

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

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

Memorial Town Hall

1/28/13

7:00 PM – General Meeting

3rd Floor Meeting Room

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

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

Absent: Philip Trapani; Stephen Smith

Call to Order

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Warrant

Warrant to be signed

Board Business

Notice of Intent to convey land subject to M.G.L.A. Ch. 61A/Ingraham/LaSpina Jay Ferreira, Assistant Assessor was present and Mr. & Mrs. LaSpina were present Mr. Ferreira stated that this is a piece of land owned by Mr. Ingraham and is a part of his Tree Farm. He stated that the parcel abuts Blueberry Lane/LaSpina property. He stated that Mr. Ingraham will get a 32,000 sq. ft. parcel and the LaSpina's a 15,000 sq. ft. parcel. He stated that as this land is under Ch. 61A the process is that the Town gets first right of refusal so if the town does not want the land then they can do the swap. The land is land locked so of no value to anyone else. Mr. Fowler asked about the tax rollback on the property. Mr. Ferreira stated that LaSpina is taking care of the taxes that will be owed. Mr. Ferreira stated that for 2 years Ingraham must prove land is for farming and then it can go into Ch. 61A again.

Mr. Egenberg moved to not exercise the Town's option to purchase Lot B pursuant to MGL c.61A, s. 14. Mr. Fowler seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a 3-0 vote.

Town Administrator's Report

ESCO update

Mr. Farrell stated that last Thursday they did the final walkthrough of the Schools and town buildings. He stated that it took them 5 hours. He stated that they came up with a punch list of unfinished items and the project is 95% done. He stated that a large part is the cooling tower at Town Hall and this will be tested in June. Mr. Surface asked if he

was happy with the work. Mr. Farrell stated that the work was done well and consultant Beth Greenblat was a great asset.

Board Business

Annual Town Meeting May 6, 2013 at 7:00PM at the Middle/High School

Mr. Surface stated that he would like to add a placeholder to the warrant for a non-solicitation bylaw. Mr. Surface stated he is working with the Police Department on this.

Budget Update

Mr. Farrell stated that on Wednesday he will be presenting the FY14 budget to the FinCom. He stated that the Governor presented his budget already and that was a help. He stated that department heads have delivered their budgets and he has been putting them into a town budget. He stated in years past the departments have been asked to give two budgets a level services and a level funded. He stated that this year he has asked for a level services budget. He stated that he has asked that they show one time appropriations and no increases in personnel but a salary increased of 2.5% for non-unions and schools and unions by collective bargaining agreements. He stated that the sheets will look different as they will be done differently. He stated that they will be changing the Chart of Accounts and this is a large undertaking and will be done at the end of the year and there will be a cost as the financial software company will help with the change. Mr. Surface asked if the cost is in the budget and Mr. Farrell stated that he is working on this.

Mr. Farrell stated that the FinCom spent a lot of time on revolving funds last year and these will be shown in the budget this year. He stated that the Schools have a \$13M budget and then \$2M in revolving funds. He stated that other departments also have revolving accounts and taxpayers should know what is being spent by all. Mr. Surface asked about the overlay account and Mr. Farrell explained how this fund works.

Mr. Farrell stated explained how the Governor's budget will affect the town budget and the cherry sheet estimate numbers. He stated that there is talk about additional Ch. 70 funds. He stated in the Ch. 70 figures from the Stated the town would get a \$37,700 increase. He stated that the net gain in education is \$41,421 and if the numbers stick the town may get a \$45,505 increase with a total gain of \$86,926. He stated that the second sheet is the takeaways and this is \$31,000 less then last year. He stated that he does not know if the numbers will stay this way but it is a good start.

Mr. Farrell gave updated salary increases of \$77,000 evenly split with Union and Non-Union and he stated that the largest increase is in pensions. He stated employees contribute 9% to retirement. He stated that he does not anticipate an increase in insurance costs and there may be a decrease and by the end of the year they will be going to plan design and savings will have to be shared with retirees.

He stated that they have some savings is in debt service and a loss \$77K in principal balances. He explained some payments that will be showing up for ESCO. Other areas

that are unknowns were unemployment, and insurance. He stated that telephone savings that have been going to the company will be coming back to the town this year.

He gave an update on Free Cash, Reserve Fund and Capital Fund.

Appointments

Appointment of Peter Durkee to the Synthetic Turf Advisory Committee as a voting member.

Mr. Egenberg moved to appoint *Peter Durkee* to the Synthetic Turf Advisory Committee as a *voting* member term to expire June 30, 2013. Mr. Fowler seconded the motion.

Mr. Fowler asked who was already on the committee and how many openings there were. Mr. Surface listed members and openings.

Motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Request from Joan Liporto to be appointed to the Synthetic Turf Advisory Committee as a non-voting member

Mr. Egenberg moved to appoint *Joan Liporto* to Synthetic Turf Advisory Committee as a *non-voting member* term to expire June 30, 2013. Mr. Fowler seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Surface stated that they now need a recommendation from the FinCom for a member to this committee. He stated that it does not have to be a FinCom member.

Personnel Board

Christopher Rich, Chair Personnel Board was present

Mr. Surface stated that they need two appointees to the Personnel Board and anyone interested should contact the office. He stated that they would reappoint Robin O'Malley. Mr. Rich asked if this should be an appointment or a reformed appointment. Mr. Surface stated that they need a vote from FinCom and Moderator as this appointment is a joint appointment of all three.

Discussion on members being sworn in.

Mr. Farrell stated that FinCom is still looking for members. He stated that as one comes on and one is leaving.

Request from the School Building Committee to appoint Margaret Maher, Perley School Principal to the School Building Committee

Mr. Egenberg moved to appoint *Margaret Maher, Perley School Principal* to the School Building Committee as a *non-voting member* term to expire June 30, 2013. Mr. Surface seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a 2-1 vote.

Next Meeting

Monday, February 11, 2012 at 7:00PM, Town Hall, 3rd Floor meeting room

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Minutes transcribed by J. Pantano.