

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

**December 9, 2014**

**7:00 pm**

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**Present:** Board of Selectmen: Francis B. King; Sandy Cristo; Mary Krumsiek, Brian M. Ashmankas; William Borowski; Town Manager, Bob Spain, Jude Cristo, Joe Coggans, Rusty Valerie, Michael O'Connor, Bill Wilkinson, Fred McConaghy, Ron Richards, Tom Reilly, *The Millbury-Sutton Chronicle*; Susan Spencer, *The T&G*; Edd Cote and other citizens

**Chairman King called the meeting to order**

**Girl Scouts Troop 30227**

They asked who decides what color the crosswalks would be and can you pick a different color? Mr. McNeil thanked the girls for having interest and explained pavement markings. The crosswalk colors are the town/school colors and the white border provides a visible feature. Here in the United States we have standards so that crosswalks are recognized in every state. The dark color helps in the winter for melting snow. In a nighttime setting pavement markings have limitations, they are not meant to be reflective; but there are reflective beads that we could look into.

They then asked can you use glow in the dark outline so it is easier to see and not a big added cost. Rob will look into it to see if they have that quality of paint for streets and Selectman Borowski would like the director to meet with the scouts for a work session.

**Gary Nelson spoke regarding the Sewer Commission**

They are going through all of their regulations and updating them; they will submit them to the selectmen for town counsel's review; have public hearings and then implement them. The Rt. 146 West Main St project is underway, updating those pipes and getting Faron Circle on sewer. They are scanning all of the old documents and are updating all of our pump stations; there are five at this point. They will cost \$ ¾ of a million each. Going to start the I&I study and review fee structure. They are looking at ways to fund the pump station updates. They are trying to keep the sewer rate low; the Upper Blackstone is doing upgrades and that could make our rates double.

Selectman Borowski thanked them for coming in; asked what this board could do to help. The regulations are very complex; the commissioners are just doing their job. Mr. Nelson wanted to thank all the guys who work in the sewer department; they have kept the system flawless; Rob McNeil is a real help to his board and a great asset for this town.

Rob McNeil agreed it is good to get the word out; he is also looking for the board's support on the stormwater coalition. This is a regional effort of 28 towns working together to get things done with all things stormwater. He is looking for an extension on the comment period regarding a 435 page draft permit.

Motion to endorse the stormwater coalition letter and a letter regarding an extension made by Selectman Borowski, seconded by Selectman Ashmankas.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. McNeil said that the MMA is having a conference Friday Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup> and they will be having a session on stormwater. If you are interested please attend.

**Tax Classification Hearing continued:**

Jude Cristo, Chairman of the Board of Assessors spoke about not having people serve on boards; volunteerism is fading; the property tax has not covered all the town needs for over 30 years.

The property values are all updated and online now. We had the evaluations done by Patriot this time instead of Vision and saved \$25,000. Check it for accuracy so it can be fixed before February 1<sup>st</sup>. With our change of Finance Director and Assessor, we have not missed a beat.

Everything that was needed from us was sent in in August; we were at the mercy of the state.

We did have a triannual assessment done and hired a firm to look at personal property and update that as well. The good news tonight is that the tax rate is a decrease of .85; the bad news is that the assessed values of your property have gone up. The average single family home tax rate this year will be an increase of \$163.81. Rate went down; but tax bills are going up. The houses that have sold in Millbury recently have sold higher than assessed values. Mr. Cristo believes that the reason why we have new businesses still coming to Millbury is because of the single tax classification rate. There has been a 9% increase in value since last year. Residential: increased by 4%; commercial decreased by 2% and industrial decreased by 8%.

The assessors are recommending a single tax classification once again this year.

Selectman Ashmankas asked about the free cash money going towards the tax rate, he thinks there should be zero free cash going towards the tax rate. Mr. Cristo said that these numbers will change when we go to budget. Selectman Ashmankas said that he usually advocates for a split tax rate because he doesn't believe it is a major factor in businesses/industries coming to Millbury.

Motion to go with a single tax rate made by Selectman Ashmankas, seconded by Selectman Krumsiek.

Motion approved by Roll Call Vote.

**Cyndi Burr- Historical Commission-** the Historical Commission is struggling with the need for volunteers; they find it difficult to have a quorum; as the economy is slowly getting better, we will be needed to comment on issues for historical areas. We need young people who can use the internet, research and maybe apply for grants. One of our claims to fame is saving the old 1850's Allais farmhouse on Greenwood Street; the exit from the turnpike was supposed to go right through that house; because it was on our registry we were able to comment and then save it.

Selectman Borowski asked if there are any hot button items right now. We are very interested in what transpires on the South Main Street Bridge- it was built in the 1800's; it has some elements of beauty to it and an entrance to our town center, we do not want it to be ugly, she would like the view of the river preserved as well; they would like to be included in design of that bridge. She asked to have the DPW fill some potholes on Maple Street.

Chairman King thanked Ms. Burr for coming in.

**Doreen DeFazio spoke for the Energy Advisory Committee.** She spoke regarding the green communities report for FY14. As a green community we need to reach a 20% reduction in a three year period; we have dropped to 3%. We have a very dedicated Energy Advisory Committee, working with Laurie Connors, Bob Spain and the DPW Director has been so helpful. She is optimistic that this number will improve. We have some grant projects- HVAC upgrade in 2015; Shaw LED Lights installed; DPW facility will be getting exterior LED lights; Asa Waters Mansion will be getting insulation; Elmwood St School retro-commission; Fire Department did some insulation work as well. This is a very collaborative team. Last year we were at 11%; the sewer expansion project causes an increase; Elmwood St School had an issue with the Honeywell project where the air conditioning ran 24/7 all summer and could not turn off; added traffic lights and weatherization (a very cold winter/hot summer). See attached graph\*\* Her job as an energy manager is to look forward and evaluate to make improvements before the report goes out next year. By lowering consumption for the town of Millbury we will free up some money for needed projects.

Selectman Borowski asked for a top five recommendations for the school and town to do to save money. Off the top of her head, shut off computers, lower heat, shut off lights....

**NGrid So. Oxford Rd. Pole Petition-** continued to January 13, 2014 due to pending snow storm; Ngrid has to be on call.

**LIQUOR LICENSE RENEWALS**

**Restaurants – All Alcoholic**

Applebee's Neighborhood Grill & Bar

Wheelock Inn

Twenty Nine Canal St., Inc. d/b/a DAR BAH

Golfview Corp. d/b/a Clearview Country Club

Liberty Heights Café

Rare Hospitality Int., Inc. d/b/a Longhorn Steakhouse

Round Robin of Millbury LLC d/b/a Red Robin, America Gourmet

Burgers and Spirits

Quincy Amusements, Inc. d/b/a/ Showcase Cinema De Lux

TGI Friday's Inc.

UR of Millbury MA LLC d/b/a Uno Chicago Grill  
Calabria Restaurant  
Sixty Elm, Inc. d/b/a A&D Pizza  
The Mill Towne Tavern  
Feng Asian Bistro  
Karen McGovern d/b/a Puffins Restaurant

Motion to approve the 2015 all alcohol Restaurant licenses made by Selectman Borowski, seconded by Selectman Krumsiek.  
Motion carried unanimously.

**Innholder – All Alcohol**

The New St. Charles Hotel  
Belfont House

Motion to approve the 2015 all alcohol Innholder licenses made by Selectman Cristo, seconded by Selectman Ashmankas.  
Motion carried unanimously.

**Club – Veterans All Alcohol**

Charles F. Minney Post VFW 3329 d/b/a Foreign Wars 3329 Inc.

Motion to approve the 2015 all alcohol club license made by Selectman Cristo, seconded by Selectman Krumsiek.  
Motion carried unanimously.

**Restaurant - Wine & Malt**

Elm Draught House Cinema  
Qdoba Mexican Grill

Motion to approve the 2015 Restaurant Wine and Malt licenses made by Selectman Borowski, seconded by Selectman Krumsiek.  
Motion carried unanimously.

**Package Store - All Alcohol**

Douglas Package Store, Inc. d/b/a Lennys Liquors

Tran, LLC d/b/a Millbury Liquors  
BAK, Inc. d/b/a Scannels Package Store  
Douglas Liquors, 70 Worcester/Providence Tpk. (Special Legislation)

Motion to approve the 2015 Package Store-All Alcohol licenses made by Selectman Cristo, seconded by Selectman Krumsiek.  
Motion carried unanimously.

**Package Store - Wine & Malt**

Goretti Supermarket  
J & T Beer & Wine  
Riverside Mart  
Village Knoll Variety, Inc.  
X-Tra Mart

Motion to approve the 2015 Package Store Wine and Malt licenses made by Selectman Cristo, seconded by Selectman Krumsiek.  
Motion carried unanimously.

**One Day Liquor License**-Struck Catering at Asa Waters Mansion on December 12, 2014 from 7 pm – 9 pm.

Motion to approve the one day liquor license for Struck Catering made by Selectman Borowski, seconded by Selectman Cristo.  
Motion carried unanimously.

**Previous Minutes:** Motion to approve the minutes of the November 25, 2014  
Motion to approve the minutes made by Selectman Cristo, seconded by Selectman Borowski.  
Motion carried unanimously.

**Old Business**

**Bicentennial Drive**-Jeff Dore spoke on behalf of the Bicentennial Committee asking the board to rename the driveway to the town hall “Bicentennial Drive”. The only concern is placement of the sign; they do not want it confusing people thinking that this is not 127 Elm. Chairman King suggested putting 127 Elm Street on the Bicentennial Drive sign. Mr. Spain suggested it not be at the end of the driveway to avoid confusion.

Selectman Borowski motioned to put up a Bicentennial Way sign seconded by Selectman Cristo.  
Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Dore then asked the Selectmen to make a policy that the bicentennial monument cannot be changed because they do not want anything added to it without approval of the committee. Motion by Selectman Borowski that the monument is not to be disturbed until approval from the Bicentennial Committee or Selectmen, seconded by Selectman Cristo. Motion carried unanimously.

**Town Manager:**

Mr. Spain is appointing Darlene Burdzel of Millbury as a library page. Motion to concur with the appointment made by Selectman Ashmankas, seconded by Selectman Cristo. Motion carried unanimously.

Policy Review: Copies of all are in your books;

- o E-1 Excavation Activities-Rules and Regulations-no change
- o F-1 Fraud Protection and Anti-Fraud Response Program- no change.
- o F-2 Finance Committee Quarterly Reports- no change.
- o F-3 Fuel Efficiency Policy-no change
- o F-4 Fuel Efficiency Replacement Plan-no change
- o F-5 Free Cash Policy- no change; he recommends no changes at this time.

The Council on Aging is coming in Jan. 13<sup>th</sup>.

South Main Street Bridge- still working through railroad crossing issues; Selectman Ashmankas asked if the bridge is opened can we open the Maple St parking ban? Chairman King asked if this was going to be reopened. He thinks it can be. Maybe we can open it one way without lights.

Bob Roy asked if we can open the bridge one way right now without lights then why wouldn't we. This way it would not affect the railroad. Chairman King asked Mr. Spain to look into that with DOT.

The aerial scope is sold. We did not get what we wanted, but it is sold.

The bicentennial memorial dedication on November 29, 2014 was a great ceremony and extremely well done.

The Bark Park is on hold now; there were construction issues and won't be done until spring.

Auction is here on Thursday. Open houses are at 10:30; bidder registration is at 11:30 here; Auction to begin at Noon. All the properties are listed at [zekosgroup.com](http://zekosgroup.com) and requirements.

Mr. Spain is taking between Christmas and New Year's weeks off.

Selectman Ashmankas asked if we can put the auction money aside for road repairs. Mr. Spain's intent is to get darn close to the policy amount requirements.

Chairman King asked Mr. Spain to close all departments at 3:00 pm on December 24<sup>th</sup>.

Selectman Borowski asked for the common to be spruced up in the spring.

Selectman Cristo would like to have at their January meeting to put some goals together for the police chief's annual review. Chairman King said that he is looking to do the manager's review in March so maybe they can do the Chief's as well at that time.

Selectman Krumsiek motioned for a policy to be implemented that any town employee speaking as a town official in legislative matters must notify the selectmen first as well as to summarize their comments of what they are going to speak about prior to going, seconded by Selectman Borowski.

Motion carried unanimously.

Selectman Ashmankas asked if maybe we could implement an economic development committee. Mr. Spain suggested charging the Redevelopment Authority as they are already in place. Selectman Ashmankas will speak to Len Mort.

**Chairman King Read Dates to Remember:**

- Thursday December 11th from 5 to 9 PM Holiday Gathering & Toy Drive at A & D Pizza
- Friday December 12th at 7 PM The SKY Family Celtic Christmas at the Mill Church
- Saturday December 13th from 10 AM to 1 PM Santa on the Common! Bring your children, pets, and cameras! Rain date Saturday December 20th.- Sponsored by Selectman Krumsiek
- Saturday December 13th at dusk Santa Rides the Fire Truck in the Dorothy Pond Area of Town!
- Tuesday December 16th from 12:30 to 2 PM Holiday Tea & Treats for Millbury Seniors at the Shaw School - RSVP requested
- Friday December 19th from 6:30 to 9:30 PM Youth Commission 1st Annual "Ugly Sweater" Dance Saturday
- December 20th at dusk Santa Rides the Fire Truck in the Center Area of Town!
- Sunday December 21st at dusk -Santa Rides the Fire Truck in East Millbury and West Millbury

**On a Good Note:**

Great job on the Chain of Lights Committee

Happy Holidays!

Selectman Cristo added that small business Saturday went very well.

**Mail**

Goods for Guns- gun exchange at the Millbury PD Sat. Dec 13<sup>th</sup> 10 am – 2 pm

**Citizen Speak:**

Fred McConaghy said that at the last meeting he asked for town officials not to be able to Boston to testify regarding the Home Rule Petition.

Chairman King said that counsel said that they have the right to go on behalf of the town because the language of the article has been changed. Chairman King said that he already addressed it; it is a shame that this issue is ripping this town apart; he feels that this should be taken care of by the State. Mr. McConaghy said that the bill was not changed at all.

Bill Wilkinson said that the word changes did not change the intent of town meeting's vote. He wants to know what disciplinary action was taken. Chairman King said there was not any.

Don Rajotte thought we should change the address of the town hall to 1 Bicentennial Drive. He is upset that employees of the town went to testify negatively when the board told them not to. He will get a transcript of the hearing.

Bob Roy talked about bridge and he would like to repair the bridge instead of building a new one. The DOT guys said that it was easy to make the bridge one way. He would like to know how much our legal bills are. He was told to check with the finance director. He also complained about how the snow storm was handled. He was upset with the evaluation process of the town manager.

Mike O'Connor spoke about preserving town meeting. The petition that was presented at town meeting is not the petition that was voted on. He questioned if Senator Moore questioned the Selectman about changing the Bill to protect the integrity of the town meeting vote. See attached\*\*'

Don Rajotte said that we don't know who changed it; maybe it was sent in changed. Selectman Borowski said it was not changed before it was sent out; the senate counsel decided that it was not a material change to take out section 2.



Motion made by Selectman Krumsiek to adjourn at 9:40 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	_____