

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES
February 24, 2014
Veterans Memorial Building, Room 229
900 Main Street, Millis, MA 02054

CALL TO ORDER: Sel. Vecchi called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m. The following persons were present: Chairman Charles Vecchi, Vice Chairman Andrea Wagner, Clerk Christopher Smith, Town Administrator Charles Aspinwall, Susan Vara.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Sel. Vecchi announced that the Board of Selectmen will be meeting on February 26, 2014 at 6:00 in Room 220 to discuss the design contract for the exterior of the Veterans Memorial Building and masonry, they will also discuss the grant application for the Ellice School, and the Village Street sewer extension.

There is a survey for the Fields Advisory Committee that is online. If you cannot complete the study online, please call the Town Administrator's office and request a copy that can be mailed to you.

GUEST SPEAKER:

Sel. Richard DeSorgher of Medfield came to discuss the possibility of regionalization and mutual cooperation between surrounding towns.

He suggested creating a multi-town committee including Millis, Norfolk, Dover-Sherborn, Medway, Westwood, Walpole, and Medfield in order to share ideas, information, equipment, staffing, among other things. His hope is to ask each Selectmen's office to appoint a member of the community to this newly formed committee, which he would ultimately like to see up and running sometime in May.

Sel. DeSorgher plans to meet with other surrounding towns and keep communication open pertaining to the potential new committee.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT CIRCUS REQUEST:

Kris Fogarty, Recreation Director, requested permission to host a circus this year instead of the carnival.

The benefits to hosting a circus are they company comes at 6:00 am, start setting up the main tent at approximately 9:00 am (the public is welcome to attend to watch), they have two performances one at 4:30 pm and one at 7:30 pm then they break down the circus and leave by 5:30 am the next morning. Another benefit is school will be out of session at this time of year. The date of the circus would be Monday, June 30, 2014. The big top tent can hold 1000 people.

There was discussion about insurance and parking capacity which Kris will follow-up on. This will be discussed again at a future Board of Selectmen's meeting.

BUDGET PRESENTATION:

Department of Public Works

Sel. Vecchi began this presentation with a comment about potholes in Town. He asked Jim McKay, the Assistant Director of the DPW to elaborate on this issue. Jim stated that because of the recent warm

and cold weather that potholes are beginning to appear. He also stated that they cannot be filled in with asphalt until the water is out of the hole and that hot asphalt is preferred since it will stand up to plowing.

Snow and ice expenses for FY14 were discussed. At this time, \$162,968 was budgeted for snow and ice and year to date, \$303,917.72 has been expended leaving a balance of -\$140,949.72.

Mr. McKay spoke of salaries, service restoration of one full time Water/Sewer HEO Laborer, and a request of a new backhoe with an angle plow. He also spoke of the transfer station budget, street lighting budget, sewer and water budgets.

Mr. McKay asked for an increase in the snow & ice budget, park expenses, and a 2% increase in wages for all DPW departments per contractual agreement with AFSCME .

There was discussion pertaining to flushing fire hydrants. Mr. McKay would like to hire Woodward & Curran to design a unidirectional flushing program in order to effectively and efficiently flush the hydrants. The cost of this design is approximately \$20,000 which would include two books and a compact disc which can be downloaded onto the GIS System.

This presentation concluded with Mr. McKay thanking the workers for their many hours of work put in—particularly this winter has been a challenge with the recent snow storms, water main break, and sewer main break. His thanks goes out to the plow contractors in town as well.

MILLIS BEAUTIFICATION DAY:

The Millis Garden Club and the Millis Lions Club will be co-sponsoring Millis Beautification Day which will be held on April 12, 2014. They are requesting approval of the use of the Town’s resources such as the DPW and Veterans Memorial Building and grounds. A proclamation for the Selectmen to issue was also included.

Motion by Sel. Wagner, seconded by Sel. Smith to declare April 12, 2014 Millis Beautification Day.

Motion by Sel. Wagner, seconded by Sel. Smith to approve Millis Garden Club and Millis Lions Club to hold their event subject to coordination with the Department of Public Works and to approve the use of the Veterans Memorial Building and grounds. Both motions passed unanimously.

WATER/SEWER COMMITMENT TO COLLECTOR:

Motion by Sel. Wagner, seconded by Sel. Smith to commit to the collector for the third quarter of FY14 the water/sewer amount of \$455,841.28. The motion passed unanimously.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR’S REVIEW:

Sel. Vecchi stated that the Board of Selectmen discuss the performance of the Town Administrator and feel that he is doing a wonderful job—his level of diligence has not dropped.

Sel. Wagner reiterated what Sel. Vecchi said.

Sel. Smith wrote that he was happy with Mr. Aspinwall’s performance with the five major focus areas which include: General Assistance to the Selectmen, Financial Management, Personnel Administration, Collective Bargaining Agent, Public Works Management. There were a couple of focus areas for 2014

which include “Developing Staff”, keeping current on updating public documents and keeping them readily available for the public. Overall, Sel. Smith is happy with the Town Administrator’s performance and is looking forward to another successful year.

DESIGNATE SELECTMEN REPRESENTATIVE FOR FIRE CHIEF CONTRACT:

Discussion ensued about selecting a representative to negotiate the Fire Chief’s contract. Sel. Vecchi suggested it be either Sel. Wagner or Sel. Smith, since his term will be ending shortly. Sel. Wagner has done it in the past and would be happy to do it again in the future. Sel. Smith also would be happy to participate in this capacity. Ultimately, Sel. Smith was selected to be the Board of Selectmen representative.

REQUEST FOR ABATEMENT FOR DONALD DECKER:

Mr. Donald Decker sent a request for an abatement for the sewer portion of his bill. In order to assess the situation, his current bill and what was billed in previous years was studied. In February, 2013, he was billed 216,000 gallons, where in the past it was 18,000 gallons. In May, 2013 he was billed 175,000 gallons and has been billed in the past 25,000 gallons. The total abatement request for the sewer portion only is \$3,562.13.

Motion by Sel. Wagner, seconded by Sel. Smith to grant an abatement to Donald Decker, 470 Main Street, Millis, MA for the second quarter of FY13 of \$2,113.47 and any interest attributed to that and for the third quarter of FY13 to waive the sewer of \$1,682.15 and interest accrued for a total of \$3,562.13.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Motion by Sel. Wagner, seconded by Sel. Smith to approve the January 27, 2014 meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Sel. Wagner, seconded by Sel. Smith to approve both the regular session and executive session meeting minutes of February 10, 2014. The motion was approved by Sel. Vecchi and Sel. Smith, Sel. Wagner abstained.

ANNOUNCEMENT:

Sel. Vecchi made an announcement that the Town has an election coming up and there are vacancies in various areas that need filling. Some positions that will be vacating are: Selectmen, Constable, and Board of Health. The Planning Board, School Committee and Library Trustee have had some interest in taking out papers, but if anyone is interested, they can still do so.

Next meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be on February 26, 2014 at 6:00 pm in Room 220. The following meeting will be March 10, 2014, 7:30 pm in Room 229.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion by Sel. Vecchi to enter in to executive session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the government’s bargaining or litigating position. Also, to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel; and the Chair does so declare (Union Contracts: Police, Dispatchers; Police Chief’s contract). By Roll Call Vote: Smith—aye, Wagner—aye, Vecchi—aye.

Respectfully Submitted:

Susan K. Vara