

Town of Milton
BOARD OF SELECTMAN MEETING
December 29, 2021

ATTENDANCE:

Members: Claudine Burnham (Chair), Andrew Rawson, Matthew Morrill

Staff: Chris Jacobs, Town Administrator

Public: Chief Richard Krauss, Pat Smith, Chief Nick Marique

Claudine Burnham, Chair, opened the public session at 5:05PM.

1.) **Pledge of Allegiance:** Claudine Burnham, Chair, led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2.) **FY2021 Year-End Encumbrances Requests:**

a.) Highway Department – Pat Smith:

Mr. Smith requested a carry-over of 200 hours of *accumulated vacation time* in the Highway Department to cover available hours for 3 employees. All BOS agreed to the request. Request to encumber \$8,200 for the purchase of a new Lift. While Mr. Smith originally requested \$8,200; Mr. Jacobs suggested \$10,000 to help cover any unforeseen related expenses. Mr. Smith explained at the annual lift inspection, potential safety issues were revealed as the existing lift, at 20 years old, is now worn out. The cost for the lift would be \$6,871.48 and the installation of new lift and removal of old lift would be \$1,200. Mr. Rawson is OK with moving forward with this and putting the amount at \$9,000.

Mr. Rawson made a motion to encumber \$8,200 towards the purchase of a new lift with installation and removal of existing lift. Mr. Morrill seconded the motion. All were in favor; the motion passed.

b.) Fire Department – Chief Marique:

Requesting encumbrance of \$9,246.25 for the purchase of gear/uniforms through Bergeron Protective Clothing. Chief Marique reported he had originally budgeted for the purchase of 6 sets. There is \$6,000 remaining in the uniform line. Mr. Rawson – it's important they have the right equipment to perform their jobs.

Mr. Rawson made a motion to approve encumbering \$9,246.25 to Bergeron Protective Clothing for the purchase of uniforms for the Fire Department. Mr. Morrill seconded the motion. All were in favor; the motion passed.

c.) Police Department – Chief Krauss:

Requesting encumbrance of \$5,035 for the purchase of 5 rifles. Chief Krauss requested 3 quotes for the purchase of 5 rifles; he only received one quote from Renaissance Firearms. This is a very good quote; each rifle would cost \$940 and include a turn-in of existing rifles (~\$2,500). Ms. Burnham questioned if there was a particular line-item this would be applied to. Chief Krauss – normally use the miscellaneous line-item. Mr. Jacobs agreed with this.

Chief Krauss reported because the new rifles would not be in the cars 24/7 there should be less wear and tear and anticipated these would last longer.

Mr. Rawson made a motion to accept the \$5,035 for the purchase of 5 new weapons with the trade-in of 5 current rifles (Renaissance Firearms). Mr. Morrill seconded the motion. All were in favor; the motion passed.

d.) Joint purchase request for Fire and Police Department:

Requesting motion to purchase a Side by Side ATV to replace the existing 6 wheeler machine. They received two quotes. Both Chief Marique and Krauss prefer the Intimidator through Lakeside Motors. This is a substantially more rugged piece of equipment. Mr. Rawson questioned if the other existing vehicle could be traded-in. Chief Krauss will ask however he believes it would be for a very small amount. He also explained there were no larger differences between the received quotes. The Intimidator's parts and all equipment are made by the manufacturer which is a plus. Ms. Burnham questioned future service and maintenance on the vehicle. Chief Krauss – the Intimidator comes with a five-year warranty. They would also like to add-on in the very near future, equipment that will aid with forest fighting. The skid unit would cost \$6,000. Chief Marique said there has been changes in some of the funding sources. Mr. Rawson agrees this is very important and suggested the \$6,000 for the add-on could come out of next year's budget to purchase sooner rather than later. This is really needed and would be an asset to the community.

Mr. Rawson made a motion to approving the purchase of a 2022 Int. GCIK Stage 3 Crew through Lakeside Motors at a cost of \$28,957.98. Mr. Morrill seconded the motion. All were in favor; the motion passed.

e.) Request to encumber professional assessing services, Avitar Associates of NE from the assessing contract assessor's line. There is \$37,408 in the line. This was encumbered previously and carried over to pay the current Avitar contract. Next year's budget, this line-item is zeroed out.

Mr. Rawson made a motion to encumber \$37,408 from the Assessing Contract Assessor's Line-item to pay Avitar Associates of NE. Mr. Morrill seconded the motion. All were in favor; the motion passed.

3.) Other Business:

a.) ~~Potential Cemetery Warrant Article: Mr. Jacobs explained, previous discussions concerning the Cemetery, there has been no interest in the Cemetery Trustees' positions. Mr. Katwick had recommended swearing in BOS to be Cemetery Trustees for the interim time period. According to RSA289:6, a Warrant Article vote would allow the transfer of responsibility to the Board of Selectmen. After 90 days the Selectmen could then decide direction of the Cemetery including hiring of a sexton. If the BOS agree, Mr. Jacobs would send the Warrant Article to legal council for review. It's hard to get volunteers especially for this committee. However, the town has both a legal and fiscal responsibility to the town which cannot be ignored. Mr.~~

Rawson acknowledged Mr. Katwick has been a huge asset. All BOS were OK with moving forward with a Warrant Article.

b.) Potential reversal of decision which merged Town Clerk and Tax Collector positions into one. Mr. Jacobs explained the two positions were merged into one in 2019. He is recommending the decision be reversed which would be presented as a Warrant Article to unmerge the two positions. It was questioned if he thought this to be worth doing? According to Mr. Jacobs he does believe it would be beneficial to split. Ms. Burnham is concerned there is a potential to lose both positions if in the future both were running at the same time as elected positions. Mr. Jacobs – it would be another Warrant Article to have positions be appointed rather than elected. However, at this point, he is only recommending the two positions be unmerged. It should also be noted if this were voted upon in 2022, it would not take effect until 2025. The current Town Clerk position is an at-will position. Ms. Burnham questioned how other communities handle this situation. Mr. Jacobs is aware of only one other town, Walpole, who was successful at this procedure. He is requesting permission to send a draft Warrant Article to legal council for further review. Mr. Morrill – OK to go ahead and see what happens.

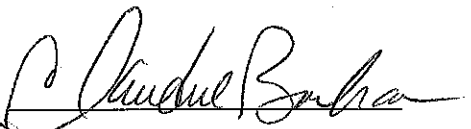
c.) Assessing Position: Mr. Jacobs reported he has received six resumes with one very good individual who possesses the needed applicable skill sets.

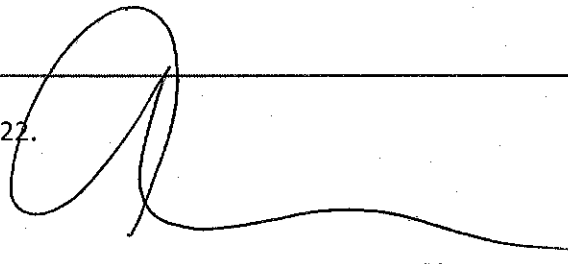
d.) Mr. Jacobs reported he received a request for a mobile home resident of Jellystone Park – he asked for a refund for the time period of October 14 – December 31. He does not recommend this and said it can go through the abatement process. Mr. Rawson said it's important to follow state statutes.

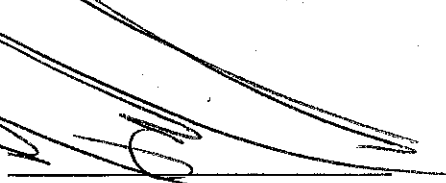
3.) Adjournment:

Mr. Rawson made a motion to adjourn the public meeting. Mr. Morrill seconded the motion. All were in favor; the motion passed. The public meeting adjourned at 6:05PM.

Given under our hands this 3rd day of January, 2022.


Claudine Burnham – Chairman BOS


Andy Rawson - Board Member


Matthew Morrill - Board Member

END OF MINUTES

