

**TOWN OF MILLVILLE**  
**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**JANUARY 4, 2016 – 7:00 P.M.**

**Board Members Present:** Chairman Roland Barrett; Vice Chairman Joseph Rapoza; John Laura; Robert Baker; and Secretary Jennifer Dean Wing {arrives late}

**Others Present:** Executive Secretary Helen Coffin

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Happy New Year to all.

The Board of Health will be closed this week and next week due to staff absence.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**December 21, 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 December 21, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. {Laura abstains}*

**WARRANTS**     None.

*{Wing arrives}*

**INVITED GUESTS/SPEAKERS**

**Attorney Lauren Goldberg, Kopelman & Paige.** Attorney Goldberg explains that Barbara St. Andre will be joining Kopelman & Paige and should the Board decide to transfer with her, she could still be Millville's lead counsel - she would anticipate a seamless transition. She feels moving to Kopelman & Paige would be a benefit to the Town due to their enhanced capacity of personnel and special services that they offer from within the firm. In response to a question regarding response time from Selectman Laura, Attorney Goldberg indicates that they take their jobs very seriously and would respond to emergency situations or any telephone calls immediately or as soon as possible. They charge \$180/hour which has been static since 2008. Attorney Goldberg thanks the Board and leaves. Rapoza feels the Board went with Petrini & Associates much due to the strengths of Barbara St. Andre. *On a motion with an amendment by Laura and second by Rapoza, the Board votes unanimously to transfer the Town's legal files to Barbara St. Andre and appoint Kopelman & Paige as Town Counsel and to authorize the Chairman to sign the Certification form.*

## **BOARD/COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENT HEADS** None Scheduled.

## **PUBLIC FORUM/CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Resident Thomas Houle is feeling unsettled and seeks clarification on the Woonsocket Call article as he does not feel the second article cleared up the situation. He has read the articles and emails and has concerns regarding the editorializing by the Executive Secretary. Chairman Barrett indicates he will not tolerate finger pointing. Chairman Barrett explains that the first article contained inaccurate information and the Executive Secretary sent corrections based on information from the Board's approved Minutes, and he thanked The Call at the last meeting for making those corrections. Mr. Houle still has concerns about the emails sent and has had similar concerns in the past. Chairman Barrett would like to see the Town move on from this subject and focus more time and effort in this New Year into raising revenue in the Town to keep the taxes low. He states that the management team in place has kept order in the Town for the past 10 years as evidenced by annual audits and he sees no reason to question it. The Board is waiting for the Management Report from the DOR for their recommendation on how the Board should proceed with new management. He feels the new manager/administrator should have the ability to decide who they want as an assistant. He thinks it's crazy, ridiculous and unprofessional to be discussing this matter.

Wing feels the Board members are all working in the best interests of the Town although they may have fundamental differences. She has expressed her concerns in the past with the tone of emails, as have other departments. She feels the Board should have been given an opportunity to respond to the article – she wasn't even aware of it until Mr. Rapoza called her and then Mr. Fitzgerald contacted her. Laura feels the situation could have been brought to the Board to handle. Rapoza doesn't feel it was done in the proper way. Baker also sent an email to The Call and Barrett agreed with it. Wing found the legal definitions in the last meeting packet wrong and threatening.

Mr. Houle respectfully disagrees with the Chairman and is thinking about the good of the Town.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

Chairman Barrett advises that the new Town Accountant requires the Board's signatures on the warrants by 11:59 p.m. Tuesday nights otherwise direct deposit payroll will be held. Please make every effort to sign the warrants – Executive Secretary provided a list of dates when signatures are needed.

## **APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATIONS** None.

## **EXECUTIVE SECRETARY REPORT**

**MES Playground** – Superintendent Himmelberger advised that the BMR School Committee would like to postpone a meeting with the Board until March...he will get back with a date.

**American Legion** – Word was received from Natalia that DOR requested some information in connection with this matter. The information was sent and the matter is still under review at the DOR.

**Community Compact**. Town Planner Joe Laydon didn't realize the Town had already applied for a Community Compact so he felt it was premature to attend the meeting as originally planned.

**DOR Report.** The report is expected this week and will be reviewed with Executive Secretary prior to issue. Chairman Barrett advises to add this to the next Agenda as the Board cannot wait any longer.

**OLD BUSINESS** None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Special and Annual Town Meetings.** Warrant schedule is provided.

*On a motion by Rapoza and second by Laura, the Board votes unanimously to call for Special and Annual Town Meetings for Monday, May 9, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. respectively, and further to open the Warrants effective immediately with March 21, 2016 as the deadline for submission of articles, with the intent of the Board to close the Warrants at the regular meeting on March 21<sup>st</sup>.*

**MEMBERS FORUM**

**Barrett:** **Town Administrator Search Committee.** Chairman Barrett explains that the Board received a letter of interest from Mr. Thuot with respect to a Town Administrator Search Committee. Barrett feels that although the Board isn't sure exactly what role it will play, the Board could consider advertising for a future Committee. Rapoza states a charge is necessary in order to establish a Committee. Barrett just wants to get the word out. The Executive Secretary provided information regarding the use of the Collins Center at UMass for assistance in the recruitment process. Rapoza feels there are some good points made in the literature. Wing questions a Committee and feels the Board first needs to have a conversation or workshop to discuss the matter further. Barrett advises to include the DOR Report on the next meeting Agenda.

**NEXT MEETING** Tuesday, January 19, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

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

**ADJOURN**

*On a motion by Laura and second by Baker, the Board votes unanimously to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:52 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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John Laura

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Robert F. Baker