

**TOWN OF MILLBURY
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES
Large Conference Room**

March 27, 2014

7:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman E. Bernard Plante, Francis King, Brian Ashmankas, Town Manager Bob Spain, Chairman, Finance Director Brian Turbitt, Jennifer Nietupski, William Borowski, Leslie Vigneau, Art Corey, Kevin Plante; Superintendent Susan Hitchcock, Chairman Michael O'Connor, Albert Kupcinskis; John Bartosiewicz,,Steve Hebert, Jennifer O'Connell. Moderator, Tom Fox, Tom Reilly, Donald Gauthier, and other concerned citizens.

Chairman Plante opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Bernie said that this was one of the most difficult budgets he has ever seen and he doesn't see it getting any better. A town near us is requesting a \$3 million override for the schools.

Mr. Spain said that during his budget presentation-we are dealing with approximately \$800,000 less state aid than we received in fiscal 09. We ended up with less than a 2% increase from the state when revenues went up 5% for the state. We have been trying to scrap together best we can to maintain services for the citizens. We have received an additional \$42,518 from the Legislature and will see an additional \$424,346 in health insurance savings. He discussed this with the Superintendent and she told him her bottom line and he thinks he will get her to where she wants to be. The worker's compensation insurance went up another \$10,000 which means he has to find another \$56,000 to fund this insurance. He has reached an agreement with the Superintendent to get to where they have to be. It is still a bleak picture and the effects of what is happening are cumulative.

Mrs. Hitchcock wanted to tell the people know what the cuts are; the School department has agreed to a reduction of \$300,000 in their requested budget- that will result in 4.4fte's positions. Mr. Spain said that of the \$466,864 that allows for an increase of the school budget of \$132, 000; plus there was a \$19,000 savings in their transportation line. Mr. Hitchcock said that the school department has ten new mandates and three years-they are for the most part unfunded. We had the benefit of the Race to the Top grant to fund professional development. With the cuts we will only have a 2.39% increase in the school budget. Mr. Spain said that the costs that they can't control have taken the decision making out of our hands. He is very happy that things are looking better than they three weeks ago. Chairman Plante asked if we would get some lottery money. We will not leave any dollar on the table, if the legislature gives us more lottery money we will then allot it.

Mr. Borowski wanted to thank Mrs. Hitchcock and Mr. Spain for working together and coming to an agreement. The school is going to have to cut 4.4 positions, and if this continues we will have to make tough decisions to decide where that line is and what is most important. We do not want 33 kids in the elementary classrooms.

Mr. Spain said that the time has come to start discussing an override and he does not say that lightly.

Mr. Fox wanted to commend the boards for coming together early and making an agreement.

Adjournment

Motion made by Selectman King, seconded by Selectman Ashmankas to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Tish Hayes

E. Bernard Plante _____

Francis B. King _____

Brian M. Ashmankas _____

Sandy J. Cristo _____

Mary Krumsiek _____

The Board of Selectmen