



Town of Milton
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
January 22, 2024

ATTENDANCE:

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

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

Public: Renata Gamache, Matt Morrill, Jon Hotchkiss, Robert Saunders- Underwood Engineers

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:

Renata Gamache expressed her concern with Warrant Article #3 – Zoning. She is troubled by the request to increase the wetland buffer from 25ft to 50ft around the perimeter of four priority wetlands. The Planning Board held a public hearing on November 21, 2023; the public hearing opened at 6:12PM and with no public comment, the hearing closed at 6:13PM. Ms. Gamache asked if and how the MCC notified abutters of the public hearing? Ms. Gamache feels this Zoning Article will interfere with the rights of landowners to develop their property. It also appears the MCC may be manufacturing conservation zones. In addition, did the MCC update any data on the 2005 Blue Moon Significant Wetlands Study and how did they obtain this data? Ms. Gamache requested the BOS ask MCC for the reasons and steps taken in their selection of the four Wetlands properties mentioned in the Warrant Article. One other concern is if successful how will MCC compensate landowners for the loss of use of their land; property owners will still pay taxes on land they are no longer able to use. Mr. Williams responded that the Zoning Board has ownership with no BOS oversight. MCC did work with the Planning Board; he suggested Ms. Gamache could address this directly at the upcoming Deliberative Session.

MCC should have a write-up of how they came up with the wetland's designation. Ms. Gamache questioned who the commission reports to? Mr. Williams said they are appointed by BOS. Mr. Rawson said he does have a concern if there was a public hearing and no public attended the meeting. If there was any issue, there was none expressed by any resident. Ms. Gamache asked how were abutters notified as there was no mention of this in the meeting minutes.

Jon Hotchkiss, NH Farm Museum representative, asked if there are any updates concerning moving the Sam Plummer Schoolhouse to the museum? They are talking with contractors about the move. He is planning on attending the Deliberative Session. When he has spoken with current Milton residents, they all agree this is a great idea, however they also say there is no money. He said it will be up to the Farm Museum to finance. Mr. Rawson said there has been no discussion about funding and there are several avenues to move forward to help with revenue issues.

3.) Announcements and Community Calendar:

1. There is a primary election tomorrow for the Democratic and Republican parties. The election is being held at 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.
2. The filing period for open elected Town positions starts Wednesday, January 24th and closes Friday, February 2nd.
3. The 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 11:30AM.

4.) NEW Business – Discussion and Possible Actions:

- a.) **WWTP Operations – electrical services for Charles St. Pumping Station:** The pumps have been replaced; electricians are needed to help finish the work. Mr. Jacobs said the cost is ~\$21,000 and would come from the Sewer CRF.

Mr. Williams motioned to move forward with the required electrical work at an estimated cost of \$21,000 to come from the Sewer Capital Reserve Fund. Seconded by Mr. Rawson. All were in favor; the motion was approved.

b.) Department Head Reports:

Public Works – Pat Smith: The heavy rains in December caused minor washouts. They purchased 100 tons of gravel for this. With the winter storms, they have been plowing and treating roads and sidewalks. They have experienced several breakdowns with their fleet. They are currently down one truck which caught fire. Primex thinks it is totaled and not salvageable. Mr. Smith said they are still waiting to hear the final decision. Along with the three trucks, they also used several pick-up trucks to help clear the roadways. He said they are also down plow truck drivers. Mr. Rawson thanked Pat Smith and his crew for their great job. There is a Warrant

Article for the purchase of two new trucks. This is really important for residents to understand if they want to have roads plowed, they will need to approve the Article and vote yes. Mr.

Williams agreed and said this has been a very challenging year all-around.

Police Department – Chief Richard Krauss: They are in the process of hiring an Administrative Assistant; they recently had five interviews and hope to fill this position by early February.

There are two open patrol officer positions.

With the winter weather, they have seen an increase in violators of Jessica's Law. Drivers must clear their entire vehicles of all snow and ice. First time offense is \$310. It is a major violation with maximum penalties. They have all seen an uptick in vandalism, spray painting, etc. in the downtown area. Please report any suspicious activity to the police department and they will check it out. There has also been an increase in reckless operations complaints.

Town Hall – Chief Krauss said they are working on the Assessing and Land Use areas.

c.) **ARPA Loan Extension – Robert Saunders, PE with Underwood Engineers:**

Mr. Jacobs explained there are four documents to go to NHDES to keep the project on track.

The timeframe is for the Phase 2 work on the Dawson Street project and will extend the project completion to June 30, 2025 (currently expires May 2024). \$120,000 is considered construction money, while the remaining \$100,000 is for design study.

Mr. Williams motioned to move forward with applicable signage for the four documents.

Seconded by Mr. Rawson for discussion.

Mr. Rawson said there seems to be a lot of points for discussion. Mr. Williams said these are for Phase 2. He asked Mr. Saunders of Underwood Engineers if the document with the heading indicating 'extend phase 2 portion' is purely to extend Phase 2? Mr. Saunders said yes; However, when DES made the \$100,000 available to the town, they tied the monies to Phase 3. As Phase 2 hasn't moved beyond conceptual design, the \$100,000 was tied to it to advance the stormwater for Phases 2 & 3. Mr. Williams said when this project began, it was agreed that each of the three phases would be independent of each other. Both Warrant Articles for Phases 1 & 2 were approved; Phase 3 has not been addressed for funding purposes. Phases need to be kept separate, so we know what is being worked on. Phase 3 is considered more of a 'nicety', and we are not even sure if Phase 3 will be pursued. Since certain deadlines have already been passed, how can we legally do this. Mr. Rawson is not clear where the disconnect to all this occurred. He also said there is a huge drainage problem. Mr. Williams said this is Phase 2 and the town already approved \$611,000 as a Warrant Article. Now this is being tied to Phase 3 which is very concerning.

Mr. Jacobs said he was going to use last year's Warrant Article as a frame for this year, however Dawson Street was dropped for a lack of interest. This is nothing against Phase 3, but it should happen after completion of Phase 2 which has not even been out for bid. Mr. Rawson said everyone just needs to get on the same page.

Mr. Saunders said he never received the 'June wish list.' At the December 4th meeting with the

BOS, he provided a list of items to help move the article forward. He stressed it is NHDES which has tied Phase 2 money to Phase 3 money. Mr. Williams said the deadlines have been passed. At the December meeting this was strictly about drainage; now we're talking about sidewalks. Mr. Saunders said the LPA grant was pursued by the Planning Board.

Mr. Rawson said it appears the ball has been dropped many times. Mr. Williams expressed his frustration that Phase 1 project resulted in it being over cost and over time and Phase 2 has not even started. Mr. Rawson asked how best to move forward with Phase 2. Mr. Saunders recommended moving forward with the design report and maybe DES will allow Milton to move forward with only Phase 2. However, NHDES will not continue to help Milton unless Milton helps itself as well. Mr. Williams – Milton will need to raise over \$1M for Phase 3. Phase 2 has not started and it appears we have lost money throughout the entire project. Mr. Saunders said to extend the \$120,000 earmarked as construction money to 12/31/2024 and then see whatever is left of the \$100,000. Mr. Williams said the letter indicates they are still together. Mr. Saunders said there is a meeting with NHDES on Wednesday. Ms. Burnham and Mr. Rawson will attend as well.

Mr. Williams said there have been communication issues from the start. Mr. Smith said it sounds like a lot of finger pointing is going on. Mr. Williams said we want to move forward with Phase 2 piece; however, it needs to be untied from Phase 3. Hopefully from the January 24th meeting, we will know if they can be separated.

Mr. Williams motioned to move forward providing authority to the BOS or Chris Jacobs and grant authority to sign the letters if resolution is achieved at the Wednesday, January 24th meeting. Seconded by Ms. Burnham. All were in favor; the motion was approved.

- d.) **Karen Golab – Historical Photos:** This item will be moved to the February 5th meeting.
- e.) **UNH T2 Center – use of town hall meeting space:** Mr. Jacobs said UNH reached out to them to hold their T2 Training at the Town Hall. They would also allow up to 3 DPW employees to attend at no cost.

Mr. Williams motioned to allow UNH to utilize space at Town Hall for T2 Training. Seconded by Mr. Rawson. All were in favor; the motion was approved.

- f.) **Avitar Assessing – “Export Cards to PDF” add on functionality:** Mr. Williams explained both Bruce Woodruff and Sue Serino have been asking for this addition to the GIS map system. Avitar currently has all the information and would release to the CAI Property Card. The cost is \$1,262 and is a one-time fee. This would give more value to the program. Mr. Williams said this would be a real asset. The BOS will read through the information to vote at their next meeting.

5.) EVENT PERMITS

a.) There were none.

6.) OLD BUSINESS

- a.) 2023.05.22 **Townhouse Road Bridge Update:** *pending warrant article.*
- b.) Long-Term Goal – website functionality improvements: website functionality improvements: vendor solicitation Revise. Select date for workshop. Mr. Williams said once the March vote is over, they will look at this.
- c.) 2023.11.06.01 Winding Road Bridge – status update: *This item will be removed.*
- d.) Final review of 2024 Warrant Articles – signature for posting: Mr. Jacobs said the Warrant Articles have been uploaded to DRA; they have not heard anything yet. They will need signed and posted by 1/29/2024.

7.) Communications Received:

a.) None.

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

- a) Mr. Rawson asked about scheduling the employee meeting. Mr. Williams said they will set that date.
- b) Mr. Rawson asked about the plan to hand out fliers to voters about the upcoming Deliberative Session and wondered if there was a better way? He does not want to see them all over the school grounds. Mr. Williams said there really is no perfect way of getting information into the voter's hands; try the flier this year and see.
- c) Ms. Burnham said if the Warrant Articles will not be available until the Deliberative Session, could a summary be available for residents? It would be nice for them to have information in advance. Mr. Williams said the Warrants will be posted on the website in advance.

9.) Approval of Minutes:

Non-Public Minutes:

No Non-public minutes

Public Minutes:

October 24, 2023 – Mr. Williams motioned **to accept 10/24/2023 emergent meeting minutes.**

Mr. Rawson seconded the motion. All were in favor; the motion was accepted.

January 2, 2024 – Mr. Rawson motioned **to accept 1/2/2024 public minutes** as written. Ms.

Burnham seconded the motion. All were in favor; the motion was accepted.

January 8, 2024 – Mr. Rawson motioned **to accept 1/8/2024 public minutes** as written. 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:

2024 01 22 BOS Min

Mr. Williams said there is no expenditure report yet; they are still waiting to receive revenues. However, the Town is currently looking better financially compared to last year at the same time.

12.) Town Administrator:

1. The Board of Selectmen will be at the Deliberative Session being held on Saturday, February 3, 2024.
2. The next public meeting of the Board of Selectmen will occur on February 5, 2024.
3. The Lions Club will move their eye glass collection box to the new Town Hall.
4. Municipal Alliance for Adaptive Management – responsible for studying Great Bay and testing Nitrogen in the Bay. Current dues are \$2,088.
5. Invoice from Verdantis – They are the contractor for MS4 program. The invoice is \$3,200 however Mr. Jacobs is unsure whether all the work has been completed. He will have Bruce Woodruff review the invoice first.
6. The deadline for department reports and other information for the annual report is January 23, 2024.


13.) Selectmen Comments:

1. There were none.

14.) Adjournment:

Mr. Williams motioned to adjourn the public meeting. Mr. Rawson seconded the motion. All were in favor; the motion passed. The public meeting adjourned at 8:10PM.

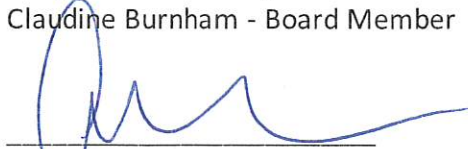
Given under our hands this 5th day of February 2024.



Humphrey Williams – Chairman BOS



Claudine Burnham - Board Member



Andrew Rawson - Board Member

END OF MINUTES – January 22, 2024