

**Town of Milton
Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting
Monday, March 17, 2014
Milton Town Hall**

In attendance: Selectman Tom Gray, Selectman Robert Bridges and Town Administrator Elizabeth Dionne. Absent with excuse was Selectman Michael Beaulieu. Also in attendance was Recording Clerk Kimberly Ladisheff.

Public in attendance: Clarence Nason, Pat Smith, Pam Smith, Betsy Baker, Charles Ek, Douglas Shute, Stan Nadeau, David Levin, Bob Carrier, John Katwick, Lue Snyder, Nancy Wing, Doug Wing, Devon Pageau, Nick Marique, Larry Brown, Les Elder, Bob Bordeau, Kari Lygren and Steve Panish.

Tom Gray called the meeting to order at 6:02pm and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

NEW BUSINESS

B. Bridges moved to appoint Tom Gray as Chairman of the Board of Selectmen. Motion seconded by Tom. Motion carried.

Selectmen ex-officio appointments to committees: M. Beaulieu for the Budget Committee. T. Gray for the Conservation Commission and Planning Board. B. Bridges for Recreation.

Selectmen Representatives: T. Gray for Public Works. B. Bridges for Fire Department and M. Beaulieu for Police Department.

Committee appointments: Bob motioned to appoint Cynthia Wyatt and Charles Ek to the Conservation Commission until 2017. Motion seconded by Tom. Motion carried.

Bob motioned to appoint Doug Shute to the Recreation Commission for one meeting. Motion seconded by Tom. Motion carried.

Bob motioned to appoint Robbie Parsons to the Economic Development Committee for 2 years and Bob Bordeau for 1 year. Motion seconded by Tom. Motion carried.

Bob motioned to appoint M. Beaulieu to the Townhouse Stewardship Committee until 2017. Motion seconded by Tom. Motion carried.

Chairman Gray swore in Charles Ek and Doug Shute.

Pat Smith re: NH the Beautiful: Pat was before the board to ask permission for the PWD to register with NH the Beautiful for a roadside cleanup and open house on April 19th from 9am to noon. The program will provide them with free blue bags for volunteers to fill with roadside debris. Pat also asked for permission to receive donations such as water, hotdogs, condiments, etc. for a cookout to feed the volunteers. He stated at the open house residents will be able to look at their equipment and building. Bob motioned to allow PW to go ahead with pick up and for Chairman to sign documents. Motion seconded by Tom. Motion carried.

Bob motioned to allow PW to accept donations for this event. Motion seconded by Tom. Motion carried.

Les Elder re: complaint of Recreation Commission meeting: Les filed a complaint regarding a meeting the recreation commission held on February 2nd without a quorum and conducted business. He stated this was an illegal meeting and doesn't feel this was right. Tom stated they are allowed to hold a meeting but cannot conduct business. Bob Bridges corrected Les that the meeting was held on February 10th and the commission has recognized this and it has been corrected.

Bob Bordeau entered meeting late and was sworn in by Chairman Gray as an Economic Development Committee member for one year.

Sign ordinance re: amendment approval: redefined Section VII. (f) to read “these products as defined in RSA 21:34-a, excluding firewood, all locally grown or produced in the Town of Milton, with signage advertising these products, shall be exempt from Board of Selectmen approval. Bob motioned to accept Sign control ordinance as amended. Motion seconded by Tom. Motion carried.

Approval of minutes

March 3, 2014 – B. Bridges motioned to approve as written. Motion seconded by T. Gray. Motion carried.

March 3, 2014 Nonpublic first session – B. Bridges motioned to approve and seal for 1 year. Motion seconded by t. Gray. Motion carried.

March 3, 2014 Nonpublic second session – B. Bridges motioned to approve and seal for 1 year. Motion seconded by T. Gray. Motion carried.

Expenditure Reports: Net budget column still shows zeros. Had to wait until after town meeting and now they will plug the correct numbers in.

Town Administrator comments: E. Dionne reported on the following items

Town received 2 surplus refunds for dental from HealthTrust for the year 2011 in the amount of \$181.45 and for 2012 in the amount of \$652.25.

She received a request from a resident on Ding a Ling restaurant. The resident wants to know if the BOS would be willing to give a cash register that is supposedly in the building to Helping Hands across the street. Bob stated this was town property and it should have to go through the bid process.

Selectmen's Comments:

Fire Station: B. Bridges asked Fire Chief to give an update on the fire station. Nick stated he received the report of findings and is waiting on scope of work for repairs. As long as the price from the contractor matches the adjusters they can move forward as soon as possible. Bob asked Nick to clarify to the people what happened. Nick explained that Milton was called to a fire in Acton. After realizing they would be tied up for a while they contacted Farmington for station coverage which is common practice. There were spotters in place while Farmington's driver was backing in their truck but the angle you are looking at while backing in, there is an extrusion that protects the light tower, and you can't see on top and that is what they hit. Nick stated despite what Foster's and other people are saying, it wasn't a conspiracy.

Election results: T. Gray mentioned the most immediate impact we are going to feel is in Public Works, basically with the grader. There are a lot of dirt roads that may not get tended to. Tom feels somehow the Board failed to get the message across. He stated he did some comparisons and the 2003 tax rate of \$25.94 per thousand is almost identical to the 2013 tax rate of \$25.88 per thousand. In 2003 the town's portion of the tax rate was 29.22% and in 2013 it was 30.87%. Comparing that to the schools portion in 2003 of 35.7% and 49.5% of total tax rate in 2013. Tom let everyone know he was not trying to criticize the school he was just trying to put some perspective on it. Town increase from 2003 tax rate to 2013 tax rate was 1.65% whereas the school's increase was 13.8%. He stated we need to do better this year and we cannot fail again.

NH DOT: Town received notice that a section of Rte. 125 by Laskey's Corner and the Industrial Park is going to be fixed.

Goals: T. Gray stated one of his goals is to look for community support groups and he is pleased to see Dennis Wing has already spearheaded something along these lines. Dennis would like to start a group to

review and analyze the school and town operating budgets over the next several months. Mr. Wing stated he is looking for a minimum of 6 people and already has 2 volunteers. T. Gray read the article Mr. Wing posted on facebook and stated it was very well written.

Go fund website: T. Gray mentioned that a family in Farmington had lost everything in a house fire. He asked if we should consider putting a link on our website as this would be good outreach to neighboring communities. Larry Brown stated they could wind up showing favoritism. B. Bridges agreed that this could snowball and we should stick to our own community.

Posting of minutes: T. Gray mentioned that minutes will not be posted to the website until they are approved.

Public Comments:

John Katwick: wanted to thank Tom for stepping up and saying they failed at getting the message out concerning the budget but feels everyone failed, not just the BOS. He then thanked Dennis Wing and feels what he is doing is a step in the right direction. He then mentioned they are still looking for members for the Cemetery Trustees. Donna Elliott was a write in and the BOS will need to appoint her. John will be coming before the BOS to change the number of members as they are trying to move from 3 to 5 members.

Stan Nadeau: wanted to thank the people for passing the Police Department warrant article. He feels the people in this town are willing to fix things, but not everything at once.

Larry Brown: stated he made the motion and voted for the budget at \$650,000 and he was the one person who voted for the final at deliberation. He feels we shouldn't depend on property tax as the sole income for the town and that is something that will have to be addressed.

Kari Lygren re: Earth Day cleanup: Saturday April 26th starting at 10:00am at the Farm Museum. They will be doing pick up then a pot luck gathering. This is in collaboration with MMRG, Branch Hill Farm and NH Farm Museum. She has talked with Pat Smith and he will allow them to dump at the town dump. State will pick up blue bags but they don't recycle so they will bring recycling items there. The Boy Scouts and Recreation Department will also be helping.

Other Business: None

B. Bridges motioned to adjourn at 7:05pm. Motion seconded by T. Gray. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Ladisheff
Recording Clerk

Chairman Tom Gray

Robert Bridges

James Michael Beaulieu