

**TOWN OF MILLVILLE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

MINUTES OF MEETING

December 14, 2011 - 7:00 p.m.

Board of Selectmen Members Present: Chairman Tom Petrowicz, Vice Chairman Roland Barrett and Selectman John Laura

Board of Selectmen Members Absent: Secretary Charlie Poulin and Selectman Bob Baker

Others Present: Executive Secretary Helen Coffin; Finance Committee Members Ouellette, Rapoza, Herrick and Wing; Board of Health Members Stanley and Houle

The Board of Selectmen meeting is called to order by Chairman Petrowicz at 7:10 p.m.

The Board meets in conjunction with the Millville Finance Committee and Board of Health to discuss the situation with the trash program for FY13. Chairman Petrowicz questions whether the Board of Health has forecasted what can be done with the trash situation.

Tom Houle explains the options that have been discussed among the Board of Health members. The first option is to ask the taxpayers for an override to maintain the same type of services the Town currently has. If an override fails, the option currently being reviewed by the Board of Health is a "pay as you throw" option. The Board of Health feels they can get a much better deal going with this type of service because it includes cutbacks on recycling and offers other perks. We currently get nothing back from Blackstone.

Finance Chairman Ouellette indicates that the trash pick-up line item for FY13 will be zeroed out so there is no question about controlling trash costs by seeking an override; however, it must be made a big sell to the taxpayers. We are on a ticking clock and must address the six month clause to eliminate the trash pick-up. He asks if the Board of Health has researched enough trash alternatives to give the six months notice in case an override doesn't pass.

Town Moderator Les Davis feels the way the Proposition 2-1/2 Override was previously handled is reason why it wasn't approved. He feels a presentation must be given to the taxpayers at the Annual town Meeting so that they have a clear understanding of the situation. The presentation must clearly state the prices of trash pick-up per year.

Finance Member Wing feels there should be a strong public relations campaign in order to get the word out in order to make it happen.

Executive Secretary Coffin questions how and when the determination has already been made to eliminate trash pick-up when departments have not submitted their budgets as yet and since we are seeking level funded budgets and the revenue has increased by about \$100,000 per the estimates provided by the Town Accountant, why is it necessary to cut trash? If there is excess after budgeting, what will happen to those funds? The Finance Committee must ascertain this beforehand otherwise those funds will be taken by other departments and we will end up with no

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trash pick-up. She also questions whether the Board of Health is absolutely certain they can have another program in place for July if they cancel our current contract.

Board of Health Chairman Dave Stanley indicates there will be no problem having another plan in place and the Board has already drafted the termination letter and is prepared to send it out.

Finance Chairman feels any excess funds should be placed in Capital Planning or into Stabilization.

Lengthy discussion follows regarding the "pay as you throw" program. The Board of Health advises that the Town of Brimfield earned \$70,000 selling bags; however, it was unclear as to the costs associated with the program. Brimfield funded a full time secretary with the profits.

Finance Chairman Ouellette seeks clarification on the \$70,000; was this a net profit or just income from the sale of the bags prior to paying for the trash pick-up and secretary? The Board of Health replies that they have not had those questions answered yet.

Executive Secretary Coffin reminds all that if the Board agrees with Mr. Davis and pursues an override election after Town Meeting, we may not know the status of funding until the end of May or beginning of June. Again, will this be enough time for the Board of Health to have another program in place for July? Should we consider funding trash for half the year? The Board of Health replies it is enough time and there is no need to fund trash for half the year.

Finance Member Herrick feels the Town must begin saving for a rainy day. We must proceed with an override and make the people understand the money is just not available to continue the current level of services. If the taxpayers want to have their own police, fire, etc..., they must pay for it. He feels we should be looking at a 3-year or 5-year plan to present to the taxpayers.

Executive Secretary Coffin reminds all that the Town Accountant and Department of Revenue have always been clear that we are not in the savings bank business but rather in the business to provide services to the taxpayers. We should not cut services in order to fund a savings account. This will be frowned upon. We must be certain any excess funds are used appropriately.

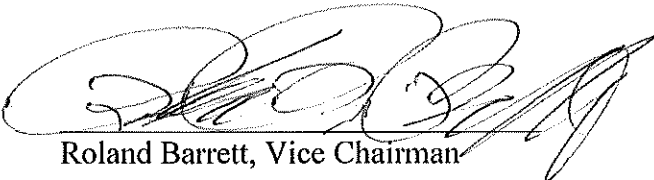
Finance Committee Member Ouellette feels Mr. Dicecco should be contacted for his assistance with the public relations. It is also discussed briefly that Mr. Dicecco works for the trash company and may have some knowledge of wrong doings regarding Millville's trash.

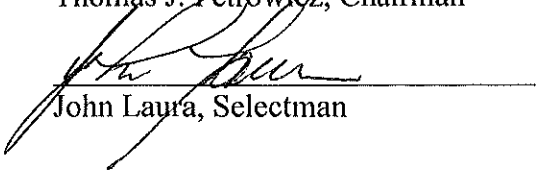
It is decided that the next meeting will be January 18th at 7:00 p.m. The Board of Health will be prepared with additional information at that time.

On a motion by Barrett and second by Laura, the Board of Selectmen Meeting is adjourned at approximately 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Helen M. Coffin


Thomas J. Petrowicz, Chairman


Roland Barrett, Vice Chairman


John Laura, Selectman