

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
1/8/07
7:00 PM

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

Others Present: Stephen Delaney, Town Administrator; Janet Pantano, Administrative Assistant

Absent:

Call to Order

Mr. Clough opened the meeting at 7:02PM.

New Business

Police Chief Mulligan stated that he would like to recognize three officers for their work in a recent burglary. He read a letter from a resident on the response of the Police Department to a burglary and how well the officers conducted themselves. He also read a letter regarding a domestic assault and the officer's response to that call. He stated that the officers to be recognized are Officer James Rodden, Master Patrolman Michael Goddu, and Officer Derek Jones. Chief Mulligan read the recognitions for each officer.

Update on Longview Fire

Police Chief Mulligan and Fire Chief Anderson gave a report on the Longview apartment fire. Chief Mulligan explained that the call came in at 9:24AM call and the Police and Fire responded. He stated that as Emergency Management Director he secured the scene. He stated the State Police helped to secure the scene. He stated that a reverse 911 call went out to evacuate homes in the area. He stated that a shelter was set up at the High School and that the Red Cross & Mema were contacted. He stated that Sergeant Don Cudmore manned the Shelter. He stated that 24 units were damaged in the fire and 54 people were displaced. He stated that the all residents had accommodations for that evening and not a life was lost or a pet. He stated the emergency plans.

Fire Chief Anderson thanked all the firefighters who responded and stated that 15 communities responded. He stated that they are working with the State Fire Marshall to determine a cause. He stated that at this time it has been ruled no cause. He stated that there was a pump that did not start up right away but a Longview staff turned it on manually. He stated that he would like to thank the volunteers who brought food and drinks for the Firefighters and Police Officers. Mr. Vincent asked Ms. Gerraughty to give an update on the volunteer efforts for the residents. He stated that Sandy and Robin did an outstanding job. Chief Anderson wanted to thank all departments who helped.

Mr. Brennan asked about the water pressure for the first half hour. He asked if they need to make changes or what they need to do. He asked if they need to let people know of the pump or do they have to make changes at the site. He asked if it was infrastructure or faulty equipment. He stated that he wants our fire department to have access to what they need and can act on a fire. He stated that they are planning to have an after incident meeting. Mr. Brennan stated that Mr. Vincent was instantly mobilized and emailing and contacting residents to help. He stated his concern was for the residents.

Mr. Vincent stated that one thing they have to understand is what the Red Cross and MEMA provide and what they do not. He stated that he talked to Red Cross and they want to meet with them to discuss what they do.

Mr. Clough thanked all the Police and Fire for the work they did.

Sandy Gerraughty stated that she wanted to thank all the residents who helped with food for the Police and Firefighters. She thanked Robin O'Malley for getting the emails out and for the food relief. She stated that they also received a lot of non perishables that will go to the residents. She stated that they set up a fund at the Georgetown Savings Bank for the residents. She stated that there has to be two signatures to distribute the funds. She stated that Robin O'Malley, Matt Vincent and she are on the account. She stated that they will set up a committee of members from different organizations to distribute the funds. She stated that they have been collecting information from the residents that are displaced to see what they need. She stated that they had a clothes drive on Friday morning at the K of C. She stated that on Saturday they collected linens and had a clothes sale with the left over clothing. Ms. Gerraughty thanked all the people who helped with the drive. She stated that she met with Margie at Longview and that some residents got into apartments today and took out some personal items and furniture. She asked residents if there are counselors who are willing to donate time to work with these residents. She stated that the School will be collecting items oils, spices, flour etc for residents. Mr. Vincent stated that the fund has been set up at Georgetown Savings Bank, 2 East Main Street, the Longview Apartment Relief Fund.

Mr. Vincent stated that they are working with the Lowell Wish Project that has been set up to help fire victims. He stated that they will be bringing some of the donated clothes to them and they will donate new mattresses to residents. He stated that if there is anyone who could help deliver the mattresses tomorrow between 6 & 9PM.

Chris Rich thanked Ms. Gerraughty and all the volunteers for all they did. Mr. Vincent stated that the internet and email were invaluable tools during this volunteer effort. Mr. Rich stated that the Fire Department and Toys for Tots delivered gifts to the children and it was a great thing to see.

Ms. Gerraughty stated that there was a child who lost her Polar Express bell and they were looking for a donation to replace the bell. She stated that Ms. O'Malley would be sending out an email out on what is happening next.

Mr. Clough stated that the Fire Department Advisory Committee presentation has been postponed until the January 22nd.

Community Preservation Committee

Harry LaCortiglia CPC Chairman was present

Mr. LaCortiglia explained a land purchase that the CPC is looking at that is adjacent to Camp Denison. He explained the location to the board. He stated that for the CPC to consider the purchase they have to do an appraisal and that they do not want to do an appraisal without a P & S. He stated even if they do sign the P & S the Town is not obligated to purchase the land. He stated that the CPC does not vote until the informational meeting in February. Mr. LaCortiglia showed on the map the land and how it has access to the proposed Rec Path and abuts Camp Denison. Bob Goodwin stated that they see this as a good addition to Camp Denison. Mr. Brennan asked if any portion of this land could be used for fields. Mr. LaCortiglia stated that Camp Denison is hilly and not conducive to fields. Mr. Gorton stated that they can only have passive recreation at the site. Mr. Morehouse stated that there are three abutters who could use the land. He stated that this would be a good purchase for the Town. Discussion on the purchase of this land with CPC funds and what restrictions would be put on the property.

Mr. Brennan moved to sign the Purchase & Sale Agreement and rider to purchase this land from the Groveland Associates, Inc at \$39,000 for 7.9 acres. Mr. Vincent seconded the motion. Discussion

Mr. LaCortiglia stated that the land has been assessed at \$42,000. He stated that all bets would be off if the land is appraised at a lower amount.

Motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Correspondence

Letter from the Whittier Vocational School that there is a Budget meeting on January 18, 2007 at 7:00PM at the School.

Letter from Sharon Freeman on the tone from the light signal. Mr. Delaney stated there is a low audible signal for approaching pedestrians not to cross. He stated that Counsel has stated there may be a risk to turn off the signal. He stated that counsel asks that they look into it before a decision is made. Mr. Moultrie stated that they have an agreement with Mass Highway and the Selectmen and that the Board must ask to disable the tone. Mr. Brennan stated that during the Veterans Say ceremony it was very annoying. Mr. Moultrie stated that the tone has been turned down as far as it can be. Mr. Brennan stated that they have to get a reading on the noise in the home. Mr. Moultrie stated that they have to find out what the liability would be to turn off the tone.

Mr. Brennan moved to have the Town Administrator handle the investigation and report back to the board on the tone at the light. Mr. Vincent seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Licenses

Request from Village Sub and Pizza, Stewart Service Station, and Pizza Factory for a Common Victualler License and a Second Hand Shop License for Meader's General Store.

Mr. Brennan moved to approve the Common Victualler License for Village Sub and Pizza, Stewart Service Station, Pizza Factory and a Second Hand Shop License for Meader's General Store.

Selectmen's Report

Mr. Brennan stated he called Mr. Moultrie regarding a beaver problem in the Rock Pond area.

Mr. Brennan stated that on Friday he will be attending the MMA conference in Boston.

Mr. Vincent stated that he would like to revive the Annual Town Report and have a State of the Town meeting with departments and various boards. He stated that he would like to hold the meeting before the budget meetings. Mr. Brennan stated he would do the layout and collation of the book. Ms. Enos stated she would look to see how other Towns are putting out their reports.

Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Delaney stated that the Personnel Board approved the 4% increase for the non union employees and they have scheduled a future meeting. Mr. Vincent asked for dates for union negotiations. Mr. Delaney stated that they should start soon and that he would contact AFSME. He stated that they have to start budget meetings with departments that report to the BoS.

Ms. Enos stated that she will have two openings on the FinCom soon and will begin interviewing for the positions. She stated looking for finance people with municipal background.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:35PM.

Minutes transcribed by J. Pantano.

Minutes approved April 5, 2007.