

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

**March 21, 2013**

**6:00 p.m.**

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**Present:** Board of Selectmen: E. Bernard Plante; Francis B. King; Brian W. Stowell; Sandra J. Cristo; Town Manager, Bob Spain; Town Clerk, Jayne Davolio, Finance Director, Brian E. Turbitt, Finance Committee Chairman, Michael O'Connor.

**Absent:** Brian M. Ashmankas

Discussion regarding the ballot questions. The Blackstone Valley School decided to take their question out of the running because some of the other towns could not have their town meeting with the timeframe required. The question submitted by citizen's petition: 1) **Shall the town vote to accept the provisions of section six C of chapter forty of the General Laws, which authorize cities and towns to appropriate money for the removal of snow and ice from private ways therein open to public use?** The list that got passed out was a list of streets that were only accepted at Millbury town meeting. There are other ways to accept streets; old county roads are public ways. Laurie Connors, town planner, did a lot of research on this. Ms. Davolio explained that when she gave the list to the citizen she explained exactly what that list was and it was not meant to be part of the petition. Ms. Davolio met with Laurie Connors and Rob McNeil, DPW director, to discuss the private roadways and all get on the same page. Selectmen Stowell asked to have Laurie, Rob and Jayne at the next meeting to answer any questions regarding this issue.

**Motion** to approve **Question 1:** Shall the town vote to accept the provisions of section six C of chapter forty of the General Laws, which authorize cities and towns to appropriate money for the removal of snow and ice from private ways therein open to public use? for the ballot made by Selectman Stowell, seconded by Selectman King.

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**Question 2:** **Shall the Town of Millbury be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so-called, the amounts required to pay the principal and interest on the bonds to be issued in order to repair Brierly Pond dam and Ramshorn Pond dam, including the payment of all other costs incidental and related thereto?** This question is a debt exclusion as there has been a push to do Brierly Pond dam; we still do not know exact ownership but we have agreed to put this on the ballot; in the meantime we have received a failure report on Ramshorn Pond dam by the Department of Dam Safety. Between the two of them Mr. Spain's estimate to fix them is around \$2 million. This way if it passes at town meeting we will be able to fund these repairs. Selectman King's issue is that things have not improved enough for the public to take on additional debt. This was not mentioned in the budget at all at the budget presentation. Mr. Spain said that we are going to be forced to do Ramshorn and there will never be a good time financially to do it. This will amount to a \$0.10 increase in the tax rate for twenty years. Chairman of Finance Committee, Mike O'Connor spoke saying that seeing that Ramshorn ownership isn't in question then do that one this year and Brierly in the future. The only reason why the Brierly piece is on is because it was promised to the citizens. Selectman Stowell thought we should leave it up to the citizens to where they want to spend their money. Selectman King was not comfortable putting it on the ballot without a cost amount. Mr. Spain explained that you cannot put an amount in as you don't know how much it will be until you borrow the money.

**Motion to approve Question 2:** Shall the Town of Millbury be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so-called, the amounts required to pay the principal and interest on the bonds to be issued in order to repair Brierly Pond dam and Ramshorn Pond dam, including the payment of all other costs incidental and related thereto? for the ballot made by Selectman Stowell, seconded by Selectman King.

**Motion carried 3-1 (Selectman Cristo opposed).**

Selectman Cristo stated that she is against a 2 ½ override without knowing the ownership of Brierly Pond dam; would it be legal to do this if we do not own it. Selectman Stowell stressed that they are only putting it on the ballot-not supporting the questions, and they are not an override-they are a debt exclusion. Mr. Spain explained that the votes need to pass the town election and by a 2/3 vote at town meeting to be approved.

The next two questions total \$278,000 were put on because Mr. Spain explained we did not have the amount of free cash to cover this. He had already asked the school to cut \$109,000 from their budget which did not include these two articles and putting these items outside of the budget cost \$94,000 over a three year period. If you do not put this question on the ballot and it passes at Town Meeting we now will have an unbalanced budget and will have to cut the money from somewhere. Mr. O'Connor said that the finance committee would not support the next two questions. He feels that the Selectmen would be setting a precedent by putting these two questions on by saying that extraordinary measures to finance these two items is fine with them; saying that there is no money in the budget for these two items. Mr. Spain said that to take the leap of putting it on the ballot means that you support everything else, is a far stretch. They are putting it on the ballot to leave it to the people. Mr. Spain agonized over putting these two questions on the ballot-but if they pass at town meeting he will have to cut the budget somewhere. If he included these in the budget with the historical 60/40 split, our side of the world would need to cut 40% of that. Selectman Stowell doesn't think the school put enough time in their budget and trying to find the money to purchase these items. Mr. Turbitt said that these items pass-then they will affect the budget in 2015. Selectman King said that everyone else has to keep to their budgets, so why doesn't the school have to? Mr. O'Connor explained that the Manager already had to cut thousands from his budget so he doesn't blame him for not wanting to cut further. Selectman Stowell asked what the affect would be if both of these items pass and we do not put them on the ballot? Mr. Turbitt said he doesn't see why we shouldn't let the people decide if they want to do it as a debt exclusion. If we don't want to see the town side take another hit, then you will have to do it as a debt exclusion. In any case, the property tax will go up. Mr. Spain believes we will have to make further cuts anyway once the final budget numbers come through.

**Question 3: Shall the Town of Millbury be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so-called, the amounts required to pay the principal and interest on the bonds to be issued in order to purchase for the School Department district-wide technology equipment, including the payment of all other costs incidental and related thereto?**

**Question 4: Shall the Town of Millbury be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so-called, the amounts required to pay the principal and**

**interest on the bonds to be issued in order to fund for the School Department the new math textbook adoption, including the payment of all other costs incidental and related thereto?**

Motion made by Selectman Stowell to put Questions 3 & 4 on the Ballot. No second-No action taken on Questions 3 and 4.

**Adjournment**

Motion made by Selectman Stowell to adjourn at 7:45 p.m., seconded by Selectman King. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Tish Hayes, Secretary

E. Bernard Plante	_____
Francis B. King	_____
Brian W. Stowell	_____
Brian M. Ashmankas	_____
Sandy J. Cristo	_____

The Board of Selectmen