

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES
April 18, 2012
Veterans Memorial Building Room 229
900 Main Street, Millis, MA 02054**

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Andrea Wagner called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. The following persons were present: Chair Andrea Wagner, Vice Chair Donald Hendon, Clerk Charles Vecchi, Town Administrator Charles Aspinwall.

ATM WARRANT: Mr. Aspinwall explained that the purpose of today's meeting was to finalize the warrant and that Article 1 for the election ballot be placed on the ATM Warrant. He read the items to be included in Article 1. He stated that Town Counsel's review also found an error in the article from the November Town Meeting concerning solar power panels on the High School roof which needs to be addressed via a new article 48 allowing the School to enter into a power purchase.

Motion by Sel. Hendon, seconded by Sel. Vecchi, to open the warrant for the Spring Annual Town Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Sel. Hendon, seconded by Sel. Vecchi, to add new article 1 for the election ballot and new article 48 for authorization for the School Committee to enter into a power purchase contract. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Sel. Hendon, seconded by Sel. Vecchi, to close the warrant for the Spring Annual Town Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Sel. Hendon, seconded by Sel. Vecchi, to approve and execute the warrant for the Spring Annual Town Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

SCHEDULES A&B: Mr. Aspinwall reviewed Schedules A and B of the Personnel Plan and noted that there is an issue with the Call Firefighters salaries being equivalent to the full-time union Firefighters. He suggested that the Board keep the salaries similar as had been in the past and that the public safety schedule on the personnel plan can be altered once the union rates are determined. Mr. Hendon recused himself from the discussion. Ms. Wagner suggested adjusting the personnel plan rates down to meet the union rates and make further adjustments, if necessary, once the union rates are negotiated. Fire Chief Warren Champagne suggested keeping the call firefighters pay equivalent to the union firefighters. He asked if the adjustment to the personnel plan could be made after the union contract is negotiated as it is going to impact a current call firefighter who is working a full-time temporary position who took a cut in pay because of this discrepancy.

Sel. Wagner noted that this issue is going to resurface every time there is not a settled contract. She commented that the new contract to be negotiated will be effective 7/1/12-6/30/13 and in all likelihood it will include a pay increase. Mr. Aspinwall stated that this is all subject to negotiation. Chief Champagne asked that the pay amounts be as equal as possible. Sel. Wagner asked if it is possible just to leave the rates in place for now. Mr. Aspinwall noted that there is a 4% difference in the rates. Chief Champagne stated that there are probably 10-12 people a change would effect. Ms. Wagner stated that she is not comfortable that the personnel plan rates are higher than the union rates.

Mr. Aspinwall and Sel. Wagner discussed whether or not any change in the personnel plan should be retroactive to July 1.

Motion by Sel. Wagner, seconded by Sel. Vecchi, to modify Schedule B of the Millis Personnel Plan by removing the salary Plan for PS2, PS3, PS4, PS5, PS6, PS7, PS8, and PS9 in the current plan and replacing that those that were in effect on November 6, 2011. The motion passed unanimously.

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Motion to modify the prior vote of the Board of Selectmen and clarify that the salary adjustment for the PS4 will apply only to the Fire Lieutenant/EMT and does not apply to the Animal Control Officer. The motion passed unanimously.

Sel. Wagner stated and any further discussion on the PS schedule would strive to get to the same level as the contract for the full-time firefighters and that any delay in time would result in a retroactive payment.

SNOW & ICE STIPEND: Mr. Aspinwall reviewed the history of the Snow and Ice Stipend which was instituted in the fall and that there has been discussion about retroactivity. He stated that Town Counsel has opined that this retroactive payment cannot be addressed on the Town Meeting warrant either as an unpaid bill or as a separate warrant article. He informed the Board that Town Counsel has suggested an alternate method which the effected employee could use to pursue the retroactive payment other than the Town Meeting Warrant. Ms. Wagner stated that she believes that it needs to get paid as it was voted on in November. Mr. Aspinwall stated that there are funds available to pay it out of the Snow and Ice Account. He informed the Board that he informed the employee how he would further need to pursue this matter to seek payment.

FLAG FOOTBALL SIGNS:

Motion by Sel. Hendon, seconded by Sel. Vecchi, to approve the application for a permit from Millis Recreation Flag Football to place standard lawn signs advertising Millis Flag Football signups in the lawn areas around the Town Park, School entrances, Library, Town Hall, pumping stations and islands from 4/19/12-5/31/12. The motion passed unanimously.

GIRL SCOUTS SIGNS:

Motion by Sel. Hendon, seconded by Sel. Vecchi, to approve a sign permit application for the Millis Girl Scouts to place standard lawn signs advertising the girl scout signups at the lawn entrance to the Town Hall, Library and Schools from 4/19/12-5/10/12. The motion passed unanimously.

SPRING STREET FARM:

Motion by Sel. Hendon, seconded by Sel. Vecchi, to approve a sign permit application for Spring Street Farm to have 3 2x4 directional and informational signs, one at Rt. 109 and Auburn Rd., one at Rt. 115 and Spring St., one at Spring and Village St., to be installed and removed on a daily basis from 8 a.m. – 7 p.m. from 4/19/12-12/31/12. The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURN: At 5:03 p.m.,

Motion by Sel. Hendon, seconded by Sel. Vecchi, to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer G. Cederberg, Administrative Assistant