

Town of Milton
Board of Selectmen Meeting
March 18th, 2019
Milton Town Hall

Board of Selectmen Attendance: Chairman Ryan Thibeault, Vice Chair Erin Hutchings, Andy Rawson, Interim Town Administrator David Owen, Recording Clerk Danielle Marique

Public Attendance: Humphrey Williams, Nancy Wing, Glenn Bailey, Richard Krauss, Al Goodwin, Tom McDougall, Lynette McDougall, Bob Carrier, Melissa Brown, Miranda Myhre, Emily Meehan, Ed Merrill, Michelle Beauchamp, Jim St. Jean, Scott Reed, Nick Marique.

Meeting call to order

R. Thibeault welcomed all in attendance reciting the pledge.
R. Thibeault welcomed newly elected A. Rawson to the Board.

Public Comment

None

New Business:

- **Swearing in Newly Elected Officials, Boards and Committee Members**
R. Thibeault officiated oaths for all newly elected board and committee members present.
- **Re-Organization of Board of Selectmen**
Motion: E. Hutchings moved to nominate R. Thibeault as Board of Selectmen Chairman. A. Rawson seconded. 3-0
A. Rawson moved to nominate E. Hutchings as Board of Selectmen Vice-Chair. R. Thibeault seconded. 3-0
- **Board of Selectmen Committee/ Board Assignments**
E. Hutchings stated she would like to step down from the budget committee position she has served the last two years. R. Thibeault stated he would like to remain on the planning board due to serving for the past two years.
Motion: E. Hutchings moved to nominate B. Woodruff as the staff advisor liaison for the Zoning Board of Adjustment. A. Rawson seconded. 3-0
The following boards/ committees will have the assigned Board of Selectmen representatives;
Budget Committee: A. Rawson
Planning Board: R. Thibeault
Zoning Board of Adjustment: B. Woodruff
Economic Development Committee: E. Hutchings
Recreation Commission: E. Hutchings
School Board: A. Rawson

- **Board of Selectmen By-Law Discussion**
 D. Owen stated this would be an appropriate time to revisit the Board of Selectmen's By-Laws and to make any revisions to them. If there are no desired changes, the board can approve as written if they so choose. R. Thibeault stated he hasn't currently reviewed, suggesting the board to review and discuss in public any adjustments or changes wished by all to be made at the next scheduled meeting, April 1st.
- **Board of Selectmen Recording Clerk Contractual Agreement Approval (Danielle Marique)**
 D. Owen stated the Recording Clerk is to be reviewed and approved annually. R. Thibeault stated this contract was set in place last year to make sure everyone was consistently on the same page.
Motion: A. Rawson moved to approve and sign the 2019 Recording Secretary contract with Danielle Marique. E. Hutchings seconded. 3-0
- **2019 Election Results Discussion**
 D. Owen stated the 2019 election results and the Town budget has been defeated and will be operating under a default budget for the year. Reported there has been an official recount request of article #10 which will take place Saturday March 23, 2019 beginning at 9:00AM.
- **Request Approval of Motor Vehicle Registration Fees Abatement 1 of 2 (Michelle Beauchamp)**
 D. Owen reported the Town Clerk is requesting the board to abate motor vehicle registration fees in the amount of \$809.00 to Kenneth Chadbourne due to an error in the date of his motorhome on the registration.
Motion: R. Thibeault moved to approve and sign an abatement of vehicle registration fees in the amount of \$809.00 for Kenneth Chadbourne as requested by the Town Clerk. E. Hutchings seconded. 3-0
- **Request Approval of Motor Vehicle Registration Fees Abatement 2 of 2 (Michelle Beauchamp)**
 D. Owen reported the Town Clerk is requesting a second abatement of vehicle registration fees in the amount of \$89.00 to Constance Lander for an unused registration.
Motion: R. Thibeault moved to approve and sign an abatement to refund motor vehicle registration fees in the amount of \$89 to Constance Lander as requested by the Town Clerk. E. Hutchings seconded. 3-0
- **Durgin Fund Reimbursement for Veterans' Park Project**
 D. Owen stated last year there was work done on the Veterans' Park project that was paid for from the Town's General Fund, which was supposed to be reimbursed from the Durgin Fund. The following action is intended to bring this to conclusion. M. Beauchamp stated the previous Town Administrator had received all necessary needed documentation to continue forward with this request since August 6th, 2018. R. Thibeault stated there was a difference in price request from the amount paid. D. Marique stated that with discussion with K. Wallingford and M. Beauchamp it was explained that the Trustees of the Trust Fund reimburse based on the receipt totals, not the amount paid to the vendor. That is where the difference in price is showing.
Motion: E. Hutchings moved to approve and authorize the Board's Chairman to sign a voucher to the Trustees of the Trust Funds in the amount of the original paid amount of \$1,223.49 to be

paid from the Durgin Fund to make the Town's General Fund whole for work done on the Veterans' Park project in 2018. A. Rawson seconded. 3-0

- **Approval of Payment to JS Marine & Vinyl Works (Richard Krauss)**

D. Owen stated Chief Krauss is seeking the Board's approval for paying for the striping of the new police cruisers out of the Police Department Detail account, for which the Board of Selectmen have been designated the agents to expend.

Motion: *R. Thibeault moved to approve payment to J.S. Marine & Vinyl Works in the amount of \$1,425.00 for striping new cruisers from the Police Department Detail Account. E. Hutchings seconded. 3-0*

- **Town Ordinance Exception Request (David Paey)**

D. Owen stated based on his understanding this is an annual request.

Motion: *E. Hutchings moved to approve the request of Paey Construction, LLC for an exemption from Town Ordinance 00-01, An Ordinance Regulating Heavy Hauling over Town Roads, during the upcoming mud season. R. Thibeault seconded. 3-0*

- **Discussion with Atlantic Broadband Representative Re.: Franchise Renewal**

D. Owen introduced Ed Merrill, the General Manager of Atlantic Broadband for this region. E. Merrill provided material discussing the adjustments Atlantic Broadband has made within the company. E. Hutchings questioned if there was a Town channel available for the purpose of meeting streaming. E. Merrill stated there is a local channel available; however, most Towns utilize YouTube due to the majority of residents having internet access over being an Atlantic Broadband subscriber. E. Merrill stated that with the new franchise agreement, \$5,000 would be available for new recording equipment as in the past. A. Rawson questioned if there was anything that could be done about residents who experience service interruptions. E. Merrill stated there is a form that is to be filled out in that situation stating most towns add the form to their website to then be returned to Atlantic Broadband. Also stated that adding in more fiber optic to the town leads to better service as a whole. E. Hutchings questioned the cost of internet extender for residents. E. Merrill stated the cost is all dependent on what is calling for service at the same time within the residence as well as the location of the modem. A. Rawson questioned the difference between the current franchise agreement and the proposed. E. Merrill stated technology is constantly changing and being updated. D. Owen stated the main benefits are not only new equipment for recording but also faster internet service. A. Rawson suggested including the Town Beach Gate House, Wastewater building and the water district building should all be included within the franchise agreement. E. Merrill stated the internet service is not within the actual franchise agreement; it is included within a secondary letter explaining the details of the internet, but as long as there is no construction costs associated with internet connection to the three additional building locations there will not be an additional fee. B. Woodruff questioned their future plans so everyone within Town is able to receive service. E. Merrill stated they operate with a 10 homes per mile policy and that the company is built on return and not as a public utility account therefore, there are limitations. L. McDougall questioned if there were any other service options to the Town. D. Owen stated there are no other options due to the law that passed in the 90's stating Municipalities cannot change companies due to stipulations of the law. E. Merrill stated that the Atlantic Broadband Franchise

Agreement is a nonexclusive agreement. R. Krauss questioned if the Town Hall internet would receive an upgrade. E. Merrill stated the 50x5 will be free of charge in the future and invoices will reflect the credit if departments or other buildings are receiving a different rate. A. Rawson stated he would like to have seen a more substantial change in rates for the Town residents. N. Wing questioned if expanding to Exit 17 would be in future plans. E. Merrill stated if businesses request it and there are enough bigger businesses in the area they will build to expand. A. Rawson requested waiting on the agreement until the 3 additional locations were added into the agreement. E. Merrill stated he would rework the agreement to add the 3 additional buildings.

Motion: *E. Hutchings moved to approve the Atlantic Broadband franchise agreement contingent on Atlantic Broadband adding the three additional buildings in town (Wastewater department building, Town beach gate house building, & Water District building). A. Rawson seconded. 3-0*

Old Business:

- **Follow-Up Discussion on Town Owned Properties**

D. Owen stated at the last Board of Selectmen meeting it was agreed to seek auction for 9 tax deeded properties for which the 3 year redemption period has expired, along with 2 other tax deeded properties that the Town would like to dispose of more quickly. Contact was made with St. Jean Auctioneers, who handled the last auction of Town owned properties in 2015. He reported Town Counsel suggested the board authorize his office to file a Petition for Quiet Title to the 565 White Mountain Highway property prior to selling. J. St. Jean suggested holding the auction on a Saturday under absolute auction which means no reserve, also stating contingencies can be set on properties that more towns are choosing to do as such. Properties would be sold as is and as cash buys meaning allowing a 30 day cash transaction for completed purchase and sale agreement. Suggested either Saturday April 27th or May 4th, stating he would need an abutters list prior to the date. A. Rawson questioned if that would allow enough time to petition for the Quiet Title. D. Owen stated due to court processes more time for 565 White Mountain Highway would be needed but it can be auctioned at a separate time. R. Thibeault suggested to wait to continue until legal has approved the decision. J. St. Jean stated the time frame requirements exempling obtaining a building permit within 60-90 days is typically accurate. D. Owen stated properties must require an occupancy permit, suggesting within 6 months of sale a building permit is to be obtained and 12 months following permit an occupancy permit is to be in place, and be suggested legal review. J. St. Jean stated legal approval and exact verbiage of contingencies were not needed to begin the process. R. Thibeault suggested an auction date of May 4th, 2019.

Motion: *E. Hutchings moved to approve and continue with the agreement with St. Jean Auctioneers based on legal discussion. R. Thibeault seconded. 3-0*

A. Rawson suggested looking into selling 1121 White Mountain Highway as well stating that any income source to the Town should be looked at and there is currently no plan in place to move the building as well as there is no funding set for demolition or relocation of the School House as at one time discussed.

Motion: *A. Rawson moved to sell 1121 White Mountain Highway within the auction.*

R. Thibeault stated he agrees the Town has not done anything to preserve the School House; however, there was a group interested in demolishing 1121 White Mountain Highway and

moving the school house and had a contractor interested in assisting the project. The Historical Society and Board of Selectmen agreed to put 2 warrant articles in 2019; one to transfer the school house to the Historical Society for \$1.00 and second to sell 1121 White Mountain Highway to the Historical Society for \$1.00, but the Board decided not to continue with the warrant articles. Stated the Historical Society is still interested but cannot do much without the Town's support in the project. A. Rawson stated previously it was discussed and two selectmen were in favor of selling the building. E. Hutchings responded that speaking for herself she was in favor of selling 1121 White Mountain Highway until she realized how much land was a part of the property. Stated it was recently learned the NH Farm Museum has an interest in the School House. R. Thibeault stated previous communication from the Farm Museum stating there were easements that were needed if they were to take on the project of the School House. A. Rawson stated the Town is not financially able to keep the building. R. Thibeault stated the purpose of the warrant articles were for the Town voters to decide. A. Rawson stated the Town should maintain the School House and that the Town does not have the funding available to support the transfer over to 1121 White Mountain Highway. R. Thibeault stated if someone who were to fix 1121 White Mountain Highway it may cost the Town more in the long run of the process. *E. Hutchings seconded the motion made by A. Rawson. 2-1*

- **Follow-Up Discussion on Town Vehicles/Equipment**

D. Owen stated at the last Board of Selectmen meeting it was discussed there is intent to sell the surplus vehicles from the Police department and DPW by means of public bidding process. Once the information about Town vehicles is received from the Department of Public Works to accompany the list the Police Department provided he will develop a public bidding notice to sell the vehicles.

Other Business

- D. Owen stated B. Woodruff attended a meeting with the NHDOT for the Townhouse Bridge project. B. Woodruff reported that NHDOT requested a communication contact list to which B. Woodruff responded with the Town Administrator, B. Woodruff and the Board of Selectmen Chairman as contacts. He stated the project estimates are not expected to rise. Once the review is complete the Town will receive a copy to provide to legal counsel for review and acceptance. He reported the estimated total project cost will be \$1.475 million with an estimated start date of late 2021. B. Woodruff also reported the Winding Hill Bridge project was in discussion and that a tentative start date of that project would be 2026 though it is not definite along with a \$216,000 match for the project.
- D. Owen commended Police Chief Richard Krauss on his life-saving actions on a recent medical aid call.
- D. Owen reported the Fire Department responded to a fire at 214 Applebee Road Sunday March 17th where fire took the attached barn and garage. The house that was attached was able to be saved. Two minor injuries of firefighters took place. He commends the Fire Department on their job well done to save the house and occupants.
- D. Owen reported the Town Administrator selection process is closing. Its deadline for written essays has passed, then MRI will conduct phone interviews of applicants and will then provide 3-

5 individuals for in person interviews with the Board of Selectmen to be held on either April 15th, or 18th. The exact date will be confirmed.

Meeting Minutes

Motion: E. Hutchings moved to approve the March 4th, 2019 meeting minutes. R. Thibeault seconded. 2-0. A. Rawson abstained.

Public Comments

L. McDougall: Questioned who the Board worked for suggesting the allowance of the public to speak and be heard.

H. Williams: Requested email accounts for Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee members to be made to be constantly transferred to new members coming in instead of material and information being transferred manually to be relayed.

Administrator Comments

None

Selectmen Comments

A. Rawson: Thanked all for their support in the recent election. Stated decisions made reflect the Tax payers of the Town and the Town needs to be more fiscally responsible.

E. Hutchings: Congratulated all the newly elected officials.

R. Thibeault: Thanked A. Lucier for his time he served on the Board of Selectmen and welcomed A. Rawson.

Requested each member to remain open-minded and obtain all facts before making decisions.

Stated this will be a challenging year with a multitude of transitions to take place, requested all to work together.

Motion: R. Thibeault moved to adjourn A. Rawson seconded. 3-0

Next Board of Selectmen Meeting Date: *Monday April 1st, 2019*

Respectfully submitted;
Recording Clerk,
Danielle Marique



Chairman Ryan Thibeault



Erin Hutchings



Andy Rawson