

REPORT ON THE SELECTBOARD MEETING OF MAY 25, 2021

Prepared by Rick Cliffe

Note: These are not official minutes -- -- just notes taken by me. Official minutes will be available from the Town Office and will be posted on the Town web site following Board approval at the next meeting. If anyone wishes to stop receiving these reports, they may simply hit "Reply" and request to be deleted from the list or say "Unsubscribe."

THE MEETING: The meeting was conducted on Zoom hybrid. SelectBoard members Rich Donaldson, Jon Collins, and Bronwen Tudor plus administrator Amanda Campbell were present. There were 5 members of the public in attendance.

The minutes of the meeting of May 11, 2021 were approved. They will be posted on the Town website.

MOST IMPORTANT/INTERESTING ITEMS: In my judgment, the following items were the most important things covered during the meeting.

- **Liquor License:** The Board approved a Class 1 A Hotel license, effective July 2021, for Acclaim Hospitality LLC doing business as Grey Havens Inn. A comment was made to Carlos Barrionuevo who was on Zoom. I followed up with him after the meeting and he gave me the following comment. "Carlos and Ali have an agreement to purchase Grey Havens with Dick and Eve with a closing date for the end of July. As part of that process, we need to reapply for the licenses with the town. And we are excited!"
- **Broadband:** The agenda included a land use agreement discussion with Georgetown Broadband LLC. Bronwen commented that this topic should be moved to the end of the meeting or scheduled for a separate meeting or workshop. After a brief discussion the Board tabled this discussion to a workshop, open to the public, Tuesday, June 1, 7:00 pm on Zoom.
- **Select Board Communications:** There was a brief discussion about correspondence between Board members between open meetings. Bronwen suggested that email be used to share information, recognizing that no decisions or in-depth conversations can be done outside public meetings.
- **TOPMB Ordinance:** Stephen Mace, TOPMB chair, came to discuss proposed wording change to the ordinance that came from Town Counsel. He noted that he should have gone to MMA before Counsel. Aria Ee helped understanding the MMA comment. Updated wording will be sent to MMA. Bronwen moved approval to use the updated language in the Town Warrant unless there is negative feedback from MMA by June 4th.
- **Proposed 2021/22 Budget:** Bronwen asked Bill Webster, town treasurer, to provide his view of the proposed budget. Bill replied that "The Town is in good Shape" financially. That led to a discussion of the Undesignated Funds Balance (budgeted funds left over from previous years). He recommended the Board have a good discussion about how much of that should be pulled forward to reduce taxes in 2021/22. Bill also noted that reserves should be Town reserves, not limited to a single line item. Then there was brief discussion and decisions on half a dozen specific line items, which I believe came from discussion at the budget hearings. I did not capture the details of the individual items. Jon moved and the Board approved incorporating the specific decisions for each and moving forward with this proposed budget.
- **Town Meeting Warrant:** Amanda led a quick review of the Town Meeting Warrant, focusing on items which have changed from previous years. The Board approved the warrant with a few minor wording changes.

- **Transfer Station Mall:** The Solid Waste Committee is finalizing a plan to re-open the Mall. Their plan will focus on keeping it clean and shipshape. They have solicited volunteer support and a number of people have come forward.
- **First Church:** There was a brief discussion about upgrading the church to be a meeting place with state of the art electronics. Rich has had informal discussions with a local contractor just to get a rough idea of scope and costs. Initial estimate is approximately \$100,000. Bronwen recommended that a First Church reserve be established and used to fund work on the church. She asked when the federal Rescue Plan funds become available. Amanda is taking a course on June 2nd which will identify how towns apply for grants. Bronwen noted that Rescue Plan funds can be used to convert/update the church. If they are not fully expended in the upcoming fiscal year, remaining money can revert into the reserve.
- **Property Reassessment:** During public comment Bob Trabona brought up an article in the Times Record concerning the property reassessment being planned by Woolwich. They have allocated \$100,000 for the initial planning effort. Bob asked if Georgetown should get an estimate from Bill Van Tuinen and then adjust the reserve (approximately \$100,000) going forward. It was pointed out that Georgetown's total value estimate and the States are very close, well within the state trigger for a reassessment.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- These was only 1 item of correspondence; Information about public access stations and franchise agreements. Amanda pointed out that it is not useful until we have real broadband in the Town.

UPCOMING EVENTS/DATES:

Date & Time	Event	Place	Comment
Tuesday, June 1, 7:00	Discussion of Broadband with Georgetown Broadband LLC	Zoom	Workshop is open to the public. Get Zoom Meeting ID and Password from Town Office.
Tuesday, June 15, 1- 8 pm	Election of Town Officers	School	Absentee ballots are available now
Saturday, June 26, 10 am start	Town Meeting	Behin d the School	This meeting will be held outside as it was last year. Rain date is Sunday, June 27.

The next meeting of the Selectboard will be at 7 PM on Tuesday, June 8. The public is welcome to attend on ZOOM. Contact the Town Office to get the Meeting ID and Password.