

**SELECT BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, November 4, 2024
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, Assistant Town Administrator/HR Manager Karen Bouret DeMarzo.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The State election is tomorrow November 5th, 2024, at the Town Hall from 7:00am-8:00pm.

The Fall Annual Town Meeting is on 11/19/2024 at the Millis Middle/High School Auditorium.

The Millis Lions Club is holding a Field of Flags in front of the VMB Building. You can sponsor a flag of a veteran, and it benefits the fisher house in Boston.

III. SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS/HEARINGS

24-210 Read & Sign Veterans Day Proclamation

Assistant Town Administrator/HR Manager Karen Bouret DeMarzo reviewed the information regarding the Veterans Day celebration. Which will be held on Monday November 11th at the American Legion Post 208 in Millis including a formal ceremony and a breakfast.

Sel. Schultze read the Veterans Day Proclamation for 2024.

Sel. Underhill made a motion to approve and sign the Veterans Day Proclamation as presented. Sel Schultze seconded the motion. Sel. Rosenfeld polled the Board, Schultze – yay, Underhill – yay, Rosenfeld – yay. The motion passed unanimously.

24-211 Approve and Sign Green Communities Annual Report Summary FY24

Energy Manager Bob Weiss reviewed the FY24 Green Communities Annual Report Summary. A key point he made is that 85% of Millis's electrical consumption is from renewable resources.

Sel. Underhill made a motion to approve and sign the Green Communities Annual Report Summary FY24 as presented. Sel Schultze seconded the motion. Sel. Rosenfeld polled the Board, Schultze – yay, Underhill – yay, Rosenfeld – yay. The motion passed unanimously.

24-212 Hearing: Tax Classification

Sel. Underhill moved to open the Fiscal/Levy year 2025 tax classification hearing. Sel Schultze seconded the motion.

Sel. Rosenfeld polled the Board, Schultze – yay, Underhill – yay, Rosenfeld – yay. The motion passed unanimously.

The Principal Assessor of Millis Terri Gonsalves asked the Board to vote on a single tax or split tax rate for fiscal year 2025. She states how values in the Town are currently allotted:

- Residential – 92.4145%
- Open Space – 0%
- Commercial – 4.6017%
- Industrial – 0.9535%
- Personal Property – 2.0306%

The Board of Assessors are recommending a single tax rate for the fiscal/levy year 2025.

The Board briefly discussed the allotments and agreed with the Board of Assessors. Sel. Schultze stated that until we get to about 15% commercial, we wouldn't change to a split tax rate, if we changed with the percentages this low it would discourage business from coming into Town.

A resident questioned if the Board has been in contact with Representative Arena DeRosa regarding his working with the town of Hopkinton on a legislative level to examine ways to remove the school portion of taxes for some level of Seniors and above. Sel. Schultze stated he will contact our representative for more information in this.

Sel. Underhill moved to close the Fiscal/Levy year 2025 tax classification hearing. Sel Schultze seconded the motion. Sel. Rosenfeld polled the Board, Schultze – yay, Underhill – yay, Rosenfeld – yay. The motion passed unanimously.

Sel. Underhill moved that the Board approve a single tax rate for the Fiscal/Levy year 2025. Sel Schultze seconded the motion. Sel. Rosenfeld polled the Board, Schultze – yay, Underhill – yay, Rosenfeld – yay. The motion passed unanimously.

24-213 Capital Planning Committee Report Presentation

Jon Barry, Chair of the Capital Planning Committee, reviewed the Fall 2024 Capital Planning Committee Report. He states the goal of the committee is to review proposed capital requests and rate them by priority. There are 3 high priority items totaling \$246,374 which are turnout gear for the Fire department, tasers for the police departments, and 2 new special education vehicles for the school department. There are 2 medium priority items totaling \$333,773 which are a new dump truck for the DPW and an aerial boom lift for the Town buildings department. There is 1 low priority item totaling \$125,000 which is for the envelope repairs at the Lansing Millis Building.

Sel. Underhill moved that the Board accept the Capital Planning Committee Report for November 2024 as submitted. Sel Schultze seconded the motion. Sel. Rosenfeld polled the Board, Schultze – yay, Underhill – yay, Rosenfeld – yay. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. OPEN SESSION ITEMS

24-214 Assign Fall Annual Town Meeting Articles

The Board assigns the following articles:

Erin Underhill: Articles 1, 2, 9, 17, 18

Craig Schultze: Articles 3, 4, 7, 10, 11, 15, 16

Ellen Rosenfeld: Articles 5, 6, 8, 12, 13, 14, 19

24-215 Board/Committee Liaison Updates

Sel. Underhill attended the Cemetery Committee where they discussed potentially making the baby section of the cemetery a little more special by adding a bench or something.

Sel. Schultze attended the School Building Committee where they presented 6 options, they still don't have a preferred option. There will still be a lot of meetings and public input opportunities, they are looking for a potential vote next Fall Annual Town Meeting.

Sel. Rosenfeld did not attend any meetings.

A resident questioned why a Financial Management review report that was provided by the Town a year ago and has not been posted to the Website. Sel. Schultze stated that the Town Finance Director was retiring, and the Town was in the process of finding a new one and the Board agreed to not make any changes from the 8 recommendations on the report until the new finance director was in place. The resident questioned how a resident could get one of the recommendations on the next town meeting, they question how to expedite the process of how to get stuff done.

Assistant Town Administrator/HR Manager stated to the Board this is a subject matter not on the agenda and to proceed with caution.

The Board agreed and stated this subject has been heard and will be discussed at a future meeting.

The resident stated he suggested a standing agenda item for citizen comment, input, and questions. The Board responded by stating that the resident asked, and the Board denied adding the standing agenda item.

Town Administrator Mike Guzinski stated that if the Board added a standing public comment agenda item, they wouldn't be able to respond to anything that isn't explicitly listed on the agenda.

Another resident stated she has a few questions regarding ClearGOV. The Board and Administrators stated this is not on the agenda, but they urged the resident to email the Board and Town Administration their questions and concerns.

Another resident got up and asked the Board to reactivate the communication and website committee and stated in their opinion there has been a great lack of communication regarding information on the proposed override. The Board and Administrators stated this is not on the agenda.

24-216 Approval of DRAFT Minutes – 10/21/2024

Sel. Underhill moved that the Board approve the draft minutes from the 10/21/24 Select Board meeting as presented.

Sel. Schultze seconded the motion. Sel. Rosenfeld polled the Board, Schultze – yay, Underhill – yay, Rosenfeld – yay.

The motion passed unanimously.

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION/VI. ADJOURNMENT

Sel. Underhill motioned to enter executive session 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 litigating position (MA Coalition of Police, Local 171 & SEIU Local 888). To discuss strategy with respect to litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the government's litigating position (114 Union Street), 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 Victoria Schindler