

TOWN OF MILLVILLE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF MEETING

MAY 5, 2015 – 8:00 P.M.

Board Members Present: Chairman Roland Barrett; Vice Chairman Joseph Rapoza; Secretary Jennifer Dean Wing; Member Robert Baker; Member John Laura

Others Present: Executive Secretary Helen Coffin; Chief Ronald Landry

Chairman Barrett opens the meeting at 8:00 p.m. The purpose of the meeting is to interview the attorneys from the law firm of Deutsch Williams as potential Town Counsel. Attorneys Paul DeRensis and Richard Hucksham are present. Introductions are made. Board members may jump in anytime with questions:

Deutsch, Williams has attorneys specializing in trial, labor, real estate, land use, zoning and procurement. Mr. DeRensis would be designated as lead counsel. He serves as a Selectman in his hometown of Sherborn which gives him insight on practical realities of situations. Mr. Hucksham specializes in land use management. He assists in drafting decisions of Planning and Zoning Boards. He is familiar with 40B projects and works well with Conservation Commissions.

Mr. DeRensis advises he would become familiar with all members of the Board in order to get a sense of how the Townspeople would react to a matter before them. He would take direction from the Board and keep the Board informed of any actions to be taken. He is not afraid to say “No” and expects that if he says “No” the Board should not proceed.

Rapoza asks what they can do for a small town and can they offer a small town price? DeRensis replies he has interest in public service and believes in good government. They would read all the BOS packets and minutes; they would be copied on everything; they would get involved in the community; they want be an active partner; they have extensive legal knowledge with specialized attorneys; they offer training programs.

Baker asks how many towns they are currently lead counsel for. DeRensis lists a few towns including Cohasset and Mansfield.

Landry questions the firm’s experience in the public safety area, such as collective bargaining. DeRensis replies that they have done bargaining for multiple towns and one regional dispatch department. They are experienced with grievances.

Wing asks what the turnover of his staff is; are his employees invested? DeRensis lists a few of the attorneys and the number of years they have been with the firm.

Landry asks more specific firm experience with 40B. Hucksham indicates they have quite a bit of experience and have had many favorable decisions.

Landry asks what can be expected for turnaround time. DeRensis advises that this is why that have several attorneys on hand. If he is unavailable an issue can be forwarded to another attorney.

Wing asks what is was about Millville that caused the firm to apply. DeRensis cites his interest in regional schools as well as the small population.

Laura asks what can be expected for billing. DeRensis suggests the \$60,000/year fixed rate. Or, the Town could opt for the hourly rate.

Wing asks how he would handle transition with current counsel. DeRensis says he would review the Bylaws, get to know the Board members, attend meetings, communicate effectively and learn how to best relate to each other. He will protect the Board.

Brief discussion about the Town's recent legal costs. DeRensis mentions we may be better off with the hourly rate, or the fixed rate is negotiable.

On a motion by Wing and second by Laura, the Board votes unanimously to adjourn at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen M. Coffin

Roland Barrett, Chairman

Joseph Rapoza, Vice Chairman

Jennifer Dean Wing, Secretary

Robert Baker

John Laura