

Town of Milton
Board of Selectman Meeting
Monday, March 16th, 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: Pat Smith, Leo Lessard, Liz Lessard, Pam Smith, Doreen Gray, Janice Long, Timothy Long, Betsy Baker, Ron Ward, Barb Hughes, George Knapp, Michelle Beauchamp, Kathy Wallingford, John Katwick, Thomas McDougall, Bob Carrier, Larry Brown, Nick Marique, Richard Krauss.

Chairman Gray called the meeting to order at 6:07pm and welcomed everyone.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

New Business

Restructure of Board – M. Beaulieu made a motion to have Tom Gray continue on as Chairman of the BOS. A. Rawson seconded the motion. Motion carried. There was discussion about having a Vice Chair as was done in the past. The consensus was not to elect a Vice Chair at this time. Board members (other Committees) and Liaisons were also appointed. A. Rawson will remain as the BOS liaison to the Fire Dept. and Recreation Commission. M. Beaulieu will remain as Police Dept. and Budget Committee liaison. Chairman Gray will remain as Public works Department and Planning Board liaison.

99 St. James Ave. – Award of Bid on Sale of Property

Three bids were received:

David Nugent - \$15,010.00

Leo and Elizabeth Lessard - \$18,200.00

Ronald P. Ward II - \$15, 500.00

M. Beaulieu made a motion to award the winning bid to Leo and Elizabeth Lessard at \$18,200.00. A. Rawson seconded. Motion carried. L. Lessard will meet with E. Dionne to work out the details.

Approval of Minutes

February 17, 2015 – Regular Meeting Minutes – The minutes were reopened for a correction. M. Beaulieu made a motion to rescind his original motion for approval of the February 17, 2015

public meeting minutes. A. Rawson seconded. Motion carried. M. Beaulieu made a motion to accept the amended minutes for February 17, 2015. The change is from \$5,372.00 to \$5,300.72 on page 5 in the fifth paragraph. A. Rawson seconded. Motion carried.

March 2, 2015 – Regular Meeting Minutes – M. Beaulieu made a motion to accept the minutes as written. A. Rawson seconded. Motion carried.

March 2, 2015 – Nonpublic Meeting Minutes - M. Beaulieu made a motion to accept the minutes as written and to seal them for one year. A. Rawson seconded. Motion carried.

Expenditure Reports

E. Dionne sent the expenditure report to the BOS for 2014. The 2014 books are closed.

Administrator Comments

E. Dionne Re: Dale Spragues contract. There will be a 1.7% increase. This will be on the next BOS meeting agenda.

Re: the street light at the intersection of Routes 125 and 75: She sent a letter to NH DOT to determine if they would reconsider shutting not shutting off the light. She has yet to hear back from them. She also met with PSNH (Eversource) last week in regards to the cost to keep the light on as well as the type of light. The cost depends on a variety of factors, but basically for 12 months, it will be \$297.44. All the lights that the town pays for are all either 50, 100 or 150 watts, none are LED. The light at the intersection of Routes 125 and 75 is high-pressure sodium 250 watt light. The town currently has 107 lights for which they pay the bill. PSNH remarked that this is a high number of lights to maintain for a town the size of Milton. Back in 2009, there were 185 street lights for which the town paid. The recommendation was to turn off 79 of those lights saving the town approximately \$8,000.00. The town will look into whether more lights can be shut off without risking safety.

E. Dionne received the Annual Facility Report for the Transfer Station today. NH DES will need to have a signed copy back by March 31st, 2015. The report contains such information as the address and contact information for the facility as well as who works there, how many tons have been hauled, whether the facility was in operation for the entire year, etc. A. Rawson made a motion to allow the Town Administrator to sign the report each year going forward. M. Beaulieu seconded. Motion carried.

Re: Waiver of Liability Form for Tax Deeded Properties – E. Dionne created a Waiver of Liability Form. The waiver would pertain to requests from former landowners to enter their previously owned properties (to retrieve items, etc.). Anyone wanting to go onto a tax deeded property would contact the town first, fill out the form/waiver, and be escorted onto the property. E. Dionne will mail the draft form to the BOS.

Selectman Comments

A. Rawson - Thanked everyone that came out to vote. It was the largest voter turnout in history for Milton. He thanked everyone that supported him in the election. He emphasized that the town has a lot of work to do and he takes this job very seriously. There are a lot of good people doing the work.

Re: The Recreation Dept. – The Dept. will be moving the fence and gate when the snow melts and then installation of the playground can begin.

John Katwick voiced a recommendation to look at things in detail before installing any equipment. The net put up to prevent foul balls from reaching the highway has rotted so he would like to see careful scrutiny of the project before making decisions. A. Rawson stated that the insurance company has been notified regarding the net. He will continue to let folks know what is going on and he will continue to ask for input.

M. Beaulieu – Congratulated A. Rawson on becoming elected as a Town Selectman.

Re: Wages for Milton Highway Dept. employees. He saw an ad for a truck driver for the town in the Sunday paper. The rate of pay was listed as \$12.86. He saw another ad in the same paper for a truck driver for Farmington. The pay range was from \$15.43 -\$17.63. He feels it is time to look at pay for Milton Highway Dept. workers. Chairman Gray stated that the town has taken a look systematically, year by year, at the pay for various departments. He echoed that it is indeed time to look at the pay for Highway Dept. employees.

Re: The Employee Handbook – E. Dionne reported that she will be scheduling a discussion with one remaining Department Head. There will also be a couple of legal reviews and then it will go to the BOS for review.

Chairman Gray – Thanked everyone that stepped up to vote in the election. He congratulated Dept. Heads on the hard work on the CIP. There were 1,303 residents that voted. It was the largest voter turnout for a local election the town has seen. He congratulated A. Rawson on being the first Selectman voted in with over 1,000 votes.

Re: ReEnergy –Chairman Gray was approached in the past week about the possibility of ReEnergy “not going away.” He spoke with ReEnergy on the phone and they relayed to him that they are moving on and that election was such a large loss for them that it is not in their best interest to continue to pursue the issue with the town.

Chairman Gray asked E. Dionne to find out about the status of recording equipment for the town.

Re: Facebook page for the town. The town would like to set up an information only page. Fire and Police Dept. will help the town to establish the page.

Re: Board and Committee Reports – Chairman Gray would like to move forward with formalizing their (BOS) reports of what is happening on town Boards and Committees. This has already been happening, but it is not formalized and as a result at times tends to slip through the cracks and things do not get reported. E. Dionne will create a list of Boards and Committees and the Liaison.

Public Comments

George Knapp – Felt that the position of the BOS Chairman on the issue of the landfill was not to the benefit of the town and thought he should resign his position. Chairman Gray responded that he would not be resigning his position.

Barabra Hughes of Milton Mills co-administers the library Facebook page. She brought with her a copy of three emails that she had sent to the BOS and Town Administrator since November, 2014 (one also in December and one week ago). She did not receive a response back from anyone at any time. The first two emails had to do with supporting the CIP initiative on behalf of the town. She shared some observations. Clearly there must be no email policy for the town (so that someone may receive a notice or an acknowledgement of their attempt to contact town officials). She is trying to encourage better, reliable, vetted communication. She inquired about town guidelines for posting. She is not looking necessarily for a detailed response but an acknowledgement of email received or any kind of response. She strongly encourages town policy for replies and for Facebook. In their capacity as a town representative, the BOS should be providing a response. Chairman Krauss stated that the Police Dept. has internal policies for Facebook. For example, there are only 2 people within the Police Dept. that can post on their Facebook page and it is monitored heavily. There is accountability and responsibility. Other Departments such as the Fire Department also have internal policies. E. Dionne stated that consideration of a Facebook page is new to the town. Department Heads have only recently set up Facebook pages. The BOS apologized for the lack of response and stated that B. Hughes should've received a response.

Pat Smith stated that work on the foundation of the library will occur this spring when the snow melts. There will be work on the roof this week. John Katwick has been working with the contractor to start work on the siding. Betsy Baker stated that the basement of the library is very clean and looks great and she thanked P. Smith for all the work.

Timothy Long stated that the BOS works very well with the Police Dept., Fire Dept. and the Highway Dept. But it seems that $\frac{3}{4}$ of the budget goes to the schools. Chairman Gray stated that the BOS has nothing to do with the school budget and that they are a separate entity.

Chief Krauss stated that the Dept. Heads for the Highway, Fire and Police Departments will work together (with Mr. Tersey) for the CIP and will try to do their projects together. They will try to get the school and the town working together in the future for CIP projects. He thanked everyone that came out to vote and stated that it is clear from that process that the people of the town want to see things change and want the CIP to go forward. He emphasized that they need town residents to come to the meetings to provide input around what they think is best for the town in terms of funding. If they cannot come to a meeting, he encouraged them to still provide their opinion if they see him or other Dept. Heads out and about in the town. Otherwise, they move forward as they must do, implementing what they think is best. They prefer the input from the people of the town. They also need the input of small businesses. This element is paramount to success of the CIP. The Chief felt that this year in particular all were working together for the betterment of the town. This year was better than the last 4 years

Janice Long stated that she was very proud of the town because of the voter turnout but was unsettled by the use of the reference to the “have” and “have-nots” in the town. Chairman Gray stated that his letter did not contain the words “have” and “have not’s”. That was a mistake on the part of the reporter and he wished to clarify this.

Larry Brown thanked B. Hughes for the concern she brought forth and stated that if an individual sends a letter to the Governor, the sender receives a boiler plate letter in return. Local government should have something similar. Chairman Gray echoed that this issue should have been handled better.

L. Brown stated that there are new reflective paints with excellent reflectivity in sharp yellow for road signs. When he spoke to NH DOT, he suggested that a duplicate sign be affixed to the same post at Routes 75 and 125 (larger than the one going south) directing drivers to take a left. Secondly, there is no objective assessment of lighting at that intersection in terms of what works best for the lens, glare, etc. Regarding the carpeting, Wendy’s has a wonderful earth tone carpet (3’ squares) that might be a type that is good for carpet replacement at the Town Hall. On the day of the election, he spoke with a gentlemen at the polls that had owned a mom and pop business in Exeter. The gentlemen seemed appreciative of what ReEnergy has done. He felt that this gentleman did not understand the distinction between a processing center and a spent residual storage landfill and that there are a lot of issues for consideration. From this perspective, he appreciates what the present BOS Chairman has done. L. Brown Re: the Public benefit of lighting. He is suspicious of the necessity for roadside lights that happen to be on top of mailboxes.

Thomas McDougall inquired about the number of registered voters in Milton

Chairman Gray responded that there are 2,800 registered voters in Milton; over 1,300 voters turned out for this election. Michelle Beauchamp stated that it was close to the turnout for presidential elections, but she doesn't have exact numbers. L. Brown stated that for gubernatorial elections in Maine, the turn out is typically around 58.2%.

Chairman Gray closed public comments at 7:07pm.

Chairman Gray motioned to go back into nonpublic session under RSA 91-A:3, II (a) through (e) and to take a 5 minute recess. M. Beaulieu seconded. Motion carried.

Adjournment

A. Rawson made a motion to adjourn at 7:07pm. M. Beaulieu seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Toni McLellan
Recording Clerk

Chairman Tom F. Gray

James Michael Beaulieu

Andrew Rawson