

**SELECT BOARD
REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES
Monday, April 15, 2020
Veterans Memorial Building Room 229
900 Main Street, Millis, MA 02054
Via Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8526387223>**

CALL TO ORDER: Sel. Barnes called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm. The following persons were present: Sel. Loring Barnes, Sel. James McCaffrey, Sel. Pete Jurmain, Town Administrator Michael Guzinski, Town Counsel Jay Talerman, and Operations Support Manager Karen Bouret – all via Zoom.

SCHEDULED BUSINESS

20-078 Covid-19 Update

Chief Barrett and John McVeigh provided an update on COVID-19 related information for the Town of Millis. Both reminded people to practice social distancing and urged people to stay home if they can especially if they are symptomatic. A discussion ensued about whether the Town should be reporting COVID cases and Kathy Lannon, Board of Health Chair, said the State Department will be providing data at their website moving forward. Ms. Lannon told residents to remember that many people are asymptomatic, so numbers are often misleading and urged everyone to wear masks in public to prevent the spread.

Sel. Barnes said the school is providing food for families in need and announced food drop off at the Church of Christ parking lot on Saturday morning. (See attached for details)

Jen Scannell, Town Treasurer/Collector, explained that there are two types of financial relief available to taxpayers via MGL Ch.60 section 11, Acts of 2020. The Select Board discussed a late fee waiver up to June 30, 2020, for utility, excise, betterment assessment, and real estate taxes and/or extending the due date for property tax bills. Jay Talerman, town counsel, said many towns are opting for this to provide relief for their taxpayers even though it will necessitate short-term bond borrowing. The Board encouraged those who are financially able pay on time to please do so to help everyone by lessening the borrowing amount.

Sel. McCaffrey made a motion that the SB extend the due date for property tax bills from May 1, 2020, to June 1, 2020. The motion was seconded by Sel. Jurmain. Sel. Barnes polled the Board, Barnes – yay, McCaffery – yay, Jurmain – yay. The motion passed unanimously.

20-080 Senior Tax Relief Options

Carol Johnston, Finance Director, and Teri Gonsalves, Assistant Assessor, explained existing Seniors' Tax Relief Programs. The Finance Director, Assistant Assessor, and the Town Administrator would like to lower the age to 65 to expand access to this relief program.

20-081 Senior Tax Relief Options

Jim McKay, DPW Director, said after doing water testing PFAS (Perfluoroalkyl substances) contaminants were detected near the Landfill which was capped in 2000. Mr. McKay said Wells #1 and #2 were shutdown out of caution until further testing is conducted. Mr. McKay said he is seeking for the Board's approval of expending a not to exceed amount of \$25,000.00 for additional PFAS water testing. The Board discussed possible remediation at the landfill down the road as a result of new environmental requirements.

Sel. McCaffrey made a motion to approve a contract not to exceed \$25,000 with Kleinfelder for continuing PFAS testing. The motion was seconded by Sel. Jurmain. Sel. Barnes polled the Board, Barnes – yay, McCaffery – yay, Jurmain – yay. The motion passed unanimously.

20-082 Vote to Approve Water Ban

Mr. McKay asked to Board to approve the annual water ban for residents and business uses. Mr. McKay explained that Charles River Watershed Association believes that although we are a groundwater community, they still feel it affects the watershed and regulate the ban.

Sel. McCaffrey made a motion to approve the mandatory outside watering ban for residents and businesses. seconded by Sel. Jurmain. Sel. Barnes polled the Board, Barnes – yay, McCaffery – yay, Jurmain – yay. The motion passed unanimously.

Sel. Barnes reminded residents and business owners to maintain sprinkler systems especially when they are away on vacation. Mr. McKay said the ban will be posted to the website by May 1.

20-083 Vote to Approve Water Ban

Robert Weiss, Energy Manager, asked the Board for authorization for both the Town Administrator and him to accept the bid for the supply of electricity in the form of an Electric Service Agreement on April 21, 2020. Mr. Weiss said the Town will send a mailing if residents would like to opt out and all information will be provided on the letter.

Sel. McCaffrey made a motion to appoint the Town Administrator as the Town's primary representative and the Town's energy manger as the alternative representative and authorize them as our designees to execute a contract for the supply of electricity in the form of an electric service agreement on bid day April 21,2020 for the community electricity aggregation program. Sel. Jurmain seconded this motion. Sel. Barnes polled the Board, Barnes – yay, McCaffery – yay, Jurmain – yay. The motion passed unanimously.

20-084 Approval of Water/Sewer Dept. Commitment

Sel. McCaffrey made a motion to approve the water/sewer commitment to the collector for March 2020 in the amount of \$3,083.53. Sel. Jurmain seconded the motion. Sel. Barnes polled the Board, Barnes – yay, McCaffery – yay, Jurmain – yay. The motion passed unanimously.

20-085 Vote to Approve Minutes

Sel. McCaffrey made a motion to approve the minutes of March 2nd, and March 16th 2020 as written. The motion was seconded by Sel. Jurmain. Sel. Barnes polled the Board, Barnes – yay, McCaffery – yay, Jurmain – yay. The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Sel. McCaffrey made a motion to adjourn at 5:40 pm. The motion was seconded by Sel. Jurmain. Sel. Barnes polled the Board, Barnes – yay, McCaffery – yay, Jurmain – yay. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted: Karen M. Bouret