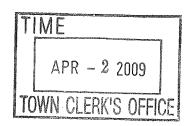
## BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES OF MEETING



MARCH 5, 2009 7:00 P.M.

**Board Members Present:** Vice Chairman Tom Petrowicz, Charlie Poulin, Jackie Lima and John Laura

Board Members Absent: Chairman Paul Savage

Others Present: Executive Secretary Helen Coffin, Fire Chief Mullaly, Police Chief Landry, Finance Committee Chairman Adam Menard, Capital Planning Committee Chairman Chuck Augat

Being a quorum of members present, Vice Chairman Petrowicz asks for a motion to open a meeting of the Board of Selectmen at 7:03 p.m. at the Mendon Town Hall.

Motion by Lima, second by Poulin, to open the meeting of the Millville Board of Selectmen. <u>Motion passes by unanimous vote</u>.

The Board meets with town officials of Mendon and Hopedale to discuss the possibilities of regionalization of dispatch services.

After introductions of all parties are made, Chief Horne of Mendon explains at length the specifics of the proposal made by Mendon. It is necessary to have three communities participate in order to be considered a RECC (Regional Emergency Communication Center). It is estimated that the first year of regionalization could provide a 50% savings to each participating town. There are many technology and logistics issues that must be worked out. Mendon is anxious to get moving and would like to begin for July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Chief Landry verifies that Mendon will not use the equipment portion of the grant funds on operating expenses. Chief Horne advises that this is not the intent but the way funds are spent would need to be agreed upon by all three towns.

Chief Landry explains that he had already approached Uxbridge and Blackstone and feels they should be given an opportunity to work with Millville as well. Mendon was not interested in joining Millville when previously approached. Chief Landry advises that both of the other town's Chiefs have indicated interest.

Chief Landry has some concerns about the 14-day deadline. The Mendon Board of Selectmen explains that this was not meant to put pressure on Millville, however, they are anxious to get the ball rolling and need to know whether they will be dealing with two

towns or three towns. Mendon Chairman Breen feels that hearing from Millville before the end of March is acceptable.

Discussion follows concerning the additional start-up costs for the first year – the estimate for each town will not be determined until the technology analysis can be performed at the Millville Police and Fire Stations. It is suggested that this could be done sometime between now and April 1st to move things along. Costs relating to unemployment and health insurance must also be considered.

Vice Chairman Petrowicz entertains a motion by Lima, second by Poulin, to authorize the technician to meet with both Millville Chiefs to review equipment/technology requirements before April 1st. Motion passes by unanimous vote.

Chief Horne advises that a meeting is scheduled for March 12 to discuss radio codes and another for March 26<sup>th</sup> that all town officials are welcome to attend. Chief Horne will keep the Millville town officials updated via email through the Executive Secretary.

The Millville Board of Selectmen and Executive Secretary physically move to another office space within the Mendon Town Hall to continue its Meeting on two agenda items.

Selectman Lima advises of a conversation had with the Assistant Assessor concerning the previously approved request for legal services by the Board of Assessors in connection with an Ethics Commission decision. Susan McNamara refuses to provide a copy of her documentation from the Ethics Commission to the Town since it is marked Personal and Confidential. Selectman Lima does not feel the Town should pay for the legal counsel if we do not know exactly what it is for which we are paying.

Selectman Laura feels this request for legal services should never have been delivered to Selectman Lima in the first place as he is the liaison to the Board of Assessors. Brief discussion follows regarding how similar matters should be handled in the future in order to protect all board members.

The Executive Secretary explains that after researching this matter she has learned that the Board of Selectmen cannot legally authorize such a legal request, and she further explains in detail how she came to this conclusion. Ethics violations are treated differently than civil litigation matters or tort claims – legal verification is read aloud.

Motion by Lima, second by Laura, to rescind the vote taken on March 2, 2009 to approve a request for legal services for the Board of Assessors, and further to hereby disapprove said legal request. Motion passes by unanimous vote. Selectman Petrowicz abstains.

Selectman Poulin steps down from the Board.

The Executive Secretary advises of some concerns in connection with the Public Hearing regarding the kennel/dog barking nuisance to be held on March 9, 2009. She

recommends the Board give some thought to having Town Counsel present since the Shuras' attorney will be attending. This would ensure the Town's position is protected and any challenges made by the attorney with respect to the process or the petition received can be legally addressed by Town Counsel. It is agreed that the Town should have the least involvement as legally possible in connection with this matter. It is the hope that with the attorneys present the matter may be resolved much quicker and more efficiently.

Motion by Laura, second by Petrowicz, to authorize Town Counsel to attend the Public Hearing on March 9, 2009. <u>Motion passes by unanimous vote</u>.

Selectman Poulin returns to the Board.

Motion by Lima, second by Laura, to adjourn the Meeting at 9:15 p.m. <u>Motion passes</u> by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen M. Coffin

Thomas Petrowicz, Vice Chairman

Jackie Lima, Secretary

Charles Pøulin

John Laura