

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES
December 17, 2012
Veterans Memorial Building Room 229
900 Main Street, Millis, MA 02054**

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Donald Hendon called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. The following persons were present: Chairman Donald Hendon, Vice Chair Charles Vecchi, Clerk Andrea Wagner, Town Administrator Charles Aspinwall and Administrative Assistant Jennifer Cederberg.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Bow Street and Forest Road water quality complaints; request from school department to create a skating rink on the tennis courts.

LADDER TRUCK: Fire Chief Rick Barrett spoke concerning Ladder 1 and its status. He reviewed the history of the purchase of Ladder 1 and its purchase in 1997 (used). He noted that the life expectancy of a ladder truck is 25 years while ours is 28 and that last year the repairs to the ladder truck were in excess of \$12,000. Chief Barrett stated that the frequent, costly repairs lead him to believe that it is time to replace the truck. He reviewed the list of mechanical issues that currently exist with the truck and what it takes to get it to pass state inspection noting that it is due to be inspected in February.

Chief Barrett stated that his recommendation is the same as the prior Fire Chief and that is for the Fire Department purchase a Quint which is a multi-purpose truck. He illustrated that he would suggest a 100' quint which holds 500 gallons of water and has a 6 man cab with water supply lines and fire attack lines. Chief Barrett then went on to review frequently asked questions such as why do we need a 100 ft. ladder, why do we not buy used again, and why can't we share resources with another Town. He stated that the ladder truck is used for more than just structure fires.

Chief Barrett went on to state that his recommendation is to replace ladder 1 and Engine 3 with a new Quint. He said that Engine 3 is the least used vehicle in the fleet: it has a small cab area and is not conducive to fire fighting. Chief Barrett reviewed the options for financing a Quint via a debt exemption with various terms. He noted that there is great concern that the Ladder truck will not pass inspection in February and that the lead time to purchase a quint is approximately 9 months. Chief Barrett noted that the goal is to do whatever it takes to avoid a failure in the midst of a call. Mr. Aspinwall stated that this would be a capital budget request. Ms. Wagner clarified that if it fails inspection in February, it will have to be taken off of the road. Chief Barrett informed the board that he has already begun initial discussions with surrounding towns on possibilities for mutual aid in the event the truck does fail.

The Town Administrator and Fire Chief will work together to come up with a plan on how to move forward in preparation for the February Inspection.

TOWN PROPERTY PURCHASE: Mr. Aspinwall reviewed a previously discussed request from Mr. Thomas McDonough to purchase a piece of Town owned property, map 19 parcel 137. He noted that Mr. McDonough is proposing building two single family homes in this area and he recommended to the Board that they not sell it at this point. He stated the property is not in tax title and therefore would require a Town Meeting vote. The Board agreed by consensus, to wait to see exactly what is proposed for the property before making a decision but to hold off on agreeing to sell it at this time.

Motion by Sel. Vecchi, seconded by Sel. Wagner, that at this point we do not support selling this property at the present time. The motion passed unanimously.

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE: Mr. Aspinwall presented the survey compiled by the Town of Weston and noted that this is the first time that the actual holiday is falling on a Tuesday making the holiday "eve" fall on a Monday. He stated that most of the area towns are letting people leave early between noon and 2 p.m. but that none of these towns typically work a 12 hour day on Monday.

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Sel. Vecchi stated that granting time off is something that the Selectmen have always done on the eve before a holiday and that this is a gift that he still supports. The Board discussed various options to address the potential closings/early releases for Christmas and New Year's Eve.

Motion by Sel. Vecchi, seconded by Sel. Wagner, that Christmas week we be closed on Monday, closed on Tuesday, on Wednesday Town Hall will be open until 7:30; on New Year's week, Town Hall will be open until 4:30 on Monday of Christmas week we be closed on Monday, closed on Tuesday, on Wednesday Town Hall will be open until 7:30; on New Year's week, Town Hall will be open until 4:30 on Monday, closed on Tuesday, and open until 7:30 on Wednesday, January 2nd, for the year 2013 only, Friday on both weeks normal. The motion failed.

Motion by Sel. Wagner, seconded by Sel. Wagner, that regarding the holiday hour schedule, for the week beginning 12/24/12, the offices will be closed on 12/24 and 12/25, the hours on Wednesday will be 8:30-7:30 p.m, Thursday, 8:30 – 4:30 p.m. and Friday 8:30-4:30 p.m.; that the week of New Years, the office hours will be Monday, 8:30-4:30, closed Tuesday, Wednesday 8:30-7:30, Thursday 8:30-4:30 p.m. and Friday 8:30-12:30 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

LICENSE RENEWALS:

Motion by Sel. Vecchi, seconded by Sel. Wagner, to approve the licenses on the list as inspected with the addition of Jalapa Mexican Grill. The motion passed unanimously.

COMMITTMENT:

Motion by Sel. Vecchi, seconded by Sel. Wagner, that we commit to the Collector final water bills and special commitments in the amount of \$1,610.13. The motion passed unanimously.

SPECIAL MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEE:

Motion by Sel. Vecchi, seconded by Sel. Wagner, that the position of Town Field Committee position be named as a Special Municipal Employee position. The motion passed unanimously.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REVIEW: Mr. Aspinwall informed the Board that his review is due in January and that he would be calling on them individually during the week of January 3rd after which time the Board will review him publicly.

MINUTES:

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

ADJOURN: At 8:50 p.m.,

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer G. Cederberg, Administrative Assistant