

Select Board Meeting Minutes 1/11/21

Sel. McCaffrey called the meeting to order at 6:35pm. The following persons were present via Zoom: Sel. Pete Jurmain, Sel. Erin Underhill, Town Administrator-Michael Guzinski and Operations Support Manager Karen Bouret

21-001 COVID-19 Update/Vaccination Update

Board of Health Director John McVeigh said Millis is still in the “red” status as are the majority of towns in Massachusetts. Mr. McVeigh said they’ve received the first vaccines and they will be bringing them to Franklin to begin administering them to surrounding town’s first responders this week. Mr. McVeigh explained that there are three phases in order of priority for the vaccine rollout, put in place by the State. Kathy Lannon, Nurse and Board of Health member, said the demand for nurses for administering the vaccines is extremely high. Ms. Lannon said it’s a credit to Millis that we had a nurse on staff and were able to receive the vaccines that will be distributed.

21-002 Enterprise Funds Advisory Committee Member

Sel. Underhill made a motion to appoint

Jaikur LeBlanc as a voting member from the Board of Health to the Enterprise Funds Advisory Committee through June 30, 2021. The motion was seconded by Sel. Jurmain. Sel. McCaffrey polled the Board and the motion passed unanimously.

21-003 Appointment of Reserve Officer

Police Chief Soffayer asked the Board to confirm Colby Zitoli’s appointment as a Reserve Police Officer stating that she is currently a public safety dispatcher in Millis. Mr. Guzinski said he approves the Chief’s recommendation to appoint Ms. Zitoli.

Sel. Jurmain made a motion to approve the Town Administrator’s appointment of Colby Zitoli as. Subject to a drug screen, psychological exam and physical. The motion was seconded by Sel. Underhill. Sel. McCaffrey polled the Board and the motion passed unanimously.

21-004 Appointment of Part Time Public Safety Dispatcher

Police Chief Soffayer asked the Board to confirm Riley Brown’s appointment as a Part-Time Public Safety Dispatcher. Mr. Guzinski said he approves the Chief’s recommendation to appoint Ms. Brown.

Sel. Underhill made a motion to approve the Town Administrator’s appointment of Riley Brown as a Part-Time Public Safety Dispatcher subject to a physical. The motion was seconded by Sel. Jurmain. Sel. McCaffrey polled the Board and the motion passed unanimously.

The Board thanked the Chief and his department on their continuing hard work during the pandemic.

21-005 72 Pleasant Street (Verderber Property) Storm Damage

Jim Lederer, Chair of the Conservation Commission, spoke to the Board about damage to a shed/lean-to located on Town property at 72 Pleasant Street also known as the Verderber property. Mr. Lederer said that since the Commission does not have a budget to have the tree removed, he is asking the Board for funding to be allocated for such. There is also a large

tree which needs to be removed from a walking path that will need to be addressed. Mr. Lederer said they are hoping the Boy Scouts or another Town group will volunteer to rebuild the lean-to. The Board asked the Town Administrator's office to work with the Con Com to put together a proposal for the work required as two separate documents, one for removing the trees and one for removing/demo/possible rebuilding of the lean-to.

A discussion ensued about how to manage open space properties in Town and the possibility of creating a budget for maintenance of these properties in the near future.

21-010 Approval of GTE

Mr. Guzinski recommended approval of the Certificate of Local Compliance related to the licensing process from the Cannabis Control Commission for GTE Millis, LLC. Mr. Guzinski said all necessary local requirements have been met.

Sel. Jurmain made a motion to approve the application for GTE Millis, LLC and to authorize the Chair to sign on behalf of the Town. Sel. Underhill seconded the motion. Sel. McCaffrey polled the Board and the motion passed unanimously.

21-006 PFOS (Perfluorooctane Sulfonate) and PFOA (Perfluorooctanoic Acid) Litigation

Attorney Sandman of Rodman Rodman & Sandman spoke to the Board about Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF) consolidated Multi-District Litigation (MDL). Mr. Sandman said PFOA and PFOS are used in AFFF to control or extinguish fuel fires that have leaked into water supplies including Millis'. Attorney Sandman said his firm has been filing lawsuits against the 3M Company which is the only company who produced PFOS that were used in the AFFF. A discussion ensued about whether or not this is what caused the PFOS issues occurring in Millis and the contamination of some of the Town's wells. DPW Director Jim McKay said the Town's testing results are on the website and noted that the DEP did testing. Mr. McKay said he was just notified today that there is a specific area of Town where high levels of PFOS were found. Both Mr. Guzinski and Mr. McKay encouraged the Board to approve entering into the litigation especially since the Town can opt out at any time. Chair McCaffrey asked if this litigation would cover private wells and Attorney Sandman said he would take on private wells once a source has been specifically identified in Town. The Board asked Attorney Sandman to send an agreement and the Board will review it at their meeting on 1/25.

21-007 Discuss Southend Farm Trust Groundwater Monitoring Program

Dan Merrikin of Legacy Engineering spoke to the Board about the Southend Farm Trust groundwater monitoring program explaining that the subdivision was initially permitted in 2006. The applicant for the permitting, Ellen Rosenfeld, agreed to a groundwater monitoring program due to concerns of the proximity to a Town well. Mr. Merrikin said a report from OHI Engineering summarized the results of the years of testing and said the cost of the testing is paid by the homeowner's association. Mr. McKay said he, and the Board of Health, recommend one more round of testing to be reviewed by a peer review engineer prior to allowing a sunset on the program.

Sel. McCaffrey made a motion to have one more round of testing by a peer review engineer to paid by the applicant, and to allow the monitoring program to sunset if the results are favorable. The motion was seconded by Sel. Jurmain. Sel. McCaffrey polled the Board and the motion passed unanimously.

21-008 Discuss Response to DHCD Letter for Gateway LIP at 232-234 Main Street

Robert Weiss, Economic Development Director, reviewed a draft letter to the Division of Housing Development. The letter states the Select Board's endorsement of the Gateway LIP project to be located at 232-234 Main Street but also lists some concerns including water and sewer services, storm water runoff and public safety issues regarding traffic and sight lines. A discussion ensued about whether or not the letter should be toned down a bit to not come with such a negative tone since the Board supports the project. A discussion was had about the effects of reducing the number of units and how that could negatively affect the developer and project overall. Mr. Weiss said this is the opportunity for the Town to have some thoughts on record with the DHCD. Mr. Guzinski said the draft letter that Mr. Weiss has written is for the Board to consider but that the Board has final say regarding content of the letter. Mr. Merrikin, acting as project engineer, offered some thoughts and said he doesn't feel that reducing the number of units will help alleviate the concerns in the letter. Mr. Merrikin said he will put together some recommendations and will send them to the Town Administrator. The Board will also send their recommendations. Mr. Weiss will compile the recommendations and present a revised letter at the Board's 1/25 meeting.

21-009 eMPower Millis Electrical Aggregation Update

Mr. Weiss, acting as the Town's Energy Manager, said the rollout of the program went very well. He will continue to monitor it and work with residents as needed.

21-011 Discuss Annual Town Administrator Evaluation and Goals

Mr. Guzinski said there are documents in the Board's packet regarding his annual evaluation and this agenda item serves as notification that his evaluation is due during the month of February. Mr. Guzinski said each member will separately evaluate his performance and then meet individually with him to discuss the evaluations. Town counsel will compile all of the information from each Board member with a final Board evaluation presented at a public meeting. The Board asked Mr. Guzinski to share the results of last year's review with the current Board. Chair McCaffrey also asked Mr. Guzinski to present a plan for reviewing the performance of the Town Department Heads who report to him.

21-012 Approval of Application of Amendment - Change of D/B/A

Sel. Underhill made a motion to approve the application for amendment for a change of DBA for Kiara, LLC from Lumpy's Liquors to One Stop Liquors. The motion was seconded by Sel. Jurmain. Sel. McCaffrey polled the Board and the motion passed unanimously.

21-013 Approval of Renewal of Common Victualler License

Karen Bouret said one of the common victualler renewals for 2021 was inadvertently left off the list when the Board approved renewals.

Sel. McCaffrey made a motion to approve the 2021 renewal of a Common Victualler license for Nirvana Tea House and Cafe. The motion was seconded by Sel. Jurmain. Sel. McCaffrey polled the Board and the motion passed unanimously.

21-014 Review/Approval of Water and Sewer Commitment

Sel. Jurmain made a motion to approve the Water/Sewer Commitment to Collector for December 2020 in the amount of \$10,911.61. The motion was seconded by Sel. Underhill. Sel. McCaffrey polled the Board and the motion passed unanimously.

Enter Executive Session

Sel. McCaffrey made a motion to enter executive session at 9:20pm to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union and union personnel for the SEIU and the Library Director's contracts. In addition, to consider the purchase or value of real estate for a 61A parcel located at Village Street. Sel. McCaffrey polled the Board and the motion passed unanimously.

Sel. Underhill made a motion to adjourn at 10:20pm. Sel. Jurmain seconded the motion. Sel. McCaffrey polled the Board and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted:
Karen Bouret