

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
2/11/15
6:30 PM – General Meeting, Basement meeting room

Selectmen Present: Stuart M. Egenberg, Chairman; Gary Fowler, Clerk; C. David Surface

Others Present: Michael Farrell, Town Administrator; Peter Durkee, Highway Surveyor; Janet Pantano, Administrative Assistant

Absent: Stephen Smith, Philip Trapani

Warrant & Minutes

Warrant to be signed

Minutes January 26, 2015

Mr. Fowler asked about a comment in the minutes that the Ladder truck would be paid off this year. Mr. Farrell stated he had thought it would be but that it would be the final payment in 2016.

Mr. Fowler moved to approve the minutes of January 26, 2015. Mr. Surface seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

OLD BUSINESS

Draft Annual Town Meeting Warrant for Monday, May 4, 2015

Mr. Farrell stated that there are several new articles and that three articles have been deleted. He stated that the deleted articles are for revolving fund accounts as recommended by DOR. Mr. Egenberg asked if we have to vote to discontinue these accounts. Mr. Farrell stated he will find out from town counsel. He stated that the new articles are the capital items. He stated that the capital articles have not been voted on by FinCom but approved by CIP. He stated that one article is for removal of trees at the Public Safety Building and then next year a new fence. He stated one is for new flooring in the M/H School auditorium and replacement of doors at the M/H School. Mr. Egenberg asked why the doors are not coming out of the school maintenance budget. Mr. Farrell stated that the doors are quite expensive \$50K. Mr. Egenberg asked for comment from the FinCom on the capital items. Mr. Farrell stated that the FinCom will not be reviewing the warrant until after the warrant closes. Mr. Fowler asked if we have funds to fund these expenses. Mr. Farrell stated that we were planning on Free Cash and the Reserve fund. He stated that we do have to make sure we have enough funds for Snow and Ice. Mr. Fowler stated that they send the list to CIP and ask for priority of items so if they cannot fund all requests. Mr. Surface asked about the school door not being part of the school project. Mr. Farrell stated that they may not have known of the need. Mr. Surface asked about a modified procedure for these

types of articles. He stated that he thought capital would come from a line item in the budget. Mr. Fowler stated that the MSBA wanted the School Committee to come up with a maintenance program as part of the agreement and he asked where this stood. Mr. Egenberg stated he has not heard. Mr. Farrell stated that the committee has not met since fall. He stated he has not seen the School budget and if they have a maintenance program in the budget. He stated that they were going to hire an HVAC person for all buildings. He stated janitorial is good. Mr. Egenberg asked Farrell to reach out to Ms. Jacobs on this issue.

Mr. Farrell stated that the Police Chief had two articles one for Police Academy expenses and one for Dog waste.

Mr. Farrell stated one other was from FinCom Chair to reduce committee from 9 to 7 members. Mr. Surface asked if they thought about having 2 alternate members. Mr. Fowler stated that they would want the advice of the Moderator on this change. Mr. Farrell stated that this is a bylaw change. Mr. Surface asked if is also under State statute. Mr. Farrell stated that he would review this.

Mr. Egenberg asked for an explanation of the Accessory apartment bylaw from the Town Planner.

Draft Special Town Meeting Warrant for Monday, May 4, 2015

No comments

NEW BUSINESS

Snow & Ice Update-Peter Durkee to be present

Request to Deficit Spend the Snow & Ice Account

Peter Durkee stated that the Snow & Ice account was \$89K in deficit last Friday and this does not include the contractors plowing over the weekend. He stated that the \$89K does include the Georgetown staff OT for the weekend. He stated that they have spent about \$190K on his books so far. He stated he was not sure if the Schools cost for shoveling the school roofs would be coming from S & I. Mr. Farrell stated that we finally found someone to shovel the town hall and plans to take that from S & I. Mr. Durkee stated that the average spent over the years has been \$250K. Mr. Fowler asked what is the least we have ever spent. Mr. Durkee stated that he did not have the number. He updated the board on the weather coming this weekend and that the spring is going to bring floods. He stated that he is looking to purchase a new sidewalk plow as with the current machine it takes days to plow the sidewalks and is even more difficult with the deep snow. He explained the process that take two workers.

Mr. Surface moved to approve the Highway Dept to deficit spend the Snow and Ice Account. Mr. Fowler seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Farrell gave numbers spent on Snow and ice over the last few years. Mr. Durkee stated that he has filled out forms to receive funds from FEMA for the Blizzard of 2015. Mr. Fowler asked if we have a year where we do not have Free Cash where will the funds come from and he is concerned. Mr. Durkee explained his equipment and the contractors and that they are in good

condition for any major storm. Mr. Surface stated that residents should be aware that if you live on private roads and have an emergency the plows will come ahead of ambulance or emergency equipment.

ITEMS NOT REASONABLY ANTICIPATED BY THE CHAIR 48 HOURS IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING

SELECTMEN'S REPORT

Financial Management Review from DoR for discussion

- *Define the Purpose of the Spring Annual and Fall Town Meetings*

Mr. Farrell gave out a sample policy for Special Town Meeting and Annual Town Meeting.

“It shall be the policy of the Georgetown Board of Selectmen that the business of the Town shall, whenever possible, be conducted at the Annual Town Meeting. The purposes of a Special Town Meeting are to deal with emergencies, and actions that the Selectmen deem are necessary to ensure the orderly business of the town. Actions requiring the appropriation of tax dollars, the approval of bonds, or the adoption/amendment of bylaws should be reserved for the Annual Town Meeting.”

Board members reviewed the wording and where okay with the document. Mr. Egenberg stated that the *should* instead of *shall* give the board flexibility if needed. Mr. Fowler stated that he feels that if we do not need a fall town meeting then we should not have one. Mr. Surface stated he liked the wording.

Mr. Surface moved to accept the Town Meeting Policy wording and guidelines as presented by Mr. Farrell. Mr. Fowler seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Fowler stated that they need to receive final warrant articles earlier from board's not just placeholders.

NEXT MEETING

Monday, February 23, 2015 at 6:30PM, 3rd floor meeting room, Town Hall

ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 PM.

Minutes transcribed by J. Pantano.

Approved February 23, 2015