

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
11/3/14
6:30 PM – Public Hearing
General Meeting, 3rd floor meeting room

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

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

Absent: Philip Trapani

Pledge of Allegiance

6:30 PM Public Hearing

Tax Classification Hearing

Thom Berube, Assessor and Jay Ferreira, Assistant Assessor were present

Mr. Egenberg opened the Classification Hearing.

Mr. Berube listed the classifications to be discussed and gave the Assessors recommendations. The Selectmen voted on each class as:

1. Open Space Discount

Mr. Surface moved to set an Open Space Assessment. Mr. Smith seconded the motion and the motion was not approved by a unanimous vote.

2. Residential Exemption

Mr. Surface moved to establish a Residential Exemption. Mr. Smith seconded the motion and the motion was not approved by a unanimous vote.

3. Small Commercial Exemption

Mr. Surface moved to accept the Small Commercial Exemption. Mr. Smith seconded the motion.

Mr. Fowler asked if this would change rates for large commercial businesses. Mr. Berube stated that this is for a town with a larger business community.

The motion was not approved by a unanimous vote.

4. Classification

Mr. Surface moved to recommend a Tax Classification factor of one. Mr. Smith seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Surface moved to close the Classification Hearing. Mr. Smith seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Surface asked about the overlay account and if there would be any additional funds. Mr. Berube stated that right now the account is in deficit.

Request for a One-Day Liquor License at Camp Denison November 21, 2014

Kim Dowling explained event is called the Taste of Autumn and explained a couple breweries would come in and do beer tasting. She stated that they are a non-profit organization.

Mr. Surface moved to approve the One-Day Liquor License at Camp Denison for Bagnall Education Foundation, on November 21, 2014 7PM to 10PM. Mr. Smith seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Update from Peter Durkee on Pond Street Funds

Peter Durkee, Highway Surveyor was present

Mr. Durkee stated that he sent a letter to the State similar to Chapter 90 funds. He stated that the letter went to the DOT. He stated that the State will not be reimbursed any town funds if they do work ahead of time. Mr. Surface asked for a copy of the letter and that he also send to Senator Tarr and Representative Mirra. Mr. Durkee stated that he walked the site with the Conservation Agent so they will not have to spend as much on engineering. He stated that they will need a NOI. Mr. Surface asked when they will do the work. Mr. Durkee stated if weather is okay this winter otherwise in the spring. Mr. Surface asked if it would take a week to do the work. Mr. Durkee stated that it depends because when they take fence down he wants the guard rail to go up the next day.

Mr. Egenberg asked about culverts around town. Mr. Durkee stated that they are done for the winter and explained some piping replaced on North Street and Jewett Street. Mr. Egenberg asked about Ch. 90 Funds and are they doing quarterly billing. Mr. Durkee stated that they are doing quarterly bill. He explained that they will be purchasing a hot box. He stated working on lights on the monument in front of town hall and would like to put in a sprinkler system at the monument. He stated that they are doing some paving on Tenney Street. Mr. Fowler asked about Parrish Road. Mr. Durkee stated that the culvert is down and the culvert is in Byfield. Mr. Fowler asked if it is a safety issue. Mr. Durkee stated all emergency services are aware.

Mr. Fowler asked about the FEMA Grants for M/H School. Mr. Farrell stated that the town sat down with MVPC and worked on the Hazard Mitigation Plan and they were supposed to submit the plan to the State. He stated that the staff member retired and a new person was just hired. He stated that MVPC is working on the plan and the earliest they will submit is January. He stated that they need to get the project and funds dovetailed with the M/H School project.

SeeClickFix

Jeff Mooney, was present to do a presentation on SeeClickFix and explained the Commonwealth Connect Grant.

Discussion on the program and implementation.

Mr. Durkee explained the system we have now and that they fix things right of way. Mr. Mooney stated that the fee is \$2650 for the first year with the grant and \$4100 in year two. Mr. Farrell stated he sees as a strategic communication with the public. He stated that this will improve our transparency and a channel of communication. Mr. Fowler asked if used on a regional area. Mr. Mooney stated is meant to be used by many communities. Mr. Fowler stated that they are getting complaints on the non-emergency use of Code Red. Mr. Smith stated that we need to check with Andover, N. Andover, and Haverhill and see how many are signing on. Mr. Smith asked if used by Schools. Mr. Mooney stated not many. He stated that it takes about 8 hours set up time. Mr. Smith stated it is difficult to get residents to sign on. Mr. Fowler asked Mr. Farrell how this is a benefit. Mr. Farrell stated that the benefit is in the transparency. He stated that right now no one tracks what we do. Mr. Fowler stated he would like to see how departments feel about the program. Mr. Surface stated that does not feel this is a project management package.

Warrant & Minutes

Warrant to be signed

Minutes October 6, 20, & 27, 2014

Mr. Surface moved to approve the Minutes of October 6, 2014. Mr. Smith seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a 4-0 vote. Mr. Smith abstained.

Mr. Surface moved to approve the Minutes of October 20, 2014. Mr. Fowler seconded the motion.

Mr. Fowler asked on page 3 to insert the word “above” after A & B half way down page.
The motion was approved with the amendment by a 4-0 vote. Mr. Smith abstained.

Mr. Smith moved to approve the minutes of October 27, 2014. Mr. Fowler seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Synthetic Turf Field

Ed DesJardin, resident was present

Mr. DesJardins stated that he sent a letter to the Town Administrator regarding the issue of the Artificial Turf Project brought up at the STM by Mr. Tardif. Mr. Egenberg explained to the audience that Mr. Tardif had a concern on the safety of the turf field being put down at the High School after some news reports that he saw. Mr. DesJardins stated he was upset on how Mr. Tardif’s comments where brushed to the side at the STM. He stated on the front page of the Newburyport Daily News there is an article on their turf field and on crumb turf and he read excerpts from the article. He stated that whether crumb rubber, plastic, or cork surface he assumes some study has been done. He stated that he does not want to see the town wait and a few years down the road kids come down with cancer. He asked that the town pursue all options and the article states an increase in allergy’s due to mold that can grow on turf. He stated other communities are doing studies and Georgetown should look at this now. He stated that he spoke to Carol Jacobs and gave her a copy of his letter. Mr. Egenberg stated that Mr. DesJardins should talk with the School Committee and GAA. Mr. Surface stated that the Moderator did the right thing and this was handled correctly at the STM. Mr. DesJardins stated that there was no

discussion on explanation of why the articles were passed over. Mr. Surface stated that he agrees that we can say why an article is passed over. He stated he is also concerned regarding the fields. He stated we are already at the point of the field being put down in the next few weeks. He stated that there is not enough evidence to stop the process. He stated that there should be something in the contract if there is a problem later. Mr. Fowler stated that this is the new field and the field is only for 10 to 15 years. He stated the work by the town was for drainage and site work and if they have to replace the turf it would not cost as much.

Mr. DesJardin stated that he would not be sending his letter to the newspaper.

Mr. Fowler asked Mr. DesJardins if the Historical Commission would be doing a new Boston Post Cane presentation. Mr. DesJardins stated that he has not heard anything.

Veteran's Day Observance

Mr. Egenberg stated that the Veterans' Day Observance would be November 11, 2014 at 11:00AM at Harry Murch Park.

Mr. Egenberg stated that he wanted to send condolences to the Coye family on the passing of their son and stated calling hours are Thursday, November 6th from 3-8PM at Conte Funeral Home.

Board Business

Request to Proclaim November "Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month"

Mr. Surface moved to proclaim November "Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month". Mr. Smith seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a 4-0 vote. Mr. Fowler abstained.

FinCom

Discussion on a joint meeting with the FinCom.

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

Appointments & Approvals

Request from Georgetown Liquors to sell alcohol on Sundays at 10:00AM

Mr. Smith moved to approve Georgetown Liquors to sell alcohol on Sundays starting at 10:00AM. Mr. Fowler seconded the motion and the motion. Discussion

The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Georgetown Liquors, Inc.-2015 All Alcohol package store renewal

Mr. Surface moved to approve the Georgetown Liquors, Inc. All Alcohol package store license for 2015. Mr. Fowler seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Mobile Food Vendor Committee-Peter Durkee, Highway; Police Chief Cudmore; Fire Chief Beardsley; Jon Metivier, Building Inspector; Deb Rogers, Board of Health for duration of employment.

Mr. Surface moved to approve the Mobile Food Vendor Committee-Peter Durkee, Highway; Police Chief Cudmore; Fire Chief Beardsley; Jon Metivier, Building Inspector; Deb Rogers, Board of Health for duration of employment. Mr. Fowler seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Discussion that Mr. Farrell is not on the Committee

Mr. Egenberg stated that the last Light bill had a flyer on board openings and he read the list of openings.

Mr. Fowler asked if the board would consider having the Town Clerk into a meeting to discuss the posting method as she stated to him that she did not feel she was involved in the process. Mr. Egenberg stated that she came to a meeting and she stated her case and was it was discussed. He stated he feels the topic is closed. Mr. Fowler stated that she stated she had not seen the policy before approval. He asked Mr. Farrell if she had seen it. Mr. Farrell stated she distributes the top portion and the rest was from the board discussion. Mr. Surface stated he agrees that they may have some concerns. Mr. Fowler stated that she is concerned with the posting time and 72 hours. Mr. Farrell stated 48 hours is the law and we cannot change that. He stated that boards must be cognizant of the Town Clerk hours. Mr. Egenberg stated that he feels that this is important that residents can see the agendas on the website.

Mr. Surface stated that he would like to offer the board and towns condolences to the Menino family on the passing of longtime Boston mayor Tom Menino.

Next Meeting

Monday, November 17, 2014 at 6:30PM, 3rd floor meeting room, Town Hall

Adjournment

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:17 PM.

Minutes transcribed by J. Pantano.