

Memorial Town Hall, 1 Library Street, Georgetown, MA 01833
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BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES
Memorial Town Hall
Third Floor Meeting Room
11/02/09
7:00 PM

Selectmen Present: Philip Trapani, Chairman; Evan O'Reilly; Gary Fowler; Stephen Smith, Clerk; C. David Surface

Others Present: Michael Farrell, Interim Town Administrator; Janet Pantano, Administrative Assistant; Robin O'Malley, FinCom Member; Andy Belliveau

Absent:

Call to Order

Mr. Trapani called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

Minutes

Mr. Surface moved to approve the *regular session minutes of October 19, 2009*. Mr. Smith seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Surface moved to approve the *Executive Session minutes of October 19, 2009* as amended. Mr. Smith seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a vote of 4-0. Mr. Fowler abstained

Correspondence

Mr. Trapani stated that the board has received a letter from Doug W. Dawes, American Legion Commander regarding the Veterans Day Observance on Wednesday, November 11 at 11:00AM, at the Harry Murch Park.

Mr. Surface moved to accept the Veterans Day Proclamation for November 11, 2009. Mr. Smith seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

New Business

Common Victualler License

Apostolos Viglas, owner was present

Mr. Trapani welcomed Mr. Viglas and asked why he chose Georgetown to open his business. Mr. Viglas stated that Georgetown is a good town with good people. Mr. Surface asked what the hours of operation would be and if he would be opening the ice cream shop. Mr. Viglas stated that the hours would be 11:00AM-10:00PM 7 days a week and that he would be opening the ice cream shop.

Mr. O'Reilly moved to approve the *Common Victualler License for Dina's Roast Beef, Pizza & Seafood, 70 West Main Street*. Mr. Smith seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

STM Warrant

Mr. Trapani stated that a copy of the final warrant was in their packet. Mr. Farrell stated that the warrant was posted today. Mr. Trapani stated that the Schools were looking to see if CPC funds could be used to replace the boiler at the Pennbrook School.

Robin O'Malley and Andy Belliveau stated that the FinCom has met and reviewed the articles. Ms. O'Malley stated that they have not taken a vote on Article 1, voted yes on Article 2 Snow & Ice, yes on Article 3 Highway Loader Lease, Planning Articles no action, yes on Article 6 Water Dept/Marshall Station Rehab, yes on Article 7 Pennbrook Boiler.

Mr. Surface asked if the Police Radio request had been removed from Article 1. Mr. Farrell stated that it had.

Mr. O'Reilly stated that Counsel stated to remove the Economic Development Article and motion but that a commitment had been made at the ATM and even if not binding then something should come out of Special Town Meeting. Mr. Trapani stated the he could ask Mr. Cracknell to explain how they are getting the funding for 43D. Mr. Farrell stated that when he asked the question to counsel that no difference between the grant and a grant and this involves the same dollar amount and meets the spirit of the motion. Mr. O'Reilly stated that he wants the Town to have the opportunity to hear from the Planner. Mr. Fowler asked about the street acceptances. Mr. Farrell stated that they are down to one and this may not go through.

Budget Process

Mr. Farrell stated that he thought we should discuss the process before he starts. He stated that he had a calendar from last year. He stated that he is looking at moving up the date to send out the budget request forms to departments by one month. He stated that he would like to also have CIP review Capital projects earlier and he moved this to before the warrant is closed. He stated that the opening and closing of ATM warrant date is still to be determined. He stated that he plans to have the budget book to the FinCom and Board by the last week of January. Ms. O'Malley stated that she liked the calendar and liked that CIP review would be moved up. Mr. Trapani stated that he would like to make sure the department budget sheet versions are as close as possible. Ms. O'Malley stated that the departments need to know what the board is looking for as far as level services, level funded, 1% etc. Mr. Surface stated that the talk from the State side is that Towns will be lucky to see level funding. He suggested different numbers, level services, level funding, etc. Ms. O'Malley stated different budgets or zero based budgets are what she would like to see. Mr. Trapani asked if Mr. Farrell thought this was possible. Mr. Farrell stated he thinks that this would be possible. He stated that smaller departments are salaries and supplies. He stated that we have dodged some bullets there are others that we have not dodged. He explained how the Quinn Bill will affect the Town. He stated that

they will received 80% less this year and the following none. He gave the board dollar amounts on Quinn. Mr. Farrell stated that the union contract states that the Town shall fund Quinn. Discussion on what Towns can do. He stated that all our contracts are expiring July 1, 2010 and negotiations will start in January. He stated that while going through the budget process they will not know the contractual salaries. Mr. Surface stated that on the Town side they need to look at the pension liability. Mr. Farrell stated that the legislature has to give the Towns/Cities some wiggle room. He stated that the best case would be to stay the same as last year. Mr. Surface stated that he is concerned regarding the pensions and look at putting some funds away for this so we are not taking a hit in the future.

Mr. Farrell stated that he had some guidance questions such as are there any sacred cows. He stated that he would like to look at some regionalization and some combining of services with the Schools. He stated that these items may not save money at first but can give dividends. He stated that this ties into the Government Study Committee and the Finance Director position is a good start. Mr. Trapani stated that this has been discussed in the Suffolk study and has to be looked into and reviewed. Mr. Farrell stated that regional dispatch has been discussed and asked why it stopped. Mr. Surface stated that regional dispatch shows a deficit and he would like to see the analysis and wants to see the numbers. He stated that we have to look at everything. Mr. Smith stated that there are smaller regionalizations that the town can look at. Mr. Fowler stated that a smaller regionalization may work for us. Mr. Trapani stated that this is something he feels they should put on back burner for now and look at in a year or so. Mr. Farrell explained that to join School and Town functions would take a Town Meeting vote.

Mr. Farrell asked if layoffs would be an option. Mr. Trapani stated that they do not want to layoff if possible and would work to keep this from happening. Mr. Farrell asked if an override is possible. Mr. Smith stated that he found the sacred cow. Ms. O'Malley stated that the FinCom has also not been in favor of an override. Mr. Surface stated that furloughs may be an option. Ms. O'Malley stated that they would like to see all departments loose something before an override. She stated that there is a lot of talk on unions getting raises. Mr. Smith stated that all the questions he asked where great and that is why they brought him in. Mr. Farrell stated that he has been looking into changes in Health Insurance and there are options with GIC and Plan changes. He stated just changing to a \$100 deductible for hospital inpatient care is a \$200,000 savings. He explained how with this savings the Town could set up an account to reimburse the employee for the deductible.

Mr. Farrell asked about crossing guards in the budget. Board stated that they want this in the budget. Ms. O'Malley stated Animal Control must be kept in the budget also. Mr. Farrell stated Police and BoH are going to discuss this issue. Mr. Surface asked if we can join Animal Control with another town. Mr. Farrell stated that we are doing this now with Rowley. Mr. Trapani asked what the FinCom wants to see. Ms. O'Malley stated that the FinCom would like to see a zero based budget. Mr. Trapani stated to Mr. Farrell to start a zero based budget. Mr. Surface stated that basically this is already done now by departments they just don't call it that.

Selectmen's Report

Mr. Trapani stated that the Government Study Committee met and he stated that Mr. Farrell has offered to have someone from the MMA come out and help the committee move forward.

Mr. Fowler asked when the board would look at Mr. Farrell's contract. Mr. Trapani stated to post an Executive Session for December 7 before their regular meeting.

Mr. Fowler asked about the Grant funds from MVPC and how these would be used by the town or would they be in services. Board discussed how this grant would work. Mr. Smith explained that the 43D plan would go to the State and the form would come back to the BoS to sign. Mr. Trapani stated that anyone with questions should talk to Mr. Cracknell to clarify.

Mr. Trapani stated that the next BoS meeting is before the STM on November 16, 2009 at 6:00PM. He asked to have a banner on Rt. 133 and 97.

Public Safety Building Roof

Mr. Farrell updated that BoS on the bid opening for the Public Safety Roof. He explained what this bid included. He state that he is asking for the Building Inspector and Don Cudmore to review the bids and then they will award the bid.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:20PM.

Minutes approved November 16, 2009.