



**Town of Milton – Selectboard Meeting
43 Bombardier Road, Milton VT 05468
In Person and/or via Zoom – Community Room
Monday, May 19, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.**

MINUTES

Selectboard Members Present: Darren Adams, Chair; Michael Morgan, Vice Chair; Brenda Steady, Clerk; Leland Morgan, Member; Chris Taylor, Member

Selectboard Members Absent: None

Staff Members Present: John Bartlett, Acting Co-Town Manager, HR and Operations Director; Brittany Tradup, Executive Assistant to the Town Manager; Ben Nappi, Assistant Recreation Director;

Others Present: Elizabeth Paret; Shannon Gunderson, Milton Independent; Henry Bonges; Joseph Duquette; Trevor Barrows (remote); Diane Barrows (remote); Krystina Gotsch (remote); Kimberly Thompson (remote); “Fox” (remote); “CassieAnne’s iPhone” (remote)

I. Call to Order

D. Adams called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. Flag Salute

D. Adams led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Agenda Review

B. Steady requesting to pull the warrant as a separate line item.

IV. Public Forum

None.

V. Consent Agenda

- **Approval of Selectboard Meeting Minutes of 05/05/2025**
- **Approval of Warrant #22**

Motion made by C. Taylor to approve the Selectboard Meeting Minutes of 05/05/2025, with a second by L. Morgan. Motion approved unanimously.

Motion made by C. Taylor to approve Warrant #22, with a second by L. Morgan. B. Steady stated concern that expenses are getting high for parties, gifts, etc. There was discussion about the specific expenses, which included a retirement party and a gift card for Chief Laroche and recognition for EMS week with a lunch for first responders. Motion approved. D. Adams, M. Morgan, C. Taylor and L. Morgan voted in favor, and B. Steady voted against.

VI. Reappoint Kimberly Thompson to Recreation Committee

K. Thompson responded to questions from the Selectboard.

Motion made by M. Morgan to reappoint Kimberly Thompson to the Recreation Commission commencing July 1 of this year to June 30, 2028, with a second by L. Morgan. Motion approved unanimously.

VII. Updates: Chittenden Solid Waste District (CSWD), Green Mountain Transit (GMT) Board and Energy

Henry Bonges, CSWD Board, GMT Board Representative, and Volunteer Energy Chair

H. Bonges provided an update on CSWD, GMT and the work he's doing as the volunteer energy chair for the Town.

VIII. Reappoint Henry Bonges as CSWD Board Representative

John Bartlett, Acting Co-Town Manager

H. Bonges' two-year term as Milton's CSWD Board Representative will expire May 31, 2025.

Motion made by C. Taylor to reappoint Henry Bonges to the CSWD board for a two-year term expiring May 31, 2027, with a second by M. Morgan.

H. Bonges responded to questions from L. Morgan and D. Adams regarding his ability to represent the Selectboard's interests and wishes on the CSWD board. There was discussion about opening up the vacancy to give the opportunity to other potential residents to apply. H. Bonges agreed to this proposed action, and the Selectboard noted that H. Bonges may re-apply and would be considered with other potential candidates.

C. Taylor withdrew his motion.

IX. Vote to Approve CSWD Budget

John Bartlett, Acting Co-Town Manager

J. Bartlett noted that, according to CSWD Charter, "Within 45 days of the approval of the budget by the Board of Commissioners, the legislative body of each member municipality shall act to approve or disapprove the budget." Therefore, the CSWD budget requires a vote of approval from the Selectboard.

Motion made by C. Taylor to approve the Chittenden Solid Waste District FY2026 budget as presented at the last Selectboard Meeting, with a second by M. Morgan. Motion approved unanimously.

X. Resolution: 4th of July Fireworks Contract

6:35 pm

Ben Nappi, Assistant Recreation Director

B. Nappi introduced this item, per the following resolution. He noted that the other potential vendors said the budget was too low or they are already booked.

Award 2025 Bid for July 4 Fireworks Contract

WHEREAS, on March 24, 2025, the Recreation & Parks Department issued a request for proposals to solicit bids from individuals or businesses interested in performing the July 4 2025 Fireworks display, located at Bombardier Park West, 20 Park Place Milton, VT 05468. Bids were to include the shell count, experience, pricing and budget, and agreement to procure and maintain the necessary insurance of not less than \$1,000,000,000 per occurrence and \$2,000,000,000 aggregate; and

WHEREAS, bids were due to the Recreation & Parks Department no later than 12 noon on April 11, 2025; and

WHEREAS, as of the deadline, the Town received one (1) proposal from Jason Trieb of \$12,500 and to agree to follow all laws set by the state of Vermont and Division of Fire Safety and carry the minimum or more amount of insurance; and

WHEREAS, this was the only proposal, it met all requirements, and Jason Trieb performed the July 4 Fireworks display with no problems during the summer of 2024; and

WHEREAS, the funds will be paid from the July 4th Town Celebration and July 4th Donations budget lines in the Recreation budget; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Selectboard authorizes the Town Manager or their designee to sign the contract for payment in the amount of \$12,500 for Jason Trieb to perform the July 4th 2025 Fireworks display.

Motion made by M. Morgan to authorize the Town Manager or their designee to sign the contract for payment in the amount of \$12,500 for Jason Trieb to perform the July 4th 2025 Fireworks display, with a second by L. Morgan. Motion approved unanimously.

XI. Resolution: Award Food Truck Contract to Al's French Frys

John Bartlett, Acting Co-Town Manager

J. Bartlett noted that this was announced at the last meeting, but the Town would like further documentation regarding the award of the contract. Therefore, he presented the following resolution:

Award 2025 Bid for Mobile Food Truck on the Town Green

WHEREAS, on March 18, 2025, the Town Manager's Office issued a request for proposals to solicit bids from individuals or businesses interested in locating and operating a mobile food truck(s) on the Town Green, located at 204 US RT 7 Milton, VT 05468, for the time period covering June 1, 2025 to August 31, 2025. Bids were to include the use of the Town Green, estimated power and water usage. Bids were also to include hours of operations, sample menu, Liability insurance and must comply with State and Local Health codes; and

WHEREAS, bids were due to the Town Managers Office no later than 12 noon on Friday, May 2, 2025; and

WHEREAS, as of the deadline, the Town received one (1) proposal from Al's French Frys, offering \$20,000 for the use of the Town Green from May 1 through September 30, 2025. In addition, Al's French Frys will also make a \$2,500 donation to the Milton Family Community Center (MFCC) food shelf upon signing of the contract; and

WHEREAS, this was the only proposal, it met all requirements, and Al's French Frys used the Town Green for their food truck with no problems during the summer of 2023 and 2024; and

WHEREAS, the funds will go toward the Buildings and Grounds budget for the Repair and Maintenance of Facilities; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Selectboard authorizes the Town Manager or their designee to accept the check for payment in the amount of \$20,000 from Al's French Frys to operate a mobile food truck on the Town Green effective May 5 through September 30, 2025.

Motion made by C. Taylor to authorize the Town Manager or their designee to accept the check for payment in the amount of \$20,000 from Al's French Frys to operate a mobile food truck on the Town Green effective May 5 through September 30, 2025, with a second by L. Morgan. Motion approved unanimously.

XII. Recognize Chief of Police Stephen Laroche for His Service to the Community

John Bartlett, Acting Co-Town Manager

D. Adams noted that the timing isn't ideal, as Chief Laroche could not be present, but it is important to recognize him publicly. J. Bartlett read the following resolution aloud:

Recognizing Chief of Police Stephen Laroche for His Years of Service to the Milton Community

WHEREAS, Chief Stephen Laroche has continuously served in the Milton Police Department in various roles for over 32 years; and

WHEREAS, after serving two years with the State Police, Laroche joined the Milton Police Department in 1992 and served as a Police Officer and a Field Training Officer before joining the Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) as a Detective Corporal in February of 2000. He was promoted to Sergeant in December of 2000; and

WHEREAS, upon the retirement of the previous Chief, Laroche was appointed as Milton's Chief of Police in January of 2018; and

WHEREAS, Chief Laroche has led the Milton Police Department with an emphasis on community involvement. He was instrumental in the formation of Milton's Police Advisory Committee in 2021, along with the Public Safety Director at the time. He also volunteered with Meals on Wheels, and each year, he helps plan and actively participates in Milton's annual National Night Out event.

WHEREAS, Chief Laroche has been a long-time advocate for the advancement of the Milton Police Department and its staff. He served as president of the Milton Police Benevolent Association (MPBA) for many years, and championed numerous collective bargaining agreements with the local chapter of the New England Police Benevolent Association (NEPBA); and

WHEREAS, Chief Laroche has been the recipient of numerous commendations for superior performance with the Milton Police Department, including the Chief's Award in 2016, the highest level of recognition within the Department; and

WHEREAS, Chief Laroche has provided exemplary service to the Milton Police Department, the municipality and the Milton Community as a whole; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Milton Selectboard hereby expresses its appreciation and thanks on behalf of the Town Staff and Citizens to Chief Stephen Laroche for his lifelong service and numerous contributions to the Milton Police Department and the safety of the Milton community.

Motion made by M. Morgan to sign the resolution honoring Chief Laroche for his many years of service to the Town of Milton, with a second by L. Morgan. Motion approved unanimously.

XIII. Update from Town Manager and Board Members

John Bartlett, Acting Co-Town Manager

- Town Offices are closed on Monday, May 26 for Memorial Day, and Memorial Day services will be held at 10 a.m.
- At the outset of the first June regular meeting on Monday, June 2, there will be a Public Hearing for the FY26-30 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), as well as the FY26 Impact Fee Schedule.
- The Inclusion Festival on May 10th was moved inside, due to weather, and was still very well attended.
- Per Diem Jenny Schultz was promoted to EMS Officer III on May 4.
- Hazen Towne started as a new Maintenance Tech I in the Highway Department on May 5.
- There is currently an outstanding job offer for the Planning and Zoning / Public Works Administrative Assistant
- The Town is still recruiting for a Maintenance Mechanic.
- The spring HVAC and Irrigation System preventative maintenance has been done, and the Town is ready for summer weather.

D. Adams requested updates on rocks on West Milton Road property.

L. Morgan stated that a sign has been taken from Morgan Road. J. Bartlett said he would look into it.

XIV. Executive Session –Real Estate and Contracts

Motion made by B. Steady to find that premature knowledge about Real Estate and Contracts would cause the Town or person to suffer a substantial disadvantage. Second by L. Morgan. Motion approved unanimously.

Motion made by B. Steady to move enter into executive session at 6:48 p.m. to discuss Real Estate and Contracts under the provisions of 1 VSA 313 (a)(3) and 1 VSA 313 (a)(2) of the Vermont Statutes; to include the following; Selectboard members: D. Adams, M. Morgan, L. Morgan, and B. Steady; Acting Co-Town Manager and Director of Administration and HR John Bartlett. Second by L. Morgan. Motion approved unanimously.

Motion made by M. Morgan to close executive session at 7:13 p.m., with a second by L. Morgan. Motion approved unanimously.

XV. Action as a Result of Executive Session

A. First Action: Real Estate

Motion made by M. Morgan at 7:18 p.m. to approve acceptance of a Quitclaim Deed from the Estate of Shirley Sweeney for a 0.87-acre parcel of land northerly of the Jolley gas station on U.S. Route 7, to approve a warrant to acquire the same in the amount of \$20,000 to the Town Attorney's IOLTA account, and to authorize Selectboard Chair Darren Adams and Co-Acting Town Managers Amber Baker and John Bartlett to sign any documents necessary or advisable

to close on the acquisition of this property. Second by L. Morgan. Motion approved unanimously. C. Taylor abstained from voting.

B. Second Action: Contracts – Appoint Town Manager

The following are statements from each of the Selectboard members:

Statement from M. Morgan:

“We had four very qualified internal candidates, which is a good thing and allowed us to have a quality person for the job. At this juncture in time, it is my opinion that Chris Taylor is the person for that job. I feel Chris has the cool under pressure demeanor that is imperative for this position.

“Therefore, my motion is to appoint Chris Taylor as Town Manager conditioned upon the Selectboard’s subsequent approval of a Town Manager contract that is acceptable to all parties.”

Statement from B. Steady:

“I am pleased to second the motion for Chris Taylor to become our next Town Manager. While it may come as a surprise to some, given our well-known differences in the past, I have come to appreciate Chris’s dedication and professionalism. Over the past few years, we have collaborated on numerous important issues, setting aside our differences for the greater good of Milton. I am confident that Chris will work effectively with the board, advocate passionately for our community, and steer our town towards a prosperous and affordable future. It was great to have four qualified internal candidates. It really says a lot for Milton. I want to thank the community members that reached out to me as I struggled with making my final decision.”

Statement from L. Morgan:

“There were four well-qualified applicants. One withdrew for personal reasons. We spent a lot of time with this process that was open and transparent. It was a difficult decision – all could have done the job. However, I felt that Chris Taylor had the attributes that would make Chris the best manager of the Town of Milton.”

Statement from D. Adams:

“After a thorough and thoughtful process, we have reached a decision on who will succeed Don Turner as our next Town Manager. This is a role we never expected to fill so soon, and I want to take a moment to acknowledge the profound loss our community has experienced over the past year. Don’s passing left a void not only in our town government but in the heart of Milton itself.

“From the outset, the board recognized that Don could never truly be replaced. Our goal was to find someone who shared his deep commitment to public service and his passion for Milton. We believed the best path forward was to look within—to find a candidate who already understood the challenges we face, the progress we’ve made, and the vision we hold for our town’s future.

“That vision has remained consistent: to build a welcoming, vibrant community where public safety, infrastructure, and essential services are delivered with excellence and fiscal responsibility. We’ve also made economic development a priority, ensuring Milton continues to grow and thrive.

“Some have questioned whether we should have conducted a broader search, bringing in someone with no prior ties to Milton. Ironically, many of those same voices praised Don as an exceptional Town Manager and agreed he was irreplaceable. Once people understood that the

Town Manager's role is to carry out the board's vision—not to set it—many came to support our decision to focus on internal candidates. As a board, we knew we couldn't afford the time or risk involved in training and relocating someone unfamiliar with our community.

"Throughout this process, each of us has received countless calls, emails, and personal messages from residents. The overwhelming sentiment was not opposition to any candidate, but strong support for Chris Taylor. I want to thank everyone who reached out to share their thoughts and perspectives. I also want to express my gratitude to all four candidates – each of whom brought dedication and talent to the table. Any one of them would have served Milton well, and I know they will continue to do so in their current and future roles. In fact, during the process, each candidate expressed that if they weren't selected, they hoped Chris would be. That speaks volumes about their character and about Chris's readiness to lead.

"With the board's vote to enter negotiations, Chris will be required to resign from the selectboard. Per our charter, the board will appoint an eligible individual to fill the vacancy until the next legally warned annual meeting. Since Chris submitted his application, he has not been involved in the selection process. As Chris also serves in the state legislature, the board will vote on whether we wish for him to continue in that role following the outcome of negotiations.

"We are hopeful that Chris will officially step into the Town Manager role in the coming weeks. Please join me in congratulating him on this new chapter. I also want to extend a heartfelt thank you to our entire staff—especially John Bartlett and Amber Baker—for their outstanding leadership and dedication over the past 10 months. You've shown that nothing will deter us from "getting stuff done" for Milton."

Statement from J. Bartlett:

"I'll say for myself: thank you for placing your faith in the two of us. It worked out really well that there were two of us. It's had its ups and downs, but we have been able to keep the train on the tracks and get a lot accomplished. I'm looking forward to the new leadership that we can help support."

Motion made by M. Morgan at 7:20 p.m. to appoint Chris Taylor as Town Manager, conditioned upon the Selectboard's subsequent approval of a Town Manager contract that is acceptable to all parties. Second by B. Steady. Motion approved unanimously. C. Taylor abstained from voting.

XVI. Adjournment

**Motion made by L. Morgan to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 p.m., with a second by M. Morgan. Motion approved unanimously.
Meeting adjourned by D. Adams.**

All documents pertaining to this meeting may be viewed using the following link:

<https://miltonvt.sharepoint.com/:f:/s/TownOfMiltonFilesFolders/EkFggi7u1uNGrhqeOdrU5UMBm-Wwic3wh1vumxQh-XXj2w?e=veggAW>

A video recording of this meeting can be found at the following location:

https://miltonvt.sharepoint.com/:v:/s/TownOfMiltonFilesFolders/ETKG2RTd58lGnFz_qprjunQBbseSwa7232V-SbuL3SmTPyA?e=9cGmzA

Respectfully Submitted,

Brittany Tradup

APPROVED MINUTES:

Brenda Steady, Clerk Date: 6-2-2025
Brenda Steady, Clerk

Filed with the Milton Town Clerk's Office on this 3rd day of June, 2025.

ATTEST: Krist Bees, Milton Town Clerk