



**Town of Milton**  
**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING**  
**November 6, 2023**

**ATTENDANCE:**

**Members:** Humphrey Williams (Chair), Claudine Burnham; Excused: Andy Rawson

**Staff:** Chris Jacobs- Town Administrator, Lt. Tom Hebert- MPD, Brian Leclerc- Deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector, Chief Nick Marique- MFD, Jason Forbes- Wastewater Treatment, Mark Badger - Water District

**Public:** Bob Carrier- Budget Committee, Renata Gamache- Budget Committee, Tom Gaulin, State Representative Glenn Bailey

Humphrey Williams, Chair, opened the public session at 6:00PM.

**1.) Pledge of Allegiance:** Humphrey Williams, Chair, led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2.) Public Comment:**

There were no public comments.

**3.) Announcements and Community Calendar:**

1. Veteran's Day Stationary Celebration, November 11, 2023, 11-11:30AM at Veteran's Park.

**4.) NEW Business – Discussion and Possible Actions:**

**a.) Winding Road Bridge – Status/Update:**

Mr. Williams provided an update – Daniels Construction will install a 70-foot temporary bridge which will take about two weeks to complete. There have been concerns expressed by residents of the area concerning emergency situations. Mr. Williams said Chief Marique confirmed if emergency situation arose, fire trucks and ambulances would respond. There will be no weight limit restrictions on the bridge.

Mrs. Burnham said Executive Counselor Joe Kenney and the DOT Commissioner would be at the Pizza Nook on Tuesday to meet and talk with any interested residents. They will also take a tour of Winding Road.

- b.) **Charles Street Pumping Station:** Jason Forbes, Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator discussed some recent emergency changes. In August they noticed issues with the pumps. They did have someone come in to clean the pumps, etc. He noted these are the original pumps and are 30+ years of age. This past weekend, he got a high-level notice; he determined the pumps had failed. He purchased two pumps (\$6,000 per pump) and \$1,500 in freight charges. There are now two brand new pumps. Mr. Williams agreed this was a necessity and the money is in their budget.
- c.) **Water District – Water line replacement:** He explained the area in discussion is at the end of Elm Street heading toward Rt. 75. The section of property does belong to the town of Milton. The water line goes through this property. There is a leak in the line around the middle of the powerline (between hydrant and property located at 382). They want to run a new line where the current one is and continue on that property to the driveway and connect from there. Mr. Williams said this is a necessity and asked how long it would take to complete the work? Mark Badger said it is a two-day job and should be completed before winter. Mark also said this property is not within the district and should not have originally been included. However, they are now responsible to serve them. He will work with Pat (Smith) on permitting. Mr. Williams said the budget is through the Water District.
- d.) **L. Brown – Library Trustee alternate:** Mr. Brown was nominated in March with his term expiring in March, 2024.

Mr. Williams motioned to approve Larry Brown as an Alternate Library Trustee. Seconded by Mrs. Burnham. All were in favor; the motion was approved.

- e.) **Usage of Credit Cards / Debit Cards by residents for town financial transactions:** Mr. Williams said many residents have requested the use of credit and debit cards for all transactions. Brian Leclerc, Town Clerk/Tax Collector said they have determined this will take a software installation. Once this is completed, residents will be able to use credit/debit cards for all business transactions. This may be in just one transaction instead of separate transactions.

Mr. Williams motioned to move ahead with the installation of Interware software for credit card payments. Seconded by Mrs. Burnham. All were in favor; the motion was approved.

- f.) **Drummond Woodsum – Use of Brian Fogg for Eversource Abatement Case:** This is an Eversource abatement case which has been ongoing for several years. It is now going to court. Mr. Fogg is representing over 20 other towns/communities in this case. Drummond has asked Milton to have Brian Fogg also represent Milton. Mr. Fogg's fees include an \$8,000 fixed fee plus additional \$1,000 per month.



Mr. Williams motioned to move to utilize the services of Brian Fogg for the Eversource Abatement Case. Seconded by Mrs. Burnham. All were in favor; the motion was approved.

- g.) **2024 Town Operating Budget Discussion:** Mr. Williams explained they are currently working on the 2024 budget. There is a joint BOS/Budget committee meeting scheduled for November 16<sup>th</sup>. Currently there is ~6% increase (default) based on mandatory contracts as well as salaries, insurance increases, etc. They will continue to work to bring the budget in at or slightly below the default. There are items that have to go through the default because they are mandatory contracted items. The default includes already signed contracts with employees, professional services, etc.,.

Mr. Williams reminded everyone of the upcoming required town assessments. This contract, previously signed in 2021, is \$105,792; this will be charged to the assessing contract line. Town assessments are required in 2024. This will mean an increase of ~3.59% to the budget as the assessing line will increase from \$25,000 to \$131,000.

## 5.) EVENT PERMITS

- a.) There were none.

## 6.) OLD BUSINESS

- a.) **2022.02.04.00- 549 White Mountain Highway – status of building:** According to Chief Krauss, the contractor has tried to do a work-around of how the building will be demolished. It is now delayed as this work-around is not acceptable to the town as it will impact traffic on Rt. 125.
- b.) **2023.05.22 Townhouse Road Bridge Update:** Draft NHDOT Engineering Study received on 9/20/23. Review the study, coordinate with Lebanon BOS, and arrange with NHDOT a public hearing about the potential bridge plans. It will probably be held at the school and be televised. The date will be announced on the town website, town Facebook page and at future selectmen meetings.  
The joint meeting with the Lebanon BOS will be held either December 9<sup>th</sup> or December 16<sup>th</sup>. This meeting will allow the residents to express their concerns and ask questions. NHDOT has caused a lot of confusion regarding the bridge. However they will be at the meeting.
- c.) **2022.03.20.7 – Community Power Action Committee – seeks committee members.** This will be removed as there has been no interest.
- d.) Long-Term Goal – website functionality improvements: **Civic Plus ADA Audit of Town Website:** It has been determined this was just a sales pitch to use their services.
- e.) New Town Hall, 55 Industrial Way- Status: **Workmanship issues and additional repair plans.** We await the installation of internet service. Once installed the video and phone systems will be tested and a final move-in date will be determined. **McKay Walk-in Freezer and True T-72, HC 72 cu. Ft. Refrigerator. Space Management.** Pat and his department are working to

complete the work. He anticipates within the next week they should be finished.

Mrs. Burnham said she received three quotes for moving. The anticipated moving date will be Friday, November 25<sup>th</sup> (as long as Consolidated Communications can meet their installation deadlines). The bids range in price from ~\$3,500 to ~\$5,560.

William Huff - \$5,563

Calling all Cargo - \$4,495

Preferred Moving - \$3,495; Mrs. Burnham said although this is the lowest bid, she didn't feel comfortable selecting them since they did not come into evaluate; only via the phone and photos.

Seacoast Business will move the copier to the new Town Hall at no charge. Mrs. Burnham reported the freezer did go to McKenzie and the final bid for the fridge was \$1,550.

Mr. Jacobs said he heard from DOT concerning temporary signage on Rt. 125. They have said no signs will be allowed. Mr. Williams said they should at least be able to change the current sign on the road. It's also possible to have one of the portable message signs on Rt. 125.

f.) 2023.09.11 - Fund Balance Policy: Will decide at a later date.

g.) ECA Solar Power Purchase Agreement – schedule for BOS Agenda:

h.) **2023.09.25 Town Beach Boat Ramp – bids received & additional grant status:** Mr. Williams has the grant agreement forms which will need to be submitted to the Governor's office. The agreement said the town is eligible for \$93,900 award (based on the \$93,900 expenses submitted).

#### **7.) Communications Received:**

a.) No communications.

#### **8.) Other Business That May Come Before the Board:**

- a) The flags will be kept up till Veteran's Day. The day after, Mr. Jacobs said he will start taking down the flags for the winter months.
- b) Mr. Jacobs said more than the likely the upcoming primary election will be scheduled for the last week of January, although no date has been set.

#### **9.) Approval of Minutes:**

Non-Public Minutes:    **None**

Public Minutes:

**October 16, 2023** – Mr. Williams motioned to accept **10/26/2023 public minutes**. Mrs. Burnham seconded the motion. All were in favor; the motion was accepted.

#### **10.) Public Comments Relative to Topics Previously Discussed:**

Larry Brown: Regarding Community Power Coalition (under Old Business) – this is an automatic opt-in with a pro-bono community board. He asked if residents are needed to serve on this board?

Mr. Williams explained the intent was to have a committee, in conjunction with the BOS, develop a Warrant Article to gauge town interest. This did include an automatic opt-in which generated resident concern. Community Power never really provided any presentation materials. Mr. Jacobs said Community Power wanted this to only be an opt-in and a commitment from the town that they would only use Community Power and not go elsewhere.

Regarding the bridge – going back several years, he proposed a walkway on the dam. There has been nothing about a wood truss covered bridge; nothing in terms of a bi-state highway bridge (talked about in November 2017).

Mr. Brown expressed concerns regarding the amount of potential outside lighting at the new Town Hall. The official NH state policy is to have overall reduced lighting. The old daycare center used 20ft lights which are unnecessary.

**11.) Expenditure Reports:** No discussion.

**12.) Town Administrator:**

1. Joint BOS/Budget Committee meeting on November 16, 2023.
2. The next regular meeting of the Board will occur on November 20, 2023.

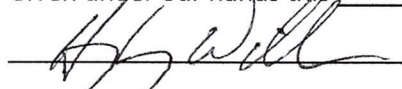
**13.) Selectmen Comments:**

There were none.

**14.) Adjournment:**

Mr. Williams motioned to adjourn the public meeting. Mrs. Burnham seconded the motion. All were in favor; the motion passed. The public meeting adjourned at 7:10PM.

Given under our hands this 20 day of November, 2023.



Humphrey Williams – Chairman BOS



Claudine Burnham - Board Member



Andrew Rawson - Board Member

**END OF MINUTES – November 6, 2023**