



Town of Milton
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
September 26, 2022

ATTENDANCE:

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

Staff: Chris Jacobs -Town Administrator, Chief Richard Krauss- Police Department, Clarence Nason- Public Works

Public: Kym Libby, Robert Saunders, PE – Underwood Engineers

Claudine Burnham, Chair, opened the public session at 6:00PM.

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

2.) Public Comment:

Kym Libby – the Economic Development Community open house was very successful. Thanks to Claudine Burnham, Humphrey Williams and Chief Krauss and volunteers who helped with setup and parking. We received a lot of good feedback. Big thanks to the people who restored the building – it’s an amazing building. Attendees were very excited and interested in volunteering, with a strong show of support. There will be another event as a follow-up, tentatively set for October 16th, 6:00PM. All are invited to attend. For more information or questions, contact Kym, BOS, or Chris Jacobs. Ms. Burnham would like volunteers to bring a dish to share.

3.) Announcements and Community Calendar:

1. NH Farm Museum – Come Celebrate fall foliage and the fall harvest!

Leaf peepers, welcome! We’ll be offering tractor rides around the farm with beautiful views of Tenerife Mountain. We invite you to stop by the open fire hearth where our guides will be warming up mulled cider to serve along the way. Children can join Grandma Pat in the ell and listen to “Johnny Appleseed.” Try your hand at candle making or see how skilled you are at using the two-man saw! Tour the historic Jones Farmhouse dating back to the 1770’s where five generations of the same family once lived. Come explore the barn with our Big Barn

Scavenger Hunt, too. Prizes awarded for those who finish. Kids of all ages can decorate a Halloween cookie in the 1940's kitchen. Face painting. And more! Participate in our Skillet Toss Contest. Children 12 and under will get a free pumpkin (limited to the first 20 who arrive). DATE: Saturday, October 8. TIME: 10:00-4:00

4.) NEW Business – Discussion and Possible Actions:

a.) Chief Krauss:

Dog Warrant Update: As of September 1st, the dog warrant expired. Originally there were 183 unlicensed dogs; 130 citations were sent out (110 dogs were either licensed, citations were paid, or the dogs were deceased or no longer in town). This leaves ~73 dogs that need to be addressed – many of the dogs are unlicensed and not up to date with their rabies certificates. Dog owners continue to license their dogs. Chief Krauss reported there were some system glitches experienced by residents (even after getting their dogs licensed the system indicated they had not and were put onto the warrant list). There were complaints from dog owners that they were not notified by the town that dog licenses needed renewed. Chief Krauss told them it's not the town's responsibility but rather up to the dog owner to know when license renewal is due.

Highway Safety Grant: Chief Krauss reported they received the Highway Safety Grant again for this year. It runs from October 1, 2022, through September 30, 2023. This year, we received \$8,200 (more than received last year).

Grant Breakdowns:

Speed Enforcement Patrol - \$1,600 (with \$400 match)

DUI Enforcement - \$1,600 (\$400 match)

Distracted Driving - \$1,600 (\$400 match)

Join-the-NH-Click - \$850 (\$212.50 match)

Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over - \$1,700 (\$425 match)

You Drive, You Text, You Pay - \$850 (\$212.50)

Total: \$8,200 coming in with a match of \$2,050.

Chief Krauss noted match is not money paid by the town, rather in-kind match including use of cruisers, use of fuel, officers time when writing reports, processing DUI reports, or court time, etc.

Mr. Morrill motioned to accept the grant and give permission to sign and accept the grant for the town. Mr. Williams seconded the motion. All were in favor; the motion was approved.

Chief Krauss reported they have received a Federal Vest Grant for 8 vests – this will include vests for 6 Officers, along with Chief Krauss' vest and one PT Officer's vest. The grant will pay up to 50% of the vest cost.

5.) NEW Business – Discussion and Possible Actions:

a.) We Care Food Pantry – funding request (9/12/2022): Mr. Jacobs explained this was kept on the agenda from a previous meeting and said he still has to get information from the food pantry about the demographics of who is being served. He will contact Betty to get that information. Ms. Burnham would also like to see if the food pantry could also do a food drive for donations from town residents.

- b.) **Dawson Street Project – Request for Payment and Substantial completion:** Mr. Robert Saunders of Underwood Engineers was in attendance to help clear up confusion. Mr. Jacobs indicated the reason for the letter from Underwood was to address concerns from the BOS/Mr. Jacobs. He said the Change Order was not outside of the contract and would extend the contract time and price. He also talked to Pat Smith about how quantities were estimated; Mr. Jacobs now has a better understanding, and any doubts are now gone. Mr. Smith is recommending taking \$95,000 from left-over road construction monies which will probably lapse at the end of this year; Mr. Jacobs agreed with the recommendation. Mr. Williams also said the information provided now clears up any issues he previously had. Mr. Jacobs said the letter also covers the town legally in case of any future audits.

Mr. Williams motioned to move forward based on the information provided by the letter in the amount of \$44,092.21. Mr. Morrill seconded the motion. All were in favor; the motion was approved.

Mr. Williams - \$54,000 comes out of the original Dawson Street Project Warrant Article and the balance will come from encumbered funds. Mr. Williams thanked Mr. Saunders for the breakdowns provided.

- c.) **Agilitas Solar Project** – (pending receipt of documents): Mr. Jacobs said they did not receive new documents from the attorney.
- d.) **Lease of Historical Building with Township of Milton Historical Society, Inc.:** Mr. Jacobs said the lease agreement now includes additional language from the actual historical society under #2 which says during the term the property may not be sublet, used or occupied by any other party except by the town for purposes that may be inconsistent with the historical society's corporate purposes without any prior agreement.

Mr. Williams motioned to move ahead with the lease with the historical building in the amount of \$1.00. Mr. Morrill seconded the motion. All were in favor; the motion was approved.

Ms. Burnham asked who someone should contact if they are interested in renting the property? Mr. Jacobs said they should contact him. This also mirrors the Town House lease agreement. This is a twenty-year lease with ten-year increment renewals.

6.) Communications Received:

- a.) Slosky Decision from DRA-BLTA: Jack Slosky vs. the Town of Milton – decided in the town's favor and will keep the current assessed value at \$172,000. The BOS requested a letter from the assessors to explain the entire process.
- b.) Slosky from Avitar:
- c.) Wetlands Permit Application for Mr. Mark Shea, Jr., Map 40 Lot 16: The town received the application.
- d.) Wetlands Permit Application for Town of Milton, Boat Ramp at Town Beach: The town received the application.

7.) Other Business That May Come Before the Board:

Mr. Williams asked if the requested declaration submitted at the last BOS meeting happened. This request came from the Kids Cancer Connection and would declare the week of September 25 to October 1st as Childhood Cancer Awareness Week. Mr. Jacobs will post this on the town website and in the town hall.

8.) Approval of Minutes:

Non-Public Minutes: September 12, 2022,

RSA 91-A:3 II c Tax Collector – Tax Deeding Parcels: Mr. Williams motioned to accept 9/12/2022 RSA 91-A:3 II c Tax Collector non-public minutes. Mr. Morrill seconded the motion. All were in favor; the motion was accepted.

RSA 91-A:3 II a Compensation of Highway Department Staff: Mr. Williams motioned to accept 9/12/2022 RSA 91-A:3 II a Compensation of Highway Department Staff non-public minutes. Mr. Morrill seconded the motion. All were in favor; the motion was accepted.

RSA 91-A:3 II c Annual Review of Town Administrator: Mr. Williams motioned to accept 9/12/2022 RSA 91-A:3 II c Annual Review of Town Administrator non-public minutes. Mr. Morrill seconded the motion. All were in favor; the motion was accepted.

Public Minutes:

September 12, 2022 - Mr. Williams motioned to accept 9/12/2022 public minutes. Mr. Morrill seconded the motion. All were in favor; the motion was accepted.

September 14, 2022, Meeting with NHDOT - Mr. Williams motioned to accept 9/14/2022 public minutes meeting with NHDOT. Ms. Burnham seconded the motion. Mr. Morrill abstained. The motion was accepted.

September 15, 2022, BOS with Budget Committee - Mr. Williams motioned to accept 9/15/2022 public minutes BOS with Budget Committee. Mr. Morrill seconded the motion. All were in favor; the motion was accepted.

9.) Public Comments Relative to Topics Previously Discussed:

There were no public comments.

10.) Expenditure Report:

The BOS had reviewed the report at the last time; there have been no major changes and only a couple of adjusted expenditures. The big-ticket items continue to be the Fire Department and the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

11.) Town Administrator:

1. The next meeting of the Board will occur on October 3, 2022.
2. Mr. Jacobs along with the Police Chief and Brian Boyers will meet regarding the Ding-a-Ling property. A letter has already been sent to the former owners explaining the intent to raze the property, but there is a process the town is required to go through. It will cost ~\$20,000 to remove the property. The Chief said there are people currently living in the structure with mold

on the walls and has no heat nor electric. The meeting between Mr. Jacobs, Chief Krauss and Mr. Boyers will focus on emergency management and safety perspective and determine next steps and recommendations to the BOS for discussion at the October 3rd meeting. Ms. Burnham asked if Mr. Jacobs had heard anything from the Ding-a-Ling owners? Mr. Jacobs said yes; while the owner was excited to find out the town was planning on removing the structure, she did not appear to understand she would be responsible for paying for it or put a lien on her properties. This would include all associated costs and fees including court fees, asbestos inspection, building removal, and materials. A public hearing will also take place.

3. There is a complaint on a town-owned property. Brian Boyers will be checking into it. The complaint indicates trash building up on the lawn and front porch.
4. Ms. Burnham asked about the building located next to Cumberland Farms and has there been any recent activity? Mr. Jacobs said there has not been any activity over the past month and is unsure of the hold-up. He also asked if agreed-upon items do not occur, what are the rights of the town? Ms. Burnham said to place this on the agenda and maybe the BOS could meet with the owner to discuss their plans.

12.) Selectmen Comments:

- Mr. Williams – Budget Committee has added two new members. He sent updated information for the operating budget. Will still need to look at the default budget and said increases to the default budget can happen for the employee pay plan, heat, etc. While the RSA regarding electricity says no to an increase, the attorney will need to be consulted to get further information. Mr. Jacobs said it would take ~\$190,000 in cuts to get the proposed budget (from recent Dept Head presentations/information) down to 2% from the proposed 7.5%. He did also talk to Department Heads about needed cuts. One Department Head said these cuts would lead to lack of services to the town and the budgets were developed to provide the same level of services to residents.

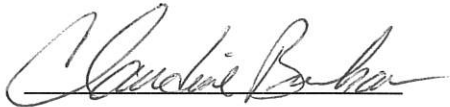
Mr. Williams said the real key is the default budget and based on past history, when presenting a budget that is over the default, the town votes overwhelmingly no. Important to note, 2% is a tax cap, not a budget cap and is based on revenues. The goal is to keep it as close as possible to 2%. He has also worked a lot on the budgets and was able to reduce it down to \$5,000 under the default without crippling any services. More discussions will take place with Department Heads. Mr. Morrill suggested rather than using unexpended funds to lump all the proposed Warrant Articles into one to cover everything for the vote. Mr. Williams said it must be very specific to show how much money is going to what specific service. Mr. Jacobs said this gives the taxpayer the right to decide how to spend. Mr. Morrill – it gives people the option.

- Ms. Burnham – the CIP has wrapped up and will have the report ready for the October 13th public hearing at 6:30PM and then will present to the BOS. She also gave a shout-out to residents who helped support the home-school bake sale at the recent elections.
- Ms. Burnham - the EDC event went very well – there were a lot of great suggestions and expressed a lot of great things about Milton. It's good to get people involved. Ms. Libby is working on the Business Directory.

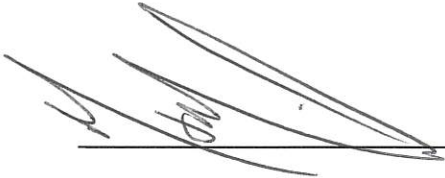
13.) Adjournment:

Mr. Williams motioned to adjourn the public meeting and enter into the non-public meeting. Mr. Morrill seconded the motion. All were in favor; the motion passed. The public meeting adjourned at 7:00PM.

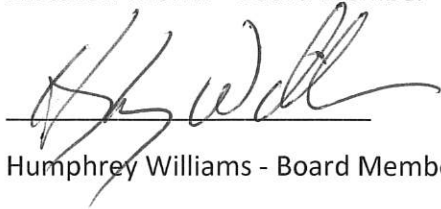
Given under our hands this 3rd day of October 2022.



Claudine Burnham – Chairman BOS



Matthew Morrill - Board Member



Humphrey Williams - Board Member

END OF MINUTES – September 26, 2022