty moved to appoint Janet Pantano to the Personnel Board as the Town Employee rep term to expire June 30, 2007. Mr. Vincent Seconded the motion.

Mr. Brennan stated that Ms. Pantano has done an excellent job but that it has been brought up that it is a conflict for two people from the Selectmen's office to be on the committee as Mr. Delaney is the Personnel Director.

Motion approved by a unanimous vote.

Ms. Gerraughty moved to appoint Robin O'Malley to Personnel Board as the FinCom representative term to expire June 30, 2009. Ms. Enos seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Discussion on Anne Blythe who has expressed interest in appointment

Mr. Vincent moved to appoint Anne Blythe to the Personnel Board term to expire June 30, 2009. Mr. Cannon seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Discussion that there is still one more opening on the Personnel Board and the term on that appointment should be June 30, 2008.

Mr. Vincent asked the FinCom what they need for the FY08 Budget. Ms. Gerraughty stated that she has talked to Mr. Delaney and he will be getting information to her for the FinCom meeting next week.

Discussion on union negotiations and why they are held in executive session. Mr. Ruh stated that he would like to see the FinCom briefed on negotiations. Mr. Delaney stated that negotiations with the Unions will begin again in January.

Mr. L'Hommedieu stated that the Union contract is voted by Town. He stated that the 4% pay raise and school contract is subject to a vote of the Town. He stated that if the town is not aware of the process then they can not vote. Mr. Brennan stated that there was a line item in the budget approved at Town Meeting for any Union increase and the raises for town employees.

Mr. Vincent discussed having a State of the Town report.

Mr. Ruh moved to adjourn the FinCom meeting. Mr. Cannon seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Highway Department/snowplowing Bernay Way, Ilene Circle, Pillsbury Lane

Jack Moultrie, Highway Surveyor stated he sent a memo and would give short history on snow removal on Private roads. He stated that in the past this had to be voted at Town Meeting. He gave copies of the statute to allow plowing of private roads. He stated that a liability release form is attached. He stated that there have been glitches to get Street Acceptances together. He stated that the plowing that is being done now by the contractor is unacceptable. He stated that the street acceptance for these streets will be on the spring town meeting warrant. He stated that these streets are up to Town standards.

Mike Muller, 37 Pillsbury Lane stated that last year the street acceptances for these roads were passed over and now residents are concerned about plowing because last winter the plowing by the contractor was substandard. He stated last year there were some instances when safety equipment would not have been able to get through. Mr. Brennan stated that he is voting in the affirmative because you pay taxes and Mr. Moultrie is recommending this. He stated that the street acceptances were held up in spring because of an easement and that the easement issue has been resolved.

Mr. Vincent moved to approve the snow plowing for Pillsbury Lane, Bernay Way, and Ilene Circle. Mr. Brennan seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Moultrie gave a list of streets unaccepted and accepted streets. He stated that there are areas that they can go into and do betterments. He stated that in the budget session he

would have several articles for bridges and betterments and that he needs the support of the BoS and Town Administrator. He stated that all areas have different issues and residents would be involved in the process. He stated that the Access road is open and the new traffic lights seem to be working.

Discussion on the Town purchasing the property of Mr. Kennedy. Discussion on different parcels of land in town for sport fields, skate park, etc.

Minutes

Mr. Brennan moved to approve the minutes of November 27, 2006 as written. Mr. Vincent seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a 2-0 vote. (Mr. Clough did not vote as he was not present at this meeting.)

Selectmen's Report

Mr. Brennan and Mr. Vincent welcomed back Mr. Clough.

Mr. Vincent stated that he is starting a Secret Santa Fund for Town Hall and the Fire Department.

Mr. Brennan stated the Selectmen attended the Fire Department breakfast and that 21,000 toys were collected in Town for Toys for Tots this season. He stated that Rusty Ricker did a great job coordinating the drive.

Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Delaney stated that the new Fire Ladder Truck has been ordered. He stated that they are working on the numbers for the lease.

Appointments

Mr. Brennan moved to appoint *Kevin Harney and Jeff Moore* to the Taking Pride in Georgetown Committee term to expire June 30, 2007. Mr. Vincent seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:05PM.

Minutes transcribed by J. Pantano.

Minutes approved April 5, 2007.