



BOARD OF SELECTMEN REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

**290 Main Street
Millville, MA 01529**

Monday June 14, 2022

PRESENT:

Chairman Jennifer Gill, Vice Chairman, Andrew Alward and Member Richard Bremilst.

ALSO PRESENT:

Town Administrator, Peter Caruso

On a motion made by Jennifer Gill, seconded by Andrew Alward, the Board voted by roll call vote to go into executive session per M.G.L c. 30A, Section 21 (a)(2) to discuss strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel (Police Chief, fire Chief, and others) and also per M.G.L. c.30A, Section 21(a)(3) to discuss strategy relative to pending litigation where discussion of these matters in open session would have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the Town.

Roll Call Vote:

Andrew Alward	aye
Jennifer Gill	aye
Richard Bremilst	aye

The Board of Selectmen returned from the executive session and reentered the regular meeting.

MINUTES:

May 2, 2012:

The Board deferred approval the minutes from May 2, 2022 pending a number of revisions.

May 16, 2012:

On a motion made by Andrew Alward, seconded by Richard Bremilst, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes from May 16, 2022 with the recommended revisions.

NEW BUSINESS:

2020 Audit Report:

Robert Brown CPA was at the meeting to present the 2020 audit report. This also included the two management letters. The prepared three reports were reviewed by the selectmen. The balance sheet was shown on page 13. The general fund numbers were reviewed. There was a \$160,000 surplus which contributed to free cash. The management letter noted recommendations which included reconciliation of real estate taxes, personal property taxes, and ambulance funds all of which need to be reconciled on a monthly basis. Implementation of the recommendations is currently in progress. There was also highlighted certain information in a footnote of the audit report which references the significant unfunded legacy debt of BMR.

The stabilization fund balance was \$414,000.00 at the time of the report which as a result of votes taken at the recent Special Town Meeting now show a balance almost \$900,000.00. The Finance Chairwomen communicated that there continues to be concerns about the internal controls which seems to be a repeated issue noted in the management letter.

FY 2022 Year-end Transfers:

The Board of Selectmen are in receipt of the FY2022 year-end transfer schedule. This was prepared by the accountant. The numbers are based on the reporting data from June 12, 2022. The total transfer amount noted to date is \$87,175.00. The final numbers will be presented at the July 11, 2022 meeting. The Chairwomen read the adjustments of the transfers and the accounts which the money was coming from.

On a motion made by Andrew Alward, seconded by Richard Bremilst, the Board voted unanimously to transfer the \$87,175.00 as noted on the presented sheet.

Resident Hurteau wanted to know if the town gets reimbursed for mutual aid hours when provided from the other towns. It was communicated that the town does not get reimbursed.

Interviewing Questions:

Acting Chief Coupe was asked a series of questions about his interest in becoming the Chief of Police for the Town of Millville. The Chairwomen informed all that the contract for this position is almost complete and there are a few minor revisions which will be needed to be included. Mr. Coupe has been acting in this position since September 2021. Mr. Coupe communicated that there are a great group of employees working for the department. He has resided in the town since 2005 and wants to continue to provide assistance to the community. He has over 30 years in law enforcement and 13 of those years has been in supervisory positions. He had achieved a degree in criminal justice and continues to take management and business classes. The challenges to the department continue to be the bridge academy, turnover with staff and also the telecommunications. He would like to see the financial resources of the police department increased. There is currently a staffing shortage. He has not been able to hire any full-timers.

The Department also does not have a secretary in place. The salary offered to employees is lower than the surrounding towns. Mr. Coupe is open to figuring out what mitigation can be put in place to retain employees.

Appointment of Police Chief:

On a motion made by Jennifer Gill, seconded by Richard Bremilst, the Board voted unanimously to appoint William Coupe as the Police Chief for the Town of Millville pending contract negotiations.

Appointment of Fire Chief:

The Board of Selectmen asked Acting Fire Chief Liard questions about his interest in seeking the position of Fire Chief in the Town of Millville. Mr. Liard would like to be Fire Chief since his family has a long history of working for the department. He also lives in the Town of Millville and has raised his children in town. He has completed the certification required to fulfill the position and has submitted the credentials and is waiting for a response back. Mr. Liard has also taken and continues to take classes to keep and maintain requirements. Mr. Liard communicated that there is a highly qualified staff in the town. He will work to operate the department within the budget. The department has added 4 firefighters within the last 9 months. The town continues to not be able to provide ALS services and he would like to see this changed.

Fire Chief Appointment:

On a motion made by Andrew Alward, seconded by Richard Bremilst, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Mr. Liard as the Millville Fire Chief pending contract negotiations.

Other Business:

Resident and President of the Millville Senior Club Richard Hurteau asked the Board to review his summary of events regarding the Council on Aging and various action taken by individuals. His concern is with actions taken with no discussion or vote. The Chairwomen reviewed the emails and summary. Mr. Hurteau would like to have a drop box in place within the center to collect funds for field trips and other things. By not having this in place it is a hardship to various seniors. The Town Administrator provided a response from Mrs. Finn in the BOS packets. The next item discussed was use of funds available from the Beaulieu trust. The balance in this account available for COA/Senior Center Activities is approximately \$13,000. The Town Administrator recommends having this Senior Club drop box and access to it when the senior center is open. Mr. Hurteau showed a photo of the type of box he would like to build. The Chairwomen encourages direct communication with the Council on Aging and the Senior Club. There was a comment that the COA is in charge of the building and what is installed within it.

On a motion made by Jennifer Gill, seconded by Andrew Alward, the Board voted unanimously to recommend the locked mailbox.

There was a recommendation that the COA come to speak with the BOS at their next meeting.

Appointments:

The Chairwomen read the one-year and three-year appointments.

Selectmen Alward held the Assistant Building Inspector, and all of the Council on Aging appointments, and police officer appointment.

On a motion made by Jennifer Gill, seconded by Andrew Alward, the Board voted unanimously to approve the appointments as noted on the presented sheets with the exception of those communicated to be held.

The Assistant Building Inspector was held since Selectmen Alward wanted to stay consistent with having those seeking new appointment need to come in front of the Selectmen. An overview was provided of his credentials. He currently works with the Building Inspector in Attleboro. He has over 39 years of experience and is highly qualified.

Police Officer:

This was held since it was added just prior to the meeting. Chief Coupe recommended Keith Flanagan since he has experience working full time at a local college. He brings great experience.

Council on Aging:

Selectmen Alward held these appointments due to some of the current issues with the COA. He would like to discuss some of the items at the next meeting before appointing.

On a motion made by Jennifer Gill and seconded by Andrew Alward, the Board voted unanimously to appoint the noted one-year appointments as recommended with the exception of the COA.

Update on Town Accountant and Treasurer Collector Status:

The Board of Selectmen were informed that both the Town Accountant and Treasurer Collector do not want to continue working for the Town of Millville. They will fulfill the obligations until replaced. Both work full time positions elsewhere. The positions have been posted.

Review of Special Town Meeting:

The Chairwomen thanked all that attended. The meeting resulted in being able to fund more money into stabilization. The total is currently 1.5 million.

ARPA:

The Board is in receipt of a memo about a request for funds through ARPA for replacement of the hydrant system which would cost \$63,022.00 . The requests of this nature would need to go through Capital Planning and then there would need to be a recommendation made to the Board of Selectmen. It was explained that the current system goes back to the 40's. The motor in the pump station is from the 60's. There are currently 10 hydrants which need to be replaced due to broken valves or since they do not drain properly. There are a total of 74 hydrants throughout town.

Open Meeting Law Violation Complaint:

There was a complaint revised about a possible open meeting law violation against the Board of Selectmen. The complaint was read into the record. A written statement was also read by The Chairwomen from Town Counsel indicating that there was no violation made by the Board. A copy of the response from Counsel was provided to the complainant.

On a motion made by Jennifer Gill, seconded by Andrew Alward, the Board voted unanimously to approve the response from Town Counsel regarding the complaint from Jennifer Dean Wing.

Board of Selectmen Policies and Procedures:

This will be discussed at a future Board of Selectmen Meeting.

Board of Selectmen Survey Update:

There were 50 surveys returned. The Chairwomen has compiled the surveys and created a matrix with the responses. She will continue to track and update the response sheet. If any resident is not able to drop off the form to the Town Hall, she is willing to pick it up at those resident's homes.

Streetlights:

There was a meeting with the National Grid Representative. There are 12 lights left to convert to LED. There will be a prepared list of what is turned on and off. There are some lights which are privately paid for, so it needs to be determined the status. Some of the red cap lights may be converted back on by the town. The Town Administrator is taking the lead on this. There will be a cost estimate on the red cap lights.

Public Forum:

Resident Hurteau – 8 Rhondon Road:

Mr. Hurteau informed the BOS that he negotiated an antenna for better service at the cell tower with the Town of Uxbridge. This could also be done with the Town of Millville.

Board of Selectmen Public Forum:

- Selectmen Alward would like to see a bulletin Board outside the Senior Center to allow for the posting of the warrant and other things.

- Chairwomen Gill will speak with representatives about charter cable and trying to see how to improve access in town.
- The Board will be attending the executive session at BVT.

Town Administrator Report:

Internet at Town Hall:

The town hall is experiencing a cut out of internet service. Charter is looking to resolve the issue but indicated that this does not appear to be their system. It was suggested that it may be the equipment or server. There has been \$10,000.00 allocated from the ARPA funds for this purpose.

Metacomet Dispatch Services:

There has been challenges with the Metacomet Dispatch service which appears to involve the town's communication antenna tower and related equipment. The Town Administrator is on the Board of Directors and will be addressing this at their meeting.

MES Water Situation:

The Town Administrator informed the Board that there was a meeting with the water consultant at MES. There was observation of the beaver activity. Another topic of discussion was the pump station. There was a suggestion to install a carbon filter system to improve the quality of water. The water consultants were also taken on a tour of Providence Street and Kempton Road to look at the hydrants and what may be needed to get water to these areas.

Resident, Richard Hurteau informed the Board that in relation to the cell tower, his land has the highest elevation in all of Blackstone Valley. He will provide the maps to Chief Coupe and the Town Administrator.

Next Meeting:

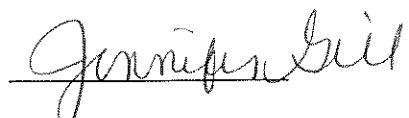
- July 11, 2022

Adjourn:

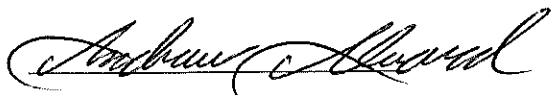
On a motion made by Andrew Alward, seconded by Richard Bremilst, the Board voted to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

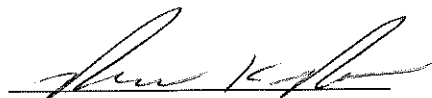
Amy Sutherland
Recording Secretary



Jennifer Gill, Chairwomen



Andrew Alward, Vice Chairman



Richard Bremilst, Member

REC JUL 12 2022

AM 9:34

TOWN CLERK