

**TOWN OF MILLVILLE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
Tuesday, October 4th, 2005**

The meeting duly posted with the Town Clerk, opened at 6:00 PM
Present were: Chairperson Diane McCutcheon, Vice Chairman Paul Savage, Brian Dicks, Ken Gikas and Tom Petrowicz
Also present were Executive Secretary Suzanne Horne, Scriber Amy Sutherland

Working Session

Library:

Lisa Cheever - Goal is to try to welcome teenagers to library as well as developing story hour for younger children

Historical:

Margaret Carroll - updated Board on events; National Register plaques; "Footsteps in History"; honor rolls; historical restoration to the Longfellow Municipal Center.

Cable:

Margaret Carroll - requested purchases for cable; recommendations for editing equipment, updated recorders, microphones and editing equipment

Animal Control Officer:

Gary Fagan updated the Board on issues concerning animal control

Senior Center Director:

Carol Smith, new Director - enjoys working with a great group of people; looking forward to developing more programs and working with COA

Veteran's Agent:

Lincoln Barber, new agent - voiced his concerns with working with the state, inability to locate file, etc.

Conservation Commission:

Mac McCutcheon - 8 NOI's filed this year; looking at using Request for Determination or Applicability; main concern of Commission is to protect rivers, drinking water and runoff.

Fire Department:

Chief Mullaly - spoke of aging equipment, telephone system that need to be updated; staffing levels; Chapter 148A; NIMS training; ambulance relicensed; Board to schedule a working session to discuss issues

Parks & Rec:

Dick Mercure - repairs and additions to park area; youth leagues went well; playground to get more wood chips, need more volunteers

Board of Health:

Dave Stanley - update on Recycling and program is working well

Police Department:

Chief Ryan - update on staffing; mourn the unexpected loss of Patrolman Jack Moore; additional training for Dispatch, recerts for CPR and Defibs and Firearms; networking for emergencies - access Town resources, message boards; equipments etc.

The workshop meeting with the department heads ran into the regularly scheduled meeting @ 7:00 pm.

Town Accountant Report:

Marilyn Matheiu provided the Board of Selectmen with the quarterly budgets. The departments should have at least 75% of their budgets remaining. Marilyn stated that at this point nothing looks alarming. The Town of Millville will need to schedule a town meeting at the end of November or December to fund the 2006 school budget. It was also noted that the town would have to allocate more money for the heating costs along with taking a closer look at the snow and ice budgets. There are some available funds in free cash and stabilization. The Fiscal 2005 books are closed and things are looking ok at this point. The town is spending some of its reserve. Both Marilyn, the Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen felt that planning for Fiscal 2007 must be budgeted for now. Currently, the Town is in need of \$200,000 to level fund the budget with no contractual increases for 2007. Marilyn reviewed that every \$100,000 borrowed, taxpayers will pay \$98.00 extra on their tax bill. She also provided the Board with a packet of information about proposition 21/2 ballot questions. Before and if Millville decides what to do about the budget situation the town needs know what the school budget increase will be along with what state aid we may get, if any. The State is working on putting out an early budget. All department heads must continue to be cautious with their budgets. From 2002-2006 the increase to the budget is about \$200,000 each year. The higher the number the lower the tax bill. Millville is 169 for ranking Millville is in the middle of the State for taxes. The audit will be presented in a month at a public hearing. The Chairperson McCutcheon would like Marilyn to come back again to discuss this with the board. Selectmen Petrowicz wanted to know how much the town should have in the stabilization fund. Marilyn responded that back in 1989, there was a goal of \$500,000. The override gave the town a cushion for many projects.

Finance Committee - Chairman, Gerry Labonte

Mr. Labonte noted that the town has a big challenge ahead and Marilyn is a great asset to have working for the town. The reality at this point is that we need to inform the community about the decisions they are going to be faced with. The state is not going to pull us out of this. The budget from last year was 4.2 million and 3.6 of the revenue came from taxes. The budgets are being conservative from the town boards. The boards have been level funded through the years. The departments are doing their best. By the town meeting the finance committee will have projected numbers and at that point, the taxpayers need to indicate what they want and be informed about the cost of that. For 2006 there is a 2 1/2 percent new growth with 3.75 million revenue, the town will face a shortage for next year of \$300,000, which is the worse case scenario. That would mean specific decreases in specific departments. An example of those decreases may be, Police \$30,000, School \$170,000, BVT 25,000 and Fire - 20,000

The Chairperson would like to get a questionnaire out to the Boards and community about the fiscal situation.

The Board of Selectmen will meet monthly with the Finance Committee and the Town Accountant to work on the budget.

Selectmen Petrowicz noted that the biggest ticket item is the fire truck costing approximately \$250,000.

Planning Board - Mary Lou Anderson

Mary Lou Anderson noted that Millville is going through a growth spurt along with the Blackstone Valley. The communities with this growth are losing farmland to residential growth. In 1999, the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs looked at the current zoning in towns and the land patterns and a build out study was produced. Three maps were created from these patterns. The maps showed what the community would look like if every piece of available land were developed. The picture of Millville showed that the town was less than half built out, although most of the existing road frontage lots were built. The census figures projected in Census 1999 2,526 to 3,834 by 2005.

At built out 5,366 people. The town would have 23 miles of additional roadway at build out, and 1,056 additional residential units.

Mary Lou also provided the Subdivisions filed since 2000. The current proposed subdivision plans account for 137 new lots. The Blackstone Valley had 5,802 building permits issued from 1990-1999, for an annual average of 580 permits. From 2000-2003 in the same region, 2616 permits were issued, for an annual average of 654. Sprawl is a growing concern.

Areas that need to be looked at:

- What does that leave us for open space?
- Creating a master plan every five years.
- The town must look at zoning.
- Look at the regional impact on other towns.
- Keeping good intercommunication with the Boards.

The following Boards need volunteers:

- Parks and Recreation
- Cable Access
- Board of Assessor's

Beverly Estes-Smargiassi, Millville Community Development Office

Beverly Estes-Smargiassi gave an overview of the Senior Center Project. The Town received the grant this past summer. Richard Alvord is the architect. He is requesting an amendment on the Phase 2 scope of work portion of the contract. The budget was set at \$26,550. Since March, additional scope items have been added to the design. The additions include: Order of Conditions from Conservation, and requirements of the Fire Department. The architect also made a calculation error. The original request added \$8,250 to increased scope and \$4,285 to account for the calculation error, for a total of \$39,355. Mr. Alvord agreed to reduce the amount, backing out the correction to the error, and shaving off another \$1,965 from the compensation for the increase in scope. Mr. Alvord has now agreed on a Phase 2 scope of services compensation of \$33,105. This will add \$6,555 to the original budget of \$26,550. The grant award cannot be increased, and any increase to the budget will have to come from private fundraising. The fundraising efforts thus far could cover the additional costs, but it has not been discussed with the fundraising committee.

Beverly would like to know how to proceed on this?

Selectmen Dicks stated that the architect knew there was a bufferzone and that it is his responsibility to stay out of the bufferzone.

Selectmen Gikas wants to know what are the reproductions if we do not act on this?

Selectmen Savage stated that in the grant there is a contingency amount.

Beverly's main concern is to get this negotiated.

Another issue that needs to be worked out is the type of heating system to use.

Selectmen Savage stated that he does not want this to turn into a money pit. What is the cost for the town?

There is a Fundraising Committee meeting on Wednesday, October 5th at 4:15.

Chairperson McCutcheon would like to meet with the Building Committee to discuss what dollar amount

is needed above the \$800,000 to finish the project.

Selectmen Dicks is concerned about why the town needs to pay \$6,500.00 for the work that Mr. Alvord knew needed to be done. These numbers should have been factored in initially. The town paid two professionals to do a job and they made a mistake, the town should not have to pay for it.

The Board is in agreement that they are not ready to take a vote without meeting with the Building Committee.

PUBLIC FORUM/GOOD & WELFARE

Mary Lou Anderson wanted to inform residents about two events that happened last weekend:

- Heritage Homecoming.
- Footsteps in History

It was a great event, which showcased the Blackstone Valley

The Board of Selectmen discussed the Town signing the land management agreement with DCR. The town could transfer without a cost. DCR will be invited to a meeting to discuss this with the Board of Selectmen

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY REPORT

Millville Elementary Water:

The DEP has informed us that January through June the water samples taken by Weston and Sampson were not appropriately delivered. There is a possibility that the Town could be cited for improper handling. The recently tested water had 20 samples taken: 19 failed for copper and 13 failed for lead. A treatment is being looked into and regular tests are ongoing.

Bridge Project:

Sue Horne spoke with the Engineer about the potholes and he needs specific locations and was agreeable to fix these.

Other Projects and Bids:

The bids for sand are due Wednesday, October 12th at 10:00 am.

The roof project needs to advertise again since there was no one interested. Selectmen Petrowicz mentioned that he would contact two people that may be interested.

The animal control vehicle was awarded and payment was made.

On a motion made by Brian Dicks, seconded by Paul Savage, the Board voted unanimously to accept the salt bid from Granite State Materials for \$43.50 per ton.

The Assistant Animal Control Officer position was advertised in The Valley Breeze. There are three interested candidates.

The Board of Selectmen discussed the border monuments. Helen spoke with Normand Gamache about the land surveying. The town may use aluminum markers and the town will be reimbursed for the granite monuments. The markers will need to be cemented into the ground.

On a motion made by Tom Petrowicz, seconded by Brian Dick, the Board voted to have Sue Horne a draft an endorsement letter to the Uxbridge Housing. Tom Petrowicz aye, Ken Gikas aye, Diane McCutcheon aye, and Brian Dicks aye Vote passes 4 to 0. Selectmen Savage abstained from vote.

The new Senior Center Director Carol Smith will take a class next week on fuel assistance.

On a motion made Brian Dicks, seconded by Paul Savage, the Board of Selectmen voted to set the speed limit on Kempton Road at 25 miles per hours. Tom Petrowicz voted in opposition.

Brian Dicks aye, Paul Savage aye, Ken Gikas aye, Diane McCutcheon aye and Tom Petrowicz nay.

Vote passes 4 to 1.

A letter will be sent to the Police and parking clerk informing them about the change.

On a motion made by Tom Petrowicz, seconded by Brian Dicks, the Board voted unanimously to open the warrant for the Special Town meeting on October 5, 2005 and holding the Special Town meeting on Monday, December 5th at 7:00 PM at the Millville Elementary School.

On a motion made by Tom Petrowicz, seconded by Paul Savage, the Board voted unanimously to close the warrant on Wednesday, November 3, 2005. The Board of Selectmen meeting will hold a meeting on Monday, December 5th at 6:00 PM

At the last Board of Selectmen meeting, resident Mr. Barrett who resides at 52 Fisher St. had a concern about the water run off on his property. Mr. Gamache from Guerriere and Halnon Engineering will try to develop a plan to resolve the problem.

On a motion made by Brian Dicks, seconded by Tom Petrowicz, the Board voted unanimously to allow Mr. Dean the highway surveyor to close Estes and Preston Streets the week of October 17th or 24th for paving. Mr. Dean will notify police and fire and request a detail.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

On a motion made by Brian Dicks, seconded by Tom Petrowicz, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Peter Harper, as the assistant plumbing inspector pending his certification and license is up to date.

GOOD & WELFARE

Resident, Dick Mercure, Afonso Way wanted to inform residents that MASS electric has lower rates for the disabled. He also felt it was important that the Board of Selectmen attend the next Sr. Center Building Committee meeting.

On a motion made by Tom Petrowicz, seconded by Paul Savage, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:15 PM only to sign warrants.

Respectfully Submitted,
Amy Sutherland

Diane McCutcheon
Diane McCutcheon
Chairperson

Paul Savage
Paul Savage, Vice Chairman

Brian Dicks
Brian Dicks, Selectmen

Tom Petrowicz
Tom Petrowicz, Selectmen

Ken Gikas, Selectmen