

Town of Milton
Board of Selectman Meeting
Monday, March 2nd, 2015
Milton Town Hall
Meeting Minutes

Members in Attendance: Chairman Tom Gray, Mike Beaulieu, Andrew Rawson, Elizabeth Dionne, Town Administrator **Also in Attendance:** Toni McLellan, Recording Clerk

Public in Attendance: Michelle Beauchamp, Les Elder, Pat Smith, Clarence Nason, John Katwick, Nancy Wing, Pam Smith, Doreen Gray, Larry Brown, Bob Carrier, Richard Krauss, Ron Ward, Pam Ward, Danny Bouzianis, Leo Lessard, Liz Lessard, Chris Jacobs, David Carpus, Jennifer Duprat, Karen Brown, Sarah Rogers, Doug Shute, Andy Crone, Lynn McDougall, Thomas McDougall, Mike Currier, David Paey, Jay Clouthier, George Knapp, Janet Knapp, Kristen Rice, Betsy Baker, Andrew Magargee, Charles Levesque, Carol Martin, Gail Pennell

Chairman Gray called the meeting to order at 6:04pm and welcomed everyone.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Acknowledgements

Passing's –

Marion Carswell
Christian Goodale
Gerald Nason, Sr.

A moment of silence was observed to honor the deceased and their families.

Birthdays –

Robin Weeks – Fire Dept.
Michelle Beauchamp – Town Clerk/Tax Collector
Josh Biron – Fire Dept.
Jeff Roub – Fire Dept.
Luther Ellis – Transfer Station
Andrew Magargee – Police Dept.

Chairman Gray thanked the employees for their service to the Town, and the people of Milton, and wished them a very happy birthday.

New Business

99 St. James Avenue – Opening of Sealed Bids on Sale

There are 3 sealed bids. Chairman Gray opened and read the bids.

1st bid – Dave Nugent - \$15,010.00

2nd bid – Leo Lessard - \$18,200.00

3rd bid - Ronald Ward - \$15,500.00

The BOS will review the bids. The bidders will be contacted by the next meeting.

Charles Levesque, Innovative Natural Resource Solutions Re: Community Study -

In 2005 (using 2004 town data), a cost of community services study was conducted for town of Milton. There is interest in conducting a new study if it would be of benefit to the town. C.

Levesque provided an overview of the process for Community Service Studies.

In 1980's, the American Farmland Trust (a national organization) came up with a methodology for conducting Cost of Community Service Studies. This study has been conducted for many communities in many states. Twenty communities in NH have had a study completed. There are three categories for land use for the study; Commercial/Industrial, Residential and Open Space. One year of tax information on revenues and expenditures is applied to the 3 categories of land use. Every line item in the town budget is allocated to one of the categories in the study. It is a financial analysis that represents a snapshot in time. It is not intended to be predictive of the future. The result is a ratio that represents every dollar that comes into the town and how much in the way of expenditures goes out for that particular land use type. If the ratio is less than 1.0, the town is getting more from that land use type than the town is spending on that land use type. If the ratio is greater than 1.0, the town is expending more on that particular land use than they are bringing in for revenues. It takes approximately 40-50 hours to complete a Cost of Community Services study. Department Heads for the town need to be involved. Many others also need to be involved. C. Levesque will leave a fact sheet on the process. Although the methodology has not changed, the data that would be used has changed. He emphasized that this is not a useful tool for trend analysis. The study is general and will look at every acre in town. It will give a good sense of what is of profit to the town and what is not in terms of land use types. For example, commercial/industrial development tends to pay for itself and results in a positive outcome for the town in terms of revenue.

Questions from attendees on Cost of Community Service Studies:

1) Could the town of Milton be tied in with other communities in NH as a comparative analysis? C. Levesque stated that communities can be compared. He will leave a handout that looks at NH communities. He stated, however, that they were done during different years and towns are different with regard to many aspects of operation and cautioned against comparing too closely.

2) Are these reports available online?

C. Levesque stated that some of the studies are online. There isn't a general website where all of these studies are located. The studies that he has conducted are available. If an email is provided, he will email the study requested. Chairman Gray stated that the study for the town of Milton will be available online.

Larry Brown stated that Dover and Rochester have had a large industrial expansion and they are dangerously close to their tax caps.

3) What is the cost to the community for conducting this study?

C. Levesque stated that the cost to the community for doing such a study is approximately \$6,000.00 (if conducted by Charlie Levesque).

DOT Sidewalk Agreement Approval for 585 White Mountain Highway (for the proposed Dunkin Donuts) – Danny Bouzianis was present to speak to the Milton Crossing project. He is working with NH DOT to finalize the permit for construction for Dunkin Donuts. The applicant for the project would be required to repair the existing sidewalk. NH DOT requires a letter of agreement from the town that states that once the 6' sidewalk is completed, the town will maintain the sidewalk. Chris Jacobs inquired about having the property owner, not the town, maintain the sidewalk. It is difficult for the community to clear sidewalks, particularly in a winter such as the one we've had this year. He feels that the town should not be maintaining sidewalks. The sidewalk for this project will be a state sidewalk but the state does not have the time or money to maintain sidewalks. A concern over liability and consistency in maintenance was raised for discussion. A concern was raised that if property owners are to the ones to maintain sidewalks, would this also apply to homeowners that have sidewalks in front of their property? Another participant stated that while he understands the desire to take the burden off the town, businesses need to be encouraged to come to Milton, and putting the responsibility for maintenance on the owner would discourage business. Pat Smith stated that if the town wants to go in this direction, passing an ordinance where all businesses as property owners are responsible for maintenance, not just one, would be helpful. Otherwise he will continue to do what he has been doing in clearing sidewalks. He does not have a problem with this.

M. Beaulieu made a motion to approve the NH DOT sidewalk agreement. A. Rawson seconded. Motion carried. The BOS signed the agreement in triplicate.

Recreation Commission Re: Proposal for Moving Fence –

C. Jacobs – The Recreation Commission will be moving the gate and the fence closer to the guard/entrance shack in anticipation of starting a basketball court project and construction of a playground in spring. To begin the work, the Recreation Commission is officially requesting \$4,780.05 that remains in the CIP funds.

A. Rawson moved to provide the Recreation Commission with the funds needed (\$4,780.05) from the CIP. M. Beaulieu seconded. Motion carried.

Michelle Beauchamp, Tax Collector Re: Check Request

A Gilford (former Milton) resident registered his car in Milton. The Gilford Town Clerk is requesting the funds paid to register the vehicle (minus \$3.00).

M. Beaulieu moved to cut a check to the Gilford Town Clerk in the amount of \$64.00. A. Rawson seconded. Motion carried.

Michelle Beauchamp, Tax Collector Re: 2015 Tax Bills – M. Beauchamp is requesting permission (under RSA7611: 2) to move forward with electronic billing (tax bills) for residents. This would be an “opt in” process for residents where they would receive a bill electronically rather than a paper bill. A signature from the resident would need to be on file. There would be no additional cost to Milton from Avatar.

M. Beaulieu made a motion to allow M. Beauchamp to move forward with putting the optional electronic billing system for tax bills for residents in place. A. Rawson seconded. Motion carried.

Meeting Room Recording Equipment Quotes – The BOS had previously requested that Pack Network LLC look for additional savings on the cost for recording equipment for the town. The price was reduced to \$3471.77. Additional cost for the software (Wondershare video converter) would be \$59.00.

M. Beaulieu made a motion to move forward with the purchase of the recording equipment in the amount of \$3471.77 plus the purchase of the video converter in the amount of \$59.00. A. Rawson seconded. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

February 7, 2015 – Meeting Minutes – M. Beaulieu moved to approve the minutes as written. A. Rawson seconded. Motion carried.

February 17, 2015 – Regular Meeting Minutes - M. Beaulieu moved to approve the minutes as written. A. Rawson seconded. Motion carried.

February 17, 2015 – Nonpublic Meeting Minutes Sessions 1 & 2 - M. Beaulieu moved to approve the minutes as written and to seal Sessions 1 & 2 for one year. A. Rawson seconded. Motion carried.

Expenditure Reports

Nothing new to report

Administrator Comments

E. Dionne Re: Les Elder is requesting approval to move forward with the Moose Plate grant for \$10,000.00. The grant is to upgrade windows and make them energy efficient.

M. Beaulieu made a motion to allow Les Elder as Library Trustee to move forward with the Moose Plate grant in the amount of \$10,000.00. A. Rawson seconded. Motion carried

The town received a Health Trust surplus check for dental insurance for FY 2014 in the amount of \$1661.65

NH DOT conducted a review of street lights in Milton. There are two light that they pay for: One at the intersection of Routes 125 and 75 (NH DOT would like to turn this light off); the other is at the NH DOT shed (NH DOT would like to keep this light turned on at their expense). NH DOT will hold a meeting on March 13th to collect input on these lights and others in NH. If the Town of Milton would like to keep the light at the intersection of Routes 125 and 75 on, the town would need to pay for it.

Chief Krauss recommends that if a light is to be turned off, it should be the NH DOT shed light; this would present less of a risk. There is not a lot of traffic near the shed while the intersection of Route 125 and 75 is a busy one. Leaving this light on would make this intersection safer than if it is turned off.

The NH DOT would like a response by March 5th. Their meeting is next week. E. Dionne stated that the town pays approx. \$1,400 – 1,500/month in lighting.

Danny Bouzianis recommends asking NH DOT to convert the intersection light to an LED light stating that it would cost the NH DOT approximately \$200 to turn off the light. If they use that money instead to install an LED, the cost to the town to keep it on would be less.

The discussion regarding the intersection light resulted in attendees wanting to leave the light on.

Selectman Comments

A. Rawson - Stressed the importance of the upcoming election (March 10th, 2015) and urged residents to vote. He encouraged people to help each other out if someone needs help getting out to vote or learning about the articles.

M. Beaulieu - Brought forth an issue that he feels is tearing the community and the Boards apart; the landfill. On Oct 10th, A. Rawson and M. Beaulieu held an informal meeting (Chairman Gray was unable to attend) for the people of the town to express their opinion about the controversial Milton Environmental Park. Since the people of Milton were not provided ample opportunity to

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provide input and voice their opinions on the matter, this seemed like the right thing to do. Not long after the meeting, a petition came through to place a Warrant Article on the ballot in regards to the zoning (landfills). Despite his opposition to a landfill in Milton, the democratic process must rule and the decision rests with the voters. In the minutes of 2/17/15, there was a motion to approve all of the money warrant articles but not to include other articles. He felt that should have been the end of the issue. There have been some wrongs committed and felt that it was not right for Chairman Gray to send out a letter and that he was wrong in responding to that letter but he feels that it time to put the issue to rest and move on. Chairman Gray stated that the letter that he put out was his opinion only and that it was not intended to be representative of the BOS.

M. Beaulieu attended the Town Forest Committee meeting (he is not on the Board but wished to support the Committee). He would like to thank Steve Panish (Conservation Commission) for his excellent input. The Board held an election. The results were:

Rick Bessette – Chairman

Colleen Bessette – Recorder (minutes)

Karen Golab – Vice Chair

The Committee will conduct a site walk of the town forest property (Casey Road). There will be more to report after their next meeting (a date has not been set). They will be working on how to approach hunting, ATV use, shooting on the property, etc.

E. Dionne stated that Mr. Paul Blanc is no longer interested in being a member of the Town Forest Committee. Chairman Gray asked that anyone interested in being a member submit their name and a letter of interest to the Town Administrator.

Public Comments

Mr. Currier inquired as to whether there was anything on the ballot for the Fire Station. Chairman Gray stated that \$143,000.00 is on the ballot for architectural drawings. M. Currier felt that this is a lot of money for drawings for a building. M. Beaulieu stated that the current building has been neglected and that it would cost more to rebuild the current station but that Chief Marique is the best person to talk to about this. Fire Departments have different criteria to follow in the construction of a station and that figures into the cost. As the liaison to the Fire Dept. A. Rawson will have a conversation with Nick Marique about this issue.

Larry Brown stated that the proposed Fire Dept. building has been scaled back to 9,000 s.f. (from 12,000 s.f.). In addition, the roof line has been simplified. There would need to be a specialized internal drainage system installed in order to wash the trucks. The cost of this factors into the total cost. He felt that it would be great to re-use the Fire Dept. building but that it may not be possible.

Sample ballots are difficult to view onscreen and the request to rotate them 90 degrees when scanned in was mentioned. M. Beauchamp stated that they have tried for the past two elections to do this and it has not worked but they can be viewed easily when printed.

The Voters Guide will be mailed this week. A sample ballot is posted at the library, both Post Offices, the Town Hall, and also on the website.

Chairman Gray closed public comments at 7:29 pm. M. Beaulieu seconded. Motion carried.

Adjournment

A. Rawson made a motion to adjourn at 7:30pm. M. Beaulieu seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Toni McLellan
Recording Clerk

Chairman Tom F. Gray

James Michael Beaulieu

Andrew Rawson