



**Town of Milton – Selectboard Meeting  
43 Bombardier Road, Milton VT 05468  
In Person and/or via Zoom – Community Room  
Monday, June 5, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

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

**Selectboard Members Absent:** Michael Morgan, Vice Chair

**Staff Members Present:** Don Turner Jr., Town Manager; John Bartlett, HR and Operations Director; Brittany Tradup, Executive Assistant to the Town Manager

**Others Present:** Louis Mossey, III; Richard Desouza; Nick Smith; Lonnie Poland; Dan Gaherty; Liza Gaherty; Shannon Gunderson, Milton Independent; Nick Mark; Lauren Mark; Diane Barrows (remote)

**I. Call to Order**

D. Adams called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

**II. Flag Salute**

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

**III. Agenda Review**

No changes.

**IV. Public Forum**

None.

**V. Consent Agenda**

- **Approval of Selectboard Meeting Minutes of 05/15/2023**
- **Approval of Warrant #25**

**Motion made by C. Taylor to approve the Selectboard Meeting minutes of 5/15/2023, with a second by L. Morgan. Motion approved unanimously.**

**Motion made by B. Steady to remove vendor #63715 from the warrant until we get more information, changing the total amount for the warrant from \$216,659.25 to a revised amount of \$215,159.25. Second by C. Taylor. Motion approved unanimously.**

**Motion made by B. Steady to approve the amended version of the warrant, with a second by C. Taylor. Motion approved unanimously.**

**VI. Resolution Recognizing Dan Gaherty for Serving on the Conservation Commission**

D. Turner stated that this resolution was created in honor of Dan Gaherty, and he then read the following resolution aloud:

**Recognition of Dan Gaherty for His Service and Dedication to the Town of Milton**

WHEREAS, Dan Gaherty has actively served as a member of the Conservation Commission for over 15 years, serving as the chair of the commission and devoting hundreds of volunteer hours to meetings, trail maintenance, and advocating for our community; and

WHEREAS, the protection and enhancement of the Town's natural resources as a result of the Conservation Commission and Dan's work are important to ensuring the longevity of the Town of Milton's natural areas; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Milton would like to formally recognize and express gratitude to individuals who have enhanced the Milton community through their commitment, leadership and service to others; and

WHEREAS, Dan has decided to step down from his role as chairperson on the conservation commission, though he will complete the remainder of his term as a commissioner; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we the members of the Milton Selectboard on behalf of the entire Milton Community hereby extend to Dan Gaherty our sincere gratitude and appreciation for his service to the Town of Milton, and our best wishes to him for his continued success and happiness in the years to come.

**Motion made by C. Taylor to adopt the resolution recognizing Dan Gaherty for his service and dedication to the Town of Milton, with a second by B. Steady. Motion approved unanimously.**

**VII. Reappoint Cemetery Advisory Committee Members: Jay Nadeau and Allen Beaupre**

There was a brief discussion among the Selectboard members.

**Motion made by L. Morgan to reappoint Jay Nadeau and Allen Beaupre to the Cemetery Advisory Committee, with a second by B. Steady. Motion approved unanimously.**

**VIII. Reappoint Development Review Board Member: Nick Smith**

There was a brief discussion between the Selectboard members and Nick Smith.

**Motion made by C. Taylor to reappoint Nick Smith to the Development Review Board for a term of 3 years, with a second by L. Morgan. Motion approved unanimously.**

**IX. Reappoint Economic Development Commission Members: Louis Mossey, III and Richard Desouza**

There was a brief discussion between the Selectboard members and both Lou Mossey and Richard Desouza.

**Motion made by C. Taylor to reappoint Louis Mossey, III and Richard Desouza to the Economic Development Commission, with a second by B. Steady. Motion approved unanimously.**

**X. Budget Adjustments**

D. Adams stated that the budget adjustment he wanted to make for FY24 involves the allotment for the Milton Artists' Guild for \$2500. There was a discussion among the Selectboard, and they decided to wait to make any adjustments until a request is made for the funding by the Milton Artists' Guild.

There was a brief additional discussion regarding the status of the overall budget.

**XI. Vermont Historic Preservation Grant for Renovations to the Grange Hall**

D. Turner provided a brief update on the status of the Grange Hall renovations, and stated that they should be completed this week. He then introduced the Vermont Historic Preservation Grant opportunity, as stated in the following memo:

To: Milton Selectboard  
Date: June 1, 2023  
From: Don Turner, Jr., Town Manager  
Re: Vermont Historic Preservation Grant Application

Established in 1986, the State-funded Historic Preservation Grant Program helps municipalities and non-profit organizations rehabilitate the historic buildings that are a vital part of Vermont's downtowns, villages, and rural communities, as well as its iconic landscape.

Since its inception, the program has provided over \$6 million to support over 600 historic community building preservation projects. Grants have been used to revitalize buildings such as town halls, museums, theaters, libraries, recreation centers, and other municipal buildings. The next round of grants will be announced in August 2023 with applications due in October 2023.

I would like to respectfully request permission to apply for \$20,000 in funding to complete additional renovations to the Milton Grange Hall, which include, in the following prioritized order: the replacement of windows and exterior doors, exterior painting, parking lot improvements, and the replacement of ceiling tiles in the auditorium space.

**Motion made by C. Taylor to authorize the Town Manager or his designee to apply for the Vermont Historic Preservation Grant in the amount of \$20,000 with a 50% match, to be used toward renovations to the Milton Grange Hall. The match would come from existing appropriated funds. Second by L. Morgan. Motion approved unanimously.**

**XII. Town Green Food Truck**

D. Turner recapped the process used last year and discussed some of the challenges faced. He then provided the following information regarding the RFP process used this year:

To: Milton Selectboard  
Date: June 1, 2023  
From: Don Turner, Jr., Town Manager  
Re: Town Green Food Truck

On April 5, 2023, 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. This bid was for the time period covering June 1, 2023 to August 30, 2023. The Town Green sits on one acre of land including a dirt parking lot accessible from Railroad Street.

Bids were to include the bid for 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. Bids were due to the Town Managers Office no later than 12 noon on Friday, May 12, 2023.

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 June 1-August 30, 2023. In addition, they also made a \$2500 donation to the Milton Family Community Center (MFCC) food shelf.

As this was the only proposal, and it met all requirements, I accepted the check for payment and began the permitting process with the Zoning Department. Al's French Frys plans to start setting up on the weekend of June 3, 2023.

There was a brief discussion, which included comments and questions from Selectboard members and from attendees.

### **XIII. Community Recovery and Revitalization Grant – Expand Infrastructure to Serve Public Works Facility and Future Residential Lots**

D. Turner introduced this item by reviewing the history of the Community Recovery and Revitalization Grant Program, as presented in the following memo:

To: Milton Selectboard  
Date: June 1, 2023  
From: Don Turner, Jr., Town Manager  
Re: Community Recovery and Revitalization Grant Application

#### **About the Community Recovery and Revitalization Grant Program**

The Community Recovery and Revitalization Grant Program is focused on providing assistance to municipalities, businesses and non-profit organizations who suffered most from the COVID-19 pandemic and who meet the eligibility guidelines for this program.

As part of the State of Vermont's commitment to build on local, state, and national efforts to advance equity, and increase meaningful inclusion representation of BIPOC communities, the Department of Economic Development (DED) will prioritize applications that demonstrate meaningful impact on Vermont's BIPOC population. For the first 30 days of this program, DED will prioritize the review of applications that serve BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) communities and from municipalities and organizations located in Addison, Bennington, Caledonia, Essex, Lamoille, Orange, Orleans, Rutland, Washington, Windham, and Windsor counties. After 30 days, all applications will be reviewed.

#### **Background:**

The Town has been working with an adjacent property owner of the Town's Municipal Complex to develop a 42-acre parcel. The property is located in the Downtown TIF district and the M4R zoning district that allows for one residential unit per 6000 square feet of land. The property owner donated a 6.7-acre parcel to the Town for a new public works facility, which entitled them to a fifty percent bonus density.

To develop these properties, it will require extending municipal infrastructure (water, sewer and road) from Bombardier Road. This new infrastructure will serve a maximum of two hundred twenty residential units along with the new public works facility. The voters approved the infrastructure expansion along with the public works project in 2022. The project costs have risen significantly since the voters approved the project and the Town now needs additional funding to build this infrastructure.

The initial estimate for extending the infrastructure was \$2,350,000.00. All local permits are in place and we are in the final stages of the ACT 250 permitting process. I believe this qualifies this as a shovel ready project. Our goal is to start construction this July or August. Furthermore, the Town is aware that a portion of the remaining property is under contract with a local developer. They plan to build new housing on that portion of property as soon as possible.

I would like to respectfully request permission to apply for grant funding up to 20% of the estimated cost of extending the infrastructure, in an amount not to exceed \$470,000.

**Motion made by C. Taylor to authorize the Town Manager or his designee to apply for the Community Recovery and Revitalization Grant, in an amount not to exceed \$470,000, to be used toward expanding the infrastructure to serve the public works facility and future residential lots on the remaining parcels #1 and #3 of the Brault Property adjacent to Bombardier Park. Second by L. Morgan. Motion approved unanimously.**

**XIV. Discussion and Action: Process for Selling Kienle Road Lots**

*Don Turner, Jr., Town Manager*

D. Turner stated that the subdivision process of the Town-owned Kienle Road property is complete, and the Town is approaching the stage of selling the three (3) resulting new lots and the existing lot and building. The property is the former fire station on Kienle Road that is currently being used as a second facility for public works. The funding from the sale of this property is to be used toward the new public works facility. The board previously approved subdividing the lot prior to sale. The Town addressed all concerns raised by neighboring property owners. The subdivision process is complete, and Turner suggested getting a market analysis from multiple realtors to determine the value of the lots. Turner responded to some questions from attendees and from the Selectboard.

**Motion made by C. Taylor to allow the Town Manager or his designee to move forward with the sale of the Kienle Road lots as presented this evening, with a second by L. Morgan. Motion approved unanimously.**

**XV. Discussion: Vacant Lot Located on Ice House Road**

*Don Turner, Jr., Town Manager*

D. Turner explained that there is a piece of property on Ice House Road, secondary to the public works facility, that is about half acre in size and contains a parking lot. The Town currently uses part of it to park public works vehicles, and Turner recently had the lot surveyed. There was a discussion between D. Turner, the Selectboard and meeting attendees. No action was taken.

**XVI. Update from Town Manager and Board Members**

D. Turner provided the following updates:

- All Public Safety agencies worked very well together to extinguish a fire last Thursday. We are very sorry for the couple that lost their home. At the same time, we are very proud of the team

effort on display that day. No injuries were reported. Milton Fire Department had 23 members respond to the fire call that came in around 2 p.m.

- There was a drowning last Friday at Peterson Dam.
- A group, consisting of Jess Groeling, Lori Donna, Diane Barrows, Jenna Tucker Eugair, John Bartlett and D. Turner, has had a number of meetings regarding a multipurpose recreational facility request for proposals. After much thought about the scope of the project and discussing it with several outside parties with experience in this area, the group would prefer to put out three RFPs: 1) skating facility, 2) Town swimming pool, and 3) a community center with some recreation space, room for community non-profits and a master plan for Bombardier Park. The group feels that this approach will provide more details and a clearer path on how to proceed. This proposal would incorporate cost to build, operational costs and long-term expenses.
  - There was discussion between D. Turner, the Selectboard, Diane Barrows and other attendees regarding this approach.
- Property values continue to rise in Milton – up 15% since the reappraisal was completed. The CLA is likely to drop from 107 to 98 this year. The wind turbines tax stabilization agreement ended, and the turbine value has doubled from \$7 million to \$14 million. Green Mountain Power and VT Electric Coop properties have also increased substantially.
- Milton Downtown Core Masterplan is about to kick off. The Town will meet with Dubois and King on Tuesday, the preferred vendor for this project.
- The archeology team is back out today working to clear the final hurdle of the public works facility project.
- Police Officers Becca Palermo and Nick Hendry recently resigned their positions with Milton Police Department both for family and quality of life reasons. Both gave very good exit statements about their time working in Milton.
- Update on Solar projects: The Water/Wastewater plant is moving forth with permits. The landfill project is still being worked out with Green Mountain Power.
- All Paving is complete for this fiscal year. Turner is not sure if the Town will be able to schedule another round of paving for fall. The Town did receive a class 2 paving grant for next fiscal year to pave East Road from Duffy to the Colchester Town line.
- Route 7 paving from Colchester to Main Street is out to bid now. Once there is a contract, VTRANS let the Town know the start/completion dates. The bridge project is going along well, and they hope to be done by the beginning of July.
- Town properties are looking good and ready for the summer busy season. The pavilions are being booked for two events per day for a number of days already.
- Thank you to Darren and Mike for attending the Memorial Day event.
- Summer camps are pretty full but a few openings remain at this time.
- The state is reaching out to communities to talk about homelessness and a request to expand local services to assist with financial assistance from the state. There is no plan at this time to take on any of these services.
  - There was a brief discussion between the Selectboard and D. Turner on this topic.

## **XVII. Adjournment**

**Motion made by L. Morgan to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m., with a second by B. Steady.**

**Motion approved unanimously.**

**Meeting adjourned by D. Adams.**

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

<https://miltonvt.box.com/s/lrmxbi0mcbeb3z35bnqda2d8up1989t0>

A video recording of this meeting can be found at the following location:  
<https://miltonvt.box.com/s/naknfl9p3thd1lfhd5y08nk3ncvlksqc>

Respectfully Submitted,

Brittany Tradup

APPROVED MINUTES:

Brenda Steady, Clerk Date: 6-19-23  
Brenda Steady, Clerk

Filed with the Milton Town Clerk's Office on this 20<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2023.

ATTEST: Kristi Bees, Milton Town Clerk

