

TOWN OF MILLBURY
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES
SELECTMEN MEETING ROOM

December 14, 2016

6:00 pm

17 JAN 11 PM 1:06

Selectmen Present: Selectman Francis B. King, Sandy Cristo; Mary Krumsiek, Scott Despres, and Jon Adams
David Roach, Mary Aicardi from the Collins Center

The list for the Liquor Licenses had two old business names, therefore we are re-voting them.

Selectman Krumsiek made a motion to approve the All Alcohol License for Millbury Old Time Inn and the All Alcohol Package Store License for T&P Liquors, d/b/a Millbury Liquors, seconded by Selectman Cristo.

Motion carried unanimously.

Selectman Krumsiek read the Public Hearing Notice read into record regarding the proposed amendment to the zoning by-laws for a moratorium on recreation marijuana being heard on January 3, 2017 at 5:30 pm.

David Roach, Chairman of the Search introduced Mary Aicardi from the Collins Center who said that the screening committee did a terrific job and they brought you excellent candidates to choose from. She then introduced Christopher Clark.

Chairman King explained the process to Mr. Clark.

Christopher Clark

This is his 27th year in the business; ½ as assistant and ½ as manager; they have a home in the Sturbridge, and rent one on the cape that he rents from month to month. It is difficult to live at the Cape in the winter time. He has been in Harwich for 3 years and they are familiar with the central ma area. He would love to find a job closer to home in Sturbridge. His expertise is budgeting and health insurance. He came in and met with a few department heads and thinks he can bring a lot to a great team.

1. He will take an inventory of what needs to be done; get a sense of what the needs are. Selectman Despres asked how he would prioritize what's needed the most? When he was in Southbridge he had, the superintendent take him through the schools and when he saw trash barrels catching rain water in active classrooms he knew that was a priority. He meets with the department heads and ask them if their projects can wait. He thinks of BOS as 'his boss'.
2. In Harwich, the legal budget was about \$250,000; after the first year, he brought it down to \$220,000 and this year they may hit the \$125,000 mark that is budgeted. They used to do all negotiations with legal counsel which is very very expensive. He has been doing negotiations for years and if the union is not bringing an attorney there is no need for them.
3. When he was in Vernon, CT they had mills that were still in use; they got a federal grant to do the roof and there's another mill that a gentleman would redevelop it if he had tax incremental financing and it was done well. It is a good tool to have in the toolbox.

4. Southbridge gave him a task list of 5 things that they wanted done; he did get a new school for them. He likes challenges. He did get all five done in less than 6 years. In Harwich, there is no sewer at all in the town. That is a \$230,000,000 project. He got a lot of grant money for phase one which was about \$7 million.

Selectman Adams asked in what capacity was he involved in the grants; In Vernon, Ct he did the grant administration; he wrote 2 grant applications, submitted them and received them. He has not had as many opportunities in Harwich to work on grants because of staffing issues.

5. He lays the cards on the table and let the selectmen pick the priority. It is his job to accomplish what the selectmen, who are elected by the people, want.

6. In Southbridge, they wanted him to be the face of the Town, talk to the media, give out the awards, etc.; in Harwich the selectmen like to be in front, they like to handle the events; to be a public servant you need to be assessable to the public.

Selectman Despres asked him what a typical workday is. Mr. Clark feels chained to his desk as there is a lot of paperwork; he likes to get out to the issues, but it is budget time and there is a lot of work.

7. Harwich's bond rating issues was an inconsistency in free cash and not enough cash in stabilization. He has turned this around; he enjoys finances. He knows that this board does not like to use free cash in the operating budget. We have more than doubled our rainy-day fund. In Southbridge, we never had a layoff because of fiscal stress; he is very proud of that.

8. Try to meet with each one individually; get a good sense of what you think the priorities are. In Southbridge, his focus was Economic Development. In Harwich, they had personnel issues and collective bargaining. He is in favor of transitioning to modernizing positons. Selectman Krumsiek asked what is more important-Schools, road or people. When he was in Wellesley they wanted their schools to stay in the top 5 so the administration was to do whatever they had to keep it that way. You have to have a good road network; in Millbury, you have 2 exits off of the MaPike and Rt. 146. People come if they have a good business front.

Chairman King asked if he would be for our traditional 60/40 split with the school. He believes in an open communication with the school but he respects the decisions that have been made. If there is a higher need someone he would address that with the superintendent.

Selectman Adams asked to be very specific about a long-term project that he assigned to a department head and how he dealt with that. In Harwich, he has an IT Director that needed to get a project done to get meetings televised but it was lagging behind, when he asked him in for weekly updates then the project started to get rolling.

9. In every place that he has been there has never been a change-out of staff; he assumes there are very good hires and he has not had a problem getting along with anyone. He tries to be a consummate professional that people like to work for. It's good to get word on the street that an opening is available.

10. Yes. He just sent in his paperwork for the 3rd time.

Mr. Clark would like to hear what their vision for where the community needs to go next. What would I priority that you would like him to think about.

Jon Adams: would like to see a five-year plan and sticking to it and following through.

Mr. Clark has a 7-year plan in Harwich, he is transparent and works with the department heads. Honest communication is key.

Scott Despres: Maintaining a livable tax rate, do you feel as though we can maintain our current tax rate and still get things we want and maybe cut some things.

Mr. Clark said that in Southbridge, he was very aware of the residential tax rate; spend up to the 2 ½ but try to be sensitive to tax levels going up. They asked him to keep the water and sewer rates pretty even as they went up almost 200%.

Selectman Krumsiek would like to see economic development and the Master Plan.

Mr. Clark participated in the process in Southbridge and he feels it is a great tool.

Selectman Cristo said that Millbury is very rich in history such as the Blackstone river and historic builders.

Mr. Clark has minored in history, he has a love of history. He has worked with an architect and developer to restore a gutted third floor of a historic building; he would try to preserve the Asa Waters Mansion by identifying a funding source to preserve history.

Chairman King thinks a 5-year plan is very important as we have a lot of infrastructure needs and growth

George King:

Chairman King welcomed Mr. King and thanked him for taking an interest in Millbury.

Mr. King the background that he brings is a unique one; town and school experience. The school is the most important and challenging budget. Millbury's location is fabulous with its Pike access and Rt. 146 access. The economic development potential really interests him.

1. He has faced these issues in Framingham, they needed 2 schools and sewerage and roads were an issue. You need to identify revenue sources and educate the community. It has to be a public commitment to it.

Selectman Despres asked how do you educate the community? Mr. King does not have all of the answers, but in 2004 they started streaming their meetings and that gave people the ability to direct people to the meeting; he also started a blog in 2004 to communicate directly with the townspeople. Being visible in the community, talk to people, answer their questions. There are opinion leads in all communities, identify them and talk to them. He also put out a notice with every tax bill. Be assessable and take calls.

2. He would have to take a look at them and see where they are coming from. Judicial use of town council is a good place to start. Use standard contracts and bid out the service if it's getting to expensive or look at in-house for basic legal work. Look at the data and analyze it to reduce costs.

3. He would need to understand the values of the community to answer it well. You have done well with the Shoppes and Wheelabrator; look for places that you can expand upon. The downtown screams for some great projects; being right off of the highway. He likes multifamily dwellings and you need to give them a bargain to come.

4. He likes both; this business is solving problems and taking on challenges. He likes to come up with something that works and it is a great feeling. The challenge is attractive but the results are satisfying. One of his proudest moments was passing an override because they did the very best they could with the budget but they needed more.

Selectman Despres asked if you have solved any problem with sharing resources or people with surrounding areas? Mr. King thinks that is a great idea, he has not had the opportunity to do that,

they did do it with fire apparatus. He works in a regional school district and he knows how it is to work with others.

Selectman Krumsiek asked if it will be hard to get back into town government after 10 years out? He thought it was good to get away from it when he did. Three years ago he joined Framingham's finance committee and was elected to the Charter Committee. It's like riding a bike.

5. There's a lot of those examples. There was a nursing home in the neighborhood that rebuilt, the residents had many concerns about that and they came to the selectmen in mass one evening and the selectmen had the police officers stop anyone going 1 mile over the speed limit and ticket them. He advised them not to do this, he saw it going bad but didn't stop it. Selectmen Krumsiek asked if he was involved in the methadone clinic in Framingham. Mr. King was; they did appeal and spent a lot of money on legal costs. In general, it has not been a problem. You can try to make the best deal you can with them.

6. When he was put on the Charter Commission he thought he had a good prospective to offer. It is for a year.

7. The only growth was the 2 ½ for a lot of years in Framingham. He has had to cut government mid fiscal year. He looks at everything and decides what needs to be done.

8. He has to learn the town first, learn the culture and understand it. Listen and understand what people's challenges are. What are the boards goals and priorities? There has to be a consensus of where you are going and what you will do. Keep the selectmen informed.

9. He sees having the Town Planner role open as an opportunity to get good people in. He has always worked with existing personnel but if they were not fit he ultimately made changes if he had to.

10. He is not.

Mr. King thinks this is a great opportunity and he is looking for a change in his life. His past experience and knowledge could be very helpful. He doesn't job jump, he gives a long time. You need sustainability from a town manager. What are you looking for in this town manager? What are attributes that you need to serve this community?

Jon: 5-year plan and big ticket items, finance and follow through. Mr. King has experience in this, he got a lot done.

Scott: "opinion leaders" and "educate". He would like the town manager to be an opinion leader. Mr. King feels he can be an opinion leader, you have to be chief positive opinion leader. You have to be honest with people.

Mary: Communication skills and grow economic develop with 2 exit off of the pike. Mr. King said that Millbury has that in common with Framingham. It is so easy to get here. There are so many things that can be done here as you have location, location, location.

Sandy: Millbury is very rich in history Blackstone River on its way to Rhode Island, President Taft visited his aunt in the center of town, and we have historic houses. What are your thoughts in preserving history in the town? Mr. Clark said that when he was town clerk in Framingham he found the incorporation book from 1700. He lives on the edge of the historical district. It is a challenge but we have to do it. He worked to restore an old mill in downtown Framingham. Chairman King also agrees that the 5-year plan and we will be having a lot of growth in the town coming up.

Thank you

Motion to adjourn by Selectman Krumsiek at 8:15 pm, seconded by Selectman Cristo.
Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Tish Hayes, Secretary

Francis B. King

Sandy J. Cristo

Mary Krumsiek

Scott Despres

Jon Adams

