

**TOWN OF MILLVILLE**  
**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING**

**SEPTEMBER 21, 2015 – 7:00 P.M.**

**Board Members Present:** Chairman Roland Barret; Vice Chairman Joseph Rapoza; Secretary Jennifer Dean Wing and Members John Laura and Robert Baker

**Others Present:** Executive Secretary Helen Coffin

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Chairman Barrett opens the regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** None.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**September 8, 2015 – 6:00 p.m.**

*On a motion by Rapoza and second by Laura, the Board votes unanimously to approve and sign the Minutes of September 8, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. {Baker abstains}*

**September 8, 2015 – 7:00 p.m.**

*On a motion by Rapoza and second by Baker, the Board votes unanimously to approve and sign the Minutes of September 8, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.*

**September 14, 2015 – 7:00 p.m.**

*On a motion by Rapoza and second by Baker, the Board votes unanimously to approve and sign the Minutes of September 14, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. {Laura abstains}*

**APPROVAL OF WARRANTS**

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

**TOWN OFFICIALS/OFFICIALS**

**Centennial Celebration Committee.** Keith Wing is present representing the Centennial Celebration Committee. He wishes to extend thanks to the members of the Committee. The Committee was established in 2012 to plan for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Town in 2016. They have been working diligently to raise funding and awareness. They currently have about \$12,000 from local donations, mailings, toll days and family fun days. They have also received a \$10,000 grant from the Department of Travel and Tourism. They will be sending out a mass business mailing in the near future. Some of the events planned for next year include: Parade; 5K Run; Millville Memories Days; Fireworks and Concert; Community Fun Day and Banquet.

**Planning Board.** Richard Hurteau is present representing the Planning Board and distributes a prepared written report. The Planning Board has been dealing with a number of construction-related issues involving subdivisions. They have made revisions to the Town's Zoning Bylaws; they have worked with CMRPC on two different initiatives; they have done some work on the Master Plan. He provides more detailed information on the following specific matters: Millville Estates; Brown Bear Circle; Afonso Estates; Carriage I & II; Zoning Bylaw amendments, CMRPC projects and the Master Plan. The Planning Board has submitted two zoning amendments articles for the Special Town Meeting Warrant.

*{The Board agrees to take the Agenda out of order.}*

### **FIRST PUBLIC FORUM**

Philip Clark, 107 Providence Street is present representing the American Legion Post along with Jeffrey Wing, Finance Officer of the Legion. Mr. Wing explains that the building on Main Street was built in 1965. In 2012 the current members took it over and revitalized the charter. They had never received a tax bill in the past but in 2014 they received a Form 3ABC from the Assessors' Office. They had never received this form in the past and weren't quite sure why taxes were suddenly being generated. They did not file the completed exemption from in a timely manner. That 2014 tax bill has now grown to nearly \$4,000 due to interest and fees. They have completed and filed the form for the subsequent years and the taxes were abated. They just received a letter from the Treasurer/Collector indicating she will be advertising to take the property via tax title if they didn't pay in full within the next 14 days. The members of the Legion are present to respectfully request the Board forgive the taxes due.

Selectman Laura explains that the Treasurer/Collector has guidelines by which she must abide but there is a grace period before the property is taken. Chairman Barrett acknowledges the Board was aware of the situation since the Board had previously viewed a list of properties in arrears from the Treasurer/Collector. Selectman Wing suggests the Selectmen schedule a meeting with the Board of Assessors to discuss further. Natalia Alward of the Board of Assessors advises that the Board did consult with Town Counsel as well as the DOR, and were informed there was no authority available to the Board to waive the taxes owed. A representative from Senator Fattman's office is present and advises that he will check with the legislative aids to see if there is another means for the Town by which to forgive the taxes. Selectman Laura is confident that the Town will not be taking the property from the Legion and the letter received was just a formality. It is agreed to schedule a meeting with the Board of Assessors for Monday, October 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

*On a motion by Wing and second by Baker, the Board votes unanimously to direct the Treasurer to hold off advertising the property.*

### **TOWN OFFICIALS/OFFICIALS - continued**

**Police Department.** Ronald Landry, Chief of Police and Fire and Roy Sullivan, Police Union Steward are present to discuss a recent situation involving the Town of Blackstone. Chief Landry explains he learned recently that the Town of Blackstone Police Department has changed its policy regarding mutual aid to Millville. They are no longer willing to provide assistance to Millville officers. He and Chief Astupenas of Blackstone met with Chief Horn of Mendon (serving as Mediator) to discuss the situation but the Blackstone Chief abruptly left the meeting. Chief Landry then approached a member of the Blackstone Board of Selectmen who replied that the Blackstone Board supported the decisions of the Blackstone Police Chief.

Chief Landry advises that Millville is the last town in Massachusetts operating with only one officer on duty at a time and it has come to the point where that is no longer acceptable. He has submitted a warrant article for the Special Town Meeting requesting the sum of \$15,000 to fund the part-time salary line item to supplement the current officer schedule. The town is most busy on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings and he plans to use those funds to schedule a second officer on duty during those busy times. If the Town is to rely on mutual aid from Mendon or Uxbridge, we must be cautious that if their cruisers are on the other side of their towns, we could have a 20 minute response time. Chief Landry explains that it has become dangerous for officers to work alone...it is simply the times we live in. His decision to schedule two officers at certain times is based on the type of calls received which are a great deal of domestic violence calls. His concern is strictly for the safety of the officers and the residents of Millville.

Chief Landry plays a tape recording of a recent dispatch call where a Blackstone officer is being requested to respond as back-up to a Millville officer during a fight at the local pub. He advises that the call is only one example of Blackstone refusing to respond to Millville, even though the call was closer to the Blackstone line.

He further explains that many officers nowadays are tentative about working alone, especially the younger officers. Having two officers on duty may help the Town maintain employees for a longer time. He suggests the additional funding be taken from the Medical Insurance line item...since many of his officers do not require medical insurance, this seems to be a logical choice to pull from. He isn't certain as to the agenda in Blackstone and whether it is political, but he assures the Board that Millville officers continue to go to Blackstone when called, and will continue to do so.

Roy Sullivan, Union Steward states that the officers are 100% behind the Chief on this matter. He feels it is a great compromise and will help to keep the officers safe.

In closing, Chief Landry advises that he has been in touch with the legislators and he has also applied for a COPS grant to help fund another officer.

Selectman Wing questions the Chief's budget plan for FY17 and whether there are any laws or regulations that mandate a response from a surrounding Town. Chief Landry replies that he will likely seek to increase the line item by about \$20,000. Many of the surrounding towns voluntarily signed the Worcester County Agreement but they are within their right to drop out. He advises that Millville has responded to Blackstone 157 times and Blackstone responded to Millville 127 times. He does not understand the issue but seems to think it may come from management.

Selectman Wing suggests that the Board have Town Counsel draft an official written letter to Blackstone explaining that in order for the Town to effectively plan its community policing, we would like to know Blackstone's stand on mutual aid. She feels the Town should have this in writing for the future. She also reminds that Town Administrator Dan Keyes has treated the Millville Board of Selectmen and Mrs. Coffin, Executive Secretary poorly in the past.

Chief Landry stresses that the Millville Police Department has an excellent relationship with the officers of the Blackstone Police Department and that it just seems to be an issue with the Chief.

Selectman Wing would like a monthly report from the Police of how many times Millville responds to Blackstone.

Chief Landry adds that he will be coming to the Board later this year with an exciting plan for public safety.

Roy Sullivan states that the Union's position is to fully support the Chief and Board on this matter. He also feels it will help retain more officers.

***On a motion by Wing and second by Laura, the Board votes unanimously to direct Town Counsel to draft a letter to the Town of Blackstone seeking an explanation in writing so that the Board has something in writing to back-up this new policy for scheduling.***

**CORRESPONDENCE** None.

### **APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATIONS**

Assistant Animal Control Officer Len Ranslow needed to resign again due to personal matters.

***On a motion by Laura and second by Baker, the Board votes unanimously to accept the resignation of Len Ranslow as Assistant Animal Control Officer.***

Jennifer Lewis was the Alternate Assistant Animal Control Officer. She can now be appointed as Assistant.

***On a motion by Rapoza and second by Laura, the Board votes unanimously to appoint Jennifer Lewis as Assistant Animal Control Officer effective immediately for an unexpired term through June 30, 2016.***

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY REPORT** None. The Executive Secretary explains there are many pending items and she hopes to have a full report at the next meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS** None.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Washed Sand Bid.** The Board reviews the bid results for Washed Sand.

***{Chairman Barrett publicly discloses that the Kimball family are personal friends of his but he has no financial gain or interest in this matter and can vote impartially.}***

***On a motion by Rapoza and second by Laura, the Board votes unanimously to award the bid for washed sand for the 2015-2016 winter season to Kimball Sand for \$12.50 delivered and \$9.50 picked-up, in accordance with the official bid.***

**Rock Salt Bid.** The Board reviews the bid results for Rock Salt.

***On a motion by Rapoza and second by Laura, the Board votes unanimously to award the bid for rock salt for the 2015-2016 winter season to Eastern Minerals \$67.50 delivered or picked-up, in accordance with the official bid.***

**Special Town Meeting Warrant.**

***On a motion by Rapoza and second by Laura, the Board votes unanimously to close the Warrant effective immediately for the Special Town Meeting.***

It is agreed to request a joint meeting with the Finance Committee for October 7<sup>th</sup>.

## **MEMBERS FORUM**

Vice Chairman Rapoza explains that there was a meeting last week with Lieutenant Governor Polito regarding a new program called “Community Compact.” This is a positive step by the new administration recognizing the needs of the towns. They are trying to assist town financially with various burdens they may be facing. The Town must choose a Best Practice and apply online. Discussion follows regarding some of the options available. Chairman Barrett doesn’t feel the Board can make a decision this evening and asks the members to go home and review the website and come back October 5<sup>th</sup> with some idea.

Mr. Rapoza also remind everyone of the meeting with CMRPC to be held on Thursday, October 8<sup>th</sup> in Whitinsville from 6-8 p.m.

**FINAL PUBLIC FORUM.** None.

**NEXT MEETING** Monday, October 5, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

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

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

*On a motion by Baker and second by Laura, the Board votes unanimously by roll call to enter Executive Session under M.G.L. c.30A §21(a) ¶3, and to return to open meeting only to adjourn. {Barrett, aye; Baker, aye; Wing, aye; Rapoza, aye; Laura, aye}*

## **ADJOURN**

*On a motion by Baker and second by Laura, the Board votes unanimously to adjourn at 9:35 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,  
Helen M. Coffin

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Roland P. Barrett, Chairman

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Joseph Rapoza, Vice Chairman

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Jennifer Dean Wing, Secretary

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Robert Baker

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John Laura