

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
5/18/09
7:00 PM

Selectmen Present: Philip Trapani; Evan O'Reilly; Gary Fowler; Stephen Smith; C. David Surface

Others Present: Stephen Delaney, Town Administrator; Fire Chief Al Beardsley; Russ Moyer; Janet Pantano, Administrative Assistant

Absent:

Call to Order

Mr. Trapani called the meeting to order at 7:00PM temporarily leading the meeting.

Mr. Trapani welcomed the new members of the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Trapani stated that there is a warrant to be signed. He turned the meeting over to the Mr. Delaney for the votes of officers.

Mr. Delaney asked for a nomination of a Chairman.

Mr. O'Reilly nominated Phil Trapani as Chairman. Mr. Delaney called for a vote. There was a unanimous vote for Mr. Trapani as Chairman.

Mr. Delaney stated Mr. Trapani has been nominated Chairman.

Mr. Trapani nominated Steve Smith as Clerk. Mr. Delaney called for a vote. There was a unanimous vote for Mr. Smith as Clerk.

Mr. Delaney stated Mr. Smith has been nominated Clerk.

Minutes

Mr. O'Reilly moved to accept the *minutes of April 27, 2009*. Mr. Trapani seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Correspondence

Mr. Trapani stated that they have received a letter from Comcast requesting the commencement of the renewal process of their Cable TV contract with the Town. Mr. Delaney explained that the last Cable contract was done with Verizon and was lead by the CATV Committee. Mr. O'Reilly stated that he feels a Selectman should be on the committee. Mr. Trapani asked if Mr. O'Reilly would lead this. Mr. O'Reilly stated that he would.

Mr. Trapani stated that the Board has been invited to the Merrimack Valley Hospice House Grand Opening. He stated that the event will be held on Tuesday, June 2, 2009 5-7PM.

Mr. Trapani stated that they have received notice of an informational hearing by the ABCC on the New England Golf Partners, Inc Alter License Decision. Mr. Delaney stated he and counsel would be present. He asked whether anyone else would want to attend. Mr. O'Reilly stated that he would attend the hearing.

Mr. Trapani stated that they have received a notice from the ZBA on a Public Hearing for 2 Mayflower Lane-Special Permit.

Mr. Trapani stated that they have received an invitation from Paul Thompson, American Legion member inviting the Selectmen and all town residents to participate and attend the Memorial Day Events and Parade. He stated that at 8:30AM the Veterans groups meet at Park & Ride and at 2PM the parade leaves from the Middle/High School. Mr. Trapani encouraged all to attend.

Mr. Trapani stated that they received an invitation to the Eagle Scout Ceremony for Matthew W. Arnold to be held on Saturday, May 23 at 11AM, First congregational Church. The board signed a letter and Certificate of Accomplishment to send to Matthew. Mr. Surface stated that he would attend the ceremony.

New Business

Central & Erie Fire companies

Fire Chief Al Beardsley and Russ Moyer were present

Mr. Trapani stated that Fire Chief Beardsley was present to explain the expenses that the Town pays for/to Erie and Central Fire Stations. Mr. Trapani stated that the Attorney General's office has stated that under the new Strong Fire Chief Legislation the town can not pay these fees. Chief Beardsley explained the relationship with both companies and expenses paid for by the Town (the board had a chart from the Chief showing the expenses). Mr. Delaney stated that the Selectman asked for this information and under the new legislation they can form contracts with the companies. Mr. Trapani stated that they would review the information provided and work out a time to meet with both companies.

Grant for Fire Department Radios

Mr. Trapani stated that he sees some risks with the current system and asked about the grant application. Mr. Delaney stated that this is a preliminary application but the grantees would like to see if the Town is in favor of the grant before applicants go forward. Chief Beardsley stated that with this Grant they would receive 95% of funds requested and the Town would be responsible for 5%. He explained that the Grantee wants to be sure the Town is aware of the 5% and in favor of the grant. Chief Beardsley explained the radio frequency and how the system works. He stated that the grant he is applying for is for \$180,000.

Chief Beardsley explained two recent situations that he did not have radio contact with the fire station because of the radios and frequency issues. He explained how the new system would work and that it would eliminate most dead spots. He stated you can not eliminate all dead spots. He stated mobile repeaters will eliminate most dead spots. Mr. Trapani stated that the grant would be for \$180,000 with 5% matching from the Town. He stated he feels this would be a win/win for the Town and is in favor of the grant. Chief Beardsley stated that in 2012 they will have to upgrade the system. Mr. Smith asked if the new system would be compatible. Chief Beardsley stated that it would be. Mr. Trapani asked why they are not using the same system as the Police. Chief Beardsley stated that this would be compatible with the Police system. Mr. Surface stated 5% would be a good investment. He asked if they need a reference letter from a State Representative. Chief Beardsley stated that a letter would be good. Mr. Surface stated that he would look into this. Mr. O'Reilly asked how the budget would work. Mr. Delaney stated that they would know ahead of time and would add to the budget. Mr. O'Reilly stated that he agrees this is a good idea. Mr. Delaney stated that they need a vote and a letter from the Selectmen to add to the grant packet.

Mr. O'Reilly moved to support the Fire Dept in their application for a new Radio System grant. Mr. Surface seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Selectman's Report

Mr. Trapani stated that he is going to ask the new members to think about what they want to accomplish over the next 18 months as Selectmen. He stated that he will work to have better communication with departments and Town Hall.

Mr. Trapani stated the Board will need to deal with Mr. Delaney leaving as Town Administrator.

Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Delaney gave a memo on the roles that he and his administrative assistant fill. He stated that the second part relates to how the board wants to deal with the transition. He stated that they could find an interim Administrator from Town or from the MMA. He stated that the third part would be to recruit a new Town Administrator. He stated that they could be the screening committee or the board could appoint a screening committee and then they would make the final decision. He stated that Janet would be the point person for information and he will be available if needed. Mr. Trapani stated an interim would be a solid idea. He stated that the Town Administrator position has some flaws and is a weak position. He stated that he would like to see an interim fill in and at the same time have a committee look at the bylaws to see what changes could be made. Mr. O'Reilly stated that Mr. Delaney has held many positions and he is worried that they will not be able to find someone to fill all positions especially Finance Director. He stated that he is in favor of hiring an interim. Mr. Surface stated that the Finance Director part is an issue and that they may want to look at a part time Finance Director. Mr. O'Reilly stated that there is a lot of transition now with the new board. Mr. Smith asked if Mr.

Delaney had a list of items that he sees that need to be changed. Mr. Delaney stated that he does have a list and has found gaps as with the Town Administrator and Finance Director position. Mr. Trapani stated that he feels there should be a search committee and a committee to look at the Town Administrator and Finance Director Positions. He stated that he will meet with Mr. Delaney to discuss issues he sees with the positions. Mr. Delaney asked if he could get the process moving and get the word out for an interim Town Administrator. Mr. Trapani stated that he could get the word out and that they need to have a Plan B if they do not find an interim person. Mr. O'Reilly asked if there was a Town Administrator job description and if it could be sent out to the board.

Appointments

Mr. Delaney stated that there is a current list of the Selectman appointments in their packets. He stated that in June they start to renew appointments.

Mr. O'Reilly stated that there are some board members that are not sworn in and this can be an issue. Mr. Trapani asked for a list of people not sworn in.

Board Business

Mr. Trapani stated that there is a MVPC Luncheon & Regional Planning Day on June 24 with Governor Deval Patrick as a guest.

Mr. Trapani stated that at the June 8 Board meeting the Economic Development Committee would be coming in to present their strategic plan. He stated that the public, all town employees, boards and commissions are invited to attend.

Mr. Delaney stated that they will have an Executive Session at 6PM on June 1 for a litigation update.

Mr. O'Reilly moved to adjourn. Mr. Surface seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Meeting adjourned at 7:53PM.

Minutes transcribed by J. Pantano.

Minutes approved June 1, 2009.