

Town of Milton
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
January 8, 2024

ATTENDANCE:

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

Staff: Chris Jacobs- Town Administrator, Chief Richard Krauss- MPD

Public: Tiffany Pierce – Fire Department

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

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

2.) Public Comment:

Tiffany Pierce asked about submitting a name for the Annual Report dedication.

3.) Announcements and Community Calendar:

1. January 9th is the last day that petition articles can be accepted for the 2024 Warrant. Each petition article must be supported with a minimum of 25 registered voter signatures.
2. The Town Hall and Transfer Station will be closed Monday, January 15th in honor of Civil Rights Day.
3. There is a primary election on January 23rd for the Democratic and Republican parties. The election will be held in the Nute High/Middle School gymnasium. Polls open at 8AM and close at 7PM. You can register to vote on that day with the Supervisors of the Checklist.
4. The filing period for open elected Town positions starts on Wednesday January 24th and closes Friday, February 2, 2024.
5. Town and School Deliberative Sessions will be held on February 3rd at the Nute High/Middle School Cafeteria. School starts at 9AM and the Town portion starts at 1PM.

4.) NEW Business – Discussion and Possible Actions:

- a.) USDA Grant, Nitrogen Removal Project and Milton 3-Ponds Watershed Management:** Mr. Jacobs said currently there is a lot happening including request for funding involving the town and SRPC, \$100,000 grant for nitrogen monitoring; at the same time the Conservation Commission is moving forward with a nitrogen removal project. Projects requiring document signing: CMOM (for Wastewater collection) had been authorized by the BOS in December and is now ready to move forward. It was noted this will not be covered by a grant or other resources but through the residents who use the services; ARPA request for disbursement - \$30,000; Sewer rate study (funded via sewer users); Draft letter to Rochester's City Manager which would begin looking at possible connection of Milton sewer system with Rochester.

Mr. Rawson motioned to move forward with exploring regionalizing sewer system. Seconded by Ms. Burnham. All were in favor; the motion was approved.

- b.) Milton Nitrogen Control Plan – RFQ Scoring – selection of scoring committee members:** Mr. Williams recommends including Bruce Woodruff and Chris Jacobs. This will also involve MCC and Pat Smith.
- c.) Winding Road Bridge invoice from HEB Engineers:** Current invoice is \$403.75 and paid through the Road Construction fund.
- d.) Nominations for Dedication of the Annual Report:** The front and back covers are used; there is space for three dedications. Reviewing the past year, the BOS suggested Al Banks Sr, Lynette McDougal, Robert McKinley, Judy Kimball and Patty Page. Mr. Williams suggested using the front page as a dedication, and a separate page to capture all others. Nomination requests will be posted on the town's website. All department reports for the Annual Report should be submitted by January 23rd.
- e.) Partial Town Hall closure on election days:** 2024 Election days include January 23, March 12, September 8 and the Federal Election in November. Because Town Hall employees are required to work at the elections, there are certain departments that will not be open on those days. Departments include Finance and Town Clerk. Other departments such as Assessing and Welfare will remain open.
- f.) ARPA payment request for Dawson – Silver Street Drainage (A Clark):** Chief Krauss – At the December 4th meeting with BOS, Underwood Engineers provided information for this project and a SRF pre-application. Project costs - \$1.45M. Through a Warrant Article, the town would need to raise an appropriate \$1.15M; the rest would come through the state. Phase 3 is supposed to start in 2025. If the town does not move forward with the application process, current funding would be lost, and the application would begin all over. The town has already applied twice before, and the town would probably move further down the list. The BOS needs to decide how to proceed with the Warrant Article.

Mr. Jacobs said important information regarding the project was never communicated to NHDES until four days ago. This specifically concerned the project diverging from its original scope. Mr. Williams said in discussion with Robert Saunders of Underwood Engineers, he asked how did the sidewalk project get rolled into the Dawson Street project? Deb Loiselle - NHDES is concerned the town is using Phase 2 Design monies for Phase 3 works. More discussion is needed on how best to proceed and can an article be put together. Mr. Rawson said this discussion has been ongoing for quite a while. Mr. Williams said it's important to let the voters decide if they want to move forward. The sidewalks from Dawson to Steeple need to be taken care of. Tiger money for extending a possible sidewalk further up Steeple is a possibility. Pat Smith did some repair work over the summer. Mr. Jacobs said the BOS should be clear with Underwood on how to proceed with Phase 2. Mr. Williams said Phase 2 and Phase 3 projects need to remain separate especially regarding funding.

5.) EVENT PERMITS

- a.) There were none.

6.) OLD BUSINESS

- a.) 2022.02.04.00- **549 White Mountain Highway – status of building:** The building was demolished; project now complete.
- b.) 2023.05.22 **Townhouse Road Bridge Update:** This will be a Warrant Article.
- c.) Long-Term Goal – website functionality improvements: website functionality improvements: vendor solicitation Revise. Select date for workshop.
- d.) **New Town Hall, 55 Industrial Way- status update:** All moved in; still need to fix the audio for the video.
- e.) 2023.11.06.01 Winding Road Bridge – status update:
- f.) 2023.12.26 Town Warrant Articles: Mr. Jacobs said all positions have now been added. There are two Zoning articles – Wetlands and Priority Wetlands. Once the final revenue numbers are received, the estimated tax impact for the operating budget will be added. It's projected to be in the same range as previous years.

The Budget Committee voted on the Warrants. All were accepted with a vote of 8,0,0 with the exception of Municipal Buildings which was 7,1,0 and Invasive Plant Species with a vote of 4,3,0. The Budget Committee only voted on those Articles with a monetary impact.

Article #16 – Fire Chief: There is no estimated tax impact included. The article is to see if the town would like to change the position from elected to appointed. Mr. Williams said if the article is voted down, there would be no tax impact.

Article #17 – CC Legal Defense Fund: The Budget Committee's vote was 5,2,0.

Article #18 – Elderly Exemptions: With a wording change, the Budget Committee's vote was 7,0,0.

Article #19 – School House: To move the school house to the Farm Museum.

Petition Warrant Articles will be added if and when received.

7.) Communications Received:

- a.) None.

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

- a) There was no other business.

9.) Approval of Minutes:

Non-Public Minutes:

December 12, 2023 – Town Clerk Appointment Mr. Rawson motioned to accept **12/12/2023 non-public minutes**. Ms. Burnham seconded the motion. All were in favor; the motion was accepted

Public Minutes:

December 12, 2023 – Mr. Rawson motioned to accept **12/12/2023 public minutes**. Ms. Burnham seconded the motion. All were in favor; the motion was accepted.

December 21, 2023 – Mr. Rawson motioned to accept **12/21/2023 public minutes**. Ms. Burnham seconded the motion. All were in favor; the motion was accepted.

December 26, 2023 – Mr. Rawson motioned to accept **12/26/2023 public minutes**. Ms. Burnham 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 Report:

No report yet for the new year. They are waiting for last year's final numbers.

12.) Town Administrator:

1. The next public meeting of the Board will be January 22, 2024.
2. The Town needs the final budget posted (signed) by January 16, 2024.
3. The Board of Selectmen need to sign and post the warrant and budget at the polling place, clerk's office and town hall by January 29th. I suggest we sign it at our next meeting on January 22, 2024.

13.) Selectmen Comments:

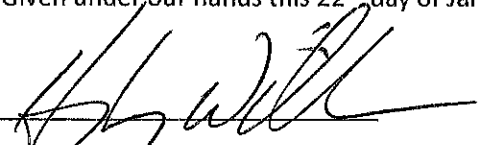
1. Mr. Rawson said since all meetings will now be here, the lock on the old Town Hall should be changed along with turning down the heat. He thanked DPW for their work during the recent storms. Even being down in personnel and down to two trucks, they did a great job.

2. Ms. Burnham said on January 22nd, there is a Strafford County Delegation Meeting Workshop. This is regarding a potential nursing home being built which as previously presented would be very expensive to the taxpayer.
3. Mr. Williams thanked DPW for all their work getting the new Town Hall ready, along with the recent storms' cleanup.


14.) Adjournment:

Ms. Burnham motioned to adjourn the public meeting. Mr. Rawson seconded the motion. All were in favor; the motion passed. The public meeting adjourned at 7:35PM.

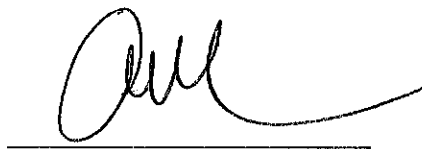
Given under our hands this 22nd day of January 2024.



Humphrey Williams – Chairman BOS



Claudine Burnham - Board Member



Andrew Rawson - Board Member

END OF MINUTES – January 8, 2024