

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

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

Memorial Town Hall

3rd floor meeting room, Town Hall

11/9/15

6:30PM-Classification Hearing

7:00PM-State of the Town

Selectmen Present: Philip Trapani, Chairman; Gary C. Fowler, C. David Surface, Stuart M. Egenberg, Douglas W. Dawes, Clerk

Others Present: Michael Farrell, Town Administrator; Janet Pantano, Administrative Assistant; Jay Ferreira, Assistant Assessor; Peter Durkee, Highway Surveyor; Police Chief Donald Cudmore; Fire Chief Fred Mitchell; Carol Jacobs, School Superintendent; Lou Mammolette, Water Department Manager

Absent:

Call to order

Invocation-Douglas W. Dawes
Pledge of Allegiance

Warrant & Minutes

Warrant to be signed

6:30PM-PUBLIC HEARING

Classification Hearing-Board of Assessors

Jay Ferreira, Assistant Assessor was present

Mr. Ferreira explained each option and the board voted on each individually.

1. Open Space Discount

Mr. Surface moved to set an Open Space Assessment. Mr. Dawes seconded the motion.

Vote-0-4 the motion was not approved.

2. Residential Exemption

Mr. Surface moved to establish a Residential Exemption. Mr. Fowler seconded the motion

Vote-0-4 the motion was not approved.

3. Small Commercial Exemption

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

Vote-0-4 the motion was not approved.

4. Classification

Mr. Surface moved to recommend a Tax Classification factor of one. Mr. Fowler seconded the motion.

Vote-Yes 4-0 the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Ferreira stated he added some spreadsheets to the packet in case the board wanted to split the tax rate or an exemption. Mr. Trapani stated that there are 2694 parcels in town that are improved on and what does that mean. Mr. Ferreira stated that this means that there is something on the parcels. He stated that he has forms that show the parcels with property. Mr. Dawes asked if he had the new tax rate. Mr. Ferreira stated that he will set the rate tomorrow.

Mr. Surface moved to close the Public Tax Classification Hearing. Mr. Dawes seconded the motion.

Vote-Yes 4-0 the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Warrant & Minutes

Warrant to be signed

CORRESPONDENCE

Veteran's Day Observance-November 11th @ Harry Murch Park 11:00AM

Mr. Trapani stated that he had a notice from Mr. Dawes regarding the Veterans' Day Observance and read the notice and invited the residents to attend. Mr. Dawes stated that there will also be a Veterans' Day event at the Penn Brook School.

Notice from the First Congregational Church that they will be celebrating the 200th Anniversary of their Paul Revere Bell November 15, 2015.

Mr. Trapani read the letter from the Church on the event and that they will be ringing the bell 200 times.

Visioning Session

Mr. Trapani asked members about the event on Saturday. Mr. Fowler stated less painful than he thought and was glad to see a lot of new faces. He stated he liked the format and how the groups worked. Mr. Surface stated that he thought it went well and some issues that he thought would come up such as water and sewerage did. He stated that there was some talk on a change to town government. Mr. Dawes stated he arrived late but heard good comments.

Mr. Farrell stated two residents were new to town and one was not even a US citizen but wanted to know how government works. He stated most wanted to keep the village feeling of the town but were in favor of economic development and he stated that this can be done. He stated that the challenge is to keep good things but have the necessary changes. He stated traffic was a big topic. He stated change will not happen overnight.

Mr. Trapani stated that the town has done some items from a 2007 study and noted that the Collins Center came out in 2010 and they have implemented some items from that plan such as an Economic Development Committee, 40B regulations. He stated that they also have the DoR

study which we have been working on. He stated that the town has to work on Economic Development. He asked Mr. Farrell the next steps.

Mr. Farrell stated Collins staff will pull all the comments together in a readable document and then the town and Steering committee will work to put together a draft vision statement. He stated that the town will have a chance to comment on the statement. He stated that they will come up with some goals and tonight will hear from departments on short term goals and these must align with the long term goals. He stated that if the short term goals do not tie in to long term goals then they should not be doing them. Mr. Farrell stated that a vision should be unattainable but goals should be achievable.

Mr. Fowler stated he came away with one question residents were asking how we would be getting some more commercial tax assessment. He stated would not want an increase to the tax base that would put more burden on the Police and Fire and would still have the same problems. Mr. Trapani stated if the town grows at the same rate of 4% a year in 5 years what will the town be like. He stated that there is a cost of action and a cost of no action.

Mr. Farrell stated that the increase in tax base with commercial does not increase school costs. He stated if the town has more commercial than the town can split the tax rate and increase commercial rate to offset residential rate.

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

7:05PM-STATE OF THE TOWN

- Introduction by Selectman Philip Trapani
- Department/Board/Committee presentations:
 1. Michael Farrell, Finance Director
 2. Peter Durkee, Highway Surveyor
 3. Police Chief Cudmore, Police Department
 4. Fire Chief Fred Mitchell, Fire Department
 5. Carol Jacobs, School Superintendent
 6. Lou Mammolette, Manager Water Department
 - Accomplishments
 - Current challenges/Opportunities
 - Short Term Goals

Mr. Trapani thanked all for attending and that this was not for the board but for residents to see and understand what is going on.

Mr. Trapani asked the departments to work on Challenges:

- Separate long and short term goals and measure if short or long term. Make the goals actionable and measurable
- He asked departments to give quarterly reports and bring those to the board. If cannot deliver let them know how they can help.
- He asked for their feedback on the process.

Chief Cudmore stated that he like the process and it is good to see the goals and objectives of other departments.

Mr. Durkee stated he thought it was great and they sometimes have to think outside the box and work together.

Ms. Jacobs stated that she looked at broad goals. She stated that she learns what other departments are doing and level of commitment in town.

Chief Mitchell stated that this was his first time in this process and he stated he thought it was good to see the results and they have things they can measure.

Mr. Mammolette stated he enjoyed the process and is an opportunity for staff to see not just a job but working toward a goal.

Mr. Dawes thanked all for reports and time.

NEXT MEETING

Monday, November 16, 2015 at 7:00PM, 3rd floor meeting room, Town Hall

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:55PM.

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

Minutes transcribed by J. Pantano.

Minutes approved November 19, 2015.

Documents used for the meeting:

- Classification Hearing information from the Board of Assessors explaining each class.
- Veterans' Day Observance letter
- Letter from the First Congregational Church regarding 200th Anniversary of their Paul Revere Bell
- State of Town power point presentation