

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
Third Floor Meeting Room
10/30/06
7:00 PM

Selectmen Present: Lonnie Brennan, Clerk; Matthew Vincent

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

Absent: Richard Clough, Chairman

Call to Order

Mr. Brennan opened the meeting at 7:00PM.

Public Hearing/Traffic Regulations

Chief Mulligan and Officer Rodden came forward to explain the changes. Chief Mulligan stated the amendments are on Pleasant Street, Winter Street, and Elm Street. He stated that they have worked with the Highway Department and School Department on these amendments.

Officer Rodden stated that the problem on Winter Street is that parents line up a half hour before school lets out and with students leaving the parking lot there is a safety issue with cars parked both sides also the buses are having a hard time navigating the traffic.

Officer Rodden explained the pickup policy at Pennbrook School, Elm Street prior to Principal Arsenault. He stated that parents would park in the lot then go into the school to pick up students and it became a social hour for parents. He explained that now cars line up north and south on Elm Street and this is now a traffic issue. He stated that they had a fire truck try to get up to the School during a pick up time and they could not access the school. He stated that now the road is closed until 2:40PM. He stated that they were having accidents on Elm Street. He stated that they are pursuing no parking on Elm Street during pick up times 11:00AM to 4:00PM Monday through Friday. He stated that if parents leave their home at 2:40PM then there would not be a problem.

Officer Rodden stated that they have the same problem at Pleasant Street for Perley School parking. He stated that parent's park on both sides and this causes problems. He stated that it is worse in the winter with snow. He stated that in the winter they have used cones on one side of the street and this works if they are present but if the Police are not there they just park anyway. Chief Mulligan stated that they are looking for rules so they can enforce the regulations.

Mr. Vincent asked about Maple Street and if these amendments will put more parking on Maple Street and that the residents are already dealing with Library parking issues.

Officer Rodden stated that that the problem is the schools do not have enough parking. Mr. Vincent asked about rotating pick ups. Chief Mulligan stated that they would not get the corporation of parents and that to do this would be a School policy not Police. He stated that there are signs up but there are no laws to enforce. Mr. Brennan stated that the

social time at the school was a positive time for parents. Chief stated that if he could not get a fire truck to the school he would be at fault. He stated that this is a safety issue. Mr. Brennan stated that the increase of \$20 to \$50 is a concern for him. He asked if there would be warnings before they give fines. Chief Mulligan stated that they are not out to give tickets they are out to get compliance. He stated that these amendments are from the Highway Department, Schools Department, and Police Department.

Sharon Freeman, 58 East Main Street had comments as Chair of the Traffic Committee and as an abutter. She stated that the Traffic Committee has reviewed the regulations and support the regulations as written. She stated that the committee feels that the Town must be committed to finding parking alternatives for Town Meeting, School functions, etc.

Mr. Vincent stated that the regulations give a time for no parking on Elm Street but there is no restriction for Winter Street. Officer Rodden stated that the times should be the same as Elm Street. Ms. Freeman stated that she does not see how these regulations eliminate traffic of parents dropping off students at school in the morning. She stated that it is dangerous. She stated that these regulations will cause issues for Town meeting, the Funeral Home and the Library.

Phil Trapani, 10 Hillside Drive stated that the town is putting a Band-Aid on a problem that has been around for a long time. He asked if they have looked into engineering. Mr. Vincent stated that at the Pennbrook School the town has looked into an entrance and exit. He stated that there are some issues with conservation land. Mr. Brennan stated that they have put together a Traffic Study Committee and that this committee may request funds for engineering as they review the needs of the town.

Elizabeth Tollman, 28 Londonderry Lane stated that they are not getting these things to the public. She stated that the web site needs to have information on issues and maybe a newsletter to the residents. Mr. Vincent stated that he would like to have a media advisory committee. He stated that they could have students put info onto the web site and work on a Town Report. Ms. Tollman stated that they are trying to put a newsletter together and that a person should be paid to put information together for the web site. Mr. Vincent asked if someone in their group could look into this type of position and what other towns have done and the cost.

Chief Mulligan stated that there is also a Commercial Truck Restriction in the Amendments.

Mr. Vincent asked if School Safety Committee has been involved in these traffic regulations. Chief Mulligan stated that they meet once a month with the School Safety Committee and that they have looked at these regulations with the committee.

Chief Mulligan stated that he wanted to make a change to the Winter Street parking regulation with the time of the regulations to be consistent with the Elm Street regulations.

Mr. Vincent moved to approve the Traffic Regulation Amendments with the amendment “Winter Street: No Parking any time from East Main Street to the Intersection of Maple Street both sides of roadway 11AM to 4PM Monday through Friday.”. Mr. Brennan seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Brennan stated that Mr. Clough has had some surgery and is doing well and would welcome cards.

Warrants & Minutes

Mr. Brennan stated that they have the Minutes of October 16, 2006 to approve.

Mr. Vincent moved to approve the *Minutes of October 16, 2006* as written. Mr. Brennan seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Correspondence

Poll Workers

Mr. Vincent stated that they have a request from the Town Clerk to approve the Poll workers for the State Election on Tuesday November 7, 2006.

Mr. Vincent moved to approve the poll workers for the State Election for Tuesday November 7, 2006, *Elizabeth Davidson, Warden Pct 1, Pat Duggan, Clerk, Peg Cuddy, Margaret Anderson, Terry Hart, Pete Zibell, Kathy Sachs, Bob Davidson, Margaret Weaver, Starr Anderson, Warden Pct 2, Cynthia Tardif, Clerk, Kathy Roche, Audrey Peabody, Joe Young, Carole Chouinard, Earl Johnston, Valerie Beaton, and Etta Hallowell.* Mr. Brennan seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Old Business

STM Warrant

Mr. Delaney stated that the warrant was posted last week. He stated that he would like to meet next Wednesday, November 8 at 5:00PM to go over motions and any other wording. He stated that the board would like to see on the warrant FinCom and BoS comments. He stated that any other information should be on tables set up outside the auditorium. Mr. Vincent asked if they had free cash numbers. Mr. Delaney stated that he would have numbers for next week. Mr. Vincent stated that CIP is meeting next week and would like them to understand dept exclusion and what the payments would be for the Fire Truck. He stated that they will have to discuss new vs. old.

Board went over each Article:

1. Mr. Brennan stated that they would take no action tonight on Article 1.

2. Highway, Chapter 90

Mr. Vincent moved to recommend adoption of Article 2 at Town Meeting. Mr. Brennan seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

3. Fire Truck

Board stated that the Fire Truck would be discussed at the upcoming CIP meeting and that they would vote next week on this article.

4. Highway, Vehicle

Mr. Brennan stated that Mr. Moultrie was going to withdraw this article until the spring ATM.

5. Citizen Petition, National Ave rezoning

No vote taken

6. Citizen Petition, School Funds

Mr. Brennan stated that this article is asking to reduce the School budget by the sum of \$77,402.00 funds from school. He stated that this was the sum added at the STM in July.

Mr. Brennan moved to not recommend adoption of this Article. Mr. Vincent seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

7. Increase Spending Cap/Camp Denison

Mr. Brennan moved to recommend adoption of this Article. Mr. Vincent seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

8. Taking Pride in Georgetown Multi-Use Facility

The board took no action on this Article. Mr. Vincent stated that the FinCom does not know where funds would come from to fund this Article.

9. Planning Board, Street Acceptance: Forest Street

Mr. Brennan moved to approve the layout of Forest Street as shown on “Street Acceptance Plan at Forest Street in Georgetown, Mass.”. Mr. Vincent seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

10. Planning Board, Street Acceptance: Acorn Way

Mr. Brennan moved to approve the layout of Acorn Way as shown on “Street Acceptance Plan, Planned Unit Development, Acorn Way Subdivision, Georgetown, MA.”. Mr. Vincent seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

11. Adoption of MGL 39, Section 23 D

Mr. Vincent moved to recommend endorsement of this Article.

Mr. Brennan stated that at a meeting in Boxford he was part of a discussion on this law. He stated that the concern is if this law would delay the outcome and if not being an active part of the hearing is a disadvantage. Mr. Brennan stated he is for it as it is a one time exclusion from missing a meeting.

Mr. Brennan seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Brennan stated that they will meet again on November 8 at 5:00PM. He stated that at that meeting they can have input from Mr. Clough and he believes the votes tonight have been consistent with how Mr. Clough would vote.

Public Comment

Phil Trapani, 10 Hillside Drive and Elizabeth Tollman, 28 Londonderry Lane asked to speak on the visioning statement from the Accreditation Board on the Schools. Ms. Tollman stated two years of study by the school went into this report and that a group came to the school for a week to observe. Mr. Trapani stated a warning was given to the schools on funding source. Mr. Brennan stated that the BoS have not responded as they have not had a report from the School Committee. He stated that the Globe contacted him today for a response. He stated that the Town should not be penalized for being frugal. He stated that the warning is until July 1, 2007. Mr. Vincent stated that the BoS have to hear from the School Committee before they make any comments. Ms. Tollman stated that the budget process has started. Mr. Brennan stated that the schools did receive an 8% increase in their 2007 budget. Ms. Tollman stated that there are cracks in the system and this has to be addressed. She stated that the issue is with the long time planning. Mr. Vincent stated that the budget process is just starting. Mr. Delaney stated that in January budget information is sent out. Ms. Tollman asked how they look at the whole town. Mr. Vincent stated that each department is looked at and it is up to each department to justify their needs. Mr. Brennan stated that most departments meet with FinCom and lay out all that they do. He stated that there will be some changes to the process this year. He stated that they need to know what the effect of a cut will be to the Town. Mr. Vincent stated that this process will bring out what it will cost to give the Town what they are looking for. He stated that residents have to be aware of how much it cost to run the town and where the priorities are. Ms. Tollman stated that the FinCom is not democratically elected but appointed by one person. Mr. Brennan stated that the FinCom is the committee to watch. He stated that the BoS have not given the FinCom their do. Mr. Vincent stated that there is the Fire Department, Highway, Police, etc. Mr. Trapani stated that there is not a lot of time to work on the budget. Mr. Delaney stated that the draft budget goes to the FinCom in February. Mr. Brennan stated that the FinCom meetings should be on TV so the public can view the meetings. Mr. Trapani stated that it is then too premature to get a response from this board and the School Department. Mr. Trapani stated that the town is in the same fiscal position as last year. He stated that the Town will have to make a decision on an increase of Property taxes or to add businesses. Mr. Brennan stated that State Aid has been cut and we need to go for increases. Mr. Vincent stated that the School Committee and FinCom are focusing on the Accreditation documents. He stated that the way the budget process is being looked at this year is new.

Discussion on information on Web site and getting information to the public. Ms. Tollman asked if boards would give information on articles. Mr. Brennan stated that boards make recommendations and that he will work to have information available at Town Meeting.

BoS Minutes
October 30, 2006

Mr. Vincent reminded residents that the PTA is extending its loose change drive to Town Meeting so to bring their loose change to the meeting.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:50PM.

Minutes transcribed by J. Pantano.

Minutes approved November 27, 2006.