

1
2
3
4
5
6

Milton Selectboard Meeting Minutes
June 12, 2017
Community Room of the Municipal Building
43 Bombardier Road, Milton, VT 05468

7
8

Use of cell phones is prohibited during the meeting. Please shut them off or silence them.

9
10
11

Selectboard Members Present: Darren Adams, Chair; Ken Nolan, Vice-Chair; John Palasik, Clerk; John Cushing, Member; Chris Taylor, Member

12
13

Staff Members Present: Don Turner, Acting Town Manager; Mary Thompson, Town Manager
Administrative Assistant; Judith Ward, Administrative Assistant; Ben Nappi, Recreation Department;
Rod Moore, EMS; Kym Duchesneau, Recreation Department

14
15

Public Present: Courtney Lamdin, Milton Independent; Jessica Morris, Shane Morris, John Bartlett,
Steve Burke, Henry Bonges, John Lindsay, Joanne Duffy, Robert Brisson, Allen Lasell, Lorraine Zaloom

16
17

I. Call to Order: D Adams called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM

18
19

II. Flag Salute: D Adams led the attendees in a Salute to the Flag

20
21
22

III. Agenda Review: D Turner stated that there were two items to be brought up for discussion; a) Elm Place refinancing construction loan and b) Delinquent Tax Collector John Gifford would like authorization to bid on seven properties.

23
24

IV. Public Forum: no public questions

25
26

V. Business:

27

A. Discussion of Town Manager Search

28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37

D Adams stated that D Turner will share his vision on how he will proceed if appointed as Town Manager of Milton. There were 10 applicants, seven out of state, and three from Vermont. As the Selectboard reviewed the applicants, they realized that the best applicant was already in place, as D Turner has been working as Acting Town Manager for the past 10 weeks. D Turner's prior experience has a Department Head as Fire and Rescue Chief since 2004, he is a Vermont Minority Representative leader in Montpelier for 12 years, and he is both a Realtor and a Developer. The other applicants are unable to jump in and get started the way D Turner was prepared to do, and has done. The Selectboard will be taking a vote at the next meeting, on June 19th, to have D Turner appointed as the Town Manager.

38
39

B. D Turner shared his vision with the Community

40
41
42

I am a life-long resident of the community, many generations of family have resided here in Milton.

43 Having spent most of my work life in the private sector working in Milton, I have taken an
44 unconventional path to this opportunity. However, I believe that it is a path that has prepared me
45 to serve in this role at a very high level.
46

47 Twelve years ago I was presented with an opportunity to serve Milton in the legislature, which
48 came shortly after being name fire chief. My real estate business was busy, I drove my girls to
49 school each day and life was crazy. I recall that that opportunity could not have come at a worst
50 time. However, with the support of my family, the decision came down to this for me. I felt very
51 strongly that I could make a difference if I choose to take on this challenge. I took the leap then
52 and feel very similar today about this opportunity.
53

54 Like many of you, I care deeply about our community and want nothing more than to contribute
55 to making it a better place to live, work and raise our families.
56

57 My vision for Milton includes:
58

- 59 • A vibrant community that includes a downtown, with more amenities such as shops and
60 restaurants, higher density living, traffic improvements, a community green and an
61 expansion of pedestrian and other multi modal networks.
- 62 • Improving the Town's image. From the resident, employee and outside perspectives.
- 63 • Growing the economy and community by engaging residents and stakeholders.
- 64 • Includes both hiring and purchasing local when talent and cost is within reason.
- 65 • Creation of a modern workplace for employees that accommodates flexible work
66 schedules in order to retain talented personnel. Treating everyone equally.
- 67 • Incorporating efficiency, sound financial practices and transparency in every aspect of
68 Town government.
- 69 • Conservative budgeting to ensure that people can afford to continue living in Milton.
- 70 • Building an effective and productive working relationship between the Selectboard,
71 staff, school and all other stakeholders. Which includes restoring trust and respect
72 between all parties.
- 73 • I want to get stuff done and make a difference in someone's life every day I come to
74 work.

75 How are we going to get there?
76

- 77 • Restore confidence and stability with the Selectboard, staff and residents.
- 78 • Restructure town government within the confines of the approved FY18 budget.
- 79 • Build a great team, with a preference on hiring local talent.
- 80 • Hire Public Works, Finance, Admin/HR and Public Safety directors.
- 81 • Open lines of communication. Upgrade the phone system and create a new website.
- 82 • Establish annual goal setting sessions that both the Selectboard and staff contribute.
- 83 • Establish annual training and team building exercises at both the Selectboard and staff
84 level.
- 85 • Practice good government- it is about serving and or showing a path forward, not saying
86 NO!
- 87 • Revise antiquated administrative codes to restore confidence, faith and trust.
- 88 • Implement new unified development regulations.

- 89 • Remind every person I come in contact with each and every day that Milton is open for
- 90 business.
- 91 • Get stuff done!

92
93 After serving ten weeks on the job, I remain very excited about this opportunity to serve our town
94 in a new capacity. It is both exciting and scary, giving up something I know and have been
95 accustomed to doing for many years. With that said, one of the most heartbreaking parts about
96 this opportunity is that I will have to step down as fire and rescue chief. Both departments are in
97 great hands and I plan to remain volunteering on the fire department. I will finish out my final
98 term in the legislature serving as the minority leader. I will not sell my investment properties or
99 give up my real estate broker's license.

100
101 It has been an honor for me to serve our community over the years in several capacities. I look
102 forward to a new chapter of serving while stepping back from many others and establishing a
103 better work life balance in my life.

104
105 Thank you!

106
107
108 **C. Public Question/Answer Opportunity –**

109
110 The following people either asked a question or made a comment; John Bartlett, Lorraine
111 Zaloom, Joanne Duffy, Robert Brisson, Henry Bonges, Steve Burke, and John Lindsay.

112
113 D Turner was asked how he would handle a conflict of interest. D Turner stated he would simply
114 recuse himself. D Turner was asked if he had an MBA. D Turner responded that he did not have
115 an MBA, but what he did have was life experience which he felt was equally as valuable. D
116 Turner was asked how much time does his legislative duties take away from his Town Manager
117 duties and what does an average work week look like when he is dividing his time between
118 Montpelier and his duties as Town Manager. D Turner stated that he always puts his Town
119 Manager responsibilities first and foremost. If there is an emergency in Milton and his presence
120 is required, then he does not go to Montpelier. D. Turner stated that as a Minority Leader he is
121 not on a committee in Montpelier, and that his average combined week is between 60-65 hours.
122 A comment was made that she as a community member of Milton was very pleased that D
123 Turner would be the next Town Manager and that he does put Milton first. Another comment
124 was made by a community member that D Turner was not interested in just being "a Town
125 Manager," but, wanted to be "Milton's Town Manager." A question was raised about how to
126 better the lines of communications between the School Board and the Selectboard, as well as,
127 create better efficiencies. D Turner stated that he has opened the lines of communication between
128 the School Board and the Selectboard and the next meeting is June 31st. There was a comment
129 about the Grange moving or being sold and the Selectboard stated that this is the first that they
130 have heard of it. A question was raised that is was "heard" that the Artist Guild was looking for a
131 new space and if they were seeking the Town's help in finding a new space. D Turner responded
132 that he did not know anything about this. A comment was made about the character of Milton is
133 continuing to change, and how did the Town Manager plan to engage the community. D Turner
134 stated that this is where recruitment comes into play, getting people involved in the community,
135 and getting the community involved on our Boards and Commissions (Town Government). A

comment was made about both the School Board and Selectboard streamlining things like snowplowing, lawn care, etc. using mutual resources. D Turner stated that the School Board needs to weigh in on this and we all need to focus on efficiencies, and determine what we can do and what we cannot do.

D. Southern Gateway Project/TIF to set date to vote

D Turner asked that the Selectboard postpone, as he needed more material. Can D Turner present at the June 19th meeting.

E. Manager Update

- Tax sale in two weeks, John Gifford is seeking authorization from the Selectboard to allow him to make bids on properties, as this will show the property owners that there are ramifications for not paying their taxes. J Cushing asked if J Gifford could check with the Attorney to see if this could be done
- The Town has a mortgage on Elm Place. David Rugh to restructure to permanent financing, they need the Selectboard to sign off on the mortgage. Since this is an out of cycle meeting nothing can be done but would like to place it on the agenda for June 19th
- Bombardier Place property, D Turner talked with the staff, property is subject to Act 250, if Town did sell the property Town should keep the right of way
- Finalizing details for hiring Finance Director, still interviewing for Fiscal Assistant II, interviewing CPA, possibly for Paulette's position. It would be a great opportunity to get that person hired and training with Paulette before Paulette retired.
- Cherry Street/Brandy Lane, meeting with VTRANS. There are no ramifications if we do not use grant money. We can most likely get Brandy Lane done without a grant, it is 250ft of sidewalk.
- Verbal agreement to put in a gravel path along the front of the Parent property. D Turner will oversee the site plan amendment with J Parent at Railroad Street/Route 7, as there is no sidewalk in this section.

VI. Warrant #25

J Palasik moved to approve, motion seconded. Approved unanimously

VII. Minutes 5/22/2017 & 5/30/2017

J Palasik moved to approve both minutes, C Taylor seconded. Approved unanimously

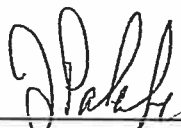
VIII. D Adams at next meeting on June 19th, Selectboard will move to name D Turner as Town Manager

183
184
185
186
187
188
189
190
191
192
193
194
195
196
197
198
199
200
201
202
203
204
205
206
207
208
209
210
211
212
213
214
215

IX. Adjournment

Motion was made to adjourn, motion seconded. Approved unanimously. Adjourned the meeting at 6:55 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



John Palasik, Clerk

Date: 7/10/17

Filed with Milton Town Clerk's Office on this 11 day of July, 2017

ATTEST:  _____ Milton Town Clerk