

Memorial Town Hall, 1 Library Street, Georgetown, MA 01833

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

Memorial Town Hall

2/11/13

7:00 PM – General Meeting

3rd Floor Meeting Room

Selectmen Present: C. David Surface, Chairman; Philip Trapani; Gary Fowler;
Stephen Smith (7:28PM); Stuart M. Egenberg, Clerk

Others Present: Michael Farrell, Town Administrator; Janet Pantano,
Administrative Assistant

Absent:

Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Surface stated that Senator Tarr is running late so they will take items out of order.

Appointments & Approvals

Request for the appointment of Robin O'Malley to the Personnel Board term to expire June 30, 2015 (Joint appointment BoS, FinCom, Moderator)

Sandy Gerraughty, FinCom and Beverly Enos, Moderator were present

Mr. Farrell explained that he talked to town counsel and they stated that Ms. O'Malley's appointment would be considered in a holder status so all votes are still valid.

Mr. Surface asked Ms. Gerraughty and Ms. Enos their vote for the Appointment of Robin O'Malley to the Personnel Board.

Ms. Gerraughty stated that the FinCom voted in favor of this appointment and Ms. Enos, Moderator voted in favor of the appointment

Mr. Egenberg moved to appoint Robin O'Malley to the Personnel Board term to expire June 30, 2015. Mr. Trapani seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Board Business

Mr. Surface asked Ms. Gerraughty about the Budget meeting that was canceled due to the blizzard and if a rescheduled meeting has been set up. Ms. Gerraughty stated that the board moved the meeting to Saturday, March 9th at the same time for all departments.

Ms. Gerraughty stated that with how Mr. Farrell presented the budget she feels they will be okay to wait until the March 9th. She stated that the FinCom plans to be done with the budget the first week of April.

Appointments & Approvals

Request for the appointment of Sandy Gerraughty, FinCom member to the Synthetic Turf Advisory Committee term to expire June 30, 2013

Mr. Egenberg moved to appoint *Sandy Gerraughty* to the *Synthetic Turf Advisory Committee* as the *FinCom* member term to expire **June 30, 2013. Mr. Trapani seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.**

Mr. Fowler asked if Ms. Gerraughty saw any departments that are looking for additional funds and may need to come in ahead of time. Ms. Gerraughty stated that they do not see anything that needs to be done ahead of time and that they are waiting for State numbers to come in and that this may make a difference.

Second Hand Shop License-Change of owner

- *Little Block of Shoppes License-new owner Theresa Robinson to expire 12/31/13.*

Mr. Egenberg moved to approve the *Little Block of Shoppes Second Hand Shop License* with the new owner *Theresa Robinson* term to expire **December 31, 2013. Mr. Trapani seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.**

Warrant & Minutes

Warrant to be signed

Minutes of January 28, 2013

Mr. Egenberg moved to approve the minutes of January 28, 2013. Mr. Fowler seconded the motion.

Mr. Trapani stated he and Mr. Smith were not present at this meeting and the names need to be removed from the present list.

Motion was approved by a 4-0 vote. Mr. Trapani abstained.

Board Business

Request from Janice McGrane, Town Clerk to combine the Town Election May 13, 2013 and Special State Primary to April 30th, 2013 under Ch 2 of the Acts of 2013

Mr. Surface explained that the State has approved an Act of Town's can combine their local election with the Special State election if it will be held within 30 days of the Special Election. He stated that our Town Clerk is recommending that we combine the Town Election of May 13th with the April 30th Special State Primary. He stated the Act states that staff must be trained and that this move will save the Town the cost of another election. Mr. Fowler asked what the State would pay. Mr. Farrell stated that the State has not stated that they would pay for this election. Mr. Surface stated that it will save a lot of work and time for the Town Clerk with just one election. Mr. Farrell stated that we would save a \$10,000 by combining the elections. Mr. Fowler stated that it is a move from the typical Monday to a Tuesday election so residents will need to be notified.

Mr. Egenberg moved to combine the *Annual Town election of Monday, May 13, 2013* with the *Special State Primary to be held Tuesday, April 30, 2013*. Mr. Trapani seconded the motion.

Mr. Fowler asked how this would affect the dates for pulling papers, etc. Mr. Surface stated that Ms. McGrane would start the notification process tomorrow if this passes.

The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Request from Peter Durkee, Highway Surveyor to deficit spend the Snow and Ice Account 14231 per MGL Ch44, §31D

Mr. Surface stated that this was expected with the recent storm. He stated that the Georgetown roads look great and thanked the Highway, Fire, Police, Electric, and Water Departments on a great job during the blizzard.

Mr. Egenberg moved to approve the request from the Highway Surveyor to deficit spend the Snow and Ice Account #14231 per MGL Ch44, §31D. Mr. Smith seconded the motion.

Mr. Fowler stated that we have a Snow and Ice SoP and that in that document the board should be notified at a certain percent of the budget being spent. Mr. Farrell stated that when Mr. Durkee came in with the letter he was at 75%. Mr. Surface asked that Ms. Pantano send out a copy of SoP and invite Peter Durkee, Highway Surveyor to the next meeting.

Motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Annual Town Meeting Warrant for May 6, 2013

Mr. Farrell stated that he will have a first draft at the next meeting. He stated that the warrant looks to be light. He stated that there will be an article to change the Ambulance fund to an Enterprise Fund and there is a law that allows Towns to set up a fund to fund unfunded liabilities and he stated that the Town will have an employee leaving with a large amount of sick/vacation time to be paid out this year. Mr. Surface asked if we can fund the account this town meeting. Mr. Farrell stated if we could approve and fund at the STM it would be helpful as this would cover the accrued sick time and vacation time.

Town Administrator's Contract Renewal

Mr. Surface stated that they have worked with Mr. Farrell on his contract renewal and he stated that Mr. Farrell has done a great job over the last 3 years.

Mr. Trapani moved to approve the employment contract with Michael Farrell effective July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2016. Mr. Smith seconded the motion.

Mr. Fowler stated that his vote is based on budget cost not on the work done by Mr. Farrell.

Motion was approved by a 4-1 vote.

Mr. Farrell stated thanked the board for their support.

Request from the MSBA to vote to enter into and be bound by the Feasibility Study Agreement for the Georgetown Middle/High School.

Mr. Surface stated that he attended the MSBA meeting in Boston and stated that our State Representative Mirra also attended and spoke in favor of the project.

Mr. Egenberg moved to enter into and be bound by the Feasibility Study Agreement, Georgetown Middle/High School, MSBA identification #: 200801050505. Mr. Smith seconded the motion.

Mr. Fowler asked if the town would hold the numbers to what has been discussed. Mr. Surface stated that this was the plan. Mr. Smith asked if the School Building Committee would bring the project forward this spring or when. Mr. Farrell stated that there is a schedule the committee would need to follow.

Motion approved by a 4-1 vote.

Town Administrator's Report

Budget update

Mr. Farrell stated that they discussed the budget meetings with Ms. Gerraughty earlier. Mr. Surface asked about the current budget. Mr. Farrell stated that we are on target. Mr. Surface asked about Free Cash. Mr. Farrell stated FinCom approved the School Resource Officer so Free Cash is at \$44,000.

Mr. Surface stated that when the chair makes the declaration of State of Emergency that it allows the town the ability for reimbursement of funds from the State. He stated that it does not give employees double time. Mr. Farrell stated that he would check the bargaining agreements to see if there were any stipulations.

Board Business

Senator Tarr to discuss Circuit Breaker and Senior tax credits-Colleen Ranshaw Fiorello, CoA Director to be present, Lenny Mirra, Georgetown Town Representative also present to discuss State Budget

Representative Mirra stated that they are telling the towns that they will be level funded. He stated Chapter 70 was set up 12 years ago and they are working to get the smaller towns more funds.

Mr. Mirra stated that his business is in Georgetown and he wanted to say that the town has done a great job cleaning up after the blizzard.

Circuit Breaker and Senior tax Credits

Ms. Ranshaw Fiorello, COA Director was present (Senator Tarr was unable to attend)
Ms. Fiorello gave some handouts on Circuit Breaker and information on how they let residents know about the credit. She stated that the credit is for 65 years or older and is very generous with a salary cap of \$85k and that it is also available for renters but not for renters of subsidized housing. She stated that they can also go back two years and get a refund. She stated that they do have a free tax return service and they also let people know about circuit breaker. She explained how they work with the seniors and other exemptions available. She listed services, brown bag, snap, tax work off program, a \$500 tax abatement. She stated that the Perley School Trustees have helped out residents with funds for heat. She stated her office helps residents fill out forms for Community Action, and that there are Food Pantries in town that they help seniors use. She stated that there are some information sessions coming up in Merrimac and Ipswich in the next few months. Ms. Fiorello gave statistics on the residents who use the programs. Mr. Surface asked if we should add more residents to the work off program. Ms. Fiorello stated that they could and that the funds come from the overlay and that a vote at Town Meeting is

required to approve the increase. Mr. Farrell explained it would be a 1/3 of a percent of a penny per resident to fund this increase. Mr. Surface stated that they may want to do this. Ms. Fiorello stated that she needs the positions for the applicants. Mr. Farrell stated this was discussed at the Department Head meeting and the Schools and Police may have additional positions. He stated dept heads like the program and we have an applicant come in and help in our office. Mr. Surface stated that he would like to add a placeholder to the warrant. Mr. Smith stated you listed a dozen ways to help people would it help to put something in the paper. Ms. Fiorello explained the advertising that they use Cable TV, Newspaper, Newsletter, Town Website, etc. Mr. Fowler stated that he can not think of a department who does more with a small budget. Mr. Trapani asked if you are collecting unemployment benefits can you still be in the tax program. Ms. Fiorello stated that she believes they can. Mr. Surface asked if all who apply can get into the Tax Return program. Ms. Fiorello stated that she has not as of yet had to turn anyone away. Mr. Surface stated that if they need additional help he would give a day to do refunds.

The board thanked Ms. Fiorello for coming in.

Mr. Surface asked for a placeholder to add an additional 10 applicants or \$5k.

Mr. Surface thanked Representative Mirra for attending the MSBA meeting in Boston and for advocating for the Town.

Mr. Surface asked residents to be careful driving as there are large snow banks and to watch for walkers, town workers, etc.

Mr. Fowler reminded residents to clear hydrants in their neighborhood.

Mr. Surface stated that they still have openings on ConCom, ZBA and the Personnel Board.

Mr. Trapani stated that it is time for the State of the Town and they usually hold the meeting at least two weeks before Town Meeting. Mr. Smith stated that he would help setting up the presentations. Mr. Smith stated that the State of the Town has been held on Monday's and last year we did a call in but had no calls. He stated he will look to add departments and maybe add CoA.

Mr. Egenberg asked about School Roofs. Mr. Farrell stated that the Building Inspector went out and inspected the roofs and the only one with an issue is Pennbrook with some falling snow and staff cleared some snow and cleared some vents that were blocked. He stated that the Perley roof is built under new guidelines and is double the standards. Mr. Surface stated the he and Mr. Trapani viewed some roofs with the Fire Chief and felt they should close today but the Schools are all set to open tomorrow.

Mr. Trapani stated that their thoughts and prayers go to the family of Bo Hedberg who is still missing.

Next Meeting

Monday, February 25, 2012 at 7:00PM, Town Hall, 3rd Floor meeting room

Meeting adjourned at 8:15PM.

Mr. Trapani moved to adjourn. Mr. Smith seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Minutes transcribed by J. Pantano.