

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

April 22, 2014

7:00 p.m.

Present: Board of Selectmen: E. Bernard Plante; Francis B. King; Brian M. Ashmankas; Sandy Cristo, Mary Krumsiek; Town Manager, Bob Spain; The Plante family, Kenny Schold, Joe Coggans, Tom Reilly, *The Millbury-Sutton Chronicle*; Edd Cote, Doreen Thornburg and other concerned citizens.

Chairman Planted opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Vice-Chairman Fran King said that tonight is a special night; it is our Chairman's last meeting. Selectman King read a letter from the Fire Department thanking Chairman Plante for all of his support over the years of the Fire Department; he read the list of Boards and Committees that Chairman Plante was on since 1970; he started on the board in 1990 and became Chairman in 1999; he read the list of names of all of those who served with Bernie; Selectman King read the plaque for him. Selectman King presented Bernie with the book Pinocchio-for always telling him that things would get better. Selectman Krumsiek read a Certificate of Recognition for Bernie naming April 30th, 2014 as E. Bernard Plante Day!

Mr. Spain read an invitation to everyone from Bernie's family for Sunday, May 4th at the Calabria for an open house. Mr. Spain said that he has never had another Chairman, he has learned a lot from Bernie, he has been a great mentor and will miss his discussions with him. Bernie said that he would like to thank the Board, all the Boards he served on, the manager, and especially his family who has been by his side this entire time. He has served with three great vice-chairman, George D'Auteuil, Joe Coggans and Fran King. He wanted to thank everyone for voting for him and giving him the great privilege of his life.

Former Selectman Joe Coggans said that he wanted to thank Bernie as a taxpayer and for his guidance when he was a Selectman, he was fortunate to serve with him. He will always treasure their 40+ year friendship. Congratulations on your retirement.

Common Victualler-Millbury Girls Softball at Windle Field

Motion to approve the Common Victualler License made by Selectman Krumsiek, seconded by Selectman Ashmankas.

Motion carried unanimously.

Drainlayers License-Elliott Burlingame-Charlton, MA

Motion to approve the Drainlayer License for Elliott Burlingame made by Selectman Ashmankas, seconded by Selectman Krumsiek.

Motion carried unanimously.

Drainlayers License-Ken Perro-Millbury, MA

Motion to approve the Drainlayer License for Ken Perro made by Selectman Ashmankas, seconded by Selectman King.

Motion carried unanimously.

5 Minute Recess taken at 7:15 pm

Selectman Cristo would like to appoint Carol Vulture, Raymond Dubois, Jr, and Joseph Ledoux to the **Small Business Saturday Task Force**, seconded by Selectman King.

Motion carried unanimously.

Sign Bond Anticipation Note for the engineering costs for Ramshorn Dam.

Motion to sign the Bond Anticipation Note by Selectman King, seconded by Selectman Cristo.

Motion carried unanimously.

As the senior officer, Lt. Donald Desorcy wanted to extend a sincere thank you on behalf of the Millbury Police Department for the Chairman's support and his voice of reason through difficult times.

As there has been a rash of vehicle break-ins all over town; Lt. Desorcy is here to ask people to lock their vehicles and take their keys out of the vehicles. Do not leave computer devices, phones, etc. in plain view. If you see something that is out of the norm please call the police right away.

National Grid Pole Location- McCracken Road-Public Hearing Notice read by Selectman Ashmankas at 7:37 pm., seconded by Selectman Cristo.

Motion carried unanimously.

No one was here to speak.

Motion to close the public hearing made by Selectman King, seconded by Selectman Krumsiek.

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to approve the pole location by Selectman Ashmankas, seconded by Selectman Krumsiek.

Motion carried unanimously.

Rob McNeil: DPW Update: He wanted to start out by introducing his new operations manager, Robert Van Meter. Mr. Van Meter comes from the Town of Northbridge as Highway Superintendent; he already has been able to assimilate to our operation here.

Mr. Van Meter thanked the Board for the opportunity and said that he would do his best.

Mr. McNeil continued; the DPW is in the process of hiring summer help; he said that the MADOT bridge project is progressing; potholes are developing at a rapid rate; there has been great cooperation with citizens calling in potholes and the plants are open for the hot top. Chairman Plante asked if it would be beneficial for the town to buy a hot box with the pothole money from the state-Mr. McNeil doesn't think it would be beneficial for Millbury. Stowe Rd. Drainage bids will be opening May 8, 2014 at 11 am; brush chipping at the highway garage will be on April 26th and May 10th 8 -12; our sweeper is down for service this week; most of the East side is done and then we will finish up, followed by catch basins. June 28th will be household hazardous waste day. Ch. 90 money came in at \$432,596.00 and we have received a roughly \$64,000 supplement for pothole repairs from the state. The Roadway Advisory Committee will be meeting on April 30.

Selectman King asked about stump grinding? Two years of stump grinding inventory was done last year, he doesn't want to leave stumps longer than 2 years; these are trees that the tree warden has taken. Selectman King said that one was missed between 10-12 Atwood Ave.

Selectman Cristo asked about the triangle at Stowe Rd.- Mr. McNeil said that there is a new pole to be installed, his plan is to get the Stowe Rd drainage completed and then prior to the reclamation of Stowe Road, Auburn Rd and Carleton Rd to get that straightened out.

Selectman King asked about equipment update: We have the new cat backhoe, roller, skid steer and the hose machine. He is waiting on receipt of a pickup truck a 6 wheel and 10 wheel dump trucks. The backhoe is in use every single day.

Selectman Krumsiek asked how long before grass is planted at the cemetery. They are working on dressing graves right now, they are filling and seeding.

Selectman Ashmankas asked if Auburn, Stowe and Carleton are the only roads being done this year. Pretty much yes, but Gilbert Way has been discussed. CMRPC is updating their road management plan.

Selectman King asked about the fence at Singletary- it has been pushed in to fix it a little.

The selectmen congratulated Rob on running the Boston Marathon in 4 hr 43 min.

Previous Minutes: Minutes of the meeting of April 8, 2014

Motion to approve the minutes of April 8, 2014 made by Selectman King, seconded by Selectman Ashmankas.

Motion unanimously.

Town Manager Report:

The Emergency Management Agency received a \$1300 grant for laptop and printer.

Motion to accept the grant made by Selectman Ashmankas, seconded by Selectman Cristo.

Motion carried unanimously.

We are changing health care providers and the meetings have been going well. This falls on Brian Turbitt and Denise Marlborough; they are working hard to get this done. Colonial Life is offering employees a \$5000 free accidental death/dismemberment policy.

He wants to explain the ballot questions: If all of the five questions were to pass it would add \$53.10 for five years, \$2.12 of which is the Blackstone Valley Technical portion would last for 10 years. The HVAC would add \$10.63; Fire Department SCBA would add \$12.75; Fuel tanks would add \$12.75; and Transfer Station Improvements would add \$14.88.

The HVAC is not working tonight as you can feel the heat here- this system is original with the building and needs to be replaced. We are spending money all the time on trying to band-aid what we do have. Our Town Planner is attempting to get a grant for this. The efficiency of a new system will save 20% on our costs.

Fuel Tanks-it is not just about saving dollars, although it is close to .40-.50/gallon savings; the two primary reasons are abuse prevention and efficiency of use-we are a 24/7 operation and we need fuel at all hours. Part of the reason it is so expensive is that we cannot put a flat pad where it is now.

Transfer Station project- while compactors are a part of this-the concrete pad and three phase power is what's most expensive. It is a whole transfer station improvement; the crossing back and forth is not safe and needs to be configured. We are in the process of reducing our hauling costs for recycling; we expect it to be a plus for loads which will help it pay for it. We have the money from Wheelabrator for compactors.

Selectman Cristo asked what the breakdown of the grant for Wheelabrator is. Originally we got \$100,000; broken down for \$30,000 for Hazardous Waste Day, \$20,000 for LED lighting, and \$50,000 for compactors. For two compactors it would cost \$40-\$50,000. Is there a way we could utilize the Wheelabrator money for the three phase power. She wants to know if we could try compactors before we purchase them. The grant is just for compactors, we cannot use the money for anything else. The project isn't only for compactors. The concrete pads alone cost approximately \$100,000. Hopefully the electricity cost will not be as high as anticipated. Selectman Cristo asked for a copy of the grant- there is not a grant per se but he will get any paperwork to her. She would also like the cost of the electricity and compactors as well.

Chairman Plante said that there are a lot of projects and that is the problem. The issue is that we have put these projects off for so long that we are not even keeping pace. Some towns are going for \$2-3 million dollar overrides; we are not, these projects will only last 5 years.

Selectman Ashmankas wanted to clear up some misconceptions about the BVT article- it will cost us longer and a higher assessment; it does not get us off the hook for Norfolk Aggie as they will not have the animal husbandry at BVT which they go for; the town is not on the hook if the Town does not vote for it. There has to be nine towns to vote to do it. Selectman Ashmankas thinks that most towns will vote no.

Ambulance Services contract is ready to be signed- he is recommending to the Board the tri-town agreement with MedStar Ambulance Inc. Our contribution goes down about \$15,000/year. Most of the terms and conditions are exactly the same; backups will come out of Worcester. Chief Belsito, Chief Howell and Mr. Spain went to MedStar unannounced and the operation was clean and well manned. The committee is very confident with this agreement. The backup ambulance comes out of Worcester, which is closer than Alert in Milford. Selectman Ashmankas asked where the housing will be- it will be in the Sutton- Wilksonville Station as it would cost us an additional \$32,000 to house it here. Grafton got the best deal. It is a three year contract with options of additional 1 year extension.

Motion to sign the Tri-Town Ambulance Contract made by Selectman Ashmankas, seconded by Selectman Cristo.

Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Plante read Dates to Remember

Saturday April 26th from 10 AM to 2 PM - Medication Take Back Day at Millbury PD

Tuesday April 29th from 7 AM to 8 PM- VOTE – Millbury High School

Sunday May 4th at 12 Noon - 62nd Annual Millbury Little League and Girls Softball Parade

Tuesday May 6th at 7 PM – Annual Town Meeting – at Millbury High School

On a Good Note:

Selectman Krumsiek sent her thanks to Perry Trugan- 11 year old- instead of birthday gifts she asked for money to give to the food banks in Millbury and Sutton.

Selectman King asked the Board and the Manager to contribute \$25 each for The Brainy Bunch to go to the Destination Imagination championship.

Selectman Ashmankas said that the Worcester County Selectmen met at the Mansion and had it catered by Scales. It was great. He will get the information from Athol regarding their tax taking programs.

Old/New Business

Selectman Cristo said that it was brought to the board's attention that 5 of our special police officers that were over the age of 65 were terminated and she would like to have a meeting with

the Chief and get those officer's a hearing as they are entitled to it. The Chief is the appointing authority in Millbury as the Board chose to go to a strong chief on the home rule petition and Special Act which supersedes the MGL. Mr. Spain said that it is a law that police and fire have to retire at age 65 or the town can be fined \$1000/day. It would require a change in the law.

Bill Wilkinson spoke to explain that they were called to the police station by Lt. Desorcy last week to tell them that they are in violation of some law that you cannot work after 65. For the 44 years that he has been here they have always had officers over 65. It is one of those laws that they don't enforce unless someone complains. It was brought to the Chief's attention and the Chief rescinded their appointments. They are planning on initiating a home rule petition where the town could set the age limit. The Chief has agreed to 70. They have to call a special town meeting with a petition by getting 200 signatures or the Selectmen could call the special town meeting themselves. They can still do the job. It is a nice part time job to supplement their retirements.

Selectman Cristo said that just because you are 65 does not mean we have to put you out to pasture.

Mr. Spain said that the Fire Department is in the same position. We just lost two or three great fire fighters who had to retire because they are 65. If we are going to do it, we should take care of our fire department as well.

Selectman King said that he did not engage in the conversation regarding the police & fire as it may benefit him in the future.

Selectman Cristo said that Earth Day was Tuesday-The Singletary people are doing both sides of the lake. We didn't have any interest. But she wanted to thank Wheelabrator as they were offering bags, barrels, pick up the trash and manpower- we can do it any Saturday.

Millbury Day at Broad Meadow Brook was last Saturday. Wheelabrator gave us passes that you can go on all of the trails for free on July 19th; Oct. 18th and Jan. 17th. You can get a pass in the Selectmen's office if you would like to go.

Selectman Cristo asked about the signs at Dwinell Cemetery and Providence Rd. Cemetery. Mr. McNeil wants to do permanent signs like the ones at The Mansion, which cost a lot of money; hopefully we can get a grant for them.

Selectman Ashmankas said that Andrew Borus is going for his eagle scout- he is fixing up the library at the You, Inc. building on Thursday and Friday 9 – 3.

Mail:

Letter from Laurie Connors regarding \$1,947.00 in donations to the Bark Park which brings their total to \$8,140.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

Letter from the Little League regarding the parade on May 4th at 12:00 pm and inviting members to march.

Letter from the Millbury Youth Commission regarding donations totaling \$100.00

Motion to accept donations by Selectman Ashmankas, seconded by Selectman Cristo.

Motion carried unanimously.

Letter from Devoe-Taylor Post #9 American Legion for Poppy Days on May 1, 2 and 3rd.

Motion by approve the poppy sales made by Selectman Ashmankas, seconded by Selectman Cristo.

Motion carried unanimously.

Selectman Ashmankas read a proclamation for Poppy Days on May 1, 2 and 3, 2014.

Chairman Plante asked to adjourn for the last time: He thanked everyone for giving one of the greatest privileges of his life. Thank you for being here, thank you for listening.

Adjournment

Motion made by Selectman King to adjourn at 9:05 p.m., seconded by Selectman Ashmankas.

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