BOARD OF SELECTMEN REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
290 Main Street
Millville, MA 01529

Monday March 1, 2021
Zoom Meeting
Residents and meeting participants can also follow the Zoom Technology directions on the Town Website at:
www.millvillema.org

Joint meeting with the Finance Committee

PRESENT:
Chairperson Erica Blake, Vice Chairperson Jennifer Gill, Member, Jennifer Dean Wing, and Andrew Alward.

ALSO PRESENT:
Town Administrator, Peter Caruso

The Chairperson opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

The Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee took part in listening to a zoom meeting presented by Blackstone Valley Regional Technical School Representative Gerald Finn and Superintendent Michael Fitzpatrick.

BVT School Committee Member Gerry Finn and Superintendent Dr. Fitzpatrick were present to provide a presentation of the BVT budget summary of 2022. A share screen was provided. The total increase for the town is 3.1% for total package. The student enrollment was shown. There will be a total of 34 Millville students who will attend BVT. This is one more student than last year. There are 17 females and 17 males. There is a trend that the applicant pool of students has increased. The contact teaching days for BVT are 193 days which is the greatest number of teaching hours per State. The state minimum contribution for
2021 has increased by $22,633 that the state says must be paid. Of every dollar .73 cents of the $1.00 is mandated by the state. The transportation is proportioned from total bid and is part of a 5 year of an 8 year contract. The per pupil amount is the second lowest of all participating schools being $13,289.00 per students. It is about $2,600 less than the state average. The BVT enrollment increased from 816 to 1,243 ove the past several years.

BVT secured over 10% move in donations from the previous year. The
past year there were 7 entitlement grants, 19 competitive grants and the school has received over $2,000,000. This year BVT has received over 23 grants and will project over $3,000,000.00 in grants. The student achievement was also covered. The students won over 89 academic medals and there were over 62 perfect test scores. The nursing program has over 100% of the class passed their testing requirement. The graduation rate at BVT is 99.6% which is based on the State numbers.
This surpassed the State %. The students also received 300 awards and over $5,000,000 in renewable grants for colleges. The tracking of those students going on to college was noted in the chart along with those going into the work force. Student Nick Kirby from the Town of Millville was recognized nationally. Dr. Fitzpatrick explained the new BioTech program. This is in the program plan for FY 2022. This BioTech Program will not cost any additional funds since it is being paid for out of the Capital Improvements fund. A sample of the improvements were shown which cost no increase to the taxpayers with self-funding grants. The school finished the self-funded roof project. This was a 1.2 million investment and received 55% reimbursement. There are a variety of fundraising efforts the school undertakes. The printing and design departments helped the surroundings communities with COVID signage. The Chapter 70 funds are to increase $30.00. per student. The Governor's budget was reduced last year. BVT has looked into having the veterinarian program but there are a lot of costs to consider when implementing a program such as this. BVT has been funding OPEB through the staff contributions. The School Committee negotiated health benefits and it has increased 2.06%. The Millville Finance Committee meeting ended at 6:53 pm.

The Board of Selectmen began their regular meeting at 7:00 pm.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- There were no announcements.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- The minutes will be tabled to the end of the meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- There was no correspondence

DEPARTMENTS/BOARDS:

Board of Health:
The Board of Health informed the Board of Selectmen that there has been a challenge in accessing the vaccine.

NEW BUSINESS:

Appointments:
Library Trustees:
On a motion made by Erica Blake, seconded by Jennifer Dean Wing, the Board voted by roll call vote to appoint Lynn Foley as permanent trustee (position vacated by James Mullaly who resigned) to the Library Trustees position.

Roll Call Vote:

Jennifer Gill	**aye**
Andrew Alward	**aye**
Jennifer Dean Wing	**aye**
Erica Blake	**aye**

Library Trustees:

On a motion made by Erica Blake, seconded by Andrew Alward, the Board voted by roll call vote to appoint Alyssa Foley as regular trustee (position vacated by Lynn Foley who resigned) to the Library Trustees position.

Roll Call Vote:

Jennifer Gill	**aye**
Andrew Alward	**aye**
Jennifer Dean Wing	**aye**
Erica Blake	**aye**

Resignation:

Green Energy Committee:

On a motion made by Jennifer Gill, seconded by Andrew Alward, the Board voted by roll call vote to accept the resignation of Matthew Kirk from the Green Energy Committee.

Roll Call Vote:

Jennifer Gill	**aye**
Andrew Alward	**aye**
Jennifer Dean Wing	**aye**
Erica Blake	**aye**

MINUTES:

On a motion made by Andrew Alward, seconded by Jennifer Gill, the Board voted by roll call vote to approve the minutes from January 19, 2021 as written.

Roll Call Vote:

Jennifer Gill	**aye**
Andrew Alward	**aye**
Jennifer Dean Wing	**aye**
Erica Blake	**aye**

Associate Planning Board Position:

Preston Juskavitch is interested in serving as an Associate Planning Board member. The Board would like the Town Administrator to check to make sure he is a resident of town.

BMR Capital Planning Subcommittee:
The Chairman of the BMR School Committee Jane Reggio sent email about having one member of the Board of Selectmen who will serve on the BMR School Committee Capital Planning Subcommittee. The Town Administrator will follow-up asking what the time commitment of this committee will be and also what is the tentative schedule.

Preliminary Budget Discussion:
The Board of Selectmen were provided with a preliminary budget. This was shown on the screen share. This will be presented at the March 9, 2021 Finance Committee meeting. The budget was based on the compiling of the requests from the various department. The Town Administrator communicated that most of the departments followed the suggested guidelines. This is just a draft document which will be updated after various departments will be asked to speak on. The budget was drafted with an allotment for the turning on of all the streetlights with LED. The Town Administrator will be looking further into the Health Insurance number since he believes this number will be bigger. The BMR School Committee did present the budget with the guidance of the worksheets. There is still a concern about the OPEB liability at BMR. It was recommended to have a representative from the Worcester County Retirement come
and speak to the Board of Selectmen. The Highway Department has added an additional $100,000 for public work supplies. This will need to be reviewed and Brian will have to provide an explanation. The Board of Health has also added an increase of 50% to the stipend line item. This will need further explanation. There was a suggestion to have a joint meeting with the BOS, Accountant, Finance Committee and possible Town Treasurer.

Annual Town Meeting:
The Board of Selectmen discussed holding the Annual Town Meeting as required in the bylaws. This will be in May 2021 unless there is a recommendation to change due to COVID. The Town Administrator will send a memo to the Departments/Boards informing all when the warrant is opened. The Town Administrator will reach out to the Town Moderator.

On a motion made by Jennifer Gill, seconded by Jennifer Dean Wing, the Board voted by roll call vote to open the warrant effective immediately.

Roll Call Vote:

Jennifer Gill	**aye**
Andrew Alward	**aye**
Jennifer Dean Wing	**aye**
Erica Blake	**aye**

Audit Report:
The draft Audit Report was presented to the Board of Selectmen. This is for the year ending 2019 which effectively also included an audit of 2018 which needed to be done to get the beginning balance sheets. The
audit shows the towns accruals, long term debt and fixed assets. The report also references the towns liability. There were footnotes described at the end which noted the unfunded pensions and OPEB. The Town Administrator will be reviewing the document further and will provide comments before signing the representation letter indicating that the financial areas have been captured. This document

will be provided to the Finance Committee once the comments for the Town Administrator have been included. It was recommended that the auditors attend a Board of Selectmen meeting to hold a presentation. The 2020 audit has already been started.

OLD BUSINESS:

- No old business

PUBLIC FORUM:

- No comments

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

Garden Wonders:

Garden Wonders will hold their grand opening on March 5, 2021.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN FORUM:

- There will be a Capital Planning Meeting on March 10, 2021 at 7:00 pm.
- Selectmen Alward will have the executive session minutes ready by the March 15, 2021 meeting.

APROVAL OF MINUTES:

December 21, 2020:

On a motion made by Andrew Alward, seconded by Jennifer Gill, the Board voted by roll call vote to approve the minutes from December 21, 2020 as written.

Roll Call Vote:

Jennifer Gill	**aye**
Andrew Alward	**aye**
Jennifer Dean Wing	**abstained**
Erica Blake	**aye**

January 19, 2021:

On a motion made by Andrew Alward, seconded by Jennifer Gill, the Board voted by roll call vote to approve the minutes from January 19, 2021 as written.

Roll Call Vote:

Jennifer Gill	**aye**
Andrew Alward	**aye**
Jennifer Dean Wing	**aye**
Erica Blake	**aye**

February 16, 2021:

On a motion made by Andrew Alward, seconded by Jennifer Gill, the Board voted by roll call vote to approve the minutes from February 16, 2021 as amended.

Roll Call Vote:

Jennifer Gill	**aye**
Andrew Alward	**aye**
Jennifer Dean Wing	**aye**
Erica Blake	**abstained**

NEXT MEETING:

- Monday, March 15, 2021

ADJOURN:

On a motion made by Jennifer Gill and seconded by Jennifer Dean Wing, the Board of Selectmen voted by Roll Call to go into Executive Session and will only return to adjourn in the open session to comply with, or act under authority of, any general law, specifically G.:.c.30A, Section 21(f) and (g), to review September 8, 2020 executive session minutes and Section 21 (a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the Teamsters Union Local 170 and Section 21(a)(6) to consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property where the chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the town.

Roll Call Vote:

Jennifer Gill	**aye**
Andrew Alward	**aye**
Jennifer Dean Wing	**aye**
Erica Blake	**aye**

The regular meeting ended at 8:49 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Amy Sutherland
Recording Secretary

Chairwoman, Member, Erica Blake

Vice Chairwoman, Jennifer Gill

Member, Jennifer Dean Wing

Member, Andrew Alward