

**TOWN OF MILLBURY
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES
MUNICIPAL OFFICE BUILDING- SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM**

March 25, 2014

7:00 p.m.

Present: Board of Selectmen: E. Bernard Plante; Francis B. King; Brian M. Ashmankas; Sandra J. Cristo; Mary Krumsiek; Town Manager, Bob Spain; Tom Reilly, *The Millbury-Sutton Chronicle*; Edd Cote, Kathy Crew, John Adams, Roger & Doreen Thornburg, Brian E. Turbitt and other concerned citizens.

Drainlayer Renewal- Robert J. Bernard-Millbury

Motion to approve the renewal made by Selectman King, seconded by Selectman Cristo.

Motion carried unanimously.

Drainlayer Renewal- Russell A. Wall, Jr. - Wall Construction-Shrewsbury

Motion to approve the renewal made by Selectman King, seconded by Selectman Cristo.

Motion carried unanimously.

Approve Little League Parade- Sunday, May 4, 2014

Chairman Plante wanted to urge everyone to go see the parade as the kids enjoy it very much!

Motion to approve the Little League Parade made by Selectman King, seconded by Selectman Krumsiek.

Motion carried unanimously.

Red Robin Gourmet Burgers-70 Worcester/Providence Tpk.-Change of Manager

Christopher Mahoney has been the manager for a few months, he is replacing Michael Carbretta.

All documents are in order.

Motion to approve the Change of Manger made by Selectman Ashmankas, seconded by Selectman King.

Motion carried unanimously.

Previous Minutes: Minutes of the meeting of March 11, 2014

Motion to approve the minutes made by Selectman Cristo, seconded by Selectman King.

Motion unanimously.

Rob McNeil- There is a couple of projects on the ballot and they will hopefully make it to Town Meeting. Question 4 to replace the Fuel Station and relocation and upgrade-it services the DPW, Police, Fire and Senior Center.

Question 5- is for Transfer Station Improvements-include safety improvement to traffic flow, replace culvert, bring 3 phase power to the sight which will service the compactors and future use for solar; service drainage retention repairs, expanded yard waste area.

Trash tonnage is down compared to last year-for Feb. it is down 21%; recycling tonnage up 60% for February. We are on track for a rebate of \$80,000 from Wheelabrator-thank you to everyone

who increased and started recycling. Engineering consultants for Ramshorn Dam made a determination for the upstream slope, at next meeting he hopes to have a construction schedule for the Board; potholes are a hot topic and please continue to report them to the DPW; We have hired a new Ops Manager-Rob Van Meter from Northbridge, starting April 14th; working on Walnut Street regarding flooding issues; moving forward with catch basin cleaning and street sweeping-weather permitting; brush chipping has been scheduled and is in the transfer station rules and regs- they will be held on April 26th and May 10th; both Saturdays at 137 Providence Street; they have published cemetery cleanup and decoration removal by Sunday March 30th - cleanup begins on Monday the March 31st; it has been published on two separate dates; for the 3rd round of Community Innovation Challenge we were awarded \$80,000; with this round we are looking to take care of more storm-water management issues; Thank you to Aquarion Water for donating the waterline for the upgrade in the cemetery; tomorrow he will be having an appreciation for the DPW workers and Rob would like the Board to come to the highway garage at 2:00 pm.

Selectman Krumsiek asked about the sewer billing- it is a six month cycle, people forget about summer usage-sewer rate is a flat rate-\$8.95 currently x 26 weeks for people with unmetered water use and water usage is figured on anticipated flow for number of bedrooms; they are looking into a consultant for a sewer rate study. Selectman King asked if they are still looking to go quarterly. Yes, it helps people budget more properly and they are talking with the consultant about that.

Selectman Krumsiek asked the status of Brierly Pond Dam-he has reached out to MADot; the latest is that they have referred their information to their attorneys for analysis; Bob said we have an article in the warrant to take it by eminent domain so that we can fix it. Selectman Ashmankas asked how much that one would be. Mr. Spain thinks it will be around \$1.5 mil. Selectman King asked about the fence at Singletary that hasn't been fixed yet at the boat ramp. The boat ramp is going to be replaced by MA Wildlife.

Selectman King asked about getting the abandoned house boarded up on the DPW property.

Town Manager Report:

Mr. Spain is appointing Philip Miles to the Butler Farm Re-Use Committee to fill a vacancy. Motion to concur with the appointment made by Selectman Ashmankas, seconded by Selectman Cristo.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Spain is appointing the Recycling Committee- Mary Krumsiek, Scott Despres, Melinda Taylor, Dan Wales, Greg Boris, Jeffrey Griffin and Paul DiCicco.

Selectman Ashmankas read a charge he wrote for the committee:

The Millbury Recycling Committee shall seek to significantly increase the rate of recycling among the citizens, businesses and institutions of Millbury, whether they dispose of their waste

through the transfer station, private hauler, or other means. In order to accomplish this, the committee shall research the benefits, advances and options for recycling, educate the citizens, businesses and institutions of Millbury of such, and recommend policy changes to the Board of Selectmen.

Motion to concur with the appointments made by Selectman King, seconded by Selectman Ashmankas.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Spain is appointing Robert Van Meter from Spencer contingent upon a physical and a CORI check as Operations Manager for the DPW; he will have to get all required licenses within a year. Selectman Krumsiek mentioned that he does not have a degree.

Motion made by Selectman Ashmankas, seconded for discussion by Selectman Cristo.

Selectman Cristo feels that with these fiscal times we should not hire this position.

Mr. Spain said that we should receive savings of over \$300,000 from health insurance bidding and \$42,000 from the state; he feels that this is an absolute necessary position for the DPW and it is 40% funded by the sewer enterprise fund; to not fill this position would be a detriment to the town, we would have to take a worker off the road; and pay would be equal. He believes this position is necessary.

Chairman Plante said that he had a discussion with the manager regarding this position today and after talking to him he feels that this position is needed and he feels better that now with the insurance savings that Mr. Spain does not believe that there will be cuts at this time.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Spain reiterated that we are getting a little more from the legislature, \$42,000 and approximately \$300,000 savings from insurance. Things are a little better; he spoke to a school committee member today. As in the past we have sat down, made the cuts and came to an agreement; unfortunately there is not enough dollars to do everything they want; hopefully it will work the same way. The town side is down 10 fte from 2009; with an operation of only 60-70 employees ten is a lot of people. If this trend continues we will have to start closing town hall. Chairman Plante said the mandates are affecting the school and their budget. Selectman Ashmankas said with local aid being down \$750,000 since 09 and then the unfunded mandates on top of that; they don't let us manage our own town because they mandate everything.

Negotiations have started with SEIU, the custodians and cafeteria workers.

The HVAC engineer did go downstairs and talk to the chief about the space that he wanted to use.

Wheelabrator has been underpaying the host fee for about 5 years or about \$100,000-that will help next year's free cash.

Ambulance contract; we are going to recommend changing carriers to MedStar; the number of transports is what drives the fees; the more transports the better for the ambulance company. Our issue with Alert was with the managements not the patient care. We have compromised on garaging it to save us \$30-36,000 to have our ambulance housed in the Wilkinsonville Fire Station; the contract will be lower at around \$60,000. Hopefully the next meeting they will have contract for the Board to approve.

Draft Warrant: See Attached* The Board will have to vote on it next time.
Mr. Spain went through each article.

Selectman Ashmankas asked if we found out why the no parking is on the side of the future Bagels & Kabobs building on Church Street. It is a safety issue for turning trucks.

Chairman Plante said that the meeting with the Finance Committee, School Committee and Selectmen will be on Thursday March 27th 7:00 pm.

Dates to Remember: Read by Chairman Plante
Vote-April 29, 2014 at High School 7 am – 8 pm
Town Meeting May 6, 2014 High School 7 pm

On a Good Note:

Selectman Krumsiek sent her congratulations to Julie Murray Sunderland for graduating combat basic training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. She was squad leader and named soldier of the cycle for Delta Company. She was the only female in the company to achieve expert shooter. Thank you for your service to our country.

Selectman Cristo said that we used to celebrate Earth Day by cleaning up the town. Maybe we could advertise and see if there is any interest. Selectman Krumsiek will put out a notice on Facebook. Chairman Plante would donate the supplies needed.

Selectman Cristo said that you need to be caution with your small animals as it is coyote season and they are hungry. We will put an email address up on the website for the Division of Fish and Wildlife for more information.

Mail:

Letter from Laurie Connors regarding Butler Farm Bark Park donations totaling \$405.00 also there will be a public meeting on April 1st 7:00pm for design of the bark park.

Motion to accept the donations made by Selectman Ashmankas, seconded by Selectman Krumsiek.

Motion carried unanimously.

Letter from Friends of Asa Waters Mansion for donation of \$350.00 for refinishing of the hardwood floors.

Motion to accept the donations made by Selectman Ashmankas, seconded by Selectman Krumsiek.

Motion carried unanimously.

Citizens Speak:

Andrew Boris a member of the Student Advisory Council; he said that Ms. Hamilton runs an environmental council at the high school and they do a cleanup of Howe Ave every year. He was a member of the Selectmen on Student Government day; he feels it is very important for students to learn how town government works and meet the town officials; he would like to get it back together as we have not had it for 2 years. Chairman Plante said that they really enjoy meeting the kids and they have gotten some terrific ideas while working with the kids.

Roger Thornburg spoke regarding the new design and cost analysis for the Ramshorn Dam. He is wondering what this will do to the ecology of the lake. They have a lot of questions that they would like to get answered.

Mr. Spain said that we have spent a lot of dollars in extra engineering costs as requested by the Ramshorn Pond Association and now they have two cost estimates and they will be doing the slope project. He would like to have a meeting with the DPW Director and the engineer so that they can get it right. They have put a warrant article for town meeting to limit the spending of the Ramshorn Dam to \$1.56 million. Their engineer said that they can get it done for that amount.

John Adams said the sheet pile wall that the town manager is proposing goes 20 feet from the wall into the lake by 390 feet into the lake. They will pay the difference in engineering to come up with a method that gets to \$1.5 million. He wants to help design the project with Pare Corporation. He wants to see how far it's going into the lake.

Board took a recess at 9:15 pm

Returned to open session at 9:30 pm

The Board and Town Manager discussed goals and objectives for the Town Manager and after much deliberation they agreed to the following:

1. Develop a comprehensive and executable plan to revitalize the downtown area

- 2. Review all policies and recommend updates to the Board of Selectmen
- 3. Evaluate potential additional sites for cemeteries
- 4. Provide quarterly expenditure reports of all departments to the Board of Selectmen
- 5. Present a balanced budget by town meeting.
- 6. Develop programs that continue to increase recycling and decrease trash tonnage
- 7. Continue to reduce the use of free cash in the operating budget and increase its use in capital improvement and road repair.

They decided that they would use the simple rating system of 0 (does not meet expectations), 1 (meets expectations), 2 (exceeds expectations).

Adjournment

Motion made by Selectman King to adjourn at 10:30 p.m., seconded by Selectman Krumsiek. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Tish Hayes, Secretary

E. Bernard Plante	_____
Francis B. King	_____
Brian M. Ashmankas	_____
Sandy J. Cristo	_____
Mary Krumsiek	_____

The Board of Selectmen