

Memorial Town Hall, 1 Library Street, Georgetown, MA 01833
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BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES
Memorial Town Hall
3/27/14
6:00PM- General Meeting, Basement meeting room

Selectmen Present: Stephen Smith, Chairman; Philip Trapani; C. David Surface; Gary Fowler

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

Absent: Stuart M. Egenberg, Clerk

Meeting called to order 6:10PM.

Mr. Farrell stated that Jim Luca from Green Seal will be at the School Committee meeting tonight to discuss the soil testing at the Middle/High School for the Synthetic Turf Field and the board may want to go up and listen to the findings. Mr. Smith stated that they could recess and go up to the meeting. Mr. Farrell stated if they go up not to go as a group and ask questions but do not deliberate.

Board Business

Special Town Meeting Warrant-review

Mr. Smith stated that they will review the STM warrant first. He asked if they need additional funds for Turf Field what warrant would the funds go on. Mr. Farrell stated could go on either warrant. He stated if arsenic is found will need funds either way as have to have either the turf or 18" of soil.

Mr. Trapani asked why funds for flags going into the Memorial Day Fund. Mr. Farrell explained that this is the only line item that would work.

Mr. Fowler asked about an article for addition funds for heat. Mr. Farrell explained the shortage in the account with the exceptionally cold winter this year. He stated that he will be going out to bid on gas prices. He stated that the current supplier came in with a 38% increase.

Mr. Farrell stated that on the Highway salary line item they may not need the \$16,181 he stated he will keep an eye on this salary line.

Mr. Surface asked if they were voting on the articles tonight. Mr. Farrell stated the FinCom asked them not to vote until they give their recommendations.

Annual Town Meeting Warrant-review
ATM14-02-Middle/High School

Discussion on the wording stated for 50 years. Mr. Farrell stated he would check on the wording.

Mr. Fowler asked if we are going to meet with FinCom and Schools and see if we do not have to have a debt exclusion for the Middle/High School. Mr. Surface stated we can post and go to FinCom meeting next week and hear deliberation. Mr. Farrell explained the terms for a 10 year and a 15 year bond. Mr. Smith asked why this could not be included on a bond with the Penn Brook School. Mr. Farrell stated it could not as it is only a 15 year repair. Discussion.

Mr. Fowler asked if there is a way to word giving the authority to fund a different way if article fails. He stated other than at the fall meeting is there another option. He stated that he feels this is more important than the new school. Mr. Surface stated that the town must have the funds before the MSBA pays their portion. Mr. Surface asked if we could put another article to bond on our own. Mr. Farrell stated that the motion will get into the specifics. He stated that they could also go to fall town meeting with a smaller project if it fails.

Mr. Trapani stated that the town may be able to take on half of the project. He stated that they may be able to bond \$2Mil and pay the other half.

Mr. Fowler stated that he reached out to the Assessors and without Penn Brook School bond we have increased taxes 33% and after the Middle/High School project taxes will be up 50%. Mr. Surface stated that there has been a lot done to the Town for this increase. Mr. Smith stated that we do not want to stress taxpayers. Mr. Trapani stated his taxes and his have not been increased by 33%. Mr. Smith stated that we need to have the correct facts as different issues change the numbers.

ATM 14-04 Stab Fund

Discussion to add 4-5% to Stabilization Fund

ATM14-11 ConCom Revolving Fund for Camp Denison

Mr. Farrell stated that he Camp Denison asked for an increase. Discussion on amount to be increase to. Mr. Farrell to check on the number.

ATM14-18 Other Post-Employment Benefits Trust Fund

Mr. Farrell stated that the plan is to put at least \$50K in the OPEB Fund this year.

Mr. Fowler stated he would suggest to fund the OPEB with savings from Health Ins. He stated that the auditors will want to see a plan. Discussion

Mr. Trapani asked for update on the meeting with PEC on the Health Insurance.

ATM14-19 Heat Pump Replacement Middle High School

Mr. Farrell stated that they could not get the return on the heat pumps so they could not be added to ESCO project and the pumps did not fit in the scope of the MSBA.

Discussion

Mr. Farrell stated that FinCom on fence on this item and the heat pumps have reached the end of their useful life. Mr. Surface asked for Free Cash number. Mr. Farrell stated Free Cash is at \$735K. Mr. Smith asked that maybe we can repair a few heat pumps a year instead of all at once. Discussion on which to repair.

ATM 14-20 Replace Town Hall Fence

Mr. Farrell stated that the FinCom does not recommend spending these funds on the fence. Mr. Trapani stated maybe we can put funds away each year until we have funds to put the rod iron fence up. Mr. Fowler explained that the CPC has rejected this project twice because of the cost to replace the chain link fence with a rod iron fence. He stated that the Historic Commission feels the town should wait until the town can afford the rod iron fence. Mr. Trapani asked if the board can we require items to be on the Capital Fund list. Mr. Farrell stated that we can have a total Capital Fund amount and an available Capital Fund amount. Mr. Farrell stated that there is still the possibility of \$91K from the Assessor's overlay. He stated FinCom is trying to get more funds for Road Maintenance.

ATM14-21 Fire Department Replace Car-1

Discussion on the number of miles on the current vehicle and that it was bought used.

ATM 14-22 Fire Department Exhaust System Expansion

Mr. Smith asked if this could come out of the Ambulance Fund. Mr. Farrell stated that they are taking funds out to repair and replace ambulances.

ATM 14-23 Highway Department One-Ton Dump Truck

Mr. Farrell stated Mr. Durkee came to CIP and stated he needs this vehicle. Mr. Smith stated the board needs to see total fleet. He would like to see a 5-year plan for Highway vehicles. Mr. Farrell stated he would get the information.

ATM 14-24 Middle/High School Parking lot stairs

Mr. Farrell stated that the stairs are falling apart. Mr. Trapani stated that they have blocked them off and a lack of maintenance over the years.

ATM 14-25 Radar Units

Mr. Farrell stated that the Police Chief is requesting the radar units.

ATM 14-26 Local Option Meals Excise

Mr. Surface read a list of communities with the Meals tax. He stated that if you have eaten in any of these towns then you have paid this tax. Mr. Smith stated that he would vote to keep on warrant for voters to vote. Mr. Fowler stated that he is not supportive to put on.

ATM 14-27 Easement 104 Elm Street

Mr. Farrell explained that this is for the emergency access road to the new Penn Brook School and empties into the drive of 104 Elm Street. He stated easiest way is to give the homeowner an easement for them to cross over our land. Mr. Smith asked how the homeowner feels about the

easement. Mr. Farrell stated will have a signed Memorandum of Understanding next week. Mr. Smith stated that there should be a drawing and the MOU at Town Meeting.

ATM 14-28 Personnel By-law amendment

Mr. Smith stated that this has two parts change in authority for Town Administrator and elimination of Personnel Board. Mr. Surface stated he agrees with the change in authority for the TA but sees some value to keep the committee. Mr. Fowler asked if he could work with Mr. Surface on this. Mr. Fowler stated that the TA keeps the records and such but with issues such as the increase of the Fire Chief hours a committee needed. Mr. Trapani stated that does not see the need for the Committee the TA could handle. Mr. Surface stated he is on the fence unless comes to the BoS. Mr. Farrell stated any policy change would have to come to the BoS

Mr. Smith stated that some items could be broken out. He stated that having a Personnel Board that works timely is an issue.

Mr. Anderson entered the meeting to let the board know that Jim Luca, Green Seal would be speaking shortly at the School Committee meeting if they were going to attend.

Mr. Trapani moved to recess. Mr. Fowler seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Meeting was recessed at 7:45PM.

Meeting was called back to order at 8:30PM.

Discussion on Personnel Bylaw and board decided to leave as is.

ATM 14-30 Community Preservation Committee Bylaw Amendment
Discussion on amendment and board not in favor of the amendment.

ATM 14-32 Accessory Apartments
Discussion on this change and the board was not in favor of the article.

ATM 14-32 Solar Energy Facilities
Discussion on the article.

The board request that any departments with articles on the warrant attend the Selectmen's meeting on Monday, April 14th to defend their articles.

NEXT MEETING

Monday, April 14, 2014 at 7:00PM, 3rd floor meeting room, Town Hall

Meeting adjourned at 9:00PM.

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

BoS Minutes
March 27, 2014

Minutes transcribed by J. Pantano and M. Farrell