



## BOARD OF SELECTMEN REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

290 Main Street  
Millville, MA 01529

Monday, February 6, 2023

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### **PRESENT:**

Chairperson Jennifer Gill, Vice Chairperson Andrew Alward, Member Richard Bremilst, Town Administrator Peter Caruso

### **OPEN MEETING:**

At 7PM Selectman Gill called the meeting to order.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **Appointment of Keith Lanagan:**

Police Chief William Coupe presented Keith Lanagan for appointment to a Full-Time Police Officer position. Currently, Lanagan has been employed part-time with Millville since May. Lanagan has a diverse working career in both the private and government sectors and has gained well-rounded work experiences. Lanagan has a long personal history with Millville and has experience with many challenging issues that involve mental health and other related issues. Lanagan is also a graduate of the Bridge Academy. He stated that he is very involved in town with a strong belief in community policing. Chief Coupe supported this appointment.

**On a motion made by Andrew Alward, seconded by Richard Bremilst, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Keith Lanagan as a Full-Time Police Officer through June 30, 2023.**

#### **Consideration of Appointment of Zachary Etschman to the Conservation Commission through June 30, 2025:**

Zachary Etschman introduced himself to the Board and continued speaking on his behalf with regards to his personal and work experiences. He continued on with the importance of conservation protection in the community. Etschman gave examples of current water concerns in the community and the importance of educating the residents about clean water.

The Selectmen voiced issue with correspondence to the Selectmen from Etschman with regards to matters that may not support him as the best candidate at this time. After discussion, the Board took no action to appoint Zachary Etschman at this time.

**Consideration of Appointment of Eric Olsen to the Conservation Commission through June 30, 2025:**

The appointment to consider Eric Olsen to the Conversation Committee was tabled until he could be present at the meeting.

**Appointment of Alternate Delegate to Central Mass Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) for FY23 – Pam Maloney:**

CMRPC requires that the Millville Planning Board appoint a delegate to their Commission and that the Board of Selectmen appoint an Alternate Delegate. Pam Maloney is a resident as well as a Planning Board Member and has served on the Commission in the past. This position will be to reappoint Maloney, as she has served in this position most recently.

**On a motion made by Andrew Alward, seconded by Richard Bremilst, the Board voted unanimously to reappoint Pam Maloney as an Alternate Delegate to CMRPC for FY23.**

**FY24 Budget and Capital Planning Committee Update:**

The Town Administrator presented budget materials to the Board of Selectmen. It was stated that some challenges may occur ahead for FY23 and mentioned other budgetary items that may lie ahead for FY24. Contractual increases, as well as 3% salary increases prevail – all other line items were asked to be level funded. Budget sheets from Department Heads are coming due soon and the Town Administrator will present his recommended budget to the Board of Selectmen. The Finance Committee will receive the same budget and make recommendations at Town Meeting. The Town Administrator continued on bulleting specific department needs as well as needs for the town hall, police and fire departments. The Town Administrator mentioned that Millville's share of Metacomet Emergency dispatch service costs will increase to 50% in upcoming fiscal years and will be included in the budgets in the near future. MES water is stable as budgeted but new changes to water filtration and treatment technology may affect the budget in the future. BVT's number of students and cost per student are unknown at this point. There was a joint meeting penciled in for April 3, 2023. Norfolk Agricultural School student enrollment will remain unknown until mid-year and thus far the FY23 budget is on target in higher transportation costs due to one fewer student enrolled than forecasted. Millville students had not enrolled this school year to Tri-County, but again, the number of students projected for FY24 will not be known until mid-year. Highway's budget was briefly reviewed. Town fuel continues to be a challenge with cost increases and next year may be tracked similarly to this FY. Council on Aging van usage had increased this year and is currently over budget. Health Insurance continues to be carried through MIIAA. Millville has been paying high rate increases

and the premium is projected to increase 10%. Town Administrator briefly discussed the stabilization and free cash funds.

Town Administrator reminded that there will be a joint meeting with the Blackstone-Millville Regional School District School Committee, Blackstone Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen on February 13, 2023 @7PM.

Currently BMRSD shows a 3.8% overall total operating cost increase. The State's contribution is yet to be determined as well as the monetary assessments for each town. Many increases are expected in the BMRSD budget. Asbestos remediation at the High School will be funded through AARPA similar to FY 23. Enrollment and teacher/student ratios were discussed as well.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

None

**TOWN CLERK:**

The Town Clerk recommended changing the polling location due to St. Augustine's Church closing. The Town Clerk would like to use the Senior Center as the new voting location. The Senior Center Director is aware of the proposal to change polling locations and voiced no objections. Selectmen Alward pointed out that the Council on Aging in the past had issues with building use and they may have to vote on the new proposal. Town Administrator suggested to make a motion subject to Council on Aging approval. The Town Clerk also reviewed the election process and open positions in town.

**On a motion made by Andrew Alward, seconded by Richard Bremilst, the Board voted and approved the new polling location of the Senior Center located at 40 Prospect Street with the subsequent approval of the Council on Aging.**

**HIGHWAY:**

Selectman Gill stated that she will be meeting with Brian Mullaly, the Highway Surveyor, to discuss road repairs, costs and funding.

**PUBLIC FORUM:**

No one present

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

None

## **CORRESPONDENCE:**

Worcester Regional Retirement Systems approved an additional 2% COLA on top of the 3% COLA for one year and would also require a percentage of votes from participating towns. No action or approval is needed at this point from the Board but may want to consider it in the future. Board of Selectmen would like to table this subject for a future meeting.

## **MINUTES:**

On a motion made by Andrew Alward and seconded by Richard Bremilst, the Board voted and approved the December 5, 2022 and January 3, 2023 meeting minutes.

## **SELECTMEN'S REPORT:**

Selectman Gill wanted to remind the residents that if they have any questions or concerns on town business, to contact the respective departments and not to post on Facebook. Facebook is not an Official Town page and is not monitored by Town Officials.

## **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:**

Town Administrator stated that as a Board Member of Metacomet he will be attending their upcoming meeting to discuss the budget. Also mentioned, was Metacomet's recruitment and retention challenges in which the Town Administrator suggested using Millville's model as a follow. These items will be discussed in executive session during a Metacomet meeting.

The Superintendent sent notifications out regarding the unfavorable water test results at Millville Elementary School. It was stated that the engineers involved are reviewing a plan to remediate the problem. Quotes have not been received for costs to remediate.

Town Administrator attended the Annual Mass Municipal Association conference and attended break-out informational sessions. He also heard the new Governor speak and met with surrounding town counsel and accounting service providers.

The old town Hall engineered plans to replace the roof and trusses were received by the Building Department. Joe Fitzpatrick, Building Commissioner, will be meeting with HVAC and plumbing to discuss a plan/cost.

Capital Planning Committee will be meeting at the end of the month and notices were sent out to departments for capital requests.

Town Administrator stated that he will be taking a remote, four-day, procurement course online. The courses are required for Chief Procurement Officer.

**ITEMS NOT RESPONSIBLY ANTICIPATED WITHIN 48 HOURS TO MEETING:**

None

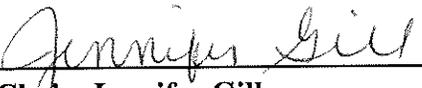
**NEXT REGULAR MEETING:**

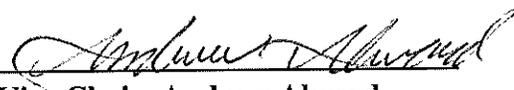
February 21, 2023 @7PM

On a motion made by Andrew Alward, seconded by Richard Bremilst, the Board voted to unanimously adjourn the meeting at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Sherry Grant

**Selectmen's Signatures:**

  
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Chair, Jennifer Gill

  
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Vice Chair, Andrew Alward

  
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Member, Richard Bremilst