

Select Board Minutes 6/6/22

Chairperson Erin Underhill called the meeting to order at 7pm. The following persons were present: Vice Chair Craig Schultze, Clerk Ellen Rosenfeld, Town Administrator Mike Guzinski, and Operations Manager Karen Bouret DeMarzo

Announcements

Buddy Shropshire, one of the oldest Millis residents, turns 95 years old tomorrow, on June 7th. In honor of this, he was presented with the ceremonial Boston Post Cane and subsequent proclamation that historically has been presented to the oldest resident of the town. The Board also deemed his birthday to be Edward Buddy Shropshire Day.

The Millis Public Library is honoring Pride Month by having a pride themed rock painting event On Sat, June 11th at 1:30pm. Elijah T. Grasshopper's Rainbow Dance Party, an event geared towards children ages 2-8 years old on the same day at 11:00am.

Another Senior Center focus group will take place on June 7th at the Millis Housing Authority (310 Exchange St) at 2:00pm.

There will be a PFAS 101 Informational Seminar hosted by the Millis Board of Health. This will be held at the Millis Public Library on June 21st at 7:00pm.

22-127 Acceptance of Grant Awards

The town of Millis was awarded two grants: the Community Impact Fiber Grant and the Skid Steer Grant.

Jim Donovan, Director of IT, presented information on the Fiber Grant, which connects all the town buildings into one central location. This will reduce the cost of things like lighting and HVAC and strengthen cybersecurity that affects the water and sewer system. The Fiber Grant amounts to \$133,475. Mr. Guzinski recommends that the Board accept this grant.

Sel. Schultze made a motion to accept the Fiber Grant in the amount of \$133,475 on behalf of the Town of Millis. Sel. Rosenfeld seconded this motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Director of Dept. of Public Works James McKay presented information about a grant the Town received for the purchase of a Skid Steer. This grant comes from Mass DOT, in the amount of \$49,999 which is reimbursement-based. The May Annual Town Meeting approved appropriation of \$54,720.58 for the purchase of a skid steer. The cost of the skid steer will likely come in under the amount town meeting approved so the remainder of these funds will likely be transferred for other capital projects for the fall town meeting.

Sel. Schultze made a motion to accept the Steer Skid Grant from the Shared Streets and Space program in the amount of \$49,999 for a purchase of a Skid Steer. Sel. Rosenfeld seconded this motion. The motion passed unanimously.

22-128 FY21 Financial Audit Statements Presentations

Scott McIntyre, of the auditing firm Melanson Heath, reviewed the FY21 town audit which he oversaw. The audit showed that the town's books and records were in working order, which meant that the town needed no auditing procedures to rectify errors. There were no

disagreements between the town and Melanson about how to apply the accepted accounting principles.

Mr. McIntyre highlighted the town's two largest Liabilities: The Net Pension and Net OPEB Liabilities. He recommends that the town adjust the accepted future earnings of the Net Pension plan down from 7.75% to around 6.75-7%. The town also exceeded the unassigned fund balance by being greater than 10% of the total fund balances. Mr. McIntyre also recommended updating several financial policies that haven't been changed in recent years.

22-130 Review/Approval of Proposed Sewer Policy

Chair Underhill led the Board in a discussion about a proposed sewer policy and the existing sewer moratorium. Since the Town is almost at capacity Ms. Underhill suggested that construction projects which require new connections must be part of a package treatment plant or use septic.

Sel. Schultze introduced the idea of a reserve capacity fee of \$100-\$150 for those who have the right to connect but have not yet connected and are reserving space in the sewer capacity. The fee will go away once you connect to sewer. He also introduced the idea that those who have not paid a betterment fee will have a timeframe of 10-12 months to connect to the sewers. More discussion ensued. The Board will take another look at the policy at a future meeting.

22-129 FY23 Road Paving Proposal Presentations and Approval

Mr. McKay Presented a preliminary proposal to the Board regarding upcoming plans to pave several roads across town, perform crack sealing and possibly build sidewalks.

The Board will vote on the final proposal at their next meeting.

22-131 Adoption: Resolution Endorsing the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's Working Definition of Antisemitism

Sel. Rosenfeld read a document regarding the adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's Working Definition of Antisemitism.

The main definition is as follows: "Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews: Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community Institutions and religious facilities." (See attached for the full document)

Sel. Schultze made a motion to accept the Working Definition of Antisemitism provided by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance as read. Sel. Rosenfeld seconded this motion. The motion passed unanimously.

22-132 Review/Approval of Sign License Agreement Anthology (Assisted Living)

Ms. Bouret DeMarzo discussed the sign license agreement approved February 10, 2020, between the Town and Barberry Homes, former owner of a proposed Assisted Living Facility in Millis. The ownership of the Assisted Living Facility has since been changed to Anthology, and Ms. Bouret DeMarzo proposed that the Board update the policy accordingly.

Sel. Schultze made a motion to switch the License for the Assisted Living Facility from Barberry Homes to Anthology. Sel. Rosenfeld seconded this motion. The motion passed unanimously.

22-133 Discuss Board/Committee Liaison Appointments

Chair Underhill led a discussion about the Board's positions as Liaisons on several different town committees.

Chair Underhill made a motion to approve the appointments of the following Committee Liaison appointments for this coming year: Sel. Craig Schultze for Cable TV Advisory, Economic Development Committee, Capital Planning Advisory Committee, and Local Emergency Planning Committee; Sel. Ellen Rosenfeld for Energy Committee, Norfolk County Advisory Board Designee, Community Preservation Committee, and School Committee; Chair Erin Underhill for Permanent Building Committee, Cemetery Committee and Charles River Pollution Control District Meetings. Sel. Rosenfeld seconded this motion. The motion passed unanimously.

22-134 Senior Center Programming Committee Discussion

Sel. Rosenfeld took the opportunity to urge all members of the Millis Community to join the Senior Center focus groups, not just senior citizens. Sel. Rosenfeld proposed the creation of a new committee to further research into the development of a senior center beyond focus groups.

Enter Executive Session at 8:30 pm

Chair Underhill made a motion to enter an executive session to consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property if the chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body (Prospect Hill Cemetery), as well as to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with union personnel (SEIU & AFSCME). The motion was seconded by Sel. Schultze.

Sel. Underhill roll called the vote. Sel. Underhill, yay, Sel. Schultze, yay, Sel. Rosenfeld, yay.

The Board emerged from Executive Session at 9:10pm and voted as follows:

Sel. Underhill made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Sel. Schultze and passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Katherine Farrar