



BOARD OF SELECTMEN REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

**290 Main Street
Millville, MA 01529**

Monday, April 10, 2023

PRESENT:

Chairperson Jennifer Gill, Vice Chairperson Andrew Alward, Member Richard Bremilst, Matthew Maille and Town Administrator Peter Caruso

OPEN MEETING:

At 7:00 PM Peter Caruso calls the meeting to order.

RE-ORGANIZATION OF MEMBERS:

Andrew Alward made a motion to appoint Jennifer Gill as Chairman to the Board of Selectmen, seconded by Richard Bremilst, the Board voted unanimously to approve appointment until next election in 2024.

Matthew Maille made a motion to appoint Andrew Alward as Vice Chairman to the Board of Selectmen, seconded by Richard Bremilst, the Board voted unanimously to approve appointment until next election in 2024.

Richard Bremilst made a motion to appoint Matthew Maille as Secretary to the Board of Selectmen, seconded by Andrew Alward, the Board voted unanimously to approve appointment until next election in 2024.

Joint meeting with Planning Board – Appointment of Pam Williams:

Pamela Maloney with Planning Board Members present and in session, made a motion to nominate Pam Williams as a member of the Planning Board. Currently, Ms. Williams is an Associate Member to the Planning Board until next election in 2024. The Planning Board called for a vote which passed unanimously to nominate Ms. Williams.

On a motion made by Andrew Alward, seconded by Roland Barrett, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Pam Williams to the Planning Board until next election in 2024.

Acceptance of Alan Whittemore's Resignation from Council on Aging:

Town Administrator presented the Selectmen with Alan Whittemore's resignation from the Council on Aging.

On a motion made by Andrew Alward, seconded by Richard Bremilst, the Board voted unanimously to accept the resignation of Alan Whittemore from the Council on Aging.

Consideration of Candidates for Appointment of Council on Aging Members: Jeff Pettit and Richard Hurteau:

Council on Aging Member, Larry Pearson, stated that the Council unanimously voted to support the appointment of Jeff Pettit to the Council on Aging. Discrepancy was discussed with Diane Lamoureux when the resignation of Alan Whittemore was received and the sequency of interested candidates. Mr. Pearson felt as though the COA acted accordingly where Chairman Gill stated she felt procedures were not acted in full fairness to all candidates. COA Members: Ms. Lamoureux, Larry Pearson and Pat Finn stated that they had not received a letter of interest from Richard Hurteau at the time of their meeting. Selectmen Gill suggested in all fairness to speak with all candidates: Jeff Pettit, Richard Hurteau and Celia Gomes, and come back to the Board of Selectmen.

ARPA Funding Considerations:

Senior Center Needs Bundled \$10,000:

Bundling Senior Center and Council on Aging needs with the Library needs - together asking for building equipment/maintenance, computer, smart TV, floor repairs roughly equaling \$10,000 will come through as a Capital Cost through ARPA rather than coming out the operational budget if the items were kept separately by departments.

On a motion made by Roland Barrett, seconded by Andrew Alward, the Board voted unanimously to approve \$10,000 in ARPA funds for the Senior Center needs.

Police Command Vehicle Partial Funding \$25,000:

The 2014 command police vehicle currently has 137,000 plus miles. Representative Sotor currently has funding for the command vehicle earmarked, but funding through the State is not guaranteed. ARPA funds would provide \$45,000.

On a motion made by Andrew Alward, seconded by Richard Bremilst, the Board voted unanimously to approve partially funding \$45,000 of ARPA funds to the police command vehicle.

Annual Town Meeting with Town Moderator:

Tabled until the next meeting.

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Mutual Aid Call:

Danny Desmarais, 17 Lincoln Street, came before the Board in regards to a concern about a recent mutual aid call on April 2, 2023. Without proper notification of individuals mentioned in the concern, they will not be discussed. Town Administrator stated the individual in question served as an EMT at that particular time. The individual called out to the on-call fire fighters which non had responded, including Mr. Desmarais. Therefore, protocol was to call dispatch and mutual aid responded. Mr. Desmarais continued to over speak the Board and Town Administrator and was escorted out of the meeting.

Annual Town Meeting Warrant Review and Approval:

Town Administrator stated that the Stretch Code article was removed due to not having enough information. Other than that article, the warrant was reviewed by Town Counsel and suggested the Board to approve and sign subject to further tweaking. Board and Town Administrator reviewed each line warrant article.

On a motion made by Andrew Alward, seconded by Roland Barrett, the Board voted unanimously to post the Town Meeting Warrant as written.

OLD BUSINESS:

FY24 Budget Latest Version Submitted to TA and BOS, updated for BMR and BVT Budget Submissions as well as any other changes:

Town Administrator presented the FY24 Budget to the Board. Selectmen Gill stated that the school budget had increased. Therefore, causing a \$170,556.54 deficit and stated that free-cash would be able to cover this deficit. Millville's share had increased by 8%. Selectmen Gill is concerned about future deficits. Town Administrator explained that school funding had been reduced by the State and also discussed areas where the schools could save operational costs. The Board also discussed areas where the schools could reduce their budgets. Further line items were reviewed in detail and discussed. Selectmen Gill stated that at their next meeting, the Finance Committee, School Committee & BVT will be attending. The Board would also like to invite the Counsel on Aging to discuss their budget.

CPC Update:

CPC Letter Regarding BMRSD Legacy Debt (in correspondence):

Town Administrator presented a letter addressed to BMR, Regional School District Committee, Finance Committee & Board of Selectmen from the Capital Program Committee about BMR legacy debt – letter focused on OPEB as well. The letter also provided explanations for the OPEB debt.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Richard Hurteau, 8 Ronden Road, questioned whether a new high school was to be built. Selectmen Gill stated that the Massachusetts School Building Association (MSBA) accepted Millville's application for a feasibility study. Selectmen Gill explained that a feasibility study is to review the school buildings - Millville's cost share for the study would be 25%.

Mr. Hurteau also discussed the Senior/Veterans Tax Abatement Program that Millville currently has and how residents could alleviate their taxes – contractors etc. The Town Administrator stated that the program is specifically for seniors and veterans.

Mr. Hurteau wanted to know if the Planning Board could be contacted in regards to Grants being offered to fund costs for solar fields, farms or solar panels on school roofs.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Selectmen Gill announced Board and Committee vacancies and encouraged residents to volunteer.

Blackstone Millville Garden Club Seed Bank at Blackstone Library:

Blackstone Library has a seed exchange program and to contact the library for more information.

CORRESPONDENCE:

US EPA Stormwater Annual Report - currently being worked on.

KP Law – continued ZOOM meeting through March 31, 2025, quorum reduction, outdoor dining through April 2024 as well as a minimal rate increase from KP Law.

Rep. Sotor Earmark Possibilities – Police Command Vehicle, Fire Hydrant Replacement, Roadway Repairs, Old Town Hall, Riverwalk and MES Public Water Needs.

MINUTES:

None Available

SELECTMEN REPORTS:

Selectmen Gill would like to add goals to the Master Plan and create another resident survey.

Selectmen Gill wanted to stress that residents are always encouraged to participate in the yearly budget process but finds that feedback from the residents isn't not always voiced.

Also, Selectmen Gill retracts back to the conversation with Danny Desmarais in regards to the political signs comment made under the Mutual Aid agenda item. Selectmen Gill referred to her Facebook account and pointed out the post where people had requested signs for their yards, many of which were from the Fire Department.

Selectmen Alward would like to thank everyone who ran on the ballot as well as the write-ins.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

Town Administrator wanted to add that on Wednesday he will represent the Town of Millville on the Metacomet Dispatch as one of the (5) Board Members. Also, meeting the Police Union regarding their contract July 2023.

Next Board of Selectmen Meeting is announced April, 24, 2023 7PM.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

On a motion made by Jennifer Gill and seconded by Richard Bremilist, the Board unanimously moved to enter into executive session and will adjourn the Board of Selectmen meeting following the close of the executive session:

- a. Move that the Board of Selectmen enter into Executive Session per M.G.L.
.30A, §. 21(f) (g) to review Executive Session Minutes.

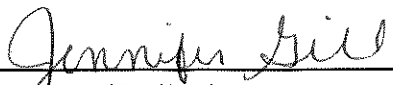
ADJOURN:

On a motion made by Andrew Alward, seconded by Roland Barrett, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:17 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sherry Grant

Recording Administrator


Jennifer Gill, Chairman


Andrew Alward, Vice Chairman


Richard Bremilst, Member


Matthew Maille, Member



REC AUG 17 2023

AM 10:55

TOWN CLERK