

**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**

**9/21/15**

**7:00PM-General Meeting~3<sup>rd</sup> floor meeting room, Town Hall**

**Joint Meeting with the School Committee may be a part of this meeting**

---

**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

**Absent:**

---

**Call to order**

Invocation-Douglas W. Dawes  
Pledge of Allegiance

**Warrant & Minutes**

*Warrant to be signed*

*Minutes September 14, 2015*

**Mr. Surface moved to approve the minutes of September 14, 2014. Mr. Dawes seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.**

**CORRESPONDENCE**

*Resignation of Richard Boucher, Council on Aging Alternate*

Mr. Trapani thanked Mr. Boucher for his volunteerism.

*Letter from the Board of Registrars requesting appointment of two members*

Mr. Trapani stated that with the two openings the Town Clerk and Registrars cannot sign petitions, etc. He asked if we had any applicants. Mr. Farrell explained the process and that certified letters were sent to both committees and they have 45 days to send the name of applicants to the board. He stated that until the end of the 45 days the board can appoint temporaries. He stated time is of the essence as they must sign petitions for the general election and that is by November 6<sup>th</sup>. He stated that the tough part is they cannot hold any elected or appointed position in town. Mr. Dawes stated that the Republican Committee has a meeting coming up and he has heard that the Democratic Committee also has a meeting. Mr. Surface asked how many members are on the Board of Registrars. Mr. Farrell explained 2 Republican and 2 Democrat. Mr. Surface asked about appointing members. He asked if we have done what we should by law. Mr. Farrell stated yes we have. Mr. Trapani asked the audience to think about volunteering.

**NEW BUSINESS**

*Joint meeting with the School Committee to fill an unexpired term of the School Committee member until the next election May 9, 2015*

School Committee members present: Barbie Linares, Chair; Pamela Lundquist; Michael Hinchliffe; Suzanne McDonald.

- Request for appointment to the School Committee from Cheryl Lachendro
- Request for appointment to the School Committee from Donald Valentine
- Request for appointment to the School Committee from Sheila Ruth

Mr. Trapani invited Ms. Linares to come forward. Ms. Linares explained that Ms. Polignone has resigned because of work obligations and that has left them with an open position.

Mr. Trapani invited Ms. Lachendro forward.

*Cheryl Lachendro, 6 Bussing Way*

Ms. Lachendro explained that she worked for the schools and has left to raise her son. She stated that she is committed to Georgetown and can make a difference. He asked her background. Ms. Lachendro explained her background and explained that she has served on committees, been a team leader, on assessment committee, curriculum committees, school improvement committee, mentoring program, math coaching, etc. She stated that outside of teaching a member of Toastmasters, and Newburyport tots coordinator.

School Committee questions:

Ms. Linares asked why she came forward now to run. Ms. Lachendro stated that now that her son is 4 she has more time to spend on other things. Ms. Linares stated that their meetings are every other week and other subcommittees. She asked how she could handle the meetings. Ms. Lachendro stated that she has flexibility with son and husband is supportive.

Ms. Lundquist stated that she knows her and her commitment to kids and asked her to give three words to describe herself. Ms. Lachendro stated dedicated, serious, and caring.

Mr. Hinchliffe stated you have teaching experience but this is not in classroom how this work will for her. Ms. Lachendro stated that being in the trenches she knows what works and has looked at budget issues. Ms. Linares asked where she would fit best. Mr. Lachendro stated that she would fill where needed but has worked on policies, governing, budgets, and safety.

BoS Questions:

Mr. Surface stated that as a School Committee member may have to negotiate with previous colleagues and how would she deal with that. Ms. Lachendro stated she takes the job seriously and will make a decision on facts not with her heart. He asked if she would run for the seat in the spring. She stated that she would be interested in running. He asked how you would handle governing with teaching. Ms. Lachendro stated that she could separate from teaching and governing.

Mr. Dawes stated that she was part of the union and if she still had ties with the union. She stated that she does not. He asked if she had experience with Special Ed. She stated that she had students with IEPs and has worked with students and parents. She stated that her daughter had special Ed needs. He stated that he views the appointment as representing School how would she represent and work with Superintendent. She stated that she can work with the Superintendent.

Mr. Fowler asked if she has attended any School Committee meetings. She stated she attended a meeting in August and has watched some on TV and has read minutes of meetings.

Mr. Trapani asked her thoughts on Common Core. Ms. Lachendro stated that she has seen many changes in her years and the Common Core asks kids to think at a higher level and the Park assessment is more challenging than MCAS and the Common Core is trying to grow our kid's brains.

Mr. Hinchcliffe asked what needs the most attention in our system. Ms. Lachendro stated school is adding technology and administration is keeping track of trends and does not see any large issues.

Ms. MacDonald asked what she would be bringing to the School Committee. She stated her commitment.

*Donald Valentine, 89 West Main St*

Mr. Trapani asked for some background information.

Mr. Valentine stated he has been teaching for 17 years and going for his masters in history and is going to Bosnia in the spring. He stated that he loves teaching and urban system. He stated that he has been on the other side of the table and can use this to help students in Georgetown. He stated he can bring to the table his experience.

School Committee questions:

Ms. Linares asked what he thinks about Common Core. He stated that he feels that it needs to be fleshed out. He stated that you teach to test and difficult for students to pass. Mr. Linares stated that they have a teacher who came to them about how they teach history. He stated that when he asks students about facts they do not know history. He stated Civics is not taught enough and students do not know what it is to be a citizen. He stated that American government should be taught to seniors. Ms. Linares stated that he has 32 to 36 students in Chelsea and in town we have smaller size. She asked if a parent came to him complaining would he be compassionate. Mr. Valentine stated that he would understand. He stated that in Chelsea they have larger classes because of the budget and would understand frustration of parents.

Mr. Hinchcliffe stated what can he take from Chelsea and bring to Georgetown. He stated that he can help prepare students for the world. He stated he was from a small town and went to UMass Amherst. He stated that his kids do not know much outside of Chelsea.

Ms. MacDonald asked what his motivation to be a School Committee member is. He stated he likes kids and wants to help.

Ms. Lindquist asked what lead him to run for this position at this time. He stated he would like to work to give kids what they need to succeed.

BoS Questions:

Mr. Surface asked how he will work with the union being on the other side. Mr. Valentine stated that he emphasizes with staff and knows he would have to make tough decisions. Mr. Surface asked if he would run in May. Mr. Valentine stated that he would. Mr. Surface asked what he would take from the classroom to the School Committee. Mr. Valentine stated as a teacher he knows what teachers need. Mr. Surface stated that his experience is High School what about younger students. He gave his experience working with younger students.

Mr. Dawes asked that if Mr. Hinchcliffe told him about the opening on the School Committee how he knows him. Mr. Valentine stated that he is his neighbor and he has asked him his opinion on different issues. Mr. Dawes he stated he would be working for students and teachers. Mr. Valentine stated he would also be working for residents.

Mr. Fowler stated that he has stated he has watched School Committee meetings. Mr. Valentine stated that he has watched and read minutes of School Committee meetings.

Mr. Trapani stated that being someone who is a Union Rep and has negotiated with unions, will it difficult to be on the other side. Mr. Valentine stated he would look at what is best for the community, students, and staff. He stated that he would give his nonbiased opinion. Mr. Trapani asked what he sees as the biggest challenge for the School Committee. Mr. Valentine stated the biggest challenge is preparing students to go into the world.

*Shelia Ruth, was not available to attend.*

Mr. Trapani read some information on Ms. Ruth. He asked Ms. Linares about Ms. Ruth. She stated that she has a good resume and wished she could have been here.

Mr. Dawes stated that he knows Ms. Ruth.

Mr. Fowler stated that we have well qualified candidates and both are teachers he had hoped for an accountant. Mr. Fowler asked how you think your board is rounded out as he does not know them. He asked if someone in accounting would round out the board. Ms. Linares stated that this is one of her concerns. She stated in other towns business people are on the board. She stated candidates here are great and glad they want to work with the committee. Mr. Hinchcliffe stated that he agrees with having background of finance is great but having that background and then cutting \$10k that person does not know how that would affect a classroom as they would. Ms. Lundquist stated she would like someone who has more educational experience. Ms. McDonald stated teachers know what goes on in the classroom and can educate themselves in what happens in meetings.

Mr. Trapani stated that if Ms. Ruth is not appointed they would find a committee for her.

Mr. Surface stated he would like to know process tonight. Would they be taking recommendation from committee and then take a vote is that how we are going? Ms. Linares stated that they meet next Thursday and could vote. Mr. Farrell stated that this is a joint appointment by both boards. He stated that the candidate who has five votes of the eight present would be appointed. Mr. Fowler asked would they deliberate tonight and vote tonight. Mr. Dawes stated that he would like to have the School Committee deliberate and then give a recommendation to the Selectmen. Ms. Linares stated that she would like the opportunity to deliberate. Mr. Trapani stated that the School Committee should reach out to Ms. Ruth to see if she can attend their next meeting. He stated that both candidates tonight were great and well qualified. Ms. Linares stated that she will reach out to Ms. Ruth to attend their meeting. Mr. Surface stated that this is a joint appointment. Mr. Fowler asked that they let the board know if Ms. Ruth is attending their meeting so the BoS could attend.

Amy Purcell, 12 Davis Lane stated looking from outside in and in her experience a difficult decision and someone who has experience of living and working in Georgetown. Would recommend Ms. Lachendro.

Ms. Linares adjourned the School Committee meeting. 8:35PM.

5 Minute Recess

*Camp Denison One-Day Liquor Licenses*

- Partners for Georgetown Football

Amy Purcell stated that this is a fundraiser for Georgetown football 7PM to 11PM on October 3, 2015 a band and food. She stated Lt. Hatch will assign an officer to be present.

**Mr. Surface moved to approve the *One-Day Liquor License 7PM to 11PM at Camp Denison for Partners for Georgetown Football on October 3, 2015*. Mr. Dawes seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.**

- Bagnall Education Foundation

Kim Dowling, Groveland stated that this is the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual event at Camp Denison and was a very successful event for them. She stated that with the funds they have bought smart boards and will help support the School program. She stated that she would provide an updated Certificate of Liability to Town of Georgetown

**Mr. Surface moved to approve the *One-Day Liquor License 6PM to 11PM at Camp Denison for Bagnall Education Foundation on October 16, 2015*. Mr. Dawes seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.**

*Home Project Funding Agreement*

Mr. Surface stated that the Affordable Housing Trust has been working on this and explained the program as a rental assistance program and the funds get replenished. He stated 24 months is the limit to help residents. He stated that the program allows the town to get reimbursed. Mr. Trapani stated \$8320 are the funds coming back to the town from HOME.

Mr. Fowler stated that he did not approve last year.

**Mr. Surface moved to approve the *Home Project Funding Agreement*. Mr. Dawes seconded the motion.**

Discussion

**The motion was approved by a 3-1 vote.**

*Fire Chief Contract*

Mr. Trapani introduced Fred Mitchell, Jr. our new Fire Chief. He stated that the contract is the same as the other night Executive Session. Mr. Farrell stated there was a change on page for education. Mr. Surface asked why that school in particular. Mr. Mitchell stated because it has an online class.

**Mr. Surface moved to approve the *Fire Chief Employment contract with Fred Mitchell, Jr. as presented from October 4, 2015 to June 30, 2018*. Mr. Dawes seconded the motion.**

Mr. Fowler stated that Mr. Mitchell is not an EMT in MA where is he in the process. Mr. Mitchell stated that he is working with Nick Valentine and will start the process next week. Mr.

Fowler stated what if he does not pass. Mr. Surface stated that this can be a part of his 90 day review.

**The motion was approved by a 3-0-1 vote. Mr. Fowler abstained**

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

### **SELECTMEN'S REPORT**

Mr. Trapani stated that they have a proposal for scope of work for Collins Center. Mr. Farrell handed out the proposal for strategic planning. He stated that Kim Kelley put the plan together. Mr. Farrell stated the Collins Center does a lot of work with municipalities. He stated that they do a lot of performance measurements. He stated that the town is looking for a visioning, with goals and objectives. He stated they plan on 3 meetings in one day. He stated different aspects for different meetings and they are asking for a steering committee. He stated that they need people new to town to get a broader input for vision statement. He stated at the end of day the committee will take all the information and put it together and present back to the group. He stated that they will have staff present from the Collins Center. He stated that we have the notes from the session a few years ago that we can bring out. He stated that the consultants will present a report from the meetings. He stated that the entire process is \$15K and visioning would be \$5K. Mr. Dawes stated a lot for 5 hours. Mr. Trapani stated the more time the longer it takes the 5 hours is long enough. Mr. Surface asked if we have funds for this. Mr. Farrell stated yes. Mr. Trapani stated that he is working to give his successors a plan to work with. Mr. Surface stated he supports the plan. Discussion on where funds would come from. Mr. Fowler asked if this would go over \$15K and be done this calendar year. Mr. Farrell stated visioning done this calendar year and the finished plan done by the end of the fiscal year. Mr. Surface stated add timetable for deliverable and total cost.

Mr. Trapani stated that they need a motion to enter Phase 1 and to not go over \$15K.

**Mr. Surface moved to approve the *Strategic Plan Project Phase 1* not to go over \$15K. Mr. Dawes seconded the motion.**

Discussion

**The motion was approved by 4-0 vote.**

### **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

#### *Social Media Policy Discussion*

Mr. Trapani stated that he opened a can of worms asking about Facebook and Mr. Farrell provided some information to the members. He asked the board what they thought. Mr. Dawes stated he watch the webinars and have to decide how deep we want to go. Mr. Trapani stated that the visioning session may be a place to get feedback. He stated some people do not use Facebook how do we reach them. Mr. Dawes stated does this work ourselves into a new committee. Mr. Surface stated that this information is old from 2013. He stated that have to have someone monitoring the sites. Mr. Farrell stated that the information is still relevant and cannot say we can do with staff we have now. He stated that they can maybe use Cable staff and keep simple. He stated we should not be using Facebook without any guidelines. Mr. Trapani stated see what the people think and go from there.

*Correspondence*

Mr. Trapani read some correspondence that they received.

- Public service announcement that the Assessors list of new valuations for FY2016 is available.
- Notice of the MMA-Fall Conference for Selectmen
- Notice of Association of Town Finance Committees meeting Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup>
- Notice of the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the new Penn Brook School, September 26<sup>th</sup> at 10AM

Mr. Farrell stated he will be at the ICMA conference next week and will bring back the up to date polices on social media.

Mr. Surface thanked the Camp Denison Committee for a great event last Saturday.

**NEXT MEETINGS**

Monday, October 5, 2015 at 7:00PM, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor meeting room, Town Hall

Saturday, October 17, 2015 Visioning Session

Monday, November 2, 2015 at 7:00PM, Special Town Meeting, M/H School

Monday, November 9, 2015 State of the Town

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:43 PM.

Minutes transcribed by J. Pantano.

Minutes approved January 25, 2016.

Documents used in this meeting:

- Minutes September 14, 2014
- Resignation of Richard Boucher, Council on Aging Alternate
- Letter from the Board of Registrars requesting appointment of two members
- Request for appointment to the School Committee from Cheryl Lachendro
- Request for appointment to the School Committee from Donald Valentine
- Request for appointment to the School Committee from Sheila Ruth
- Camp Denison One-Day Liquor Licenses requests
  - Partners for Georgetown Football
  - Bagnall Education Foundation
- Home Project Funding Agreement
- Social Media Policy information
- Fire Chief Contract
- Public service announcement that the Assessors list of new valuations for FY2016 is available.

BoS Minutes  
September 21, 2015

- Notice of the MMA-Fall Conference for Selectmen
- Notice of Association of Town Finance Committees meeting Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup>
- Notice of the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the new Penn Brook School, September 26<sup>th</sup> at 10AM