



Town of Milton
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
June 5, 2023

ATTENDANCE:

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

Staff: Chris Jacobs -Town Administrator, Chief Richard Krauss- Police Department, Chief Nick Marique- Fire Department, Tyler Taatjes – Fire Department, Pat Smith- Public Works Department, Brian Leclerc- Deputy Town Clerk

Public: Glenn Bailey – State Representative, Sarah & Brandt Hudson, Ian Silberman

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: Mr. Williams announced guidance for public comment and public comment pertaining to topics previously discussed: during the allowed time for public comments, those wanting to speak should be at the podium to talk into the mic. This will give those unable to attend the meeting in-person with improved listening.

There were no public comments.

3.) Announcements and Community Calendar:

1. The mid-year tax bills have been mailed in June with an anticipated due date of July 7th.
2. Saturday, June 17th, 9:00AM – MCC is celebrating a new trail at the Jones Brook Park. There will be a walk for families and one for bird watching.

4.) NEW Business – Discussion and Possible Actions:

- a.) **Swearing in of new police officer:** This was postponed.
- b.) **Status of roads during recent spring storms:** Pat Smith provided an update on roads affected by the spring storms. DPW has been repairing and reshaping ditch lines. Completed roads include Governors, Mason, Sleeping Bear, Campbell, Briar Ridge; roads still needing repair include Silver St, Ford Farm, NE Pond, Branch Hill, Jug Hill, Willey, Teneriffe; several dirt roads that will need work which will happen after other roads are completed. The rental machine broke down last week and they are waiting for a replacement.

Grounds crew is now in summer mode; they are looking for applicants for a vacant position. Solid Waste – received email regarding water testing; DES will require additional testing in fall at cost of ~\$850.

Dawson Street sidewalks repairs are scheduled for this week. They have been grading and compacting roads. Traffic lines were painted on Governors Road.

Mr. Williams said there were additional roads not mentioned in Mr. Smith's report that also had some washouts – Townhouse Rd, in bend just below St. James and near the old Town House along the guardrails on Rt. 125. The state should be notified about this. Mr. Smith can send an email to District 6 informing them about this.

- c.) **Chief Nick Marique – request to transfer funds:** Chief Marique had previously sent a memo. Both projects have been authorized; FD command vehicle and FD mobile radio:

Command car - \$50,000 grant with a \$5,000 match: Total project cost- \$55,385.11

Radios (replace all mobile radios) - \$30,000 voted by town two years ago (with increased costs due to inflation of \$3,900)

Mr. Rawson made a motion to withdraw \$5,385.11 from FD Equipment & Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund. Ms. Burnham seconded the motion. All were in favor; the motion was approved.

Mr. Rawson made a motion to withdraw \$3,964.94 from the FD Equipment & Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund. Ms. Burnham seconded the motion. All were in favor; the motion was approved.

Mr. Williams asked Chief Marique to attend the next BOS meeting to discuss budget, expenditures and FD line-items.

- d.) **Citizen Concern:** Ms. Sarah Hudson of 49 Evergreen Valley Road. Ms. Hudson explained she regularly walks on the road; the road does not have large shoulders on either side. There is a high volume of traffic and increasingly traveling at excessive rates of speed. This is dangerous and hazardous to walkers. She is concerned for the safety of those living in the neighborhood. She is asking for solutions to the situation such as police enforcement and/or erecting speed bumps.

Mr. Williams said he does understand and empathize with the situation; however, this is a police matter. Ms. Hudson said a lot of traffic occurs during commuter hours, 6-8AM and 4-6PM. She has called Chief Krauss several times over the past years. Last year there was a speed trailer placed on the road but nothing else since then. Mr. Williams said currently the Police Department has limited officers; he acknowledged this is a problem all over the town, not just on Evergreen Valley Road.

Chief Krauss said the PD receives complaints about many roads and high-level speeding. During commuting hours, they need to be by the schools. He acknowledged they are short-handed and speeding cars are probably not going to change any time soon. Per the State of NH RSA, they cannot reduce the speed limit to under 30MPH. Right now, there are too many roads with too many speeders and a short-handed PD. Previous speed trailer studies indicated less than

5% of all the vehicles are going over the speed limit by excessive amounts.

Chief Krauss recommended to report aggressive driving and make sure to include the make, model, and other details (include photo if possible). Schools will be finished over the next two weeks, which will help free up officers' time. Ms. Burnham said she understands the concern as she lives on Governors Road which is another pass-through road. She no longer walks on the road because of safety concerns. Mr. Rawson stressed to Ms. Hudson that she is being heard and the BOS does understand. He also emphasized the Chief really does want to help. Chief Krauss said this is purely a manpower issue. Mr. Williams thanked Ms. Hudson for coming to the meeting and expressing her concerns.

- e.) **Presentation by Consolidated Communications:** Mr. Ian Silverman from Consolidated Communication provided information regarding providing internet and phone services at the Town Hall, Police and Farm Departments. One of the benefits of working with them, Mr. Silverman explained all services, repairs, etc. are handled through them; all under a 1-roof solution. They have a dedicated service manager specifically for Fire and Safety. Mr. Williams asked about including an escape clause in the contract? Yes, there is a non-appropriation clause added. Mr. Silverman also explained with the move to the new town hall this summer, they would move existing services to the new location. There is no issue with the contract in transferring from one building to another. Chief Krauss asked about the ability to move PD phones to the FD in case of emergency? Mr. Silverman said that can be done; in addition, they could also have calls forwarded to other phones if needed. Mr. Williams said it is definitely a plus in just dealing with one company for all services.
- f.) **Town Beach and Boat Ramp Discussion:** Mr. Jacobs explained the GOPHER loan application was completed by June 1st. These monies are allocated to repair beach and boat access. Part of the process included submitting two documents which were read to the BOS - Access Policy of the Milton Recreation Commission and Perpetual Maintenance Policy for the boat launch at the town beach.

Mr. Jacobs said the grant is for \$100,000 with up to \$25,000 match (currently have ~\$24,000 in the capital reserve fund to meet the match). The total project cost is \$112,000. They are in good shape to get the project completed this year.

Chief Krauss said Wentworth Douglas Hospital will have a life jacket loaner program which includes safety rings and ropes. These will be free for people to use. WD will maintain the jackets which will be on an honor system. This is a great program for the town beach and can be used on boats and swimming. The plan would be to have them in an area with an existing camera such as where the PD boat currently is. For future, Wentworth would also like to place signs on bridges to help with suicide prevention. Ms. Burnham asked about signs to help keep children jumping off bridges? Chief Krauss said that is a town ordinance issue and more signs are needed to help replace ones that were torn off and

Mr. Williams motioned to move forward with support for this program. Mr. Rawson seconded the motion. All were in favor; the motion was approved.

Mr. Williams reported Brian Leclerc has been in the Deputy Town Clerk position for about two weeks. Mr. Leclerc said he is diving into everything and getting training. They are not making big changes right now. He thanked everyone for their patience and understanding. He reminded everyone to get their dog licenses renewed ASAP. They did extend the grace period; however, they will be sending the warrant (for unlicensed dogs).

Mr. Jacobs reported on boat and beach passes. Currently 40 boat passes are issued, and 47 beach passes were purchased. Mr. Williams asked to know how many of the beach passes were purchased by town residents vs. non-residents and is there a way to look at revenues to help reduce the cost to residents. Ms. Burnham said other towns do not charge their residents for a beach pass. More data is needed to help determine if perhaps this could be done for future years. Mr. Rawson said it's important to understand there is barely any tax money used to run the beach. The BOS understands the complaints. It is important to understand there are costs to maintaining the beach. Mr. Rawson said last year \$64,000 came from out-of-staters, while \$4,000 came from town residents.

- g.) **Request to pay Mark Wachowiak for electrical services at 55 Industrial Way using ARPA Funds** – amount \$3,019.00:

Mr. Williams motioned to move forward with Mark Wachowiak for electrical services at a cost of \$3,019. Ms. Burnham seconded the motion. All were in favor; the motion was approved.

- h.) **Request to pay R&R Construction for windows and counters in the new Clerk's office at 55 Industrial Way using ARPA Funds** – amount \$2,575.00:

Mr. Williams motioned to move forward with R&R Construction in the amount of \$2,575. Mr. Rawson seconded the motion. All were in favor; the motion was approved.

- i.) **Request to pay cleaning services of the new Town Hall at 55 Industrial Way using ARPA Funds** – amount \$5,430.00:

Mr. Williams motioned to move forward for cleaning services of the new Town Hall in the amount of \$5,430. Ms. Burnham seconded the motion. All were in favor; the motion was approved.

- j.) **Email chain with Bruce Woodruff, Sue Serino, and Staff:** Going back to February, there are a number of buildings that do not show up on the town's tax map/GIS system. There are associated problems with this. There are a total of 535 buildings not currently found on the tax map. It costs \$20 per building to have them put onto the tax map - \$10,700. Mr. Woodruff recommended moving forward with a lower number with a not to exceed \$4,000. Mr. Jacobs recommends continuing to work with CAI Tech to implement the updates. Money would come from the GIS Capital Improvement Fund. Mr. Rawson asked if this were up to Avitar to update the tax map pictures. Mr. Williams said the CAI technologies GIS maps are different from the photos Avitar is responsible for. Mr. Jacobs said ~200 buildings will first be added. When Avitar

starts the re-evaluation in 2024-2025, all new photos will be part of the process.

Mr. Williams motioned to move forward with GIS updates through CAI Technologies. Mr. Rawson seconded the motion. All were in favor; the motion was approved.

k.) **Eastern Propane Gas:** This would lock-in Fire, Police, and the new Town Hall for the following:

Milton Police Department: 1,000 gallons @ \$2.13/gallon

Milton Fire Department: 5,000 gallons @ \$2.13/gallon

Milton Town Hall (new): 2,200 gallons @ \$2.13/gallon

Significant savings from previous year - ~.32 cents.

Mr. Williams made a motion to move forward with the contract from Eastern Propane. Ms. Burnham seconded the motion. All were in favor; the motion was approved.

5.) EVENT PERMITS

a.) **Woods, Water & Wildlife Festival, August 12, 2023:** They have submitted all plans and documents.

Mr. Williams motioned to approve the event permit for the Woods, Water & Wildlife Festival on August 12, 2023. Mr. Rawson seconded the motion. All were in favor; the motion was approved.

b.) **Independence Day Parade:** Chief Krauss reported he requested some changes to the parking so that there will be no parking allowed anywhere within the parade area. This is for safety reasons as in previous years, there were way too many cars going through the area. The changes will be brought to the next meeting for final approval.

6.) OLD BUSINESS

a.) 2022.02.04.00- 549 White Mountain Highway – status of building: An asbestos assessment should be completed by June 9th. The building will probably be demolished; a meeting with Police & Fire should occur.

b.) 2022.03.20.7 – Community Power Action Committee – seeks committee members: Residents should understand if there is no committee, they cannot move forward with giving an opportunity to individual residents for savings.

c.) 2021.12.06.01 WWTP Facility Study – select workshop date: Wright Pierce contacted Mr. Jacobs. He recommended letting last year's public hearing stand; the facility study is OK. The two best options continue to be either going to Farmington or Rochester. He is concerned with holding another public hearing; there have been no changes since last year. Mr. Williams said it would not hurt to have another hearing and request additional public comment. Mr. Rawson agreed that this is important for transparency reasons. The public hearing is scheduled for June 26th at 5:30PM prior to the regular BOS meeting.

d.) 2023.04.17 – Dawson Street sidewalk repairs: Pat Smith reported on this earlier in the meeting.

- e.) Long-Term Goal – website functionality improvements: vendor solicitation Revise. Select date for workshop. Mr. Jacobs recommended waiting until after the move to the new Town Hall. Mr. Rawson suggested Mr. Jacobs talk with Adam Houghton, Milton School Superintendent, as they have recently implemented a new website.

7.) Communications Received:

- a.) There were none.

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

There was no other business.

9.) Approval of Minutes:

Non-Public Minutes:

May 24, 2023 – Mr. Williams motioned to seal the non-public minutes of May 24th meeting until December 2023. Mr. Rawson seconded the motion. All were in favor; the motion was accepted.

Public Minutes:

May 15, 2023 – Mr. Williams motioned to accept 5/15/2023 public minutes. Mr. Rawson seconded the motion. All were in favor; the motion was accepted.

May 22, 2023 – Mr. Williams motioned to accept 5/22/2023 Workshop meeting minutes. Mr. Rawson seconded the motion. All were in favor; the motion was accepted.

10.) Public Comments Relative to Topics Previously Discussed:

There were no public comments.

11.) Expenditure Reports:

Mr. Williams previously sent the expenditure reports out and said there will be follow-up discussions at the next meeting.

12.) Town Administrator:

1. The next meeting of the board will occur on June 19, 2023.
2. Credere Associates advised the Town last week they were planning on taking the next round of groundwater samples at Lockhart Field. This work is part of the state mandated work program. In the future, testing will always be completed in May and November.
3. We have been advised that the AUR (Authorized Uses Restricted) document required for Lockhart Field is being worked on by legal counsel and should be available soon. Abutters have been informed that the land has restricted uses.
4. The application for a grant under the GOPHER Program for assistance to reconstruct the boat ramp was submitted last week. The grant offers up to \$100,000 in financial assistance and requires a \$25,000 match.

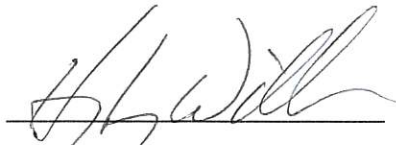
13.) Selectmen Comments:

1. Ms. Burnham thanked the Police Department and Chief Krauss for helping to keep people safe at the recent Memorial Day Parade. The Nute Chorus did an excellent job. The recent Summer Kick-off was really impacted by the weather. There had been a very good show by vendors and the event was very nicely organized (Sunday activities were all cancelled); maybe they could do something later in the summer.
2. Mr. Rawson said graduation is this Friday at 6:00PM and offered congratulations to the graduates.
3. Mr. Williams thanked Chief Krauss for the Memorial Day Parade coverage and Dare Program Graduation, as well as the National Guard officer who helped with the DARE program at the school.

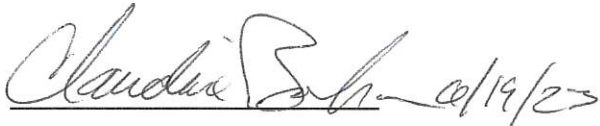
14.) Adjournment:

Mr. Williams motioned to adjourn the public meeting and enter into the non-public meeting. Mr. Rawson seconded the motion. All were in favor; the motion passed. The public meeting adjourned at 7:35PM.

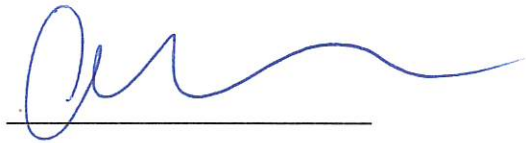
Given under our hands this 19th day of June 2023.



Humphrey Williams – Chairman BOS



Claudine Burnham - Board Member



Andrew Rawson - Board Member

END OF MINUTES – June 5, 2023

