

RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK
12 MAY 17 PM 2:31
MILLBURY, MASS.

MINUTES
MILLBURY COUNCIL ON AGING

Special Meeting

Date: April 30, 2012 at 7:30 a.m. Special Meeting

Present: Richard Townsend, Lee Ayotte, Everett Grahn, Lorraine Hayes, Marie Kosiba, Edna LaPan, Helen Mankevetch, Margo Masmanian, Stuart Mulhane, Stephen Walinsky, Town Manager Bob Spain

Absent: Betty Hamilton

At the request of Chairman, Richard Townsend, a special meeting was convened at the Millbury Senior Center on April 30, 2012 at 7:30 a.m. As a result of a situation occurring on or around April 20th involving the Director of the Senior Center, the Director was placed on Administrative leave by the Town Manager, Robert Spain. Mr. Spain had called the Chairman requesting this meeting with the Board of Directors.

At approximately, 7:30 a.m., the meeting commenced with all Board of Directors present, except for Betty Hamilton. Chairman Townsend introduced Mr. Spain who spoke to the group. Mr. Spain at the outset explained that upon advice of counsel, he was extremely limited in what he could tell the BOD. He advised that he had received a formal complaint from unnamed complainant(s). After weighing the legitimacy of the complaints, he contacted Town Counsel who advised him to put the Director on Administrative Leave immediately. He also reported that Chief Moore had been instructed to investigate the allegations. Mr. Spain hoped the investigation would be completed shortly, but also suggested it could take as long as 2-3 weeks. During this period the Town Manager had appointed Joyce Ostrowski to manage the Center.

While several of the BOD members queried the Town Manager to acquire more specifics, Mr. Spain continued to fall back to the advice of counsel. As this involved a very sensitive personnel issue, an explanation of the Charter, the role of the BOD (Policy Maker) and the fact that the Director works for Mr. Spain were also contributing factors to the reason why specific elements were not able to be revealed.

During the session, Mr. Spain indicated on the whole, the Director does an outstanding job and is very pleased with the BOD and their role. He did indicate he has had some complaints about the Senior Center and in fact that some seniors have left the Senior Center. When the discussion centered on how the BOD can act if it is unaware of these issues, the Town Manager indicated he had dismissed some of the complaints as fruitless and advised the Director of

others, but felt he could better communicate issues to the Chairman and would do so in the future.

After Mr. Spain left, the BOD discussed what it had heard at the meeting and publicly, trying to determine if indeed we were all on the same page as to what the substance of the issue was all about. As far as we know, it appears we are and the issue centers on activity associated with the election process. Some had the impression that the matter could be more serious than many of us believed.

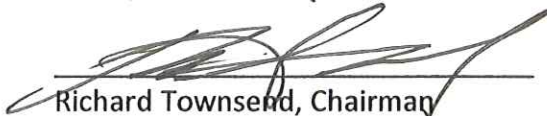
Next, the BOD discussed if there was anything we needed to be doing in the event the situation goes unresolved for a period of time. It appeared everyone was comfortable it could run as it is at the present time and this item could be revisited at our May 16th meeting.

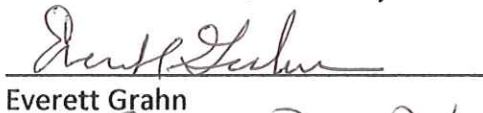
Finally, the issues of unhappy seniors leaving the center resulted in the idea that perhaps a suggestion box could be made available at the Center. This should also be discussed at the next meeting. There being no further business the Chairman called for a motion to adjourn.

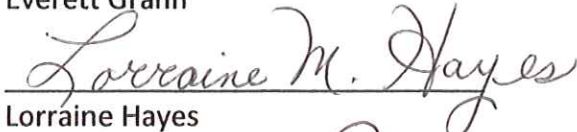
MOTION made by Everett Grahn, seconded by Stuart Mulhane to adjourn at 8:36 a.m. Motion carried unanimously.

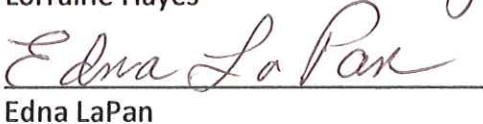
Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 16, 2012 at 7:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lee Ayotte

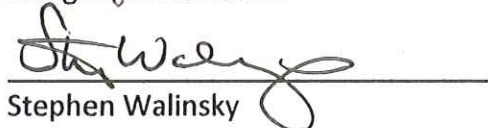

Richard Townsend, Chairman


Everett Grahn


Lorraine Hayes


Edna LaPan


Margaret Masmanian

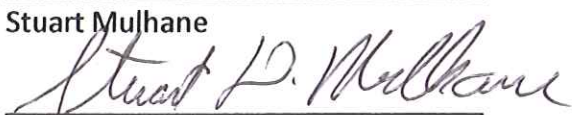

Stephen Walinsky


Lee Ayotte, Vice Chairman


Betty Hamilton


Marie Kosiba


Helen Mankevetch


Stuart Mulhane