

SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, February 24th, 2025, 7:00 PM

Veterans Memorial Building Room 229

900 Main Street, Millis, MA 02054

I. CALL TO ORDER Chair Rosenfeld called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

The following persons were present Chair Ellen Rosenfeld, Vice Chair Erin Underhill, Clerk Craig Schultze, Town Administrator Mike Guzinski and Assistant Town Administrator Karen Bouret-DeMarzo.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sel. Rosenfeld announced that Buddy Shropshire, a longtime Millis resident has passed, Buddy was 97 years old and lived a very impressive life, he will be missed by his community. His services will be held on Wednesday February 26th at Roberts Mitchell Funeral Home in Millis.

Sel. Rosenfeld also makes note of the up coming energy committee forum to be held at the Millis Public Library on March 6th, this is part of a long-term climate action plan put on by Bob Wiess and his energy committee. They have goals to share with the town the current climate change situation and what can be done from the town's perspective.

Middle School/high School Project update via Sel. Schutlze, although the committee has not met since the last time the select board has given an update, it is important for the select board to take the time at the beginning of each meeting to give a brief update of the project, simply to keep people up to date and give them the opportunity to ask questions as they arise.

Sel. Schultze also issued a public apology, regarding his comments made at the previous meeting, that some interpreted as a threat. He apologized for the comment, denial and the tone he took while denying the comment was made. He also apologized for Bob, and expressed he has no authority to take away anyone's office space. It was a poorly attempted and misinterpreted Joke.

III. SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS/HEARINGS

25-032: Vote to Close Spring Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Town Administrator Mike Guzinski recommends that the board closes the Warrant for the Spring 2025 Annual Town Meeting, Erin moved it and craig

seconded the motion. Chair Rosenfeld polled the Board. Schultze- yay. Underhill- yay, Rosenfeld- yay. The motion passed unanimously.

25-033: Appointments

- *Secondary Alternate Building Commissioner*

Sel. Underhill made a motion to ratify the Town Administrators appointment of Christopher Canney as a backup alternate building commissioner for the town of Millis. Sel. Schultze seconded the motion. Sel. Rosenfeld polled the Board, Schultze – yay, Underhill – yay, Rosenfeld – yay. The motion passed unanimously.

- *School Building Committee Member (2)*

Sel. Underhill made a motion to ratify the Town Administrators appointment of Robyn Briggs and Shayna Canestrari to be filling the two open spots on the school building committee. Sel. Schultze seconded the motion. Sel. Rosenfeld polled the Board, Schultze – yay, Underhill – yay, Rosenfeld – yay. The motion passed unanimously.

- *Capital Planning Committee Member*

Sel. Underhill made a motion to ratify the Town Administrators appointment of Sean Powers to the Capital Planning Committee. Sel. Schultze seconded the motion. Sel. Rosenfeld polled the Board, Schultze – yay, Underhill – yay, Rosenfeld – yay. The motion passed unanimously.

- *Recreation Committee Member*

Sel. Underhill made a motion to ratify the Town Administrators appointment of Steve Levangie to the Recreation Committee. Sel. Schultze seconded the motion. Sel. Rosenfeld polled the Board, Schultze – yay, Underhill – yay, Rosenfeld – yay. The motion passed unanimously.

25-034: Hearing: Conduit Installation 5 Paddock Lane

Sel. Underhill made a motion to open the hearing to consider a grant of location to install conduit by Eversource. Sel. Schultze seconded the motion. Sel. Rosenfeld polled the Board, Schultze – yay, Underhill – yay, Rosenfeld – yay. The motion passed unanimously.

Sel. Underhill made a motion to close the hearing to consider a grant of location to install conduit by Eversource. Sel. Schultze seconded the motion. Sel. Rosenfeld polled the Board, Schultze – yay, Underhill – yay, Rosenfeld – yay. The motion passed unanimously.

A neighborhood resident stood up to speak, he raised concerns about how the property that Eversource is looking to use, is his property, and that the construction they are looking to begin will result in them needing to gain access to his land. His concern is that there will need to be someone present at his home to ensure his dogs are safe and inside during this project, he is requesting both ample notifications, as well as all the projects to be undergone in the same time frame, creating as little disruption as possible.

Sel. Underhill moved that the board grants permission to NSTAR electric CO DBA Eversource Energy to construct and install a line of conduit manholes with necessary wires and cables there in under the following public way, Paddock Lane Northerly approximately 200 feet +/- North of Rolling Meadow Drive install approximately 62 feet +/- of conduit PMH17075. Provided the work is completed at the same time for both 3 and 5 Paddock Lane and that 18 Rolling Meadow Drive is notified in advance, so that someone can be home and responsible for the animals in the yard. Sel. Schultze seconded the motion. Sel. Rosenfeld polled the Board, Schultze – yay, Underhill – yay, Rosenfeld – yay. The motion passed unanimously

25-035: A Municipal Moment: Town Building Maintenance History

Town Administrator Mike Guzinski along with Sel. Rosenfeld and Sel. Schultze speaks about the maintenance history in town. When Mike arrived in 2017 it was the beginning of focusing on building maintenance, the Veterans Memorial Building, Police Station, Fire Station and Library all took on routine maintenance and increased repair budgets.

Prior to 2017, there was many financial stresses on the Town, and Craig speaks about his experience as he has been actively involved in town since the late 90s. He makes note of the excitement within the Finance Committee, one year when they received around \$400,000 in free cash, last year the town received close to \$3.5 Million in free cash. With this free cash the town can increase their preventative maintenance budgets, something that previously the town struggled with as there was just not the budget to make these repairs that were arguably very high priorities. He continues his points expressing that when repairs and maintenance were made, it was often the cheapest option being selected, which ultimate would cost the town more money in the future as things continue to need repairs.

In recent projects across town, the goal has been to construct buildings that will last at least fifty years, no more half-effort projects that are ultimately more costly. With more people and growth in town, there is more money generated, ultimately allowing more development and a better focus on maintaining these community buildings.

IV. OPEN SESSION ITEMS

25-036: Refer Zoning Bylaws Amendments to Planning Board -FEMA Compliance

Sel. Underhill moved that the board refer Zoning Bylaws Section 11 Special Flood Hazard District and Zoning Map proposed amendments and articles for FEMA compliance back to Planning Board for a public hearing to be held on March 4th, 2025. Sel. Schultze seconded the motion. Sel. Rosenfeld polled the Board, Schultze – yay, Underhill – yay, Rosenfeld – yay. The motion passed unanimously.

25-037: Review/Approve Meeting Minutes

Sel. Underhill moved the Board to approve the draft meeting minutes for January 27th, February 3rd, February 5th and February 10th as written. Sel. Schultze seconded the motion. Sel. Rosenfeld polled the Board, Schultze – yay, Underhill – yay, Rosenfeld – yay. The motion passed unanimously.

25-038: Board/Committee Liaison Update

Sel. Schultze, Capital Planning Committee: Minor changes to the ranking rubric for capital requests, bringing in a category that focuses on the cultural or historical aspects of the capital request. This new tool will be used to evaluate the requests put forward by department heads in the coming years and will help the capital planning committee rank and score those requests against one another.

Sel. Rosenfeld Sewer: There has not been anything new, the meeting was brief.

Sel. Underhill did not attend any meetings.

V.EXECUTIVE SESSION & ADJOURNMENT

Sel. Underhill motioned to enter executive session at 7:50 PM to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the government's bargaining or litigation position (Fire, Police, DPW, and SEIU) only emerging to adjourn. Sel. Schultze seconded the motion. Sel. Rosenfeld polled the Board, Schultze – yay, Underhill – yay, Rosenfeld – yay. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Samantha Beaudry