

**TOWN OF MILLVILLE  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

**November 3, 2014 - 7:00 p.m.**

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

**Others Present:** Executive Secretary Helen Coffin

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Chairman Barrett opens the regular meeting at 7:04 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Board hopes everyone had a safe and enjoyable Halloween.

Reminder that tomorrow, Tuesday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, is election day. Polls will be open here at the Town Hall from 7am-8pm. Please contact the Town Clerk's Office with any questions.

The Selectmen will be holding a Special "Goal Setting" Meeting on Monday, November 10<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. here at the Town Hall.

Reminder that the Town Hall offices will be closed on Tuesday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, in observance of Veterans Day. The Board wishes to acknowledge our veterans and active duty military and thank them for the sacrifices they made and continue to make to protect our freedom.

Next Wednesday evening, November 12<sup>th</sup>, the Building Commissioner will not be in the office for weekly office hours.

Reminder that the Special Town Meeting will be held on Monday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, at the Millville Elementary School at 6:30 p.m., followed by the Board's regular Selectmen Meeting. Again, the Board's next regular meeting will not be here at the Town Hall...it will be at the MES.

The Finance Committee will hold a Public Hearing in connection with the financial articles on the Special Town Meeting Warrant on Wednesday, November 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. here at the Town Hall.

There are several zoning bylaw changes recommended by the Town's Planning Board so please attend their Public Hearing if you have any questions regarding those changes....their Public Hearing is tonight at 7:30 p.m. on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.

*Without objection from the Board, the Chairman wishes to take Agenda items out of order.*

## **MINUTES**

**October 20, 2014 – 7:00 p.m.**

*The Minutes will be tabled until the next meeting.*

## **REPORTS OF TOWN OFFICIALS**

**Cultural Council.** Jennifer Hull presents the Cultural Council's report and provides an update. The Council received 19 applications and voted to fund 9 programs last year. They received many robust applications this year including some for cross-generational programming. The Council has no encumbered funds so the funding available in this grant cycle is \$4,300.

**Library Trustees.** Colleen Curis presents on behalf of the Library Trustees and advises that the Library offers many programs including reading programs, social activities, genealogy class, and they hosted the Police Department's firearms class. They also have various passes available to residents for Massachusetts parks. The Library hours changed in October – they are no longer open on Mondays but are open on Saturdays from 10am – 2 pm. The Sherriff's office recently did some exterior painting at a savings to the Town. They recently replaced their oil tank. There is a future plan to include a Library-related article in the Senior Center Newsletter. They've started an outreach program whereby homebound individuals can have books delivered to their homes. They recently received a grant for \$700 for young adult books. There are two authors from Town: Robert Duffy and John McNamara. The Friends Group is going strong and funds many of the Library's programs. One problem they do have is with media cooperation getting information published in the newspaper.

## **SCHEDULED GUESTS/SPEAKERS**

Attorney Steve Fletcher of Brackett & Lucas is present to introduce himself to the Board. He explains that Attorney Brackett has been out of the office on medical leave for several months and he is uncertain as if/when he will return...he hasn't spoken with him since February. He assure the Board that there was no intent or effort made to hide Gary's issue. He and Judy Pickett will work with the Town and Judy will attend the Special Town Meeting.

Mr. Fletcher provides a brief synopsis of his background. He worked many years as a private attorney in Maine, he was a city attorney in Portland, he did some defense work for an insurance company, he worked as a plaintiff's personal injury attorney, he was an unemployment officer in North Carolina and he has done mostly litigation while at Brackett & Lucas. He currently resides in New Hampshire.

Selectman Laura questions if the firm can handle the workload with Mr. Brackett's absence. Mr. Fletcher believes he and Judy can handle the workload...they currently work with six towns. He acknowledges there have been issues with turnaround times but he feels this can be easily resolved by providing deadlines. He is happy to attend meetings and enjoys working with his clients.

The Board thanks Mr. Fletcher for his attendance this evening.

## **WARRANTS**

***On a motion by Barrett and second by Baker, the Board votes unanimously to accept the two Warrants as presented.***

## **HIGHWAY/BOARD OF HEALTH**

Snow Removal, Snow Plowing and Salting/Sanding Procedures. Highway Surveyor Brian Mullaly, Board of Health Member Robert Marks and Board of Health Office Secretary Sherry Grant are present to discuss a situation involving the winter seasonal salting of the Town roads. Mr. Marks explains that the Board of Health received a complaint from a resident on Esty Street that his well water has higher than normal levels of sodium. The Board of Health has done some investigation for a potential cause but nothing has been proven. DEP suggested that a large area where the road is salted and snow is plowed looks to be up gradient from the aquifer on Esty Street and perhaps the salt seeped into the ground. There is a vernal pond in this location which serves as an aquifer.

***Selectman Rapoza wishes to make full disclosure that he is a resident of Esty Street.***

Selectman Rapoza advises that he has done some investigating on the salt usage and found that double the amount of salt was used last winter compared to the 2011-2012 season. He feels more salt has been put down on the roads. There isn't any scientific data and we need to manage the process better. The cost of salt has gone up so we need to be budget conscious.

Selectman Laura questions whether Mr. Mullaly has written procedures for salting the roads. Mr. Mullaly explains that sometimes straight salt is used while other times it is a salt/sand mixture. It is entirely based on the weather conditions and temperature. There are many factors that need to be taken into consideration. He subscribes to a weather service and obtains a certified weather statement. He does not maintain a daily record of exactly what is done.

Selectman Rapoza feels the salting procedure should be run more businesslike otherwise Town residents will be seeking reverse osmosis systems in their homes.

Selectman Wing questions whether the process has changed over the past 10 years and if there is any guideline or standard as to the mixture that should be used.

Brad Lafontaine of Northeast Auto Recycling, the snowplow contractor, advises that the process is still the same but reiterates that what is put down on the roads depends on the weather conditions...it can be difficult.

Selectman Rapoza has a time understanding how the amount of salt has doubled.

Mr. Mullaly explains that in 2011-2012 the salt shed was left empty and needed to be refilled. He further explains that he has spent time with the Board of Health reviewing the situation. He questions the possibility that the backwashing from the school could be the cause. The Executive Secretary advises that this theory has already been eliminated.

Mr. Marks advises that the Board of Health needs guidance on how to proceed. The sodium levels in the vernal pond were extremely high. The office secretary obtained the Standard Operating Procedure from the state which involves testing once per month for twelve months.

Mr. Laura feels a baseline needs to be obtained and then Mr. Mullaly will need to play a tighter role in the process. It is suggested that the Board of Health contact Mr. Ferrari of Northeast Water Solutions to seek his assistance with the testing. The Board members agree this could be funded with a Reserve Fund Transfer if necessary. Highway should keep track of whether a mix is used or straight salt. The MES area should be considered a "low salt" area and Sherry will obtain the guidelines from the state.

The Executive Secretary commends the Board of Health and Sherry for their attention to this matter. They have taken their responsibility to the health and welfare of our residents very seriously and Sherry spent a great deal of time working with the state on this issue.

Contract with Vendor. Brad Lafontaine introduces himself and advises he has been the Town's contracted snow vendor for 9 years. The Board members are welcome to call him anytime with problems. Selectman Baker questions why the contractor in the Afonso development is often causing sparks and plowing when not needed. Mr. Lafontaine explains that it has always been the Town's policy to get down to the asphalt which can, at times, cause sparks. He will speak with that operator.

Selectman Laura feels that any questions or problems should go through Brian and Brian can deal with the contractor. He also questions the 4-hour minimum listed in the contract terms. Brief discussion follows regarding the reason behind this term.

Selectman Wing's opinion is that the contract should be reviewed by Town Counsel because much of the Scope of Work is new to the contract. The Executive Secretary indicates that the contract is the Town's standard contract and nothing seemed caused a red flag for her as she read over the terms as prepared by Mr. Mullaly. Additionally, the contract does have a severability clause so if anything should be deemed unacceptable, the rest of the contract remains in place.

***On a motion by Baker and second by Laura, the Board votes unanimously to approve the Contract as written and authorize the Chairman to sign two originals on behalf of the Board.***

## **MEMBERS FORUM**

Chairman Barrett wishes to call attention to the No Smoking Policy in Town. Millville has adopted a policy which prohibits smoking on any Town property or grounds. The Board can recommend the Board of Health change the policy to a less strict order, such as 25 feet from a Town building but he does not feel it should be changed. He has noticed individuals smoking near Town buildings. Discussion follows regarding the placement of signage at each facility. If a Facility Manager cannot afford signage they should see the Board for assistance. The Board agrees that all Town employees should be reminded of this policy. Chief Landry believes that in order to enforce a violation, the Town would need a Municipal Hearing Officer.

***On a motion by Baker and second by Laura, the Board votes unanimously to keep the Policy as is and that each Town facility install appropriate interior and exterior signage.***

## **REPORTS OF TOWN OFFICIALS** - (continued)

**Highway Surveyor.** Mr. Mullaly advises this has been a busy year and there aren't enough hours in the day. He was told to keep the hours of the employees down. The department has taken on a lot of smaller projects themselves such as picking up the asphalt. Stormwater is in process and they are starting the outfall inspections and drain cleaning. They had some problems with vandalism of street signs recently but the culprits were caught. They will need some new signage in the future. They have consumed their entire vehicle maintenance budget due to repairs of the old dump truck. He is running with two part-time employees and they are geared up for the winter.

Selectman Rapoza suggests that with the upcoming zoning changes, the Highway Surveyor put a plan together for road repairs. Additionally, he mentions information received from the Department of Transportation that indicates for every \$1 spend on road repairs, \$6 is saved down the road.

Mr. Mullaly advises that had hoped to piggyback with Blackstone on the road resurfacing bid but it is too late. He has the option of going with Mendon but he may also speak with Uxbridge. He is optimistic that work will be done in the spring. He hopes to have some work done on upper Lincoln Street this month.

The Executive Secretary clarifies that the part-time employees were asked to keep their weekly hours to 19.5 on a regular basis otherwise the Town will need to offer benefits. She also advised that the new permit has been issued for Stormwater and this will take extra labor to address. Brian is working with Krissy and the Town's consultant to be sure the Town is in compliance.

**PUBLIC FORUM** None.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

The Town received a request from the Town of Dartmouth to declare the month of November "Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month."

***On a motion by Rapoza and second by Baker, the Board votes unanimously to declare the month of November "Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month" in the Town of Millville.***

**APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATIONS** None.

## **EXECUTIVE SECRETARY REPORT**

The Existing Conditions Study Report of the Town Hall won't likely be available until December as the engineers at Kleinfelder asked for additional time to respond to the Town's comments and questions.

The Town will be moving the content of its current website over to a new software. There won't be a huge visual difference, just a few modernization changes but the same content will appear. There is a problem with compatibility with the updated browsers-goal for switch is January 1<sup>st</sup>.

The Town has new auditors this year so we are working very hard to ensure all paperwork is in order. There was an issue with some of the Town's inventories which is being corrected.

The Capital Planning Committee met last week and will be meeting with each of the Town's larger departments to discuss future capital needs.

Chief Landry seeks support from the Board to obtain from CVS a drug disposal box to be placed at the Millville Police Department.

***On a motion by Rapoza and second by Laura, the Board votes unanimously to support the placement of a drug disposal box from CVS at the Millville Police Station.***

The Board usually votes at this time of year to Order a Snow Emergency Parking Ban from November 15-April 1st.

***On a motion by Baker and second by Laura, the Board votes unanimously to Order a Snow Emergency Parking Ban on Town roads from November 15<sup>th</sup> – April 1<sup>st</sup>.***

**OLD BUSINESS** None.

**NEW BUSINESS** None.

### **FINAL PUBLIC FORUM**

Selectman Wing informs the Board that the Blackstone-Millville School Committee announced there is a meeting this Thursday at 7:00 p.m. to discuss the regional agreement. The parents group was informed. She plans to attend.

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

**NEXT REGULAR MEETING** Monday, November 17, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. or immediately following the adjournment of the Special Town Meeting. The Meeting will take place at the Millville Elementary School.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** None.

### **ADJOURN**

***On a motion by Rapoza and second by Baker, the Board of Selectmen votes unanimously to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:30 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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Robert F. Baker, Selectman

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Jennifer Dean Wing, Secretary

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John M. Laura, Selectman