

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
Third Floor Meeting Room
11/7/05
7:00 PM

Selectmen Present: Peter Sarno; Chairman; Lonnie Brennan

Others Present: Stephen Delaney, Town Administrator; Janet Pantano, Administrative Assistant; Sue Shillue, Cook & Co.

Absent: Richard Clough, Clerk;

Call to Order

Mr. Sarno called the meeting to order at 7:04P.M.

Minutes

Mr. Brennan moved to approve the *Minutes of August 17, 2005* as written. Mr. Sarno seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

New Business

Present from the FinCom Phil Cannon, Mike Sweat, Reggie Tardif, Robin O'Malley, Lisa Burke
Mr. Sarno explained that they would have a presentation on Health Insurance Review. Mr. Delaney explained that they would be hiring a company to walk the Town through the process, etc.

Susan Shillue, Cook & Co. explained what her company does and that she works on the North Shore. She stated that they work with the Insurance Advisory Committees which are comprised of Union representatives and town employees. She stated that the town usually receives the rates from MIIA the second week in January. She stated that last year they were received in February. She explained that they have a high and low cap. She stated that they want to get an estimate so they can work with estimate. She stated that they would want to have quotes back from Insurance companies and meet in March and April. She explained what they would want to do is activate a committee, with Union Representatives, Retirees, Town Employees, etc. She stated that they would educate all and work together. Mr. Delaney stated that the advisory committee is required by law. He stated that they are only an advisory committee. Ms. Shillue stated that it is her experience that quotes are not available until late February at the soonest. She stated that by mid January they would have the worst case scenario from MIIA. She recommended having the committee together by early December. Mr. Tardiff stated that he was at a conference and he was told why rates are so high is that baby boomers are getting older and this is putting a stress on insurance. He stated that this out of control and who is benefiting from funds. He stated that if we keep cutting benefits where this would end. Mr. Delaney stated that the Town has a 60/40 split with the Town paying 60%. Discussion on costs and benefits Ms. Shillue stated that trends are that municipalities have a higher rate of increase. She stated that Mass has a high rate also. She described HMO's and insurance carriers. She stated that increased costs, increased claims, are what is driving the costs up. She stated that prescription drugs have also increased costs. Mr. Sarno stated that a cafeteria type of options may be an option. Mr. Cannon stated that if there is an increase of 20% again this would be a 60% increase in three years. Ms. Shillue stated that

they would look not only at carriers but at deductibles, etc. Mr. Tardiff asked if we could have Town employees forgo insurance with the Town and go with their spouse. He stated that we could offer an incentive and this could be cost saving to the town. She stated that the down side is that you would also have to offer the incentive to employees that are not taking the insurance. Mr. Sarno asked if Mr. Delaney if they have contacted the Unions. Mr. Delaney stated that they will send out letters next week and he has authorized Ms. Shillue to get information from MIIA. Mr. Delaney stated that the unions and a retiree are mandated by statute to be on the committee. Mr. Tardiff stated that the FinCom wants to be a part of the process. Ms. Shillue stated a seven member board should be established.

Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Delaney gave the board an update and went over the document.

Recreational Advisory Committee

He explained that a meeting was held and what was discussed. Mr. Brennan stated that the group was interested in going to CPC this month. Mr. Sarno asked if we need an additional committee. Mr. Delaney stated that there is a consensus not to have a committee. Mr. Brennan stated that if they want to have a committee, they have to come and let us know.

Council on Aging

Mr. Delaney stated that he wants to get the job ad out and needs an approval from the board. Mr. Brennan stated that this is an opportunity to look at the office and the job description for the Director. Mr. Sarno stated that this is a 25 hour position with a 4 hour unfilled activities position that they may be able to combine. Mr. Sarno and Mr. Brennan authorized Mr. Delaney to place the COA Director ad.

Homeland Security Funds

Mr. Delaney explained the grants that the Town has received. He stated that the largest amount was \$92,000 for turnout gear, etc. He stated that there was a technical grant for computer equip, and the operations center, a grant and equipment from the State for generators and pumps. He stated that \$10,000 was received from Mirra Corp. which was part of their agreement on the development of the Mirra Apartments. He stated that we have received \$123,028 from Federal & State Funds and Local Funds \$20,000 for a total of \$143,028. Mr. Brennan asked that as we move forward if he could let the board know how departments are using the funds.

State Grant/School Department

Mr. Delaney stated that he would like to thank the schools for alerting us to a grant for communities that experienced a dramatic increase in regional school assessments. We received a grant for \$26,000. He stated that these funds go directly to the Town.

Government Study Committee

Mr. Delaney read the names of those interested in volunteering for the committee. Mr. Sarno stated that the board should invite these people to a meeting.

Tax Title Update

Mr. Delaney stated that there are only 8 properties from 04 in tax title and from 05 the first notice has gone out and \$28,000 has already come in this month. He stated that as the properties get to registry of deeds more come in. Mr. Sarno stated that there were some large amounts prior to 04. Mr. Delaney stated that these are in court now. Mr. Sarno asked if legal fees are recoverable. Mr. Delaney stated that they would be.

Perambulation of Bounds

BoS Minutes
November 7, 2005

Mr. Delaney stated that they would be doing the Perambulation of the bounds with Rowley on Thursday. He stated that he talked with Boxford and these should also be done soon.

Correspondence

Mr. Sarno read the flyer on the Hazardous Waste Day Saturday, November 12, 2005 9AM to 1PM.

Library Street

Mr. Brennan stated that the Highway Department was going to update the board regarding Library Street. Mr. Brennan stated that he would like to formally request Steven Przyjemski go out and look at the trees on the water line on the property on Library Street that are cut by beavers. He asked what the board can do about this problem. He stated that there is also a dead tree on Bradford loop that has been marked for demolition weeks ago but has not been removed. He asked how we inquire the status of the tree.

Veteran's Day Observance

Mr. Sarno stated that the Veteran's Day Observance would be held Friday November 11 at 11AM at the monument in front of Town Hall.

Highway Update

Mr. Sarno read the Highway Winter Parking Ban which goes into effect December 1, 2005 and the new Snow & Ice Bylaw. Mr. Brennan stated that Georgetown has the best roads around in the winter.

Mr. Sarno stated that at the next meeting he hopes Mr. Clough will have returned.

Mr. Brennan moved to adjourn. Mr. Sarno seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00PM.

Minutes transcribed by J. Pantano.

Minutes approved December 5, 2005.