

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES
March 19, 2012
Veterans Memorial Building Room 229
900 Main Street, Millis, MA 02054

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Andrea Wagner called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. The following persons were present: Chair Andrea Wagner, Vice Chair Donald Hendon, Clerk Charles Vecchi, Town Administrator Charles Aspinwall and Administrative Assistant Jennifer Cederberg.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: DEP fluorination grant awarded to the DPW in the amount of \$15,000.

TOWN BANDSTAND: Mr. Vecchi read the hearing notice. Mr. Aspinwall reviewed the purpose of the hearing and the repairs that are necessary to keep the bandstand intact. Chief Edison spoke concerning about the illegal/illicit activities taking place at the bandstand and the number of other related issues occurring in this area which require the Police Department to respond. He stated that there are numerous public safety concerns surrounding the bandstand.

Mr. Aspinwall illustrated what the costs could be in trying to keep the bandstand in place by speaking about other historical locations in Town that require attention and repair. He noted that in the 21 years he has worked in the Town, the bandstand has not been used for its intended purpose. He recommended seeking funds at a future Town Meeting to dismantle it. He recalled the work that the Town has had to do, including covering up graffiti, over the last several years and the funds that have been spent on that effort. Mr. Aspinwall also called attention to the MIIA inspection report prepared for the DPW as part of the playground inspection which noted that the rails/boards on the side are far too low for the height of the platform of the bandstand. This causes a safety hazard.

Jim McKay of the DPW noted the efforts that have been made to maintain the bandstand. He noted the liability of keeping it as is and reviewed portions of the inspection report prepared by MIIA. He also spoke about the efforts to replace the railings and stated that the entire roof needs to be replaced.

Nate Maltinsky of the Historical Commission reviewed the history of the bandstand. He stated that the commission is in favor of keeping it and repairing it with some funds from their gift fund. He also brought up the idea of relocating it to another area such as Oak Grove Farm. He noted that the committee would like time to look at options other than tearing it down. Sel. Vecchi questioned whether or not the bandstand could be moved and Mr. Maltinsky explained that steel beams could be put under it in order to safely relocate it. He further stated that the bandstand, built in the 1930's, is a signature piece in the Town and that Town needs to stop tearing down historical items instead of investing the money to rebuild them. He suggested that adding interior lighting to the bandstand would help keep kids out since the lighting that is in place now lights the exterior of the area.

Sel. Wagner reviewed the Town's public safety concerns and noted that she would be willing to grant the commission time given addressing the liability concerns in the immediate future. Mr. McKay noted that you could temporarily secure the site with a cemented fence.

Resident Meg Wilkes spoke in favor of keeping the bandstand. Resident Diane McBride proposed moving it to a vital area where it will be seen. The commission noted that they would like a 4-month timeframe to review all the options presented.

Sel. Vecchi stated that he would be in favor of a discussion period but that there would have to be a real plan put in place. Sel. Hendon stated that he would not have a problem having some discussion but that everyone needs to firmly decide on a timetable. Mr. McKay offered to get pricing on boarding the bandstand up in the meantime or installing a cemented fence. Mr. Maltinsky stated that the Commission would like 6 months to come up with some ideas and resources. Mr. Aspinwall stated that a concrete plan would need to be presented at that time.

The Board agreed, by consensus, to discuss this topic again at their next meeting and keep the hearing open to further discuss the costs to secure the site.

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Motion by Sel. Hendon, seconded by Sel. Vecchi, to continue the hearing on the future of the Town Bandstand until 4/2/12. The motion passed unanimously.

BUDGET HEARINGS: Town Clerk Lisa Hardin presented her budget. She began with the Office of the Town Clerk and noted the hardship that cutting her part-time position from 20 hours to 10 hours has caused. She further noted that she is requesting that this position be restored and then granted an additional 10 hours to bring the total hours of the position to 30. She stated that the increase in expenses is primarily for postage and additional costs for food for the added election in 2013. She reviewed the budget for the Board of Registrars. She then went on to review the Elections budget and noted that there are three elections and two Town Meetings next fiscal year.

Police Chief Keith Edison presented the budgets for the Police Department and the Dispatchers. He began with the Dispatch budget which is a total of \$233,137.28 which is an increase in \$500 for equipment repairs and supplies and an increase in wages for training of \$1,070 as well as increases in wages and benefits. Sel. Vecchi asked for explanations for the increases in training and lock up wages. He then went on to review the Police budget. He noted a typo in Form 4, Tuition/Training. He then went on to review the salary line item which is comprised of contractual increases.

Chief Edison reviewed his requests for restoration of services including a position which was eliminated in the 1990's. He explained that this position will offset some of the overtime costs and illustrated on how this position could focus on the growing issue of domestic violence. He also reviewed his request to restore mobile data terminals into the cruisers. He noted that this cost would be approximately \$17,500 and that currently none of the vehicles are equipped with them. Chief Edison stated that the life expectancy of these units are 3-5 years.

Chief Edison went on to review his request to purchase a Police Expedition or another like vehicle in the amount of approximately \$36,160. He noted how the vehicles currently in the fleet would be reassigned. He then closed with his request to increase the secretarial hours for his assistant from 20 to 25 hours per week.

BRAUN PROPERTY:

Motion by Sel. Hendon, seconded by Sel. Vecchi, that the Town of Millis not exercise their right of first refusal for purchase of the Braun property. The motion passed unanimously.

OPEN AND CLOSE TOWN MEETING WARRANT:

Motion by Sel. Hendon, seconded by Sel. Vecchi, to open the Town Meeting Warrant to add a warrant article for personnel plan amendments and add an article for contract approval for the SEIU contract. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Sel. Hendon, seconded by Sel. Vecchi, to close the Town Meeting Warrant. The motion passed unanimously.

SANITARY LANDFILL MONITORING:

Motion by Sel. Hendon, seconded by Sel. Vecchi, to approve the contract to Geosphere Environmental Management in the amount of \$31,974 for the purpose of Sanitary Landfill Monitoring and gas monitoring. The motion passed unanimously.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S SALARY: Sel. Wagner reviewed the history of the discussions surrounding the Town Administrator's contract who has been with the Town for over 21 years. She proposed that according to a salary

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survey that was conducted, that Mr. Aspinwall's salary be raised by approximately \$12,000. Sel. Hendon agreed that Mr. Aspinwall's salary is on the low end. Sel. Vecchi echoed this sentiment.

Finance Committee Chairman Chris Smith spoke in favor of an increase in the Town Administrator's salary by giving examples of items such as the financial position of the Town and the Town's bond rating as reasons behind his support. Mr. Aspinwall thanked him for his comments and encouraged anyone to contact the office with questions or comments for the Board of Selectmen as he believes this process should be public and transparent.

The Board will discuss this item again at their meeting on 4/2/12. Mr. Smith asked for the Board to give the Finance Committee their recommendation as soon as possible.

CONTRACT FOR LSP: Mr. Aspinwall reviewed the history of this request. He noted that the Finance Committee voted a reserve fund transfer of \$30,000 to remediate a contaminant found on the library site during the pumping of the groundwater. He stated that the LSP working on the issue cannot commence work until the contract has been signed. The Board discussed the meaning of the numbers of the contaminant found, noting that DEP finds an acceptable level of 5 and the level onsite was 12 and has since dropped.

Motion by Sel. Hendon, seconded by Sel. Vecchi, to approve the contract for the LSP services on 961 Main Street to AMEC MA Inc. in Westford, MA, for a total of \$29,040. The motion passed unanimously.

NIAGRA HALL ROOF:

Motion by Sel. Hendon, seconded by Sel. Vecchi, to award a contract for the Niagra Hall roof to LVC Contracting on 7 Cedar Avenue in Natick, MA, in the amount of \$15,000. The motion passed unanimously.

BUDGET REVIEW: Mr. Aspinwall reviewed his proposed balanced budget. He reviewed the revenue summary and explained the caveat with the CPA fund contingent on the purchase of the Dewey land. He highlighted what the other available funds consist of which are illustrated on page 2. He noted that the levy calculation on paper and on the DOR website are equal. He further stated that these recommendations could be revisited based on the actual governor's numbers. Mr. Aspinwall then went on to review the expenditure summary and the capital budget which he described as sparse. He stated that the total capital recommendations are \$650,428.

Mr. Aspinwall noted that the water and sewer budgets will be considered under totally separate articles this year. He then went on to review the proposed restorations in the operating budget. He noted that the health insurance budget is not going up 5%: it is only going up 1-1.5% and a number of subscribers moved to less expensive plans. He stated that the DPW Summer Help has been reinstated though all the DPW restorations have been made. He further informed the Board that the Charles River Pollution Control District's assessment has been pushed off until FY14.

Mr. Aspinwall stated that this is the first draft and further changes may be forthcoming.

RIDGE STREET CULVERT:

Motion by Sel. Hendon, seconded by Sel. Vecchi, to approve the change order for the ridge street culvert replacement project in the amount of \$17,508.35 to RA Hammond Co. The motion passed unanimously.

MEETING MINUTES:

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Motion by Sel. Vecchi, seconded by Sel. Wagner, to approve the regular session meeting minutes from 3/5/12. The motion passed with Sel. Hendon abstaining.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 10:03 p.m.,

Motion to enter into executive session to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion and union personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion and union personnel. By Roll Call Vote: Wagner – aye, Hendon – aye, Vecchi – aye.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer G. Cederberg, Administrative Assistant