

Select Board Meeting Minutes 4/12/21

Sel. McCaffrey called the meeting to order at 6:30pm

The following persons were present via Zoom: Sel. Jim McCaffrey, Sel. Peter Jurmain, Sel. Erin Underhill. The Town Administrator Mike Guzinski and Operations Support Manager Karen Bouret.

Announcements

Karen Bouret, Operations Support Manager, reminded everyone that Millis Beautification Day is April 24th. Detail is posted on the Town website.

Sel. McCaffrey announced that Town Meeting will be held on Saturday, May 1st starting at 2:00pm. Rain date is Sunday at 12:00pm.

21-098 Covid Vaccine Update

John McVeigh, Board of Health Director, said Millis has moved back to “yellow” status. The department is working on scheduling vaccinations for homebound individuals. More information is available on the Town website.

21-099 Norfolk County Sheriff Visit

Sheriff Patrick McDermott gave the Board a bit of his background and discussed various programming offered through the Sheriff’s Department. These include youth and senior programs that tackle issues such as the Covid pandemic, opioid addiction, mental health awareness, anti-bullying and others. Currently, Millis is using the work release program where inmates are working on landscaping for spring cleanup. Sheriff McDermott said his office can work with the Council on Aging to help provide senior programming for Millis adding that they tailor their program for individual town needs.

21-100 Approval of DPW Bond Sale

Jennifer Scannell, Treasurer/Collector, provided information on a General Obligation Municipal Purpose Loan of 2021.

**Sel. Jurmain made a motion that the Board approves the Town’s General Obligation Municipal Purpose Loan of 2021 Bonds dated April 30th, 2021 for \$4,000,000+/- at an average interest rate of 1.9%. The motion was seconded by Sel. Underhill
Sel. McCaffrey polled the Board and the motion passed unanimously.**

21-101 Hearing: Stormwater/Land Disturbance 329 Orchard Street

**Sel. Jurmain made a motion to open the stormwater and land disturbance hearing for 329 Orchard Street. The motion was seconded by Sel. Underhill.
Sel. McCaffrey polled the Board and the motion passed unanimously.**

Dan Merrikin of Legacy Engineering showed a map of the property and said there is a conservation restriction on the property that only allows for one house on the 14.6 acres of land. Mr. Merrikin requested waivers from the Town’s Land Disturbance and Post-Construction Stormwater Management regulations since the DEP standards do not apply to a single-family house. Dan said the regulations are triggered but disturbing more than an acre of land but feel it would be unreasonable to ask the applicant to incur significant costs and are looking for a waiver of the requirements.

Melissa Recos, Senior Project Manager at BETA, acting as peer review said the Town does have to meet requirements of the MS4 Permit and cautioned that the Town will bear the burden if waivers are granted since it will set a precedent. Sel. Jurmain said this issue brings up the need to look at our current stormwater rules and said he is not in favor of granting a waiver at this time. Ms. Recos reiterated that an acre or more of disturbance does trigger requirements in compliance with the Massachusetts Stormwater Handbook. She went on to say that this may not be the only "unique" property that could be seen and did not favor granting a waiver. Discussion about some other aspects of the property ensued. Mr. Merrikin said there will be a need to continue the hearing and would like a month to prepare in response to comments the Board has made. Sel. McCaffrey asked Mr. Merrikin to work with the Town's peer review consultant to possibly entertain lesser waivers.

Sel. Jurmain Made a motion to continue the stormwater and land disturbance hearing for the property at 326 Orchard Street to May 17th at 7:00pm. The motion was seconded by Sel. Underhill. Sel. McCaffery polled the Board and the motion passed unanimously.

21-102 Discuss Pickle Ball Courts Change of Hours Proposal

Mr. John Fitzgerald, resident, asked to Board to consider a change of hours for the pickle ball courts by closing them at 7:00pm during the week and 8:00pm on weekends saying the noise is very disturbing and repetitive. Other residents asked for some sort of noise mitigation and possibly limiting access to Millis residents or looking into different racquets. Recreation Director Kris Fogarty said this is new to everyone and she received a quote from an acoustic block which would be \$10-30,000.

Sel. McCaffrey made a motion to change the hours of the pickle ball courts to 8:00am-8:00pm seven days a week. The motion was seconded by Sel. Jurmain. Sel. McCaffrey polled the Board and the motion passed unanimously.

21-103 Discuss COA Budget Request

Patty Kayo, Council on Aging Director, and Burt Lannon, COA Chair reviewed the above level service requests including an additional staff member. Ms. Kayo said they would need to find someone to fill the person and take time to train the person after Sel. Jurmain expressed concern about filling a position with the the center closed currently. A discussion ensued about hours of operation, programming and moving forward to increase the senior services the Town can provide to the increasing senior population.

Sel. Jurmain made a motion to recommend the above level service request by the Council on Aging as proposed. Sel. Underhill seconded the motion. Sel. McCaffery polled the Board and the motion passed unanimously.

More discussion regarding current and past budgets was had. The Board directed the Town Administrator to verify that the Finance Committee has been provided all relevant information for this request.

21-104 Acceptance of Gift for Cemetery

Jeff Mushnick, Chair of the Cemetery Committee, spoke to the Board about a proposed gift access project by the Winniker family at the cemetery to add a new walkway. The walkway will be installed at Seccion E of the cemetery at the current Jewish grave section. DPW Director Jim McKay spoke in favor of the project and thanked the Winniker family for offering such a generous donation.

**Sel. McCaffrey Made a motion to accept a gift from the Winniker family to the Town of Millis to install a new cement walkway in Section E of the cemetery as shown on the plan. The motion was seconded by Sel. Jurmain.
Sel. McCaffrey polled the Board and the motion passed unanimously.**

21-105 Approve and Sign Town Election Warrant

**Sel. McCaffrey made a motion to approve the May 10, 2021, Election warrant as presented. The motion was seconded by Sel. Underhill.
Sel. McCaffrey polled the Board and the motion passed unanimously.**

The Board asked that the word Chairman be replaced with Chair in all instances.

21-106 Discuss ATM Warrant Articles

The Board discussed the draft Annual Town Warrant as presented. Sel. Jurmain noted that there is a missing entry on Article one for Weights and Measures for \$113.77 which will need to be added back in.

21-107 Approve and Sign Town Meeting Warrant

Sel. Underhill made a motion for the Board to approve and sign the Annual Town Meeting of May 1, 2021, warrant subject to a final check to confirm numbers. The motion was seconded by Sel. Jurmain. Sel. McCaffrey polled the Board and the motion passed unanimously.

The Board reviewed the DRAFT Motions one by one.

The Board asked for more detailed information regarding sums of money to be transferred in Article 2.

A discussion ensued about funding for Article 11 and whether funds should be transferred the Lansing Millis Memorial Building Repair Project.

Sel. McCaffrey made a motion to recommend the transfer of \$48,805.23 to the Lansing Millis Memorial Building Repair Project. No second.

Sel. Jurmain made a motion to recommend dismissal of Article 11 due to lack of funding. Sel. Underhill seconded the motion. Sel. McCaffrey polled the Board. Sel. McCaffrey, No. Sel. Jurmain, yes. Sel. Underhill, yes. The motion passed 2-1.

Sel. Jurmain suggested using the money from Article 11 as additional one-time funding for Article 17, road maintenance and repairs.

Sel. Jurmain Made a motion to move a sum of \$48,805.23 from Article 26 of the 6/5/2017 to Article 17 as additional funding for road maintenance and repairs. The motion was seconded by Sel. Underhill. Sel. McCaffrey polled the Board and the motion passed unanimously.

21-108 Discuss and Approve Town Administrator's FY22 Budget Recommendations

The Town Administrator said the budget recommendations have not changed from the last Board meeting on April 5. Mr. Guzinski did note that there was concern by the Finance

Committee that COA funding was requested through both Host Community Agreement Impact Funds and General Funds for the same purpose and recommended removal from the HCA list. Mr. Guzinski suggested reducing the request to \$36,505 to accommodate an October 1 start date as a compromise. The Board discussed options.

Sel. McCaffrey made a motion to accept the original above level service request of \$48,672.38. Sel. Underhill seconded the motion.

Sel. McCaffrey polled the Board and the motion passed unanimously.

Sel. McCaffrey made a motion to approve the Town Administrator's budget recommendation for FY22. The motion was seconded by Sel. Jurmain.

Sel. McCaffrey polled the Board and the motion passed unanimously.

21-109 Charter Review Next Steps

Sel. Jurmain asked that this agenda item be deferred to a later date due to the length of time this topic deserves. Sel. McCaffrey said the Charter Review needs to have questions to be answered including rationale for the recommendations and for information to be provided in advance for review.

21-110 Discuss Letter Regarding Sewer Moratorium

Sel. McCaffrey suggested asking the Enterprise Funds Advisory Committee and others to come in to discuss this weighty issue at a future meeting. Cathy MacInnes, Chair of the EFAC, expressed great displeasure that the Select Board is not voting on the actual moratorium request but is instead moving it to a future meeting.

21-111 Approval of Fee Waiver – Millis Schools' Tents

Sel. McCaffrey made a motion to approve waiver of inspection fees for two tents located at the Millis Middle/High School. The motion was seconded by Sel. Jurmain.

Sel. McCaffrey polled the Board and the motion passed unanimously.

21-112 Approval of Girl Scout Fairy House Project

Sel. McCaffrey made a motion to allow all Millis Girl Scouts to hold their Fairy House Project fundraiser on the front lawn at Town Hall the week of June 8th. The motion was seconded by Sel. Underhill. Sel. McCaffrey polled the Board and the motion passed unanimously.

21-113 Approval of Water/Sewer Commitment

Sel. Underhill made a motion to approve the Water/Sewer commitment for March 2021 in the amount of \$1,195.54. Sel. Jurmain seconded this motion. Sel. McCaffrey polled the board and the motion passed unanimously.

Sel. McCaffrey polled the board to enter Executive Session at 10:30pm to discuss the consideration of the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property (61A Parcel Village Street & Acorn Street Parcel). Also, to conduct strategy session in preparation for negotiations with union personnel (Fire Contract) and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Victoria Schindler