

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
10/5/09
7:00 PM

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

Others Present: Michael Farrell, Interim Town Administrator; Janet Pantano, Administrative Assistant; Peter Durkee, Highway Surveyor; Glenn Smith, Water Department Manager; Wayne Snow; Light Department Manager; Scott Edwards, Light Commissioner

Absent: Stephen Smith, Clerk

Call to Order

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

Mr. Trapani congratulated all who participated in the Mike Donohue Walk this past weekend. He also stated that October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Warrant

Mr. Trapani stated that there is a Warrant to be signed.

Board Business

Mr. Trapani stated that the Town Report is done and available online. He thanked Ms. Pantano and Mr. Farrell for getting the report finished.

Correspondence

Mr. Trapani stated that they received a resignation of Marian E. Jordan from the Council on Aging and he thanked her for her service to the town.

Mr. Trapani stated that he has received a request from Sandy Gerraughty to serve on the Government Study Committee. He stated that he also received a request from Kathy Sachs to serve on this committee.

Mr. Trapani stated that they have a request from the Police Chief to formally adopt a resolution that we use the "National Incident Management Systems" NIMS. The Selectmen had questions about the resolution and asked to add to the next meeting.

Old Business

Highway Dept

Peter Durkee, Highway Surveyor was present to discuss the lease/purchase of a Loader. He stated that now they rent a loader every winter and with the lease/purchase they would

own the loader at the end of the term. He stated that he can support a 10-year lease within his budget (Snow & Ice/Chapter 90 Funds). Mr. Surface asked the year of new equipment. Mr. Durkee stated that it would be a new Loader. Mr. Surface asked if other departments would be able to use the equipment. Mr. Durkee stated that they would. Mr. Trapani stated to add the Loader to the warrant. Mr. Durkee stated that the Loader would be available to the town all year as now they only have for the winter. Mr. Surface asked about maintenance. Mr. Durkee stated with a new loader the maintenance will be less as the old loader that they have needs tires which are very expensive. Mr. Farrell stated he would put together an article for the warrant.

Light Commissioner Joint Appointment

Scott Edwards and Wayne Snow were present

Mr. Edwards stated that the Light Commissioners met with the three candidates last week and they sent a letter of recommendation to the Selectmen. He stated John Smolisky is their recommendation as with his financial background he will compliment the board. He stated that all candidates were great. He stated that Mr. Schofield is present tonight and works for Peabody Light Dept and Earl Johnston is a long time resident of Georgetown. Mr. Trapani invited Mr. Schofield up to discuss his interest in the position. Mr. Schofield stated that he would go with the recommendation of the Light Commissioners. Mr. Trapani asked for Mr. Fowler's opinion as he had attended the Commissioners meeting. Mr. Fowler stated that Mr. Smolisky would add diversity to the commission. Mr. O'Reilly asked if any candidate expressed interest in the permanent position. Mr. Edwards stated that they did not ask the candidates that question. Mr. Smolisky was present and stated that he lives near the Light Department and has had talked with the department and was happy with the service. He stated that he has been in town for 25 years and this is a chance to give back. He stated that he has administrative and financial background that may be a help to the department. Mr. Trapani thanked him for his offer of service. Mr. Surface recommended that the Commissioners take a vote at their next meeting.

Mr. O'Reilly moved to appoint *John Smolisky* to fill the unexpired term of Light Commissioner until the next election in May 2010. Mr. Surface seconded the motion and a roll call vote was taken and was unanimous.

Park & Recreation Part-time Seasonal Position

Mr. Trapani stated John Tortorelli has applied for the Part-time Seasonal Position for the Park & Rec. Mr. Farrell explained that the position was posted and a Cori check was done and came back okay.

Mr. O'Reilly moved to appoint *John Tortorelli* to fill the Part-time Seasonal position for the Park & Recreation Commission. Mr. Surface seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Water Department Warrant Article Request

Glenn Smith, Water Department manager was present

Glenn Smith stated that they have two articles to put on the warrant and that these articles will not increase rates or the tax base. He stated that the first is for \$125,000 for capital improvements to the water system. He stated that the second is for \$225,000 to upgrade Marshall well. He explained the articles to the board.

Mr. Trapani asked what the balance of retained earnings is. Mr. Smith stated half million and there would \$150k left after all obligations are met. Mr. Surface asked how much should be in retained earnings. Mr. Smith stated that he was not sure but they are trying to add 10 to 15% each year. Mr. Trapani stated that they are trying to use STM for critical needs can this wait until spring. Mr. Smith stated that this is a timing thing and they hope to have the well done before June. He stated that they are not using this year's funds but retained funds from the last two years. Discussion on retained earnings. Mr. Surface asked about a Capital Reserve Account. Mr. Smith stated that they do not have a Capital Reserve Account but that is what this retained earnings are used for. Discussion on water quality and process used on water. Mr. O'Reilly asked for a breakdown on the use of the funds. Mr. Smith gave a handout of the estimate for the well. Mr. Trapani stated that if on the warrant the Water Department should have an explanation on the critical element for town meeting. Mr. Trapani asked to see the Water Budget for the next 5-10 years. Mr. Surface asked that this go to FinCom and be researched.

New Business

Mr. Trapani stated that tonight they would officially open the Town Meeting Warrant and close at the October 19 meeting. Mr. O'Reilly stated that he may not be available for the October 19 meeting.

Mr. Surface moved to open the Special Town Meeting Warrant for November 16, 2009. Mr. O'Reilly seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Selectman's Report

Mr. Trapani has asked for members short and long range plans.

Mr. O'Reilly stated that the one thing that he would like to work on is to make Georgetown stable and more affordable so people can stay and costs do not accelerate. He stated that he feels they have more input into the budget and need to work with FinCom. He stated that he would like to see a zero based budget from each department. He stated he is working on technology and with the Cable Committee on the new contract with Comcast. He stated that he would also like to work on the Government Study Committee. Mr. Trapani stated that a zero based budget is a great idea that he would like to see this also.

Mr. Fowler stated his list is small the Town Report is one and he is glad to see the report done and would like to see more pride in the report. He stated that he has been working on communication with departments. He stated that he would like to see a quarterly meeting of boards with a small presentation from each. He stated that Mr. Farrell recommended inviting a department each week to their meetings. He stated that Mr. Farrell could have a prop 2 ½ workshop. Mr. Trapani asked if this would be an open

meeting. Mr. Fowler stated that an open and televised meeting would be good. He stated that he ran for stability not change.

Mr. Trapani stated that they can build on the State of the Town Meeting and the Prop 2 ½ workshop is a great idea. Mr. Trapani stated that a Town Report that is published is a goal and maybe there is private help for this. He stated that he understands not moving to fast that they are not doing this in a vacuum.

Mr. Surface stated that communication is difficult and to get residents interested is difficult. Mr. Trapani stated that he has learned that people have to be interested. He stated that the information is available.

Appointments

Mr. Trapani stated that they have a request to appoint Suzanne Lind as an Alternate member of the Council on Aging.

Mr. Surface moved to appoint *Suzanne Lind* as *Alternate Member of the Council on Aging* term to expire June 30, 2010. Mr. Fowler seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a 3-1 vote.

Government Study Committee

Mr. Fowler asked if this is a new committee. Mr. Trapani stated that this is a regrouping of the committee.

Mr. Trapani moved to appoint *Kathy Sachs* to the *Government Study Committee*. Mr. Surface seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Trapani moved to appoint *Sandy Gerraughty* to the *Government Study Committee*. Mr. Surface seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Surface asked that he and Mr. Smith stay off this committee as they are working with the Strategic Planning Committee.

Mr. Surface moved to appoint *Evan O'Reilly* to the *Government Study Committee*. Mr. Fowler seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a 3-0 vote. Mr. O'Reilly abstained.

Mr. Surface moved to appoint *Gary Fowler* to the *Government Study Committee*. Mr. O'Reilly seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a 3-0 vote. Mr. Fowler abstained.

Mr. Surface stated that he and Mr. Smith are meeting next week regarding the Strategic Planning Committee.

Town Administrator Report

Mr. Farrell stated that today they received official notice on the Foreclosure on the Georgetown Club because of the designation as a recreational land. He stated that because they are zoned under 61B they are not taxed the same. He stated that if they sell the property and it is not used the same then they will be required to pay the tax credit. Mr. O'Reilly asked for the order of the liens. Mr. Farrell stated the Electric and Water do not go on if not paid.

He stated that he received a report today that the State is short funds and that the Governor will go to the legislature to balance budget and municipalities will be in play and there may be budget cuts mid year.

Mr. Farrell stated that there has been a lot of talk on Health Insurance and he is doing a comparison between our insurance and GIC. He stated that he will have a report for FinCom during the Budget season. Mr. Trapani stated that last year they only had a 1% increase and that they will need the Unions to agree to any change. Mr. Surface asked that they look at coverage as he would not like to see employees take the hit. Mr. Farrell stated that he would look at apples to apples.

Mr. Trapani stated that they have received an invitation to the Central Fire Company Ball on November 7, 2009 at the Bradford Country Club.

Mr. Fowler asked about the CPC funds for the Brocklebank Museum. Mr. Farrell stated that the CPC has asked for a delay so that they can review the contract. He stated that they will have this for the next meeting.

Mr. Trapani stated that the next meeting is October 19.

Mr. Farrell stated that he will check with Mr. Smith on the Fire Company Contract and if an Executive Session will be needed at the next meeting.

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

Meeting adjourned 8:30PM.

Minutes transcribed by J. Pantano.

Minutes approved October 19, 2009