

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES  
April 7, 2014, 7:00 pm  
Veterans Memorial Building, Room 229  
900 Main Street, Millis, MA 02054**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Sel. Vecchi, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm. The following persons were present: Chairman Charles Vecchi, Clerk Christopher Smith, Town Administrator Charles Aspinwall, and Susan Vara.

**Motion by Sel. Vecchi, seconded by Sel. Smith to enter into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigating position. Also, to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel; to actually conduct collective bargaining and contract negotiations with non-union personnel; and the Chair does so declare. By Roll Call Vote: Smith—aye, Vecchi—aye.**

The Board will reconvene to open session.

**RECONVENED MEETING 7:49 PM** Sel. Vecchi reconvened the meeting at 7:49 pm. The following persons were present: Chairman Charles Vecchi, Vice Chair Andrea Wagner, Clerk Christopher Smith, Town Administrator Charles Aspinwall, and Susan Vara.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Sel. Smith announced that the Destination Imagination program teams did well at the latest States Competition. The Middle School Team came in first place. That team consists of Will Bouret, Ella Borst, Mia Coutts, Finn Day, Tommy DeMarzo, Colby Jones and Kendra Zarnofsky. The High School team, which consists of Kyle Davis, Kendall Jones, Casey Shearns, Brian Reilly, Jake Steeves, Bekah Kohls, and Ben McAuliffe, came in second in this competition.

Both teams will be representing Massachusetts in the Global Finals in Knoxville, TN. Fundraising events will be occurring within Millis such as a pasta dinner, flamingo flocking, retail fundraisers, and a turkey shoot in order for the teams to attend. Any questions you can email [millisdi@gmail.com](mailto:millisdi@gmail.com) teams to.

**STORMWATER HEARING OPENED**

**Motion by Sel. Wagner, seconded by Sel. Smith to open the Stormwater Permit Hearing for Hickory Hill. The motion passed unanimously.**

**Motion by Sel. Wagner, seconded by Sel. Smith to continue the Stormwater Permit Hearing for Hickory Hill until after items 14-065, 14-066, and 14-067 on the agenda have been complete. The motion passed unanimously.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Jim McKay, Assistant Department of Public Works Director, introduced Courtney Bailen. Ms. Bailen is here to request permission for her High School Senior Project. Her project includes building a storage shed that would hold the various soccer teams' equipment. The location of the shed would be next to the current DPW Garage located at the Town Park. This location was picked because there is already security in place and it would be easy access for the High School soccer teams to get their equipment.

**Motion by Sel. Wagner, seconded by Sel. Smith to grant Courtney Bailen permission to construct a storage shed for soccer equipment subject to coordination with the Department of Public Works. The motion passed unanimously.**

**MSBA STATEMENT OF INTEREST**

School Superintendent, Nancy Gustafson spoke of potential reimbursement through the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) for projects that would address the facilities needs in the schools due to overcrowding and aging facilities. In order to submit the application for this process, she needs the support of the Selectmen through a Statement of Interest letter. The hope is to address the Middle/High School overcrowding issues and also to make renovations at the Clyde Brown Elementary School to address space needs.

**Motion by Sel. Wagner, seconded by Sel. Smith as follows: Resolved: Having convened in an open meeting on April 7, 2014, prior to the closing date, the Millis Board of Selectmen, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form dated April 1, 2014 for the Millis Middle/High School as Priority #1 and for the Clyde Brown Elementary School as Priority #2 which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future: #2, Elimination of existing severe overcrowding which exists at the building which houses both Millis Middle and Millis High School and #5, Prevention of severe overcrowding expected to result from increased enrollments at the Middle/High School and #5, Replacement, renovation or modernization of school facility systems, such as roofs, windows, boilers, heating and ventilation systems, to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related costs in the Clyde Brown Elementary School; and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the City/Town/Regional School District to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority. The motion passed unanimously.**

**REPRESENTATIVE DOOLEY**

Representative Dooley, who represents Precinct 1 in Millis, came to introduce himself and to speak of local aid packages that he is working on to assist area Towns. He is trying to create more local aid. He spoke of working with Representative Linsky, and that they have a good working relationship.

He also would like all Millis residents to know he is available should the need arise. He stated that no issue is too small, and he would be happy to help all residents in Millis, not just the ones in Precinct 1.

**DOWNTOWN ZONING CHANGES**

Attorney Carolyn Murray, Town Counsel, spoke of the proposed zoning changes and that there is a property owner in Town who would be affected. The proposed changes would eliminate the "Industrial" zoning that is in place currently. The creation of two zoning districts will, hopefully, revitalize blighted, vacant or under- utilized properties, one of those properties is on the Ann and Hope site.

Mr. Irwin Chase, owner of the Ann and Hope property was present along with his brother and business partner, Mr. Sam Chase, and their attorney, Peter Tamm. Attorney Tamm asked the Board of Selectmen to entertain some further amendments to continue to allow some current zoning perhaps

with a special permit, and if no amendments either postpone this to the Fall Town Meeting or remove the article all together from the warrant. Lengthy discussion ensued.

Considerable amount of thought has been put in by the MAPC in creating the re-zoning of this area. At this time, the Selectmen feel that the article that has been submitted for Town Meeting should stay as it is and allow the voters of Millis to decide about the re-zoning. The Selectmen also suggested that anyone can make an amendment on the floor at the Town Meeting, should that be desired.

### **STORMWATER HEARING**

**Motion by Sel. Wagner, seconded by Sel. Smith to re-open the Stormwater Hearing for Hickory Hill. The motion passed unanimously.**

Sel. Smith read the Stormwater Permit Application as advertised in the newspaper. It was noted that Barbara Thissell is here representing the Board and that Mike Carter from GCG Associates is present for the water/sewer aspect of this hearing.

Daniel Merrikin, from Merrikin Engineering made the presentation of the project. He spoke of the five different permits that have been applied for throughout the various boards in Town. He spoke of the connections to the Town's water main on Acorn Street and Farm Street, water pressure, and performing an analysis of the pressure at a fire hydrant . He also spoke of the sewer extension which would install a new sewer line, abandon the 6" water line, and reconstruct the road. He also spoke of total gallonage, tie-ins for abutting neighbors, pump station, and the homeowners association that will be created.

The other permits include a land disturbance permit, stormwater permit, and municipal storm drain permit. It was noted that the storm drain will improve drainage on Acorn Street along with the functionality of the storm drain. He also spoke of drainage improvements on Farm Street which would alleviate a poor drainage issues in that neighborhood.

The land disturbance and stormwater permits are inter-related. The plan provided exceeds State and local regulations in terms of infiltration, treatment, and handling of run off.

More discussion ensued pertaining to the Farm Street drainage issues.

**Motion by Sel. Wagner, seconded by Sel. Smith to continue the Stormwater Hearing until April 28<sup>th</sup> at 8:45. The motion passed unanimously.**

### **NOMINATION OF INSPECTOR OF ANIMALS**

**Motion by Sel. Wagner, seconded by Sel. Smith to nominate Brenda Hamelin as Inspector of Animals for the Town of Millis. The motion passed unanimously.**

### **OPERATIONS DIRECTOR JOB DESCRIPTION REVIEW**

Mr. Aspinwall spoke of the vacancy of the Operations Director position currently and would like to take this time to review the job description to update prior to posting the position.

**Motion by Sel. Wagner, seconded by Sel. Smith to modify the Operations Director title to Operations Support Manager and that the job description be amended to include that this position shall manage**

**public notification systems including the web page and reverse 911 functions and shall remain at the same pay grade as the Operations Director. The motion passed unanimously.**

**ASSIGNMENT AGREEMENT**

Mr. Aspinwall informed the Board that the School has entered into an agreement with Broadway Electrical to install the solar panels on the Middle/High School roof. Unfortunately, Broadway Electrical is no longer in business, so they have reached an agreement to assign the contract to GNS Solar Installers with terms and agreements to remain the same.

**Motion by Sel. Wagner, seconded by Sel. Smith to approve the Assignment Agreement between Broadway Electrical Company/GNS Solar Installers and the Town of Millis. The motion passed unanimously.**

**COMMITMENT TO THE COLLECTOR**

**Motion by Sel. Wagner, seconded by Sel. Smith to make a commitment to the Collector for March, 2014 final water bills and special commitments in the amount of \$370.63. The motion passed Sel. Wagner and Sel. Smith voted, Sel. Vecchi was absent from this vote.**

**BASEBALL PARADE**

Millis Youth Baseball and Softball requested permission to hold their annual parade at 9:00 am on Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup>. The anticipated participants will be no more than 275. The parade will begin behind the Clyde Brown Elementary School and proceed down Spring Street, making a right onto Main Street, turning right onto Plain Street and finally turning right onto Monroe Street where the players and coaches will enter the Major League field.

**Motion by Sel. Wagner, seconded by Sel. Smith to approve the request of Millis Youth Baseball and Softball to hold their annual parade to kick-off their Baseball/Softball season at 9:00 am on Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup>. The parade will begin behind the Clyde Brown Elementary School and proceed down Spring Street, making a right onto Main Street, turning right onto Plain Street and finally turning right onto Monroe Street where the players and coaches will enter the Major League field on the first base side and subject to coordination with the Police Department. The motion passed unanimously.**

**CENTENNIAL TREE LOCATION USE OF FUNDS**

Jim McKay spoke of the original Centennial Park and the donation of \$5,000 from Mr. Kazis to relocate this park. The location Mr. McKay suggests to relocate Centennial Park is at the turnaround at the Clyde Brown Elementary School. He would like to put a Pin Oak tree in this location along with the original placard, a flag pole, and a couple of benches.

**Motion by Sel. Wagner, seconded by Sel. Smith to give Mr. James McKay authorization to spend the funds for the relocation of the Centennial Tree to the turnaround at the Clyde Brown School as presented. The motion passed unanimously.**

**APPOINTMENT OF ASSOCIATE MEMBER OF THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**

Mr. Donald Roman, a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals requested the appointment of Skip Coppola as an Associate Member of the Zoning Board of Appeals.

**Motion by Sel. Wagner, seconded by Sel. Smith to appoint Skip Coppola to be an Associate Member of the Zoning Board of Appeals. Sel. Wagner and Sel. Smith approved, Sel. Vecchi abstained.**

#### **REQUEST TO REMOVE TOWN TREES**

A request from the owners of Victory Lane Restaurant has been sent to the Board of Selectmen's office to remove the trees from in front of their establishment since the roots have been growing into their pipes. Mr. Aspinwall suggested that even if the trees came down, the root system is still established and it may not eliminate the problem.

The Board would like Tree Warden, Mr. Robert Cantoreggi's opinion as to how to proceed with this problem.

#### **LIONS CLUB EYEMOBILE**

**Motion by Sel. Wagner, seconded by Sel. Smith to hold an Eyemobile on April 26, 2014 in the parking lot of the Memorial Building from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm. The Eyemobile will offer free eye and health screenings to residents of Millis. The motion passed unanimously.**

#### **MINUTES**

**Motion by Sel. Wagner, seconded by Sel. Smith to approve the Regular Session meeting minutes of March 24, 2014. The motion passed unanimously.**

#### **SIGNING OF ELECTION WARRANT**

**Motion by Sel. Wagner, seconded by Sel. Smith that the Selectmen execute the warrant for the Town Election to be held on Monday, May 5, 2014 from 7:00 am—8:00 pm. Also, to sign the warrant stating: In the name of the Commonwealth, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town who are qualified to vote in the Annual Town Election to vote at Precinct I, Precinct II, and Precinct III in the Veterans Memorial Building on Monday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014 from 7:00 am—8:00 pm for the following purpose: To cast their votes in the Annual Town Election for the candidates for the following offices: Moderator for a one year term, Selectman for a three years, Town Clerk for three years, School Committee there are two, each for three years, Board of Health for three years, Library Trustee for three years, Planning Board for five years, Housing Authority for five years, and two Constables each for a three year term. The motion passed unanimously.**

The next Board of Selectmen meeting will be held Monday, April 14, 2014 at 7:30 pm in Room 229.

#### **ADJOURNMENT 11:23 pm**

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

Respectfully Submitted:

Susan K. Vara