

**TOWN OF MILLVILLE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**Minutes of October 15, 2008
7:30 p.m.**

Members Present: Selectmen Charlie Poulin, Jackie Lima and John Laura

Members Absent: Chairman Paul Savage, Vice Chairman Tom Petrowicz

Others Present: Town Moderator, Joe Kelleher

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 pm at the Millville Town Hall, upstairs room.

The Board meets with the Moderator for the purposes of discussing a secret ballot bylaw.

The moderator is going to a meeting of Moderators Friday and thinks that it would be useful to talk with his peers about this topic. He is hesitant to commit to something at this point without getting input from his peers. The selectmen think this is a good idea, however, they remind Mr. Kelleher that they want to put this on the warrant for the special town meeting and therefore time is important.

Mr. Kelleher thinks that there should be certain times that secret ballots should be mandatory. For example, if salary is to be amended on the floor at a town meeting.

Discussion is had after regarding copies of the legal opinion of town counsel obtained by Helen Coffin in light of this situation.

Selectman Lima likes the wording of the town of Berlin and asks how many voters should have to request a secret ballot in Millville. Mr. Kelleher recommends that we use the number 7. Massachusetts General Law generally calls for 7 voters to do certain things and he thinks it would be good to remain consistent with state levels for this.

Resident, Mr. Charles Singleton suggests that we don't try to list all the reasons that we would want a secret ballot because then residents could begin to play parliamentary games at the meetings. Mr. Kelleher agrees that there should be a way to have a secret ballot bylaw, however, it is still important that these meetings move along and not become lengthy due to the process that we choose. The moderator would like to see a system in place where all secret ballots are cast at the same time, at the end of the night. He suggests the use of a flip chart or projector so that voters will clearly understand (in the event that they are voting on multiple items on the same secret ballot) what they are voting on. The idea of giving everyone colored paper or paper with some stamp or seal on it is recommended so that people cannot "bring votes with them" and also, it would be important that voters get this piece of paper as they are walking on the stage to vote rather than when they enter the auditorium so that if people choose to leave the meeting before the secret ballot takes place, they will not be able to leave their ballot with someone.

At this time, it is the intent of the board to put 2 articles on the warrant based on the feedback from Mr. Kelleher at this Friday's Moderator Association Meeting. The first article will be to lay out times when a secret ballot is mandatory (for example when there is an amendment to appropriate salary deviating from the FinCom/BOS recommendation) and a second article giving a certain amount of voters the right to request a secret ballot for any article within parliamentary procedures.

At this time, Mr. Kelleher and resident Chuck Singleton leave.

Selectman Lima asks Helen Coffin to work with the animal control officer Gary Fagan regarding the bylaw that he is proposing since he missed his meeting with the BOS at 7 pm. She said she will work with him to get something on the warrant.

On a motion made by Lima seconded by Poulin, we authorize the chair to sign the Fire Grant on behalf of the Town of Millville. Chairman Savage will stop by in the morning so the fire chief can send this out tomorrow.

The Executive Secretary informed the board that a round of well water testing just came back from MES with good results. Selectman Poulin inquires as to if the engineer has taken out a permit to do work at that school. Helen will verify this. Selectman Laura wants to know who is the licensed plumber and if there is a service log or record of maintenance on this job. Helen will check into these as well and get back to the board. Selectmen Poulin and Laura discuss a hot/cold circulatory system that could help with some of the problems. They are going to the school for a site visit on Friday and will discuss their findings at the meeting on Monday September 27th. Selectman Lima asks that the Executive Secretary put an announcement on Cable regarding the public meeting to be held in hopes that residents come and get their questions answered directly from the engineer.

On a motion made by Laura, seconded by Poulin, the meeting is adjourned at 8:57. Motion passes unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Jackie Lima, Secretary
Board of Selectmen

Charles Poulin

Jackie Lima

John Laura

APPROVED AND SIGNED 11/03/08