

**TOWN OF MILLVILLE  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

**April 7, 2015 - 7:00 p.m.**

**Board of Selectmen Members Present:** Chairman Roland Barrett, Vice Chairman Joseph Rapoza, Secretary Jennifer Dean Wing and Selectman John Laura

**Board of Selectmen Members Absent:** Selectman Robert Baker

**Others Present:** Executive Secretary Helen Coffin

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Chairman Barrett calls the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Longfellow Municipal Center with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Barrett calls for reorganization of the Board.

**REORGANIZATION**

*On a motion by Laura and second by Rapoza, the Board votes unanimously to elect Roland Barrett as Chairman.*

*On a motion by Barrett and second by Wing, the Board votes unanimously to elect Joseph Rapoza as Vice Chairman.*

*On a motion by Barrett and second by Wing, the Board votes unanimously to elect Jennifer Dean Wing as Secretary.*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Board hopes everyone had a Happy Easter this past Sunday.

The Board thanks everyone who came out to vote yesterday. The election results are posted for those interested in the results. There were only 119 voters.

Town Hall Offices will be closed on Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, in observance of Patriots' Day. The Board's next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 21<sup>st</sup>. Best of Luck to anyone running the marathon!

The Highway Surveyor advises that street sweeping will commence on or about April 16<sup>th</sup> and continue through the end of the following week, or about April 24<sup>th</sup>.

Schools are closed for spring vacation during the week of April 20<sup>th</sup>. Motorists: Please take caution on the roadways for children who may be outside.

The Special and Annual Town Meetings are scheduled for Monday, May 11<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6:30 at the Millville Elementary School. Please mark your calendars!

## **SPECIAL GUESTS**

### **Senator Ryan Fattman and Representative Kevin Kuros**

Senator Ryan Fattman is in attendance to provide a brief legislative update. He speaks about the state of the budget including the Chapter 70 funding, UGGA and the recently released Chapter 90 funds for the winter road recovery. He acknowledges Millville's challenges with the regional transportation funding and the English language learners' unfunded mandate for schools.

Representative Kevin Kuros is also in attendance to provide a brief update on the state budget. He speaks briefly about the state's budget timeframe and when the budget is expected from the Governor and when it will be reviewed by the House. He also explains that the figures for tax receipts are encouraging...he feels there is a light at the end of the tunnel.

Chairman Barrett questions the status of electricity rates. Rep. Kuros advises that utility rates are set on a 6-month basis and the November-April rate was raised without a Public Hearing; National Grid was able to do this as a "seasonal" increase. There is discussion at the state house in order to prevent this in the future. The May rates look to be lower but it is all dependent upon the natural gas rates.

Selectman Laura questions if the legislature can put a cap on utility increases. Rep. Kuros replies that the rates are based on futures and are incredibly complex to forecast...this is why he believes there needs to be more transparency. He also adds that the state is focusing more effort on solar concepts and net metering; there is momentum on raising the cap on net metering. Senator Fattman addresses the utility supply and demand and policy choices regarding expansion. He also adds that technology will eventually drive the utility costs down.

### **Resident Ella Dehestani**

The Board invited Millville resident and Blackstone Valley Tech student Ella Dehestani to the Meeting to congratulate her on her recent Prudential Spirit of Community Award. Ella speaks about her various community service efforts, the importance of volunteerism, and her own passion for helping others.

Senator Fattman presents Ella with a congressional commendation from Boston, and Representative Kuros presents her with a commendation from the House of Representatives. Chairman Barrett presents Ella with a commendation from the Board of Selectmen and reads a congratulatory letter from Blackstone Valley Tech School Committee Vice Chairman Gerry Finn. All congratulate Ella on her accomplishments and wish her well in her future endeavors.

## **MINUTES**

### **March 16, 2015 – 6:00 p.m.**

*On a motion by Rapoza and second by Wing, the Board votes unanimously to accept and approve the Minutes of the Meeting of March 16, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. {Laura abstains}*

**March 16, 2015 – 7:00 p.m.**

*On a motion by Laura and second by Rapoza, the Board votes unanimously to accept and approve the Minutes of the Meeting of March 16, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.*

**March 23, 2015 – 6:00 p.m.**

*On a motion by Wing and second by Rapoza, the Board votes unanimously to accept and approve the Minutes of the Meeting of March 23, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. with redactions as discussed and agreed upon with the Minutetaker. {Laura abstains}*

**WARRANTS**

*On a motion by Laura and second by Rapoza, the Board votes unanimously to approve and sign the Warrants as presented.*

**TOWN OFFICIALS** None.

**PUBLIC FORUM** None.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Correspondence from Massachusetts DOT in connection with the recent Winter Road Assistance Program and a standard contract which requires the signature of the Chairman.

*On a motion by Laura and second by Rapoza, the Board votes unanimously to authorize the Chairman to sign the Commonwealth's standard contract for the Highway Department's road recovery assistance funding.*

**APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATIONS**

Chairman Barrett reads resignation letters submitted by two part-time patrolmen.

*On a motion by Rapoza and second by Laura, the Board votes unanimously to accept the resignation of James Brown as part-time patrolman.*

*On a motion by Rapoza and second by Wing, the Board votes unanimously to accept the resignation of Gregory Tappan as part-time patrolman.*

Chairman Barrett announces that the re-appointment for the Veterans Agent is due.

*On a motion by Rapoza and second by Laura, the Board votes unanimously to appoint Lincoln Barber as Veterans Agent for a term beginning May 1, 2015 through April 30, 2016.*

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY REPORT**

Town Counsel RFP was sent out with a deadline of April 16<sup>th</sup>. At the Board's next meeting on April 21<sup>st</sup>, the proposals will be available for the Board's review and ranking, and to determine who will be called in for an interview.

Still waiting for 2 performance evaluations for Chief Landry. Chairman Barrett has his done...Board has no issues with preparing with the 4 responses.

The Annual Report is ready to be sent to the printer. It is only missing one department - Highway.

The Town Hall had a no heat issue again this week. We may need to purchase a new expansion tank at over \$3K; if this is the case, a Reserve Fund Transfer will be necessary.

The updated Snow/Ice Deficit is \$180,390 but there are still outstanding invoices.

The Town Auditors finished up yesterday and will submit their final report in May.

There is a scheduled BOS Meeting with the Finance Committee for Tuesday, April 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 p.m. to go over Warrants articles.

The second floor "Classroom" doors have been padlocked shut to prohibit entrance. Although the structural issues were repaired temporarily, the room is not in the condition to be used. Signs will be placed on the doors. Keys are with custodian, Executive Secretary and Fire Department.

**OLD BUSINESS** None.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

Executive Secretary advises that since the Board voted to close the Warrants, three articles were submitted for consideration by the Board. The Warrant would need to be opened to include them. Back-up information is provided for each article.

Proposed Article 7. This article is regarding the reallocation of MSBA funds for a new water tank at the MES. The Capital Planning Committee met and voted for this after the Warrant was closed.

***On a motion by Rapoza and second by Wing, the Board votes unanimously to open the Warrant for the inclusion of this proposed article.***

Proposed Article 13. This article is regarding recent changes in the law made by the state in connection with the minimum wage. Town Counsel's opinion is that due to conflicting legal beliefs, the Town should work to be in compliance with the updated wage laws.

***On a motion by Rapoza and second by Laura, the Board votes unanimously to open the Warrant for the inclusion of this proposed article.***

Proposed Article 16. This article is regarding zoning amendments in connection with the Town's current Overlay District and ability for solar farms on certain parcels of land. This came about due to an application received by the Building Commissioner and was suggested by the Town Planner/Planning Board. Mr. Greg Carey of Clean Energy Collective is present to address this matter. His client, John Polny, seeks to build a solar farm on a parcel of land and he was informed that the only way to do so would be for this article to be accepted. He was advised that there is no other permit process for this situation in the Town's Bylaws. Brief discussion follows regarding how this system works and how properties are assessed. Executive Secretary advises that the Planning Board will need to hold a Public Hearing.

***On a motion by Rapoza and second by Laura, the Board votes unanimously to open the Warrant for the inclusion of this proposed article.***

### Close Warrants

***On a motion by Laura and second by Rapoza, the Board votes unanimously to close the Warrants effective immediately.***

FY16 Budget. Executive Secretary provides brief update on status of FY16 budget. The Town Accountant has reviewed the available funds in the Assessors Overlay. The Finance Committee has made a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen regarding the release of excess funds from the Overlay.

***On a motion by Rapoza and second by Laura, the Board votes unanimously to request that the Board of Assessors meet at a duly posted meeting and vote to certify the amounts of excess in the Assessors Overlay Accounts as provided by the Town Accountant as follows: FY2006 - \$643.28 and FY2008 - \$21,687.22; and further, vote to release from this surplus the total of \$22,330.50.***

Executive Secretary questions if the Board wishes to revisit the salary line item for the Assistant Assessor as a follow-up to the last budget meeting. The Board members do not wish to revisit.

Chairman of the Finance Committee, Richard Crivello, advises that the Finance Committee is close to balancing the budget with reserve funds but the Town cannot continue to do this in future years.

### **MEMBERS FORUM**

Green Community Grant. Joseph Rapoza advises that the Green Committee is ready to move forward with the first energy efficiency projects as approved by the state. He seeks approval to sign the contracts on behalf of the Town. These projects include the hybrid cruiser and LED lights at Town-owned buildings. He adds that the scheduling of these projects is critical due to the payment and reimbursement schedule. He will walking the Town-owned properties next week with a representative of Guardian Energy.

***On a motion by Laura and second by Wing, the Board votes unanimously to authorize Joseph Rapoza to sign the contracts for the Green Community projects as discussed.***

Goal-Setting – Next Steps. Vice Chairman Rapoza would like the Board to schedule workshop to collectively determine the Board's next goal for the upcoming year. It was agreed to meet on Monday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

Marc's Garage. Selectman Laura questions the status of Marc's Garage...he feels more cars are being added on the lot. Executive Secretary advises this matter was sent to the Building Commissioner and he did send a cease and desist letter to the owner. She will follow-up with the Building Commissioner.

### **FINAL PUBLIC FORUM**

Police Department. Chief Landry informs the Board his department has received a grant for \$26,341 for a new fingerprint machine. Marilyn will create a revolving account for the maintenance of the machine.

**SIGNATURES** The Board signs the documents voted on earlier this evening.

**NEXT REGULAR MEETING** Tuesday, April 21, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

**ADJOURN**

*On a motion by Rapoza and second by Laura, the Board of Selectmen votes unanimously to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:52 p.m.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Helen M. Coffin, Executive Secretary

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Roland P. Barrett, Chairman

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Joseph G. Rapoza, Vice Chairman

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John Laura

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Jennifer Dean Wing