

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

November 25, 2014

7:00 pm

Present: Board of Selectmen: Francis B. King; Sandy Cristo; Mary Krumsiek, Brian M. Ashmankas; William Borowski; Town Manager, Bob Spain, Tom Reilly, *The Millbury-Sutton Chronicle*; Susan Spencer, *The T&G*; Edd Cote and other citizens

Chairman King called the meeting to order

Change of Sunday Hours- Scannell's Package Store, 34 Main Street

Motion to approve the Change of Sunday opening to 10:00 am effective made by Selectman Borowski, seconded by Selectman Cristo.

Motion carried unanimously

Douglas Wine & Spirits, 70 Worcester/Providence Tpk.

Motion to approve the Change of Sunday opening to 10:00 am effective made by Selectman Cristo, seconded by Selectman Ashmankas.

Motion carried unanimously

Riverside Mart, 54 Canal Street

Motion to approve the Change of Sunday opening to 10:00 am effective made by Selectman Borowski, seconded by Selectman Cristo.

Motion carried unanimously

Holiday Liquor License Hours- Selectman Borowski motioned to approve extending pouring hours on Wednesday, November 26, 2014 to 2:00 a.m. for pouring establishments only and on Wednesday, December 31, 2014 to 2:00 a.m. for pouring establishments only, seconded by Selectman Krumsiek.

Motion carried unanimously.

Jeff Raymond to the Library Trustees- Rita Sullivan, Library Trustee, said that is was a unanimous decision by the Library Trustees. Mr. Raymond has been a resident for 31 years-he loves the library and he is happy to help. He thanked the board for appointing him.

Motion to appoint Jeff Raymond as a Library Trustee made by Selectman Borowski, seconded by Selectman Ashmankas.

Motion carried unanimously.

Congressman Jim McGovern: Chairman King thanked him for taking time out of his busy schedule to be here tonight and visiting our small businesses yesterday; as we all know, small businesses are what dreams are made of.

Congressman McGovern thanked the board for their hard work and it was a pleasure to be here yesterday as this is an incredible community and you have a lot to be proud of. This is a new part of his district but he is assessable and please let him or his staff know if they can do anything to help.

Selectman Borowski thanked congressman McGovern for doing such great work before this was his district and asked for anything the Congressman can do for monies for the S.Main Street Bridge would be greatly appreciated. Mr. McGovern said that he will work with whatever he can to get any monies to get this done. There are 500 bridges in this state that are structurally deficient. In Washington, they are trying to get a highway bill passed for repairing bridges and roads.

Chairman King asked about funding for a public safety complex- Mr. McGovern said that there is no money for mortar and bricks, but he will sit down with the town and work with them to get loans or grants that are available to us. Chairman King then asked about the fire department grants that we have not gotten. Mr. McGovern said that there was a grant writing conference for the fire dept. in Sutton and Chief Rudge was there-this should help to strengthen the application process for them. Budgets are tight; the need far outweighs the appropriation. Selectman Cristo asked about a program that was in the 80's called the 'federal revenue sharing program' that was very lucrative for cities and town; do you think a program like that would ever get reinstated. Mr. McGovern said that he doesn't think that program will get reinstated, it was a great program, but this is a different time; in the meantime we have to navigate through with limited resources.

He prides himself on getting what money is available to the communities that he represents.

Selectman Ashmankas asked if there are any federal funds for economic development plans. He will work with the town for what we need; he needs to know what we need, he will bring the head of EDA or EPA, whatever agency makes sense to help you. You should be proud of how this town has run, you are in pretty good shape considering the economy in these times; this town is run very well; we also need to work with the state government as a team, he'll sit down in any planning session we have. Small businesses are the backbone of our community, his father owned a package store and he would only sell Polar soda, locally made; he cannot say enough about Christopher's Ice Cream at the Mill. Anyone can reach him, he is very assessable.

Mr. Spain said that he has great constitutes services; always gets an answer back when asked a question and he took time out yesterday to take a look at our small business.

Rob McNeil asked Mr. McGovern about the Asian Longhorn Beetle program and what the forecast was for this area. They are monitoring and none have been found. He lives on Burncoat Street in Worcester where on a Monday there were tree lined streets and on Friday all the trees were gone; he worked with the Lt. Governor on the Worcester Tree Initiative to replace cut trees, not only a single planting but diversified trees, including fruit trees. Mr. McNeil then asked about feeding the hunger. Mr. McGovern said that this being the richest country it is sad to say that there are millions of hungry people right here in our country; he severed over 400 people a breakfast at the Worcester Food Bank, we need to solve the issue of hunger in America, whatever you can do for your local food banks is always a big help and we need to work towards ending hunger in America.

Chief Rudge thanked Mr. McGovern and told him that we are looking into a public safety building and said that they need his help for grant writing; he said that he would like to hear more about the USDA loans; Mr. McGovern said that that is loan money-a 40 year low interest

low and he will set up a meeting to sit down and go over the information; unfortunately the tragedy in Worcester brought up issues in the fire industry and brought federal money to assist them, but it is not enough.

Congressman McGovern wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

David Hicks from Millbury Health Care-he just took over as administrator. He introduced himself and explained about the facility; he will continue to be a good neighbor-Happy Thanksgiving.

Heather Trudell-Millbury Chain of Lights will be held Sunday Dec. 7, 2014 11 – 4; the chain of lights is an extension of small business Saturday. We are fortunate to work in such a lovely town. The full calendar is on the website and we have a facebook page now.

The board thanked Heather for stepping up; Heather thanked the veteran members Judy O'Connor and Lynn Feiz for their assistance and work.

Selectman Cristo said that American Express has sponsored Small Business Saturday and sent bags, rugs, pens and leaflets, which will be given out by the small businesses in town on November 29, 2014.

Laurie Connors-Economic Development; Mr. Spain explained that he and Laurie have been working on the economic development plan for the town.*see attached handout.

Laurie pointed out the many projects that have been going on over the last 10 years, such as Lattie Farm Industrial Park, Dunkin Donuts and the Felters Mill; she said that recently the town projects are not done because of money and lack of strong bodies to get things done. The Planning Board tries to encourage private developers to accomplish some of these tasks, such as the Fidelity Bank on South Main Street creating an armory village park on the property as it was an important historic property to this town as it was Asa Waters armory, Dunkin Donuts had to improve sidewalks for ada accessibility and alter the traffic lights, Felters also had to do ada work on sidewalks. The Millbury Improvement Initiative was created shortly after the master plan was done for improvements in the downtown area; many have been on for over ten years; she would like anyone who can help with economic development to join the Millbury Improvement Initiative; get in contact with her or Cyndi Burr. Laurie has applied for a \$30,000 grant to refurbish the lower common; along with the Redevelopment Authority who raised some funds for the clock and the Bicentennial Committee has raised some funds for a new message board, there is still a shortfall. There are not many grants out there and if there are Millbury doesn't have the demographics to get those grants. The taxpayers or the property owners will have to reach into their wallets if they want some of these projects done. She is going to try to get a planning grant for a workshop that helps with business displays, marketing and their inward and outward appearance to draw more business in. Selectman Borowski asked how we can better publicize Millbury.

There is a grad student interested in doing a project on Millbury- she is going to try to capture the people that are going to the Shoppe's or the Mansion to know about other businesses in the town of Millbury with a brochure and try to improve the image of the town that is easy and low cost. They are working on marketing materials for the two priority development sites on the industrial park area in Millbury/Sutton and the Aggregate area in Millbury to lay out the process. Selectman Borowski said that frankly he would like to poach businesses from other towns with our attractive tax rate and location. Selectman Ashmankas agreed saying that the tax rate isn't top on the list but we have many other features to attract business. Mr. Spain reiterated some points and is looking forward to seeing Doreen's finished project. Chairman King agreed that the tech review is an extremely helpful tool; he also stated that parking in the downtown was an issue. Laurie said that signage for the municipal lot will go a long way; people aren't aware that it even exists, they have to get used to not parking right in front of where they are going. Selectman Ashmankas asked if we could shorten the parking spaces to get more out of them. Doreen DeFazio introduced herself as the Energy Manger by day and the grad student at night; she said that she is still working with Clark to get to do an independent study; she said that she wants feedback from the board of what they want for economic development for this community. Selectman Borowski said that he is totally on board with this project; it appears we have a PR problem; we don't want to be the Millbury of 40 years ago, he wants us to be the Millbury of the next 20 years. Go do it; let him know how he can help. Laurie said that she is working with the Blackstone Valley Chamber to get our stores in their marketing brochures and books.

Selectman Ashmankas spoke about a professor from Northeastern who researched economic development and he found out the five most important factors. He said that taxes and highway access are not as important. His number 1 was availability of sites; then parking, daycare, restaurants and permitting are important. Selectman Ashmankas thought putting the businesses and recreation areas on the front page of the website would be beneficial. They would do a free economic development assessment for us.

Mr Rajotte wanted to thank Mr. McNeil for doing a great job with his street, Lincoln Ave. Ext. He then asked if the land near tractor supply should have a roller skating rink.

Previous Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of the October 28, 2014 Selectmen Meeting made by Selectman Borowski, seconded by Selectman Krumsiek.

Motion carried unanimously.

Continued Public Hearing for Tran, LLC- Mr. Tran has withdrawn his application.

Motion to close the public hearing for Transfer of License; New Officers/Directors and a Change of Manager for **Tran LLC** made by Selectman Cristo, seconded by Selectman Borowski.

Motion carried unanimously.

Tax Classification Hearing: Notice read into record; Motion to open the public hearing made by Selectman Cristo, seconded by Selectman Krumsiek.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Spain explained that we did get preliminary approval of the revaluation numbers, but we are at the mercy of the State. We are in the midst of the five day process of appeals for the reevaluation of the homes in town, i.e. three bathrooms instead of two, pool or no pool, etc.

Motion to **continue the Public Hearing for Tax Classification to December 9, 2014** made by Selectman Krumsiek, seconded by Selectman Ashmankas.

Motion carried unanimously.

Town Manager Report:

Mr. Spain told the board that they are working on ways to limit the negative impact of the S. Main St. Bridge closing, he then asked Mr. McNeil to fill the board in; Mr. McNeil said they have been working on ways to re-open the bridge one way; but based on P&W railroad standards, we are still exploring what we can do. After meeting with DOT structural engineers they have given approval to open the bridge on the west side.

Selectman Borowski is perturbed that he was told it needed to be shut down per DOT and it was not safe; then he is being told they can open it one way. Why is this?

Mr. McNeil explained that they did not have all of the answers that they have now; there was a lot of feedback to work together to get this bridge opened at least on the west side. DOT staff came to the table with equipment to signalize that area for bi-directional traffic; we are again at the mercy of the state. They worked vigorously to get this bridge open only on that west bound lane which has been deemed as safe-the inspection frequency will be stepped up to make sure the condition of the east side is not deteriorating further. We worked with the information we had and at the time the safest thing to do was to close it at that time; now we have more information and hopefully getting more information in the future. He is asking for the selectmen to allow the manager to use discretion to reopen the bridge when deemed safe by all traffic engineers.

Motion to allow the manager to reopen the bridge after it is deemed safe by all made by Selectman Cristo, seconded by Selectman Ashmankas.

Motion carried 3 – 2. (Selectman Borowski and Selectman Krumsiek opposed)

Selectman Krumsiek asked about the concerns of traffic backup with a one-way at a time bridge. Mr. Spain said that it will not be open until he feels it is safe regarding all aspects of traffic. He also wanted to point out that the work being down in front of the bridge has nothing to do with bridge repair; it is for the Fidelity Bank/VFW drainage project.

The Joint Committee on Public Service will be holding a public hearing regarding bill no. S2387, An Act relative to the appointment of special police officers in the town of Millbury on Tuesday, December 2nd at 1:00 at the State House in Room A1.

Mr. Spain is appointing Mark Ginese as an Equipment Operator II, he is coming to us from West Boylston DPW and he will be starting December 1st.

Motion to concur with the appointment of Mark Ginese made by Selectman Borowski, seconded by Selectman Ashmankas.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Spain has begun a review of Board policies for recommendation for revision. He plans to include for discussion all policies over the next few months whether changes are recommended or not. He has included copies of the following policies and changes:

- o A-1 Adoption of policies-no change
- o A-3 Agenda Policy-in section 1 in the underlined text second line it should read in its opinion not it its opinion.
- o A-4 Abandoned Property- Disposal by police department-This is overridden by the Town Charter and it is recommended to delete it.
- o B-1 Boat Excise Tax Disbursement-no change
- o C-1 Computer Usage and Electronic Communications Policy-no change
- o C-2 CORI policy- no change
- o D-1 Donations to Town Boards, Commission, Agencies, Departments – no change

A-2 Appointment Procedure-this needs some major changes and he will present them at a future date.

Motion to fix the typo in the Agenda Policy (A-3) made by Selectman Borowski, seconded by Selectman Ashmankas.

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to rescind the policy on Abandoned Property (A-4) made by Selectman Borowski, seconded by Selectman Cristo.

Motion carried unanimously

Mr. Spain explained that when there are more than just typo changes-they will do a more in-depth policy changes with three readings before approving.

So far we have had the RAC, Public Safety Sighting, Financial Planning, and Youth Commission and have invited Parks, who have not responded and Historical Commission is coming in December 9th. On December 9th Laurie Connors and Doreen DeFazio will discuss the Energy

Advisory Committee. We intend to invite two more (hopefully the COA and Sewer comm.) to the December 9th meeting.

We continue our positive trend in both wheel tonnage and recycling tonnage. We are more the 145 tons less than last year in Wheelabrator tonnage and 60 tons more recycling.

We are now preparing for budget season.

Bicentennial Monument is done and the dedication is Saturday at 1:00 pm.

The committee has asked for the driveway to be named "Bicentennial Way"- think about it.

Selectman Krumsiek asked why Mr. Spain was going to the public hearing. Mr. Spain said that there is usually a hearing for home rule petitions, he's not sure if he is going to go. Selectman Borowski said that town meeting has spoken and that's the way it should go through. Selectman Cristo agreed with Selectman Borowski stating the people have spoken.

Selectman Ashmankas asked about the state budget-wasn't there a surplus last year at this time and now there is a defident. That is correct.

Old/New Business:

Final Reading of One Day Liquor License Policy

Motion to adopt the One Day Liquor License Policy as corrected made by Selectman Borowski, seconded by Selectman Cristo.

Motion carried unanimously.

Selectman Ashmankas would like to see the policies on line.

Selectman Ashmankas, Selectman Krumsiek and Jeff Dore will be walking the boundaries.

Motion by Selectman Borowski to have Selectman Ashmankas, Selectman Krumsiek designated to mark the town boundaries and as substitute, Jeff Dore, seconded by Selectman Cristo.

Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman King Read Dates To Remember

Saturday November 29th Millbury's Small Business Saturday

Saturday November 29th at 1:00 pm Bicentennial Dedication of Monument

Saturday December 6th from 10 am to 4 pm Sutton Chain of Lights

Sunday December 7th from 11 am to 4:30 pm Annual Millbury Chain of Lights!

On a Good Note

Selectman Krumsiek sent many thanks to Millbury Savings Bank for their generous donation to meals on wheels.

Thanks to Kevin K and Charter for getting the Millbury Housing Authority's cable issues resolved!

Selectman Ashmankas attended an open house today at 12B Beach Street for a house that is available through Project Homefront; this is a program for veterans to buy a house at 60% of its value. This is a great program to support.

Mail

Letter from Laurie Connors regarding Bark Park donations in the amount of \$535.00

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

Motion carried unanimously.

Letter from the Fire Department regarding a donation in the amount of \$500.00.

Motion to accept the donation made by Selectman Borowski, seconded by Selectman Ashmankas.

Motion carried unanimously.

Letter from the Fire Department regarding a donation in the amount of \$100.00.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

Selectman Krumsiek read the Winter Parking Ban/Snow and Ice Policy

Motion to approve the policy made by Selectman Borowski, seconded by Selectman Krumsiek.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Spain announced that the next meeting will be November 25th as the 11th is Veterans Day!

Citizen Speak

Fred McConaghy said that he got alarming information that a public hearing for the purpose of testifying on their home rule petition has been requested by a town official and he would like the selectmen to vote to ban any public official or town employee from negatively speaking at the public hearing and he would like a vote on that.

Chairman King said that they already addressed that.

Selectman Borowski said that he feels uncomfortable asking someone not to speak at a hearing, he is not sure if it would be legal to do that, but he could ask any town official to speak as themselves not as the town because the issue was decided at town meeting.

Chairman King said that they cannot legally tell someone that they couldn't go; but they could suggest that town officials or elected officials not to go to fight against it, but they can't stop a person from going.

Don Rajotte said that a rumor going around the senior center that the Chief of Police and the town manager asked for the hearing and they are concerned that they are going to speak negatively against it.

Chairman Cristo said that a vote was taken at town meeting and the people have spoken.

Chairman King wanted to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and be safe during the storm.

Chairman King announced the Board would be going into executive session and would return only to adjourn.

Executive Session

Motion made by Selectman Cristo, seconded by Selectman Ashmankas to move into Executive Session at 9:30 p.m. under Chapter 39, Section 23B, Paragraph 3 to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares.

Selectman Cristo	- Yes
Selectman Krumsiek	- Yes
Selectman Ashmankas	-Yes
Selectman Borowski	-Yes
Chairman King	-Yes

Adjournment

Motion made by Selectman Krumsiek to adjourn at 9:42 p.m., seconded by Selectman Cristo. Approved by roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,
Tish Hayes, Secretary

Francis B. King	_____
Sandy J. Cristo	_____
Mary Krumsiek	_____
Brian Ashmankas	_____
William Borowski	_____