

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES
Monday, March 21, 2016 at 7:30 PM
Veterans Memorial Bldg. Room 229
900 Main Street, Millis, MA 02054**

CALL TO ORDER: Sel. Smith called the meeting to order at 7:40 pm. The following persons were present: Chair Christopher Smith, Vice-Chair James Neville, Clerk James McCaffrey, Operations Support Manager Karen Bouret, and Town Administrator Charles Aspinwall.

SCHEDULED BUSINESS

Budget Discussion and the Determination to Place a General Override and/or Debt Exclusion Question on the May 2, 2016 Ballot

Sel. Smith said this meeting was added to the schedule because the School Department thought there would be the need for an override. However, Sel. Smith said he received an email from Marc Conroy, Chair of the School Committee, which stated that “based on the revenue projections we received this week, the school committee will not be requesting an operational override”. Sel. Smith said although the School no longer needs an override, the Town does need to consider adding one for road repairs.

Mr. Aspinwall said that in addition to Chapter 90 funds, he outlined a plan to try and keep the roads in good repair at a recent Board meeting. Mr. Aspinwall suggested an override to raise \$2.4 million over eight years, which, coupled with the \$2.75 million from Chapter 90 would raise the \$5.15 million needed from repairs. Mr. Aspinwall said this would allow the Town to address some of the fair and poor roads immediately, but it would be a several year process to get to all of the roads. Sel. Smith raised concerns about not addressing the roads quickly enough saying that residents may be upset to be paying increased taxes with only minimal rewards. Sel. McCaffrey said he agrees but the Town is face with several other future tax increases due to capital projects like the Police Station and Clyde F. Brown and said at least this would be a step in the right direction.

Sel. Smith suggested adding \$30,000 to the override amount to help cover Council on Aging increased staffing hours and the Recreation Director’s Salary. Sel. Smith argued that it would be a very minimal increase to taxpayers and could be a good solution if there will already be an override. Sel. Neville voiced concern that it could be confusing to have a menu of items on the override and disagreed that the override should be for more than road repairs. Sel. McCaffrey agreed that he is not in support of adding additional items.

Sel. Neville made a motion that the Board add a Levy Limit Override (G.L. c. 59, § 21C(g)) on the spring election ballot on May 2, 2016 as follows “Shall the Town of Millis be allowed to assess an additional \$300,000.00 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purposes of road repairs for fiscal year beginning on July first 2016?” The motion was seconded by Sel. McCaffrey. Sel. Smith voted no. The motion passed with a vote of 2 to 1.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Sel. Neville, seconded by Sel. McCaffrey to adjourn at 8:25pm. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted: Karen M. Bouret