

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

November 13, 2012

7:00 p.m.

Present: Board of Selectmen: E. Bernard Plante, Brian W. Stowell, Brian Ashmankas, Sandy J. Cristo, Town Manager, Bob Spain, Edd Cote, Kevin Koczwara and concerned citizens.

Absent: Francis King

Previous Minutes

Motion to approve minutes of the meeting for October 23, 2012 made by Selectman Cristo, seconded by Selectman Stowell.

Motion carried unanimously.

Town Manager Report:

Mr. Spain is appointing Victor Irr to the **Emergency Management/Auxiliary Police**.

Motion to concur by with the appointment of Victor Irr to the Emergency Management Agency/Auxiliary Police made by Selectman Cristo, seconded by Selectman Ashmankas.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Spain is appointing Jeffrey Gould to the **Cultural Arts Council**.

Motion to concur with the appointment made by Selectman Ashmankas, seconded by Selectman Stowell.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Spain is appointing Sharon Davolio as a **Junior Clerk at the Senior Center**.

Motion to concur with the appointment made by Selectman Cristo, seconded by Selectman Ashmankas.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Spain would like to comment on Hurricane Sandy. We had a good plan in place, communication was good and electricity was restored in a timely fashion.

He wanted to thank a few people; the DPW, Police and Fire Departments and most of all Steve Kosiba our new EMA Director; because of his efforts we got people back up quicker as he stayed on target. Thanks to Superintendent Hitchcock for letting me have Steven as the EMA Director. The National grid website very accurate with showing outages by town; it was much better working with them this storm. Our town faired very well in this storm.

Winter Parking Ban:

There will be no parking allowed on any town road after the accumulation of two inches of snow-exception: parking is allowed on the north side of West Main Street between Gould Street and Waters Court.

Motion to put the winter parking ban into effect made by Selectman Cristo, seconded by Selectman Ashmankas.

Motion carried unanimously.

To follow up on the right of way between Rite-Aid and the candy store; whoever owns the candy store owns the right-of-way, it is not town property. It is the benefit of the building owner not for the benefit of the general public

The construction company will be tarring the road by the VFW. They would like to close the road on Wednesday, November 14, 2012 from 8:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Motion made by Selectman Stowell to close South Main Street in front of the VFW with a detail officer on November 14, 2012 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., seconded by Selectman Cristo.

Motion carried unanimously.

Laurie Connors, the Town Planner has asked for us to update Millbury's housing plan, the plan expired in September 2012. CMRPC approached Laurie to see if she would like to apply for a regional grant to update our housing plan.

Motion to authorize the Town Manager to endorse the Community Innovation Challenge Grant application by CMRPC to assist communities, including Millbury, with the cost-effective development of Housing Production Plans that will satisfy the requirement of such plans as stipulated in 760 CMR 56.03(4) made by Selectman Stowell, seconded by Selectman Ashmankas.

Motion carried unanimously.

Selectman Stowell read hearing notice at 7:30 p.m. to open public hearing.

Judy Cristo, Chairman of Board of Assessors spoke on the process of determining tax classification for Millbury. The amount to be levied for 2013 is \$20,447,119.23; an increase of 4% from 2012. We have experienced a decrease in values of 2.6% from 2012 values.

Breakdown by class of tax levy- 76.8% is residential; 11.79% commercial; 4.46% industrial; and 6.95% personal property. The Board of Assessors is recommending single classification; where all taxes are paid equally by various by classes of property set at \$16.48.

Motion to close public hearing made by Selectman Stowell, seconded by Selectman Cristo.

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Selectman Stowell to set a single tax rate of \$16.48, seconded by Selectman Cristo. Selectman Ashmankas stated that he made a campaign promise and he will keep it; he believes the better option is a split rate with a small commercial exemption; it is not the tax rate

that brings businesses to town. Chairman Plante agrees that a single tax rate is correct and we attract business because of it.

Mr. Cristo reiterated that Wheelabrator and Millbury Industrial Park came to town because of the tax rate.

Motion carried 3-1. Selectman Ashmankas opposed.

Mr. Cristo introduced Sanders Genna; the Assistant Assessor to the Board.

Puffins Informational Hearing:

Chairman Plante stated that he talked to Ms. McGovern the other day so he knew they had some new ideas.

Her husband spoke on her behalf saying that they have four children; she runs the restaurant and serves the community for 21 years. Ms. McGovern's husband read a letter from Karen; she apologized that she cannot be here as she was in a car accident and had surgery.

Motion to table the item for two weeks when Ms. McGovern is available and a full board will be here made by Selectman Stowell, seconded by Selectman Cristo.

Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Plante explained that they are extremely concerned that the restaurant did not stay open for the hours that were promised to them. There have been many staff changes and it is very difficult to run a restaurant. Selectman Stowell said that there was a stipulation that if there were any change in hours that she was to notify the Board and she did not. Chairman Plante also reiterated the fact that they are still looking for their distribution invoices that was requested in June. Ms. McGovern's husband asked if the anonymous tip to the ABCC came from the Board and discussion got heated towards Selectman Stowell. Chairman Plante said that we will wait until Ms. McGovern can come in and speak.

Robert McNeil asked for approval for round 2 of the **CIC grant application for the Storm Water Management Plan**. Last year we teamed up with 12 other towns and received a \$310,000 grant; this year more towns have joined the group and we are requesting another \$200,000.

Motion to allow the Manager to sign the application made by Selectman Stowell, seconded by Selectman Ashmankas. Motion carried unanimously.

Robert McNeil-DPW Update:

We have contracted with a local surveyor to generate plans for Central Cemetery we are trying to get our records in full electronic version and have them updated in a more regular manner. It has proved to be helpful so far. We have worked with a group from WPI for our two inactive

cemeteries – Dwinell and County Bridge – matching up existing known data with existing gravesites in the field. We hope to report on that by end of the year

The initial damage assessment is just under \$12,000 for Hurricane Sandy. We have sent in for reimbursement to FEMA through MEMA. We were lucky in Central MA; as emergencies go it was kind of a miss. We have flushed and winterized the irrigation system in the parks and cemetery.

We have applied for and received a grant from DEP called Save Money And Reduce Trash (SMART program). We are investigating to see if that program is applicable to Millbury. The hope is to reduce trash and increase recycling. We are involving members of public and members of our transfer station committee to look at other ideas that may help us. The Transfer Station will be opened the day after Thanksgiving and Saturday. We are going to try to encourage recycling Christmas wrapping paper; starting two weeks before Christmas each family will get a free leaf bag to throw the used wrapping paper in to recycle. The Christmas tree collection for sticker holders will be at our brush area.

Lake drawdowns have continued; the rains from the hurricane were not significant. Almost all of them have reached their mark. Cold weather will freeze up weed seeds and hopefully we will see some weed control through the winter.

We have received a second opinion from town counsel regarding Brierly pond dam ownership and that letter has been forwarded to The Office of Dam Safety and a copy will be sent to MA DOT. The RFP for the McCracken Rd engineering design has been sent to our engineering partners for their consideration and we will have them returned by end of the month.

RAC has scheduled its next meeting for November 28th at 7:00 pm here at town hall to discuss next year's roadway projects. If there are neighborhoods concerned about where they are on "to-do" list they can come discuss their concerns with the RAC. Our program is still with CMRPC and the mapping of the roads that need to be replaced in Town. The first snow was the 7th of this month; it seems to be getting earlier. The seasonal crew is gone, but it is good to welcome Joe Lobas who started Oct 15th. The cemetery expansion area brought 312 new plots which was voted by cemetery commission to make available for sale at time of death. They are selling singles, doubles and cremation only spaces. You can call DPW for a packet of information. Mr. McNeil has received the 25% redesign plans for the MA DOT project for the redesign of the 146 Bridge at Elm Street and West Main; it is a very interesting design. Will get input from the RAC and other responsible parties involved. If you want to look at plans they will be available at DPW office. The State should be scheduling a public hearing soon. Mr. Spain said that the design has 2 roundabouts to eliminate the lights. Mr. McNeil explained that initially it was just a bridge replacement but now it is a revamped design including the bridge itself slated to be replaced, and thanks to District 3 representing the town's interests, this is far more than a bridge replacement; it will be a complete project.

Selectman Stowell wanted to thank Mr. McNeil for these projects and the grants that he has received. The recycling which involves the community is a great idea.

Chairman Plante said that Rob is doing exactly what we want him to do; finding grant money; he knows how to work the system and does a great job. Mr. Alexandrowicz asked about the chemical spill at Barday and how the cleanup was going. Mr. McNeil said that they have been giving him monthly updates and it all is looking good. It will be ongoing for some time.

Selectman Ashmankas asked about the Roadway Advisory meeting being dependent on Chapter 90 money and amount of free cash? Mr. McNeil has explained that they will look at the McCracken Road RFP submissions and are looking at Auburn Rd, Stowe Rd, Appletree Drive, looking at partnering with Auburn on Gilbert Way but waiting for section to be accepted as a public way in Auburn.

Old/New Business

Selectman Cristo suggested a grace period of 30 days for our residents to pay their sewer bills; she would like the bills sent out on September 1 and April 1 and get back to a regular schedule. Mr. Spain explained that we are addressing those issues and are looking at getting bills out on time. We are looking at quarterly billing and outsourcing the billing. Like with taxes, people like to pay in installments so the amount of bill is broken up so it is less of a burden to the taxpayer. Selectman Cristo also wanted to remind everybody that the owner has to pay your sewer bill before you close on the sale of your house.

On a Good Note:

Congrats to the Millbury Volleyball team –They are District Champions for the first time and are in Tewksbury tonight at the State Semi-Finals and we wish them luck.

We would like to thank everyone who got out to vote. A letter was read letter from the Town Clerk thanking the police department, the school staff, superintendent office, DPW department, the senior work program, assistant and head clerk in her office, and the best poll-workers in all of Massachusetts and especially Doris Bianculli and Helen White and I wish them well in their retirement. Selectman Stowell added that the Town Clerk, Jayne Davolio worked tirelessly. Mr. Spain also said that it was a great turnout of 75% or better and they wall worked very well. Ms. Davolio is a great coach and does a great job getting it all done and organized with all those departments. Chairman Plante applauded everyone's dedication.

Mail:

Letter from the Bicentennial Committee regarding donations totaling: \$24,957.60.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

Citizen Speak:

Todd Willette spoke regarding having their right of way blocked by Rite-Aid. Selectman Stowell asked if we could send the Chief over to speak to them. Mr. Spain said that as far as enforcement we can't do a lot but we will send the Chief over to Rite-Aid. Please call the police when you see it happen so a uniformed officer can go to the scene.

Adjournment

Motion made by Selectman Stowell to adjourn at 8:15 p.m., seconded by Selectman Ashmankas. 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