

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES  
Monday, September 22, 2014, 7:30 PM  
Middle/High School Auditorium  
245 Plain Street, Millis, MA 02054**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Sel. Wagner called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. The following persons were present: Chair Andrea Wagner, Vice-Chair Christopher Smith, Clerk James Neville, Operations Support Manager Karen Bouret, and Susan Vara. Also in attendance were Fields Advisory Committee members Jim McKay, David Baker, Sean Doherty, and Rich Nichols as well as Chuck Adelsberger and Kimberly Drake from CDM Smith.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS/CDM SMITH PRESENTATION**

Chuck Adelsberger did a PowerPoint presentation on the athletic fields preliminary design project. (See Document A) Mr. Adelsberger began by speaking about the dissatisfaction found in the community survey results and the poor quality of the current fields due to compaction and overuse. He then went on to talk about proposed improvements including a High School synthetic turf stadium field and track, synthetic turf at Clyde Brown, renovation of existing fields at Town Park plus new tennis and basketball courts, and a new natural turf field at Oak Grove. Kimberly Drake spoke about potential project cost and the merits of synthetic turf over natural turf. The floor was then opened to questions from attendees.

The Selectmen, Fields Advisory Committee, and CDM Smith experts fielded many questions from residents.

**Will there be improvements in safety to the Town Park at the existing fields and bandstand area?**

Chuck Adelsberger said Town Park areas will improve from a maintenance standpoint and wear and tear will be far less since the fields will have time to rest between uses.

**How is maintenance currently handled at Oak Grove Field, the Schools, and Town Park?**

Dave Baker said currently the Town DPW maintains some of the fields, while the School is maintained separately, and Oak Grove is handled as a third entity. The Fields Committee is recommending treating all fields and park areas as one to streamline maintenance.

**Have residents that live adjacent to the fields been asked how they feel about lighting?**

CDM said there will be newer and better lighting that will target the fields more directly. The High School field as well as tennis courts and baseball field at Town Park are already lit. The only new lighting that has been proposed is at Clyde F. Brown and the timing will be looked at.

**Will Lifelight still be able to use the football field to land on in an emergency?**

Dave Baker said he met with Fire Chief Rick Barrett and other options are being researched but ultimately the decision will be the Chief's and he has access to any area he deems appropriate during an emergency.

**Will the Little League/Triple A field at Town Park still be available for use by all residents?**

Rich Niles said yes, residents will be able to sign up for a time slot.

**The State has projected a decline in enrollment at local schools, has that fact been considered when determining the need for new fields?**

Rich Nichols said field use has been steadily increasing since kids often play multiple sports.

**Has there been discussion about possible use of CPA funds for the project?**

Chris Smith said the CPA funds are something the BOS will consider along with other options when funding is looked at.

**Has the Oak Grove Farm Commission been included in discussions about the Fields proposal?**

Dave Baker said the Oak Grove Farm Commission has been involved and chose the site location for the proposed soccer field at Oak Grove.

**Where will games and practices occur during building, and if the plan does not pass what is the plan for making the existing fields safer for athletes?**

Chuck Adelsberger said building will be scheduled around the sports seasons. Dave Baker reiterated that a centralized Town field maintenance plan will be suggested to the BOS even if the new fields are not approved.

**Noise and traffic will likely increase at Clyde Brown due to the field use, how will that be addressed?**

Rich Nichols there will be time limits on field use in respect to the neighbors. Dave Baker added that the consultants are being asked to address potential parking and traffic issues.

**How has drainage at the proposed football field/track been addressed?**

Kimberly Drake explained that synthetic turf has a 12" deep layer of stone under the field that allows water to infiltrate into the ground and will significantly reduce runoff.

**What are the environmental and health effects of synthetic turf?**

Kimberly Drake said studies have shown that no additional toxins have been found in runoff from synthetic turf except in urban areas where the toxins were already present in the ground. Kim explained that the nap that has been proposed is not conducive to causing more injuries although it will generate more heat than natural turf.

**Is it possible to provide a few different voting options for what fields will be included – for example exclude Oak Grove field but go forward with the school fields?**

Andrea Wagner said no, it all needs to be presented as one question.

**How often would the synthetic turf need to be replaced?**

Kim Drake said the proposal is based on 8 years but typically it is 10-12 years when the “carpet” needs to be replaced.

**If the schools aren’t currently using the Oak Grove Fields why is there a need to add another one at that location?**

Dave Baker said the existing natural fields need a chance to rest in order to stay in good shape.

**What benefits would the taxpayers see from field rental?**

Andrea Wagner said some of the money would go towards maintenance of the fields. Chris Smith added that this is only the beginning of discussions regarding financing the project, and nothing has been decided yet.

Andrea Wagner asked that the Fields Presentation portion of the meeting be concluded.

**Sel. Smith made a motion to recess at 9:45 pm. The motion was seconded by Sel. Neville, and passed unanimously.**

**Sel. Smith made a motion to reopen the meeting at 9:55 pm. The motion was seconded by Sel. Neville, and passed unanimously.**

**PROPOSAL FOR FARM STREET SEWER CONSTRUCTION SERVICES**

**Sel. Smith made a motion to approve the proposal from GCG Associates, Inc., for construction observation services for the proposed sewer extension at Farm Street in the amount of \$36,260.00. The motion was seconded by Sel. Neville and passed unanimously.**

**NIAGARA HOSE TOWER BID**

Chris Smith said the Town received only one bid for the project which was well over the expected budget. Chris said the Town Administrator has recommended that the project be re-bid.

**Sel. Smith made a motion to reject the Niagara House Hose Tower Bid from Kneeland Construction in the amount of \$39,400.00. The motion was seconded by Sel. Neville and passed unanimously.**

**PLAYGROUND COMMITTEE INVOICE APPROVAL**

Chris Smith presented an invoice from O’Brien & Sons. Denise Gibbons from the Playground Committee requested approval to pay \$2037.48 less the \$62.48 finance charge for a total of \$1975.00 for the donor wall which has been received but not yet installed.

**Sel. Smith made a motion to approve payment of the O’Brien & Sons, Inc., invoice in the amount of \$1975.00. The motion was seconded by Sel. Neville and passed unanimously.**

**APPROVAL OF NE SIGNATURE PROPERTIES SIGN LOCATION**

Per Jim McKay, the sign was previously approved by the BOS but a new location has been proposed.

**Sel. Smith made a motion to approve the new location of the NE Signature Properties Sign commemorating Millis sports teams on Main Street near the gate at Old Dover Road and J. William Heights. The motion was seconded by Jim Neville and passed unanimously.**

**STABILIZATION RESERVE POLICY CHANGE**

**Sel. Smith made a motion to pass on the Stabilization Reserve Policy Change until a later date. The motion was seconded by Sel. Neville and passed unanimously.**

**APPOINTMENT OF CROSSING GUARD**

Sel. Wagner said that based on a recommendation from Sgt. William Dwyer, she is moving to appoint Joanne Monroe as a crossing guard pending a satisfactory CORI and physical.

**Sel. Smith made a motion to appoint Joanne Monroe to the position of Traffic Supervisor subject to a satisfactory CORI and physical. The motion was seconded by Jim Neville and passed unanimously.**

**CONSENT ITEMS**

**Sel. Smith made a motion to approve both the regular and executive session minutes from 9/8/14 as written. The motion was seconded by Jim Neville and passed unanimously.**

**ADJOURNMENT: 10:05 PM**

**A motion was made by Sel. Smith, and seconded by Sel. Neville to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted:

Karen M. Bouret