

Town of Milton
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
March 21, 2022

ATTENDANCE:

Members: Claudine Burnham (Chair), Matthew Morrill, Humphrey Williams

Staff: Chris Jacobs, Town Administrator

Public: Kym Libby, John Gagner, Ginny Gray, Mike Beaulieu, Dan Bisson, Karen Golab, Renata Gamache, Jen Czysz, Hunter Adams, Wayne Sylvester, Mickey Brandmeyer, Jen King, Richard Lover, Katherine Ayers, Chief Richard Krause, Chief Nick Marique, Larry Brown, Virginia Long, Walter Cheney

Claudine Burnham, Chair, opened the public session at 6:03PM.

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

2.) **Public Comment:**

1. Mike Beaulieu welcomed Humphrey Williams to the BOS.
2. Larry Brown provided history of RSA 91A and purpose of non-public meetings.

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

- There were no announcements.

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

a.) **Selection of new Board of Selectmen Chairman:**

Mr. Morrill nominated Claudine Burnham for Chair of the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Williams seconded the nomination. All were in favor. The motion was approved.

Ms. Burnham nominated Matt Morrill for Vice-Chair of the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Williams seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion was approved.

b.) **Appointment of Selectmen to Committees:**

Budget Committee: Ms. Burnham nominated Mr. Williams. Mr. Morrill seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion was approved.

Capital Improvement Committee: Mr. Williams nominated Ms. Burnham. Mr. Morrill seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion was approved.

Heritage Commission: It was pointed out the commission had only met once and since then two members had submitted their resignations. Mr. Morrill indicated he would agree to remain. Ms. Burnham nominated Mr. Morrill. Mr. Williams seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion was approved.

Planning Committee: Ms. Burnham nominated Mr. Morrill. Mr. Williams seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion was approved.

Recreation Committee: Ms. Burnham nominated Mr. Williams. Mr. Morrill seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion was approved.

c.) **Department Head Reports:**

Mr. Jacobs- Pat Smith will give his update/report in April and will have more information on the Dawson Street project.

Recreation – submitted by Karen Brown:

Youth Basketball – season ended Saturday, March 12th. They plan to have a normal program in the fall.

Spring Soccer – registrations are open; coaches are lined up for April start. Program is aimed to keep participants working on their skills and prepare for competitive play in the fall.

Senior Program – programs (senior bingo and monthly luncheon) are going steady and average 45-50 participants. March 15th – seniors enjoyed traditional Irish dinner. Next meal is April 19.

Camp 3 Ponds – Registrations will open beginning in April to Milton/Milton Mills residents.

Working on upcoming program and hope to include off-site trips and continue to explore all options.

Kids Night Out – March program was well attended celebrating St. Patrick's Day. If weather permits April program will be moved to the beach.

Easter Hunt – scheduled for Saturday, April 9th at Milton Town Beach Field. Request for all hunters to bring their own baskets. There will be an Easter Egg Decorating Contest along with drawing for free Easter Basket. Easter Bunny will also be there.

Summer Kick-Off – projected date is June 11th and 12th. Will be looking for vendors for a two-day craft fair.

Police Department – presented by Chief Krauss:

In late February, we lost two full-time officers. One will continue as a part-time officer. The agency is now down to five FT officers to respond to calls. They will continue to do their best to provide 24-hour/day coverage for the town – there may be some delay to non-priority calls (the loss of two full-time officers = 40% loss). They will begin the hiring process at the beginning of April with the intent to enroll someone into the June Policy Academy.

Have seen an increase in speeding vehicle complaints, especially with improved weather. The speed trailer will be dispatched again to town roads to study and determine the biggest problem areas and times which the speeding is more prevalent. This will help them determine best utilization of their small staff.

Officers William Bachert and Ryan Clark, Sgt Thomas Hebert and Chief Krauss participated in the Special Olympics Winni-Dip on March 13th jumping into the freezing cold lake. They are proud to support the cause and raised over \$2,000 for the amazing program and athletes.

Drug-Take Back will be April 30th. They have made this a priority as they were not able to participate in the fall program. A reminder to all residents there is a prescription drop box in the PD lobby which is accessible at any time. Not acceptable products include illegal drugs, needles, lotions or liquids, inhalers, aerosol cans, thermometers, and hydrogen peroxide.

Dog licenses are due by April 30. With the Broadview Animal Hospital, they will hold a Rabies Clinic on May 7th at the Milton Highway Barn from 2:00-5:00PM.

Fire Department – presented by Chief Marique:

For the month of February, the FD responded to 73 service calls. YTD responses are 214 calls with 78% of those calls due to medical related issues. This is above the norm by 68% and marks a 17% increase in calls as compared to this time last year.

Thanks to the voters for their support to the department at this year's election. The passed Warrant Article for public safety radio equipment will help to replace the last of the outdated

mobile radios with an estimated cost of \$35,000.

We have begun the initial process of designing the next ambulance which is scheduled for replacement next year.

Expected delivery of OHRV is this week with the intention for the vehicle to be ready for spring wildfire season. Skid unit will be ordered shortly, and department members will be trained on the vehicle.

The command vehicle is scheduled for replacement this year and are finalizing quotes. There is a \$50,000 COVID grant available which they will apply for which will help preserve the capital reserve fund which had been intended to replace the vehicle.

They have recruited several new members to help cover shifts; each member brings a vast wealth of experience and knowledge from other agencies.

Presentation by Jennifer King with the TPPA:

Jennifer King (Co-President) and Micky Brandmeyer (Treasurer) of the TPPA were in attendance to present on the health of the ponds. The TPPA's intent is to help preserve the overall water quality of the ponds and respond to both natural and human threats. Current health of the ponds: Town House Pond (best health), Depot Pond (fair) and Northeast Pond (most fragile).

Threats are from both human and naturally occurring. Human threats include septic system issues, fertilizer use, runoff, and land clearing. She indicated the European Naiad has been an ongoing issue since 2015 and over \$200,000 has been spent fighting it in Milton Three ponds. Both NH and Maine have stepped in with grants to help address these issues and the balance has been evenly distributed between Milton, Lebanon, and TPPA Membership. However currently the states resources are now decreasing this is now being shifted to other groups.

Other threats include cyanobacteria (a highly toxic blue-green algae caused by warmer water and too many nutrients in the water), Chinese Mystery Snails, and Milfoil. Ms. King also noted the herbicide used to annually kill E-Naiad does not kill the actual seeds which cause the spread. Boat inspections are vital to help decrease the spread. TPPA is working with the local campgrounds who have committed to increase boat inspections. She also stressed the need to educate all who use the pond on the need to boat responsibly. Waves from boats cause shore erosion and speedboats help stir up sediments. It's also important for landowners to keep their septic systems up-to-date and don't throw yard waste into the water.

Ms. King said if nothing is done invasive species will continue to increase which could have a major economic impact on the town.

What can be done now? Continue to fund efforts to help keep the waters clean, focus on runoff and septic systems and take care of the town beach. Ms. King stressed the TPPA are not enforcers, they are supporters. It can be very expensive to do remediation and this will be an ongoing effort well into the future.

Mr. Jacobs questioned if the machines that will be used for Water Cross Races (potential upcoming event) should be inspected? Yes – they should be inspected. Ms. King also stressed again the best boating practices including staying away from the shoreline when going faster, don't spill gas, don't

throw waste, or urinate into the waters, keep speeds down in shallow areas to prevent stirring up sediments. Most boaters are very respectful and do follow the guidelines.

The TPPA will launch a new and updated website shortly which will include lots of resources and information.

d.) Strafford Regional Planning Commission – Ms. Jen Czysz:

Ms. Czysz, Director for SRPC – she is communicating with all communities and it's important for her to find out what is going on within the community and also to share information with what SRPC is doing. She explained the SRPC is a Regional Planning Commission under state statute, a federally designated metropolitan regional transportation planning program and a designated economic development district.

Current projects: updated stormwater regulations (which ties into EPA MS4 permit). Age-friendly communities: they have a draft community assessment and have funding to support community action plans for up to 4 interested communities.

Completed SRPC projects: POP – promoting outdoor play (photos of over 350 recreation sites as a resource). Data snapshots – providing every metrics for use in community master planning.

Economic development: reaching out to local communities for project solicitation for annual update to comprehensive economic development strategy for inclusion in their plan (benefit – can open up additional federal funding for a community). Ground fields program (under EPA grant) – had done past work at Lockhart Field – hoping to get additional information for another 3-years of funding. As part of this they can provide environmental assessments, redevelopment site planning, market analysis and landscape architecture. SRPC hosts a weekly phone call with stakeholders for anyone with interest in the economic development realm for both Stafford and Rockingham areas.

Upcoming projects: Provide record scanning for first two weeks in September. Operating a business technological assistance program for small businesses include services such as web development, IT, etc.

Transportation: Several projects are included in the ten-year plan – sidewalk/intersection improvements for Silver/Dawson Streets; Milton/Lebanon bridge is scheduled for construction in 2023. They will start work on the next ten-year plan and preliminary list of projects are needed by this spring to begin planning. Prioritization will happen this fall with final votes occurring spring of 2023.

Will be reaching out to communities with questionnaire regarding EB charging stations.

They have completed a safety audit of Governor's Road/Rt. 75 (the report still needs to be presented).

Mr. Williams – regarding the RSMS (Road Surface Management System) – the Planning Board has started discussion – it would be helpful to know which roads really need the work to help with planning and prioritization. Ms. Czysz stated that the SRPC would fully fund the initial study, additional studies would not be funded– costs ~ \$3-\$5,000 to provide additional study.

Mr. Jacobs – there are two positions open for the town for commissioners – what do other towns use to select their reps? Ms. Czysz – person should be knowledgeable about issues and community priorities, and someone who could represent the town. Bruce Woodruff and Mr. Jacobs currently serve on TAC. It would be good to have guidance to help select commissions. Mr. Jacobs will have this on the next BOS agenda.

e.) **Walter Cheney to discuss the possible purchase of two town-owned properties:**

There are two town-owned properties which Mr. Cheney expressed interest in potential purchase: 20 acres next to his property on 603 White Mountain Highway - he is very interested in the property and believes he could provide something very positive and productive for the town. The property is land-locked and asked if this would be a property the town would consider putting out for bid. Mr. Jacobs explained any town property could be put out for bids at the request of the BOS. He also questioned as the property is 20-30% sloped what would be the plans for this property? This also includes erosion protections requirements. Mr. Cheney – they have looked at the topographical maps and as the property has not been used in a very long time they are very interested in bidding. He believes this would be advantageous to the town which could bring in substantial revenue to the town. He questioned if this town/BOS would consider putting out to bid? BOS could potentially put this under consideration. Second property is an area where Mr. Cheney is a trustee of the land (area of the old gravel pit controversy). If that property was put out to bid, he would put a bid on that property. Mr. Jacobs – this is a 0.73 acre parcel that was surveyed abutting Lockhart Fields. He explained this parcel had been overlooked for selling due to a cemetery on the parcel. As it is located next to Lockhart Fields, the town is still in the process of groundwater testing so it may be premature to currently contemplate this property until these issues have been resolved. Mr. Jacobs indicated he would caution the BOS regarding this property due to potential environmental issues and the location of the cemetery on this property. Mr. Cheney stress again his interest in the 20-acre property and he wants to do something very positive for the town.

5.) **OLD Business:**

a.) **There was no old business for discussion.**

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

Mr. Williams – revised the by-laws and have suggestions and several items that will need to be fixed. As there has not been any changes since 2019, this is the time for updating. He would like to bring this to the next BOS meeting for a vote. Mr. Jacobs will add this to the agenda.

7.) **Approval of Minutes:**

Non-Public Minutes:

March 11, 2022– Mr. Williams made a **motion to accept the 3/11/2022 Non-Public meeting minutes** as written. Ms. Burnham seconded the motion. All were in favor; the motion was accepted.

Public Minutes:

February 28, 2022– Ms. Burnham made a **motion to accept the 2/28/2022 Public meeting minutes** as written. Mr. Morrill seconded the motion. Mr. Williams abstained. All were in favor; the motion was accepted.

8.) **Public Comments Relative to Topics Previously Discussed:**

Virginia Long: Regarding Strafford Regional's Promoting Outdoor Play (POP), the Conservation Commission got their conservation land on their website. The future Trails Committee could also get included. Regarding Walter Cheney's request – his description of the property raised some concerns as this could be parcels that the CC currently monitors every year as part of

town-owned conservation lands. She would like to consult with Mr. Jacobs regarding this before the BOS proceeds further.

Kym Libby: Congratulated Mr. Williams. She asked for the status of ADA required temporary ramp? Mr. Jacobs indicated the plan is probably to move out of the current building and as building a temporary ramp could cost ~\$6-\$8,000 they most likely will not build one. Ms. Libby asked if the information about lack of access to the town hall could be added to the website so those with a physical disability could make alternate plans (perhaps meeting in the parking lot, etc.). She also asked about the status of the Administrative Personnel Manual? This was supposed to have been completed several years ago and it still needs to be updated and include all policies. She questioned if the BOS has discussed and decided to do with the Milton Economic Committee? She was appointed to the committee; however no meeting has ever been held. Mr. Williams – currently there are only two members and at least five committee members are needed. Ms. Burnham – the information is posted on the website – there has been no interest. Ms. Libby asked for volunteers from the local community to get this started.

Katherine Ayers: Regarding the Heritage Commission – there was just one meeting held. Also two members have resigned. She is currently serving as an alternate to the commission and is interested in increasing civic pride. Ms. Ayers also asked for anyone interested in serving on the commission.

Larry Brown: He expressed he is irked that the library put in an electrical lift rather than a ramp. Most of the economic development in the town has been bottom-feeder opportunistic – he is very suspect of anyone who bids for town-owned property that does not include additional information on how they are going to use the property. Thanks to Chief Nick Marique for securing COVID grant.

9.) Expenditure Report:

Expenditure report provided as of the end of February, 2022. Mr. Williams sent the new template to Mr. Jacobs and to members of the BOS which will show total expenditure projections for the year, as well as those that are not part of the encumbered and warrant article information. Upcoming March report will also include the net balances.

10.) Town Administrator:

- Our next meeting is April 4, 2022.

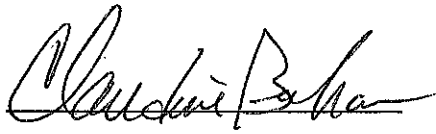
11.) Selectmen Comments:

- There were none.

12.) Adjournment:

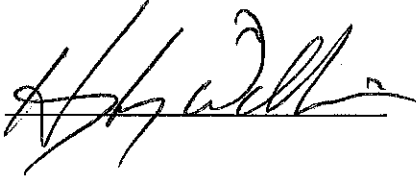
Mr. Morrill made a motion to adjourn the public meeting and enter into the Non-Public meeting. Mr. Williams seconded the motion. All were in favor; the motion passed. The public meeting adjourned at 7:55PM.

Given under our hands this 16th day of May, 2022.



Claudine Burnham – Chairman BOS

_____ Matthew Morrill - Board Member



Humphrey Williams - Board Member

END OF MINUTES 2022 03 21 amended

