

**TOWN OF MILLVILLE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**Minutes of October 20, 2008
6:00 p.m.**

Members Present: Chairman Paul Savage, Vice Chairman Tom Petrowicz, Selectmen Charlie Poulin, Jackie Lima and John Laura

Others Present: Executive Secretary Helen Coffin

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm at the Millville Town Hall.

The Board calls an “All Town Government Meeting” for the purpose of receiving updates from each of the Town departments, boards and committees. The Regular Meeting will commence at the conclusion of the presentations-at approximately 8:30pm.

Public Safety Departments

Police Department. Police Chief Landry advises that the department overall is doing well. There is some concern about cuts to grants. He has obtained a 911 training grant, a 911 equipment grant, a car seat grant and a night-vision goggles grant. He continues to make improvements to the building and provides a brief overview of the police vehicles. The Citizens Police Academy is going well and the department has increased its patrols. Goals for the department are to motivate employees and maintain communication with the residents and Board of Selectmen. There may be a possibility in the future to regionalize dispatch through a grant...more info will follow. This has been a busy year-180 arrests were made. There are plenty of applicants looking for work in Millville.

Fire Department. Fire Chief Mullaly reminds all of the safety precautions surrounding wood stoves – he feels we have a tough winter ahead. Keep warm but keep safe. He has been looking into the purchase of a new fire vehicle and is working with Capital Planning on that matter. He explained the laws pertaining to carbon monoxide detectors. The intermediate level ambulance training is going well – they should be done in January and they hope to be fully licensed by July; brief discussion follows regarding regionalization of ambulance services with surrounding towns.

Emergency Management. Fire Chief Mullaly explains the NIMS Training requirements. There are a few individuals missing some training but the Town is NIMS compliant. The Chief is certified. He explains the new Citizens Emergency Response Team (CERT). The Red Cross will no longer respond to calls from residents who run out of heat or have water main breaks...these now need to be handled on the local level. He thinks it may be a good idea to implement a ‘warming center’ for seniors at the Senior Center.

Highway Department. Highway Surveyor John Dean advises that the Town is only eligible to receive one STRAP grant every five years. The drainage and guardrail projects will be starting soon; fortunately the bids came in lower than expected so some funds should be returned to Chapter 90. The catch basin cleaning is done; the materials were tested and will be taken away this week. He is ready for the winter – the salt and sand shed is full and good for three or four storms. Let's hope for a mild winter.

Tree Warden. Tree Warden John Dean suggested the placement of an Article on the Town Meeting Warrant to combine the position of Tree Warden with the Highway Surveyor position. Otherwise, the work on the town trees is going well.

Parks and Recreation. Member John Dean explains that most of the work is volunteered. Funds were turned back to the Town last year. Loam was received free from Varney Brothers. The playground gets a lot of use. The summer crew cleaned it up and added more wood chips. We have to be careful to keep other items at least five feet away from the playground equipment in order to pass inspections. Some new signs were installed.

Animal Control. Animal Control Officer Gary Fagan advises that all is quiet at this time. The Animal Control vehicle will have some body work done during the winter. There were some issues in the spring/summer with barking nuisances which were brought to the Board's attention. He will be sending out the fines for the 08/09 licensing period. He suggests including a new barking fine by-law on the Warrant for the Special Town Meeting as most surrounding towns do have a similar one. There were no cases of West Nile virus in Millville this season.

Finance/Other Departments

Treasurer/Collector. Treasurer Lisa Larue supplied the Board of Selectmen with a letter which indicated the rate of collection for the Town. It also indicated properties which have been taken due lack of tax payments.

Town Accountant. Town Accountant Marilyn Mathieu provided a report closed 2008 in a positive status. There were funds turned back. The balance sheet was submitted and certified. This is the lowest amount of free cash since 1988. The budget and revenue is in a crisis. A draft of 2010 projected revenue budget was provided. There is \$161,000 left in Stabilization. The snow and ice ran over last year and it cut into the budget. The budget resulted in a surplus of \$30,000 in 2008. All of the departments need to work together. The audit is complete and it will be presented to the Board at a later date.

Finance Committee. Mr. Labonte advised that the Finance Committee would like to meet with the Board of Selectmen in January to discuss "what if" possibilities. New growth is done.

Capital Planning. Chairman Chuck Augat advised that a memo was sent in July 2008 with the line items which were funded. Not much has changed since then. There was no

money put into capital last year. The Committee met with the Fire Chief to replace Engine 1. Another meeting will be held Wednesday evening to discuss quotes. The town could do debt exclusion for the truck. \$5,800 was another request for the alarm at the library.

Systems Administrator. Systems Administrator Mark Morton provided a memo which noted that the systems have been updated. New software will be installed. Wireless routers will be set up. Board of Health regulations are being added to the website. Chuck Augat wanted to inform the administrator that the website does not mention Capital Planning.

Blackstone-Millville Regional School Committee. Superintendent Tyrie provided an overview about the schools at the last Board of Selectman meeting.

Boards/Inspectors

Board of Health. The Board of Health revised and updated their regulations. This was long overdue. The board has joined the recycle paper campaign. The recycling rates have been renegotiated to lower rates. There are three residents waiting for the septic grant betterment loan money.

Board of Assessors. There was no representation by or information provided from the Board of Assessors.

Planning Board. Town Planner Joe Laydon is working on getting the regulations updated. There is a revision to the subdivision rules and regulations. Zoning Bylaw amendments will be worked on this spring. Three consulting firms have been interviewed as plan/site review firms. The Board is looking at land use around town.

Zoning Board. Chairman Savage advised that there have been five hearings and one appeal.

Earth Removal Board. Chairman Savage explains that this board was recently formed and the purpose is to regulate the removal of loam from town and within town.

Building Inspector. Building Inspector Mike Giampietro forwarded information which was read by the Executive Secretary about the building inspector and his jurisdiction.

Electrical Inspector. There was no representation by or information provided from the Electrical Inspector.

Gas/Plumbing Inspector. Dick Wunshel speaks on the new regulation about the trenches. This will need to have a permit to allow the work to be done. He feels that the permit fees are low and will get information to the secretary.

Committees and Commissions

Cable Access Committee. There was no representation by or information provided from the Cable Access Committee.

Senior Center Building Committee. Chairman John McNamara forwarded a statement read by the Executive Secretary explaining that the Building Committee will fulfill its commitment next month and attend the BOS Meeting at that time.

Historical Commission. Chairman Margaret Carroll thanks Mary Lou Anderson for her efforts in fulfilling the agendas presented by the historical commission. The Commission was saddened to lose Mr. Mercure. The honor roll dedication was done. This was dedicated to WWI Veterans. There was a final meeting with the historic district registry with over 100 noted places in Millville. The Banigan City project is still in the works. A grant for the Udor Tower was submitted. The Commission will be meeting with Heritage Design Group regarding the newly presented landscape plan.

Conservation Commission. There was no representation by or information provided from the Conservation Commission.

Citizen Services/Councils

Town Clerk. Town Clerk Susan McNamara advised that this year was busy with elections. Voting for the recent election is November 4, 2008.

Library/Library Trustees. Librarian Lisa Cheever provided a memo highlighting the events at the library for 2007-2008. All of the events were free to the patrons. The library trustees are looking for ways to fund events. The cultural council provided two grants to the library. Story time continues to be a success. One of the goals is to have the event programs run on cable. The library received a grant for \$1,100. There are six computers with internet access.

Veterans Agent. There was no representation by or information provided from the Veterans Agent.

Council on Aging/Senior Center. Carol Smith answered questions about what is being done at the Senior Center. This past year, the Town had 5,552 services, which were provided to the seniors. There will be an advanced computer class for seniors. The Director is in the process of applying a grant for new smoke detector. Training will be provided by the EMS. The monthly newsletter is on the Town website along with pictures from recent events. The Director is creating input and grievance forms. This will be voted on at the next COA meeting. A volunteer handbook has been completed.

Cultural Council. Chairman Deb Pennie forwarded a memo which was read by the Executive Secretary. There are currently six members. The Council has received a grant. The next meeting is Wednesday evening.

Trustees of Soldiers Memorial Park. John Dean provided the highlights of the year: the Memorial Day parade and the police safety day were held in the park and were successes. There is a new cement sidewalk leading up the monument.

Announcements:

- The Special Town Meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 8, 2008, at 7:00 pm at the Millville Elementary School.
- The Pumpkin Party was a huge success. Thank you to the local businesses.

Minutes/Warrants:

October 6, 2008: (trench regulations)

- On a motion made by Tom Petrowicz and seconded by John Laura, the Board of Selectmen voted **unanimously** to sign the minutes from October 6, 2008. Selectman Poulin abstained.

October 6, 2008: (regular meeting)

The Minutes of the Meeting were held until the next Meeting due to a question regarding a motion that will be reviewed by the taker of the Minutes.

Public Forum: None

Correspondence:

- A memo came from Governor Patrick about local aid cuts.

Executive Secretary Report:

Election Warrant Signature:

- On a motion made by Jackie Lima, and seconded by John Laura, the Board of Selectmen voted **unanimously** to sign the election warrant.

181 Main St. Assessment:

The liability insurance information was provided to the board. A waiver liability would need to be signed by Mr. Ouellette. Executive Secretary should contact counsel for the language.

Contract for Guardrail:

- On a motion made by Tom Petrowicz, and seconded by Charlie Poulin, the Board of Selectmen voted **unanimously** to allow the Chairman authorization to sign the contract for guardrails.

Close the Warrant:

The Board of Selectmen will not be closing the warrant on October 20, 2008 as planned, but it was discussed adding two additional warrant articles. One involving secret ballots

and the other in regards to combining the tree warden position under the highway department. The final warrant will be signed November 17, 2008.

Liaison Reports:

Board of Assessors:

Selectman Laura advises that there will be a meeting about the inspections and times which these are conducted.

Old Business:

MES Water:

Selectman Laura wanted to visit the Millville Elementary school and the Superintendent did not want him to go into the school without the authorization of the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen. Selectman Laura brought this to the Board since he feels that any member of the Board of Selectmen should be able to go to the school without the authorization of the Chairman. The Board has no problem with the other members visiting the school. Selectman Petrowicz would like to have the other Selectmen's opinion on this problem. The Executive Secretary will notify the Superintendent about the Selectmen visiting the school and will post the meeting. The recent test results came back positive.

New Business:

Tank Evaluation:

This is being researched and quotes are being gathered.

Energy Audit:

Selectman Lima thought it would be a good idea to conduct an energy audit at all the town buildings. The Executive Secretary communicated that this has been done in the past and will get more information for the Board.

Town Clerk Letter:

The Town Clerk provided to Selectman Lima a letter in regards to the public records request. It was verified that the Executive Secretary was told that she was the right person to get these records. The Town Clerk has concerns about not receiving all the information requested. The Chairman suggested that the Town Clerk file an appeal with the state if she is not satisfied. The Town was instructed by Town Counsel not to release 22 documents from the requested files. The Executive Secretary wanted it noted that she is frustrated with the Town Clerk accusing her of holding secret files, which is untrue.

Request for Legal: Board of Health

- **On a motion made by Charlie Poulin and seconded by Tom Petrowicz, the Board of Selectmen voted unanimously to approve the legal request.**

Request for Legal: Fincom

- **On a motion made by Tom Petrowicz and seconded by Charlie Poulin, the Board of Selectmen voted unanimously to deny the request.**

Selectman Savage will contact the Chief to get the interpretation about the law. This will be followed-up on and discussed with FinCom.

Executive Session:

Selectman Lima feels that her rights were violated when she was not given 48-hour notice in regards to the letter which was presented to her and written by the Executive Secretary at the last Executive Session. Selectman Savage noted that if he made a procedural mistake he did not do this purposely. The Executive Secretary indicated that the letter was not a complaint and that she felt these same issues in the letter were discussed during the previous Executive Session. Selectman Lima communicated that she has contacted her attorney and will look into this further.

NEXT MEETING:

The next Board of Selectmen meeting will be **Monday, November 3, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.** to be held in the Veterans Meeting Room, 2nd floor.

ADJOURN:

- **On a motion made by Tom Petrowicz and seconded by Charlie Poulin, the Board of Selectmen voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:21pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

Helen M. Coffin and Amy Sutherland

Paul Savage, Chairman

Thomas Petrowicz, Vice Chairman

Charles Poulin

Jackie Lima

John Laura

APPROVED AND SIGNED 11/03/08