



BOARD OF SELECTMEN REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

**290 Main Street
Millville, MA 01529**

Monday November 2, 2020

Zoom Meeting

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

PRESENT:

Chair Erica Blake, Vice Chair Jennifer Gill, Member, Jennifer Dean Wing, Andrew Alward and Kevin Surette.

ALSO PRESENT:

Town Administrator, Peter Caruso

The Chair opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- There are positions on the various on the following Committees: Capital Program Committee, Finance Committee, and the Green Community. This list will be updated and placed on the website.
- The Highway Department will be using essentially the same contractors as last year for the snow season. The agreements will be available for contractor signing at the end of the week.
- There will be voting taking place at St. Augustine tomorrow November 3, 2020.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

October 5, 2020:

On a motion made by Jennifer Gill, seconded by Jennifer Dean Wing, the Board of Selectmen voted by Roll Call to accept the minutes from October 5, 2020.

Roll Call:

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|----------------------|------------|
| Jennifer Gill | aye |
| Andrew Alward | aye |
| Kevin Surette | aye |

Jennifer Dean Wing aye
Erica Blake aye

October 19, 2020:

On a motion made by Jennifer Gill, seconded by Jennifer Dean Wing, the Board of Selectmen voted by Roll Call to accept the minutes from October 19, 2020 with the amendment on page 2.

Roll Call:

Jennifer Gill aye
Andrew Alward aye
Kevin Surette aye
Jennifer Dean Wing aye
Erica Blake aye

CORRESPONDENCE:

- There was no correspondence received.

DEPARTMENTS/BOARDS:

Board of Health:

The Board of Health has informed the Board of Selectmen that the Governor has provided new requirements in dealing with COVID. There is a mandatory mask mandate for face coverings to be worn in all public places inside and outside. This will be in effect on Friday.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resignation, Police Officer:

On a motion made by Jennifer Gill, seconded by Jennifer Dean Wing, the Board of Selectmen voted by roll call to accept the resignation of Robert Johnson as a police officer from October 6, 2020.

Roll Call:

Jennifer Gill aye
Andrew Alward aye
Kevin Surette aye
Jennifer Dean Wing aye
Erica Blake aye

CARES ACT:

The Town Administrator informed the Board that the next round of CARES Act funding request was submitted. The summary of this was provided. It is the hope that the town will hear back from the State by the end of the week.

OLD BUSINESS:

BVT Stipend:

The Board is in receipt of a packet prepared by Gerry Finn. Mr. Finn explained the facts which have transpired relative to the funding of the stipends. The BMR stipends are included in the BMR school budget. There was reference to what the recommendation was from counsel. The Town Administrator would like to see the recommendation from BMR counsel. There was clarity that Superintendent DeFalco did not submit Warrant Article #5. Mr. Finn also referenced Mass General Law Chapter 71 Section 52 and how it relates to the vote of the majority of towns. The next attachment shown was #3 which was the Blackstone budget line item which has school committee stipends noted. The options Mr. Finn recommended Millville consider are to have the line item clearly visible as a stipend for the BVT member; or present a separate article. MGL provides language that these should not be combined. The goal is to be consistent and compliant with the law.

MES Water Treatment –

It was recommended that Mr. Ferrari come to a BOS meeting to explain the status of the MES Water Treatment. The frustration is that the town is expending an enormous amount of money to a system which is not used by the students nor staff. The DEP made the Town address various violations and deficiencies. The latest quarterly invoice is over \$16,000.00. The budgeted allocation for this was only \$12,000.00. The Town Administrator has reached out to Representative Sotor for assistance in dealing with this issue and DEP and will be following up after the election. The Town Administrator also pointed out, as was confirmed by Town Counsel, that the costs the town are absorbing technically fall under operating costs to be born by BMR under the Regional and Lease agreements with the Town and as consistent with water cost billing in Blackstone paid for by BMR. There was a request to get a total of the funds expended on this over the last three years.

PUBLIC FORUM:

- No comments

BOARD OF SELECTMEN FORUM:

- Selectmen Gill informed all that there will be a Capital Planning Committee meeting on November 9, 2020. The requests to the various departments have gone out.
- There was a request by Selectman Gill to put a discussion of the appointment process on the November 16, 2020 agenda.
- Selectmen Surette spoke on behalf of American Legion 411, stating they would like to thank Representative Fattman for his generosity in providing new flags to the town which would not have happened without the hard work from Mr. Wing.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

MES Tank:

The tank at the Millville Elementary School has been placed into the ground.

Town Audit:

There are four open items which the audit firm is working on.

Capital Program Planning:

There will be a Capital Program Planning meeting next week. There have been requests put out to the various Boards/Committees to submit their upcoming capital needs.

Election:

The presidential election will be taking place on November 3, 2020. Thank you to all the volunteers who are working the polls.

Town Hall:

There will likely be making non-permanent renovations to town hall to maintain staff and resident safety while conducting town business in the winter and during inclement weather.

Marijuana Businesses:

Garden Wonders is coming along nicely and there should be activity at this business by the end of the year. Lifted Luxury, the other marijuana business has submitted their application to cannabis control. There is typically a 90 day wait period for approval.

NEXT MEETING:

- Monday, November 16, 2020

ADJOURN:

On a motion made by Jennifer Gill and seconded by Jennifer Dean Wing, the Board of Selectmen voted by Roll Call to adjourn the meeting.

Roll Call Vote:


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| Jennifer Gill | aye |
| Andrew Alward | aye |
| Kevin Surette | aye |
| Jennifer Dean Wing | aye |
| Erica Blake | aye |

The regular meeting ended at 8:04 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Amy Sutherland

Recording Secretary


Chair, Member, Erica Blake

Vice Chair, Jennifer Gill

Member, Jennifer Dean Wing

Member, Andrew Alward

Member, Kevin Surette