

**TOWN OF MILLVILLE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

MINUTES OF MEETING

June 9, 2014 - 7:00 p.m.

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

Board of Selectmen Members Absent: Selectman John Laura

Others Present: Executive Secretary Helen Coffin

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS None.

MINUTES

May 19, 2014 – 7:00 p.m.

On a motion by Rapoza and second by Wing, the Board votes unanimously to accept the Minutes of May 19, 2014. {Baker abstains}

REPORTS OF TOWN OFFICIALS

Municipal Center Building Committee. Richard Crivello speaks on behalf of the Committee. The Committee met three times and reviewed proposals submitted by firms for the study of the Town Hall. They whittled the proposal down to the top two and then conducted interviews. Based on the interviews and questions asked, the Committee unanimously voted to recommend Kleinfelder as the best choice for the Town. The Committee recommends that the Board of Selectmen award the work to Kleinfelder.

On a motion by Rapoza and second by Baker, the Board votes unanimously to award the Town Hall Existing Conditions Study to Kleinfelder.

PUBLIC FORUM None.

CORRESPONDENCE None.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

Police Department. Chief Landry presents a part-time officer, James Brown, to the Board for consideration and advises that Mr. Brown is a great candidate for the Town and is a wonderful talent. He recommends appointment effective immediately.

On a motion by Rapoza and second by Baker, the Board votes unanimously to appoint James Brown as a part-time officer effective immediately for a term to expire June 30, 2015.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY REPORT

The Planning Board has requested a meeting with the Board of Selectmen to discuss zoning and economic development. The Executive will attempt to schedule this for June 23rd at 6:00 p.m.

The Engineer/Project Manager of the Blackstone Valley Greenway has requested a meeting with the Board to discuss the bikeway. She will be invited to the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Blackstone-Millville Regional School District. School Committee Chairman Bill Chaplin and Interim Superintendent Dr. Perry Davis are present and speak on behalf of the School Committee in connection with their recent budget recertification on May 28th. They seek information as to the Town's intent in connection with the matter as by law the Town only has 45 days to act on the recertification, which seeks the Town's additional contribution of \$158,192. Dr. Davis advises that the School Committee has determined it can absorb the \$25,000 expenditure for the MES floor from excess unemployment funds in the District's FY14 budget...the hope is that this \$25,000 can be allocated towards the additional contribution and lessen the blow to the Town.

Selectman Rapoza questions the status of the Chapter 71 Regional Transportation aid and the possibility of an additional approximate \$32,000 coming back to the Town. Dr. Davis explains that this has not been officially voted by the Senate and the current budget numbers reflect the figures in the House budget. Should the additional funding come in to the District, they would not be spent but would rather revert back to E&D and used to offset the FY16 budget.

Selectman Rapoza questions the increase to the Athletics budget and whether there is evidence that this increase will keep students in the District. Dr. Davis explains that the Athletics budget was underfunded last year and the current budget is a "real budget" which includes coaching, team expenses, officials and transportation. There are currently 73 students from Pre-K through Grade 12 going to out of district schools now and he feels that reducing any sports teams could result in more kids leaving the district for other schools. He feels the new Athletic Director has adequately identified the needs of the athletics department.

Chairman Chaplin informs that the School Committee chose against conducting a full audit of the budget because they felt Dr. Davis had the experience to hand this project in-house. The Committee feels strongly that the correct fiscal infrastructure is in place with the FY15 budget.

Chairman Barrett questions if there has been any pursuit of sponsorship with respect to athletic transportation. Dr. Davis advises this has not been looked into as yet; however, contributions (mostly in-kind) have been received for items such as landscaping and fundraising is conducted for uniforms. He also reminds that special education and athletics transportation do not fall under the guise of Chapter 71 regional transportation.

Chairman Barrett questions the number of bus seats required and the possibility of eliminating any bus runs. Dr. Davis advises that state statute dictates that a seat has to be available for all eligible students. High School drivers are an exception and a list of those who will drive in lieu of taking the bus is obtained each year. He recently met with Tellstone to review the bus runs for

potential changes. The District is liberal with the mileage due to the narrow sidewalks and safety concerns – he would not support a reduction in this line item for the safety aspect.

Selectman Rapoza questions the increase to the School Committee line item of approximately \$39,000. Dr. Davis explains this figure represents a potential settlement under current collective bargaining with support staff. The law requires the Committee set aside funds in order to support salary increases and this was specifically added to this line item for transparency.

Selectman Wing expresses her concerns with respect to the potential of a Super Town Meeting and she also advises that the Board of Selectmen needs some time to discuss the funding situation with the Finance Committee. She feels the Town needs to be sure to have a solid plan before presenting a recommendation to the townspeople.

Selectman Wing questions the need for the position of Asst. Superintendent and suggests hiring an additional two teachers. Chairman Chaplin explains that the Committee will not consider removing the position as they are planning to move forward with focus on the curriculum; he adds that the District is woefully behind in major areas from Pre-K through Grade 12. Additionally, there are new Department of Education mandates in the future that will need to be addressed. The impact on teachers will be relatively small if the budget is kept at the certified level. Selectman Wing suggests greater clarity when discussing the needs of the curriculum with respect to the position of Asst. Superintendent.

Chairman Chaplin advises that the parties need to keep the lines of communication open. The Committee will begin discussions on the Fy16 budget beginning on July 1st. Dr. Davis explains that if a budget is not in place by July 1st, he will need to inform the Commissioner of Education as there are ramifications and the District may need to work under a 1/12th budget scenario.

Brief discussion follows regarding the possible dates for the Board of Selectmen to call for a Special Town Meeting taking into consideration the timeframe required to legally sign and post the Warrant. The Board can meet this Thursday to sign a Warrant.

On a motion by Rapoza and second by Baker, the Board votes unanimously to call for a Special Town Meeting on Monday, June 30, 2014 at 6:30 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

Cable Access Equipment Relocation. Tim Labonte speaks on behalf of the Cable Access Committee and seeks permission to relocate cable equipment in the Board of Selectmen Meeting Room. A new wall will be constructed along with two additional cameras.

On a motion by Rapoza and second by Baker, the Board votes unanimously to approve the relocation of cable equipment as described upon the approval of the Historical Commission.

Surplus Vehicles. There are three Town vehicles which are no longer of use and should be declared surplus by the Board of Selectmen.

On a motion by Rapoza and second by Baker, the Board votes unanimously to declare the 1995 Ford Explorer, 2002 Ford F350 Pick-up and 2001 Crown Victoria as surplus vehicles and authorize the Chief Procurement Officer to dispose of them in accordance with the Massachusetts procurement laws.

Animal Control Warrant. The Board of Selectmen must serve the Animal Control Officer on an annual basis directing that he act in accordance with the provisions of MGL.

On a motion by Rapoza and second by Baker, the Board votes unanimously to approve and sign the Animal Control Warrants as prepared.

MEMBERS FORUM None.

FINAL PUBLIC FORUM

Valerie Haggerty, Legg Street. Mrs. Haggerty questions the procedures associated with the upcoming Special Town Meeting. Chairman Barrett provides a lengthy explanation of what will follow now that the Board has called for the Town Meeting. Mr. Crivello of the Finance Committee briefly explains the focus of his Committee over the next couple of weeks. The Public Hearing will be scheduled for Wednesday, June 25th.

Gerry Finn, Legg Street. Mr. Finn questions the use of the unemployment funding in connection with Dr. Davis' earlier comments. He also encourages the Town to suggest a Memorandum of Agreement with the BMR regarding the potential receipt of the additional \$32,000 for regional transportation. He feels further communication with the District on this point should be pursued.

Eric Olson, Conservation Commission. Mr. Olson presents an annual report on behalf of the Conservation Commission. The Committee has been very active this past year including issuing an NOI to Blackstone Valley Greenway, enforcing cease and desist of earth removal at 175 Central Street, reviewing of application for 442 Chestnut Hill Road, meeting with Exxon Mobile regarding the Triad Bridge, and addressing beaver issues. The Commission will hold an Earth Day every 2 years. He was able to have a computer donated so the Commission can pursue a grant for GIS.

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

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Monday, June 23, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

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 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Helen M. Coffin, Executive Secretary

Roland P. Barrett, Chairman

Joseph G. Rapoza, Vice Chairman

Robert F. Baker, Selectman

Jennifer Dean Wing, Secretary