



TOWN OF MILLVILLE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

290 Main Street
Millville MA 01529

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES Tuesday, June 20, 2023

Location of Meeting: Millville Town Hall, 290 Main St, Millville MA 01529

Name	Title	Attendance
Jennifer Gill	Chairperson	<i>present</i>
Andrew Alward	Vice Chair	<i>present</i>
Richard Bremilst	Member	<i>present</i>
Roland Barrett	Member	<i>present</i>
Matthew Maille	Member	<i>present</i>
Peter Caruso	Town Administrator	<i>present</i>

OPEN MEETING:

At 7:00 PM Selectman Gill called the meeting to order with roll call.

NEW BUSINESS:

i. Joint Meeting with Finance Committee to Approve Year-End Accounting Transfers.

The Finance Committee was unable to make quorum. The Board of Selectmen opted to take a vote based on the projected year-end accounting transfers. The accounting transfers included \$4,500 for Assessor's Financial Services, \$5000 for Technology Support Services, \$28,000 for Firefighter/EMT wages, \$6000 for Other Expenses (Fire). Selectman Alward asked whether there was a plan to rectify the issues with Fire Department recruitment and retention. It was determined that this would be addressed later in the agenda.

Selectman Gill made a motion, seconded by Selectman Barrett, to approve the year-end accounting transfers as stated in the ledger submitted by Town Administrator Peter Caruso.

Selectman Maille asked whether the Tri-County tuition and transportation accounts will be funded in the next fiscal year. Selectman Gill responded that these accounts would be funded in the next fiscal year.

The Board of Selectmen voted unanimously to approve the year-end accounting transfers as stated in the ledger submitted by Town Administrator Peter Caruso.

*Roland Barrett, aye
Richard Bremilst, aye
Andrew Alward, aye
Jennifer Gill, aye
Matthew Maille, aye*

ii. ARPA Spending Considerations. ARPA administrator Sarah Hoecker was in attendance virtually.

i. ARPA Funds Spent and Committed Latest Summary. The Board of Selectmen reviewed a spreadsheet of the ARPA funds summary.

ii. COA Request for Automatic Door - \$5,500. The Senior Center, which is also designated as a Town emergency center, is looking to install an automatic door to allow for persons in wheelchairs to better access the building. Two quotes for automatic doors were obtained, one for \$5,000 and the second for over \$6,000. The Senior Center plans to pursue the \$5,000 door, which is battery operated and does not require an electrician as part of the installation.

Selectman Gill addressed the availability of ARPA funds. The police vehicle purchase did not cost as much as expected, which will allow for a re-allocation of \$20,000. A water study and MES water consultant also had excess funds allocated, which gives an additional \$25,000.

Selectman Gill called to amend her motion from May 15, 2021 to pull \$25,000 from the water study, as the ARPA funds required are already allocated to the MES water and WCS consultant line item. Selectman Barrett seconded the motion.

The Board of Selectmen voted unanimously to reallocate \$25,000 ARPA funds from the water study to unallocated ARPA funds.

*Roland Barrett, aye
Richard Bremilst, aye
Andrew Alward, aye
Jennifer Gill, aye
Matthew Maille, aye*

Selectman Gill made a motion, seconded by Selectman Bremilst, to pull \$5500 from ARPA administrator town hall wages to fund the COA request for an automatic door.

The Board of Selectmen voted unanimously to pull \$5500 from ARPA administrator town hall wages to fund the COA request for an automatic door.

*Roland Barrett, aye
Richard Bremilst, aye*

*Andrew Alward, aye
Jennifer Gill, aye
Matthew Maille, aye*

Selectman Gill made a motion, seconded by Selectman Alward, to reduce the police command line vehicle from \$45,000 to \$20,000,

As an additional \$25,000 was provided by the State to assist in the purchase of the vehicle, Selectman Alward requested clarification regarding the presence of these funds. It was confirmed that these funds were already provided in full to the Town. Chief William Coupe approached the Board to add that he is looking to purchase some supplies for the vehicle including a specialized radio as well as a computer. He is requesting an additional \$15,000 for outfitting the vehicle. The total cost will be approximately \$63,000. It was determined that the police budget will allow for these additional costs, with a \$5,000 cushion.

The Board of Selectmen voted unanimously to reduce the ARPA funds allocated to the police command line vehicle from \$45,000 to \$20,000.

*Roland Barrett, aye
Richard Bremilst, aye
Andrew Alward, aye
Jennifer Gill, aye
Matthew Maille, aye*

- iii. **FD Request for Security System.** As \$25,000 was already allocated to the Fire Department, the request for an \$8,000 security system is already within the budget.
- iv. **Consideration of Town Administrator Discretionary Fund.** Town Administrator Peter Caruso was initially interested in requesting \$10,000 for unforeseen requests from various departments. He instead requested to strike this request.
- iii. **Discussion of Playground at Police Station and consideration of "Riverway Trails" vs. Basketball Court.** Peter Caruso introduced the discussion to consider a riverwalk along the Blackstone River as well as the interest in making the closed playground at the police station into a basketball court. Sarah Hoecker reported that this project was submitted through the Massachusetts Community One Stop for Growth grant application system through the Massachusetts Executive Office of Economic Development.
- iv. **Old Town Hall Repair and Reuse Update and Discussion.** Peter Caruso stated that Sarah Hoecker has also submitted a grant application for \$200,000 for roof repair at the old Town Hall.

Selectman Alward made a motion, seconded by Selectman Maille, for \$8,000 from the ARPA funds allocated for the Fire Department to install a new security system.

The Board of Selectmen voted unanimously to approve \$8,000 from the ARPA funds allocated for the Fire Department to install a new security system.

*Roland Barrett, aye
Richard Bremilst, aye
Andrew Alward, aye
Jennifer Gill, aye
Matthew Maille, aye*

v. MES Water.

- i. Corrective Action Plan Submitted to MassDEP.** Peter Caruso introduced the corrective action plan which was submitted to MassDEP last week, including the bulk water purchase, the switch to permanganate water treatment, as well as the plan to seek out long-term solutions to address future PFAS limitations, which are expected to be lowered in the future. MassDEP has not yet responded to the submitted action plan.

- ii. Review of Reimbursement Process Considerations for Bulk Water.**
Selectman Gill made a motion, seconded by Selectman Bremilst, for the school district to purchase and pay for the bulk water and submit a bill to the Town for reimbursement.

School Committee Chair Erin Vinacco approached the Board to ask for clarification regarding the reimbursement, stating that the school's CPA/auditor, who is also the Town's CPA/auditor, recommended that they don't pursue anything for which they would need to be reimbursed. The CPA/auditor recommended to the Town that the Town look for reimbursement from the School. It was determined that this situation was addressed separately by the CPA/auditor, and their recommendation in this particular situation is to utilize reimbursement.

Erin Vinacco asked why the Town will not be purchasing the water, and why a reimbursement needs to occur. It was determined that the reimbursement would occur due to the recommendation of the Town's CPA and Town attorney. Erin Vinacco stated that the Town attorney has not reached out to the School's attorney to have a discussion on this matter, as was requested. Erin Vinacco requested to put on record that when the motion was made by the Board of Selectmen to allocate \$15,000 for bulk water purchase, the intent—by either the Board of Selectmen or the School Committee—was not to set a precedence of who was buying the water, but rather in good faith to allow the school to keep functioning. Erin Vinacco argued that MES water operations has always been part of Town budget, and has never been a line item in the school budget. Peter Caruso argued that bulk water purchase is a consumer choice.

The Board of Selectmen voted to approve the school district to purchase and pay for the bulk water and submit a bill to the Town for reimbursement.

Roland Barrett, aye
Richard Bremilst, aye
Andrew Alward, abstain
Jennifer Gill, aye
Matthew Maille, nay

- iii. **Other Considerations.** Once the corrective action plan has been approved, the plan is to switch to permanganate before school opens. Selectman Alward asked whether other options have been considered, and what those options would cost. Selectman Gill stated that the \$25,000 of research is needed to determine the cost of a long term solution. A waterline was projected to cost approximately \$2-3 million dollars.

- vi. **Finalization of Public Safety Committee, including consideration of adding one Police Officer and one Fire/EMS member to Committee.** The Board of Selectmen is planning to advertise the creation of a new committee, which will develop a strategic plan for both the Fire Department and Police Department. The BOS discussed the makeup of this committee, and determined that it should be comprised of a representative from the Selectmen, the Police Chief, the Fire Chief, a police officer, a firefighter, and one or two citizens.

- vii. **Appointments/Reappointments Effective 7/1/23 to 6/30/24 per list**
Peter Caruso reported that there was a question whether as to the Building Inspector / Zoning Enforcement Officer should be a one year or three year term. MGL 143 Sec 3Y states that the position is a three-year term, but Town Counsel has informed that this law needed to be adopted explicitly by the Town, which it has not.
 - i. One Year Appointments.
 - 1. Building Department
 - a. Mark Arruda, Assistant Building Inspector
 - b. Jack Grenga, Electrical Inspector
 - c. John D'Agostino, Plumbing Inspector
 - 2. Cable Access Committee
 - a. Timothy Labonte, Cable Coordinator
 - b. Timothy Labonte, Member
 - c. Colleen Curis, Member
 - d. L. Carlton Hamilton, Member
 - e. Madison Durand, Member
 - 3. Conservation Commission
 - a. Jeff Pettit, Member
 - b. Pamela Maloney, Member
 - 4. Cultural Council
 - a. Kristin Alves, Member
 - b. Nicole O'Brien, Member
 - 5. Emergency Management (MEMA)
 - a. Roy Liard, Jr., Director
 - b. Benton Phelps, Member

6. Flag Warden
 - a. Warren (Art) Campbell, Flag Warden
7. Green Communities Community
 - a. Richard Bremilst, Member
 - b. Matthew Maille, Member
 - c. Richard Hurteau, Member
8. Open Space Recreation Planning Committee
 - a. Kevin DelGizzi, Member
9. Parks and Recreation Department
 - a. William Coupe, Member
 - b. Kevin DelGizzi, Member
10. Police Department, Full Time
 - a. Keith Lanagan, Police Officer
11. Police Department, Part Time
 - a. Thomas Reynolds, Police Officer
 - b. James Cusack, Police Officer
 - c. Nicholas Green, Police Officer
12. Treasurer/Collector's Office
 - a. Jane Snellman, Treasurer/Collector
 - b. Marcia Ferro, Assistant Treasurer/Collector
13. Veterans Services
 - a. Warren (Art) Campbell, Veterans Agent

Selectman Gill made a motion, seconded by Selectman Alward, to approve the list of one-year appointments from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 as read.

Selectman Bremilst inquired whether there were vacancies on some of the Boards. Peter Caruso stated that the Clerk will be updating the list within the next few weeks.

The Board of Selectmen unanimously voted to approve the list of one-year appointments from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 as read.

*Roland Barrett, aye
Richard Bremilst, aye
Andrew Alward, aye
Jennifer Gill, aye
Matthew Maille, aye*

ii. Three-Year Appointments.

Selectman Gill made a motion, seconded by Selectman Alward, to approve the list of three-year appointments from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2026 as read.

1. Board of Assessors
 - a. David Manzello, Member
 - b. Paul Ouelette, Member
2. Conservation Commission

- a. Roland Barrett, Member
- 3. Historical Commission
 - a. Emile Berthelette, Member
- 4. Police Department, Full Time
 - a. Scott Gould, Police Officer
- 5. Police Department, Part Time
 - a. Roy Sullivan, Sergeant
- 6. Building Department
 - a. Joe Fitzpatrick, Building Inspector/Zoning Enforcement Officer

Selectman Alward commented that there could be precedent set by appointing the Building Inspector/Zoning Enforcement Officer to a three-year term. Peter Caruso stated that the Board of Selectmen could alter this at any time, for example, if a new Building Inspector started the job. The Board considered adding a seniority policy to allow for this in the future.

The Board of Selectmen unanimously voted to approve the list of three-year appointments from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2026 as read.

Roland Barrett, aye
Richard Bremilst, aye
Andrew Alward, aye
Jennifer Gill, aye
Matthew Maille, aye

- viii. **Consideration of Appointment of Roland Desjarlais, Jr. as Associate Planning Board Member Through June 30, 2024.** The Planning Board furnished a letter that reported their vote to recommend that Roland Desjarlais be voted in by the Board of Selectmen. Roland Desjarlais furnished a resume. The Board of Selectmen elected to table this until their next meeting as the policy is to have either the prospective appointee or a member of the subject board present.
- ix. **Discussion of New BOS Survey of Residents.** Selectman Gill wanted to determine whether the residents would prefer a deficit end in an override (increasing tax limit) or should the Board move to close or reduce programs and funding line items. The residents will also be asked what their priorities are in terms of Town infrastructure, programs, buildings, etc. Selectman Alward asked the cost of the survey; Selectman Gill responded that the survey would cost approximately \$200. The survey will be finalized in the coming days.

OLD BUSINESS:

- a. **Reconsideration of Worcester Regional Retirement System (WRRS) additional 2% COLA.** WRRS is surveying its Towns to garner approval or disapproval in increasing COLA from 3% to 5%. The Board elected to take no action.

DEPARTMENTS:

None.

PUBLIC FORUM:

None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- a. There is a free Father's Day Lunch at the Senior Center this Thursday. Call the Senior Center to sign up.
- b. The Library is having a Book & Bake evening this week.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None.

MINUTES:

None.

SELECTMEN'S REPORTS:

Selectman Barrett had nothing to report.

Selectman Bremilst had nothing to report.

Selectman Alward had nothing to report.

Selectman Gill had nothing to report.

Selectman Maille wanted to seek clarification on the Police Union's role in the Public Safety Committee's police and fire recruitment tactics, and the presence of a police officer or firefighter on the Committee.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

- a. Peter Caruso thanked Sherry Grant for putting together the appointment list.
- b. Foxboro dispatch SEMREC and Metacomet are exploring merger possibilities.

ITEMS NOT REASONABLY ANTICIPATED:

None.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

The next regular Board of Selectmen meeting is scheduled for July 10, 2023.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Selectman Gill made a motion, seconded by Selectman Alward to enter into executive session to discuss strategy with respect to discussion on the Police Teamsters Union Local 170.

The Board of Selectmen unanimously voted to enter into executive session to discuss strategy with respect to discussion on the Police Teamsters Union Local 170.

Roland Barrett, aye

*Richard Bremilst, aye
Andrew Alward, aye
Jennifer Gill, aye
Matthew Maille, aye*


ADJOURNMENT:


On a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn after the executive session by roll call vote.


Respectfully Submitted,

Dylan Lindholm
Recording Secretary


Jennifer Gill, Chair


Andrew Alward, Vice Chair


Roland Barrett, Member


Richard Bremilst, Member


Matthew Maille, Member

REC OCT 17 2023

AM 10:27

TOWN CLERK