



BOARD OF SELECTMEN REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

**290 Main Street
Millville, MA 01529**

Tuesday, April 21, 2020

Zoom Meeting

**Residents and meeting participants can also follow the Zoom Technology directions on the
Town Website at:
www.millvillema.org**

PRESENT:

Chairwoman, Erica Blake, Vice Chairman Jennifer Dean Wing, Member, Tom Houle, Andrew Alward and Kevin Surette.

The Chairwoman opened the meeting at 7:04 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- There were no announcements.
- There was a CODE Red Announcement which went out to residents this week.
- Town Hall is currently closed to the public due to COVID-19.

MINUTES:

March 2, 2020:

On a motion made by Jennifer Dean Wing and seconded by Kevin Surette, the Board voted by Roll Call Vote to approve the meeting minutes from March 2, 2020.

Roll Call

Jennifer Dean Wing	aye
Kevin Surette	aye
Erica Blake	aye
Tom Houle	abstained from vote
Andrew Alward	(remote video disconnected)

April 7, 2020:

On a motion made by Jennifer Dean Wing and seconded by Tom Houle, the Board voted by Roll Call Vote to approve the meeting minutes from April 7, 2020.

Roll Call

Jennifer Dean Wing aye
Kevin Surette aye
Erica Blake aye
Tom Houle aye
Andrew Alward (remote video disconnected)

CORRESPONDENCE:

- The Board was in receipt of a BMR Certification letter.
- There was a letter informing the town about the Notice of Herbicide Control. This will take place June 2020.

DEPARTMENTS/COMMITTEES:

Board of Health:

Update COVID-19:

A Board of Health representative was present. The Board of Selectmen were informed that there is a collaborative formed which is tracing the COVID-19 numbers throughout the surrounding community. There have been 10 confirmed cases in the Town of Millville. All residents are encouraged to continue with social distancing. There should not be gatherings larger than 10. It is recommended to wear a mask when in public places.

The Town Administrator communicated that the Town Hall continues to be closed to the public. For those making payments, they can pay online, via mail, or drop off payment in the drop box which is attached to the front of the building at the town hall.

Blackstone Valley Technical Budget Presentation:

BVT Representative Gerry Finn was present along with Dr. Fitzpatrick. Mr. Finn explained that he made a presentation at the last Board of Selectmen meeting. Mr. Finn explained why the stipend for the BVT representative should be reinstituted. The presentation at the last meeting included information relative to the town's benefits from the return on investments from BVT. This year the request for funding is \$29,100.00 less than year before. Mr. Finn presented information why reinstating the stipend is only fair since it would align with the BMR School Committee members. Mr. Finn further expressed that he has 30 years of commitment which he has provided to the Town by serving in this position. He considers his service as competence, commitment, and consistency. The BMR school committee representative receives a stipend for \$1,500 and the Chairman get \$1,800.00. The Town votes this amount into the school budget. Mr. Finn has served as the Vice Chairman for over 25 years. Mr. Finn provided a list of accomplishment he worked on to assist the Town of Millville throughout the years. Dr. Fitzpatrick, the Superintendent of Blackstone Valley Regional School provide reasoning to support the stipend. It is really an element of fairness and equity with both the BMR and BVT. There were concerns from the Board about what the impact of this would be to the other stipends which have been supported. The Chairman of the Board of Selectmen communicated that she is in agreement with fairness and if the BMR representatives get the stipend, the BVT representative should. Dr. Fitzpatrick suggest putting this line item as a subset of the budget. This will be discussed further within the budget meetings.

NEW BUSINESS:

Emergency Declaration:

The Board of Selectmen was informed that MEMA has reached out to see if the Town of Millville will be declaring a local State of Emergency (SOE) due to COVID-19. It has been a recommendation to do this since local towns can receive benefits from such declaration. The State of Emergency allows a town to move money around in town accounts and allows for deficit spending. It also allows towns to get a low-interest long-term loan to help pay emergency expenses. The declaration also allows towns to enact any town ordinances tied to an SOE (parking bans etc.) that might be tied to the pandemic measures.

The draft of the Emergency Declaration was provided to the Board of Selectmen to act upon:

On a motion made by Tom Houle and seconded by Jennifer Dean Wing, the Board voted by Roll Call Vote to declare the Town of Millville as a State of Emergency due to the COVID-19 Virus Outbreak and allow the Chairman to sign this declaration.

Roll Call

Jennifer Dean Wing	aye
Kevin Surette	aye
Erica Blake	aye
Tom Houle	aye
Andrew Alward	nay

OLD BUSINESS:**Election Date Timing Status:**

The Board of Selectmen were informed that after discussion with the Town of Blackstone Representatives, it is suggested that the election date be moved to June 15, 2020. The Town of Blackstone will be voting on this date at their Board of Selectmen meeting.

On a motion made by Jennifer Dean Wing and seconded by Tom Houle, the Board voted by Roll Call Vote to change the election date from May 4, 2020 to June 15, 2020.

Roll Call

Jennifer Dean Wing	aye
Kevin Surette	aye
Erica Blake	aye
Tom Houle	aye
Andrew Alward	aye

Annual Town Meeting Date Determination:

The Town Administrator informed the Board of Selectmen that he has been in communication with Superintendent DeFalco about the budget and when is the best date for the Annual Town Meeting. The recommended date which would work for all parties is June 22, 2020.

Annual Town Meeting:

The Annual Town Meeting will be changed to June 22, 2020.

On a motion made by Jennifer Dean Wing and seconded by Tom Houle, the Board voted by Roll Call Vote to hold the Annual Town Meeting to June 22, 2020.

Roll Call

Jennifer Dean Wing aye
Kevin Surette aye
Erica Blake aye
Tom Houle aye
Andrew Alward aye

Warrant Articles Update and Discussion:

The Board of Selectmen are in receipt of the draft Annual Town Meeting Warrant with recommendations. This draft continues to be for discussion purposes. It contains the regular standard articles.

Citizen's Petition Tax Work Off

There was a petition submitted to be placed on the warrant for Senior Tax Workoff Program. This petition indicates that taxpayers over the age of 60 can volunteer to provide services to the town in exchange for a reduction in the real estate property tax obligations. This would be for 117 volunteer service hours in a given tax year, rather than the \$1,5000.00 maximum (\$12.75/hr. minimum wage of 117.65 hr. worked in a tax year). There was a zoom meeting on April 16, 2020 with the Blackstone Council of Aging Director along with the Millville Principal Assessor along with others regarding how this program would work within the town.

Budget Status:

The Board of Selectmen were informed that the Town Administrator continues working on the budget. Currently, based on the most recent revisions, the Town of Millville is looking at a deficient of \$28,000 and there is a recommendation to add \$15,000 to the reserve fund. There was a recent request received from the Council on Aging that they would like to increase their budget by \$3,500. This puts them at a budget 30% over last year. The Town Administrator communicated that it is really too late in the budget process to request this increase.

Metacomet Emergency Communications Center (MECC) Update and Letter of Attestation:

The Town Administrator is seeking approval of the Board of Selectmen to sign and send a letter to Metacomet Emergency Communications Center attesting that the Town of Millville has agreed to participate with MECC as a partner in studying the forming of a regional emergency communication center as set forth in the application for State 911 Department Development Grant.

On a motion made by Jennifer Dean Wing and seconded by Andrew Alward, the Board voted by Roll Call Vote to authorize the Town Administrator to sign and send the letter provided for the MECC participation.

Roll Call

Jennifer Dean Wing aye
Kevin Surette aye
Erica Blake aye
Tom Houle aye
Andrew Alward aye

PUBLIC FORUM:

- There have been no residents for public forum.

SELECTMEN'S REPORTS:

- No comments from Board of Selectmen

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

- The Town Administrator report was covered within the other items above.

NEXT MEETING:

- Monday, May 4, 2020

On a motion made by Jennifer Dean Wing and seconded by Tom Houle, the Board of Selectmen voted by Roll Call Vote per MGL c. 30A, sec. 21 (a)(3) to discuss strategy relative to pending or threatened litigation where discussion of these matters in open session would have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the town, also section (a)(1&2) to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with non-union personnel, and will only return to open session to adjourn the meeting.

Roll Call Vote:

Erica Blake aye
Jennifer Dean Wing aye
Tom Houle aye
Andrew Alward aye
Kevin Surette aye

The regular meeting ended at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy Sutherland

Recording Secretary



Member, Erica Blake

CHAIR

Vice Chairwoman, Jennifer Dean Wing

Member, Tom Houle

Member, Andrew Alward

Member, Kevin Surette