

MILLVILLE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES

Millville Senior Center, 40 Prospect Street

November 14, 2016

Board Members Present: Chairman Joseph Rapoza; Vice Chairman Jennifer Dean Wing and Selectman John Laura

Also Present: Town Administrator, Jennifer Callahan

The Chairman opened the meeting at 6:00 pm.

Announcements:

Town Administrator announced two upcoming important committee meetings:

- Finance Committee Meeting & Public Hearing: Monday, November 21, 2016, at 6 p.m.--Senior Center
- Capital Planning Meeting: Thursday, November 17, 2016 at 6 p.m.--Senior Center

Warrant Articles:

Chair Rapoza noted the goal of the meeting was to review and approve the final warrant for the upcoming Town Meeting on November 30, 2106. Jennifer Dean Wing offered to and proceeded to read each article on the draft warrant. She had recommended a hold be placed on any article in which a member would like further discussion.

John Laura asked for a hold to be placed on Article #3 and both John Laura and Chair Rapoza asked for a hold to be placed on Article #6. All other articles were read aloud without a hold being placed.

On a motion made by Jennifer Dean Wing and seconded by John Laura, the Board of Selectmen voted unanimously to approve the placement of Articles #1, #2, #4, #5, #7 and #8 from the draft warrant as written onto the Final Warrant.

John Laura then asked for clarification about the scope of Article #3. Would the new Town-Wide Capital Account be available for capital expenditures only related to the fire department capital needs or for any town capital need? He also wanted to know if it would only be used for major items in need of repair. The Town Administrator noted the account would not be exclusively available to one department, but rather the town as a whole, and the intent of the establishing the account is to be used for only major capital items.

On a motion made by Jennifer Dean Wing and seconded by John Laura, the Board of Selectmen voted unanimously to approve the placement of Article #3 from the draft warrant as written onto the Final Warrant.

John Laura opened discussion about Article #6 which seeks to lower the threshold constituting a Town Meeting quorum from 40 to 20 registered town voters. He desires the quorum remain at 40. He believes issues will be decided more frequently by only one side of an issue and will not encourage resident participation in government.

Chair Rapoza noted the Board has the right to strike an article if it would like it not to appear on the final warrant.

Jennifer Dean Wing noted she was not necessarily in favor of the article, but believed it was important to allow town boards, committees, department heads and the moderator to have the opportunity to put forth articles on the warrant for consideration by the townspeople.

Chair Rapoza said right now the town is a model of democracy. People have the opportunity to vote and decide issues. Philosophically, he was not in favor of the article and would speak out against it if it remained on the final warrant.

Jennifer Dean Wing noted it was not the first time this issue has been raised by the Moderator. If the article passed, she thought it may look like we do not want people to be involved in government decisions, if there is a lower quorum number. However, she maintained she felt compelled to allow it on the warrant because it was an issue the Moderator thought was important to raise and discuss.

John Laura stated we need to get more people involved, not less at town meetings.

On a motion made by John Laura and seconded by Chair Rapoza, the Board of Selectmen voted the following: 2 in Favor (J. Laura; J. Rapoza) and 1 Opposed (J. D. Wing) to strike Article #6 of from being placed on the Final Warrant.

There was no more discussion concerning the approval of the warrant. The Town Administrator said she would make adjustments and have warrant ready for posting to comply with the 14 day rule in advance of the town meeting. The Chairman announced there was scheduled an executive session after the regular meeting.

At 6:40 p.m., Jennifer Dean Wing stated, ***"I move that based on MGL c.30A §21 ¶3 to discuss strategy with respect to litigation because the Chair declares an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the Town, the Board enter into executive session and when finished to return to open session only to adjourn the meeting."*** John Laura seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote to enter executive session: J. Rapoza Aye; J. Laura Aye and J.D. Wing Aye.

At 6:58 p.m., Jennifer Dean made a motion to leave executive session that was seconded by John Laura. Roll Call Vote: J. Rapoza Aye; J.D. Wing Aye and J. Laura Aye.

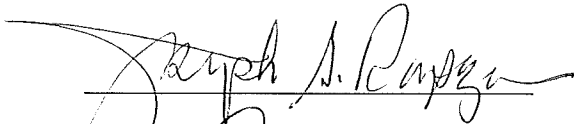
ADJOURN

At 6:58 p.m., on a motion from Jennifer Dean Wing, seconded by John Laura, the Board of Selectmen vote unanimously to adjourn the regular meeting.

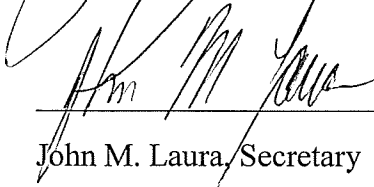
The meeting adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

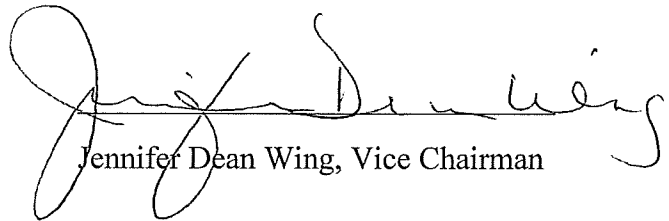
Jennifer Callahan



Joseph Rapoza, Chairman



John M. Laura, Secretary



Jennifer Dean Wing, Vice Chairman

Roland P. Barrett, Selectman