

Milton Special Selectboard Meeting Minutes

May 26, 2015 7:30 P.M.

Municipal Building Community Room

Selectboard Members Present: Darren Adams, Chair; Stuart King, Vice Chair; John Bartlett, Clerk; Kenneth Nolan, Member; John Cushing, Member

Selectboard Members Not Present: None

Staff Members Present: Paul Bohne, Interim Town Manager; Kym Duchesneau, Recreation Coordinator; Ben Nappi, Asst. Recreation Coordinator; Bob Ware, Assistant Assessor

Others Present: Courtney Lamdin, Milton Independent; Cheryl Persitz, Theresa Smith, Reginald Smith, John Cleveland, Elizabeth Schwenn, Joy Willis, Sherry Dubuque, Harley Dubuque, Lee Goboriault, Roger Brisso, Jennifer Dooley, Rick Dooley, Jay Maurice, Virginia Turner, Walter Turner, J. Turner, Gisela Alpert, Brenda Steady, Aneita Menard, Karen Jenkins, Lori Turner, Diana Palm, Crystal Tinker, Rodney Tinker, Bruce Jenkins, Jennifer LaFountain, Adam Maynard, Lori Donna, Bob Brisson.

I. Call to Order – Adams called the meeting to order at 7:30PM

II. Flag Salute – King led the attendees in a Salute to the Flag.

III. Agenda Review-

IV. Public Forum

V. Discussion and Update on Town Manager Search Process. Possible Action.

Community members voiced opinions regarding the board action to negotiate a six-month contract with Sanford Miller to serve as Town Manager. Most community members who participated were opposed to this action by the board, while some spoke up in support.

Adams clarified that Sanford Miller was an applicant for the Town Manager position and the Board did not seek him out. He was not one of the 5 candidates passed on by the search committee. Concern with the financial and tax increment finance (TIF) experience held by the 5 candidates. Adams stated had no trouble working with Sanford Miller while he was Rescue Chief in Town, did not know there was so much personal adversity toward him held by community members.

Bartlett stated was not here when Miller was the Town Manager. Did his own research and looked beyond the headlines to what he accomplished in Town Manager roles. Asked Miller a lot of questions related to personality during the interview. Entrusted fellow Board members who served during his tenure for their feedback and opinions. The feedback from the community reinforced the negatives.

King stated was also not here when Miller was the Town Manager. Taken back by the negative thoughts saw and personally received. A lot larger negative sentiment then could have imagined.

49 Nolan stated on the Board that hired Miller originally, Chair while he was the Town Manager. He
50 does an excellent job as a Town Manager, not a people person. If want someone to clean the
51 Town up, he is the guy. Concerns with Interfund loan transfers, health care reserve fund, reserve
52 fund mixing operating and capital reserves, TIF district about to expire needing plans. Finances
53 are a mess, when ask questions cannot get answers. Finance experience is paramount in the
54 hire. Board received all 51 applications. On the surface, committee did a good job. When the
55 Board interviewed them it became abundantly clear had management experience but had not
56 run a finance office. Would not have hired any of the candidates put forward. It's the
57 Selectboard's job to hire the Town Manager and the Town Manager's job to run the Town. Next
58 March if we make the wrong the decisions, it's the people's job to keep us on the Board or not.
59 Opinion has not changed, understand and respect the other member's views. Does not think
60 any of the remaining candidates are prepared for what they would face in this Town.

61
62 Cushing stated cares about the image of this Town. One of the reasons sitting here is concern
63 with the finances of the Town. Miller knows finances, worked with him when he was here.
64 Someone from outside community or state may have a hard time preparing the budget for next
65 year. Stated believes the Board dropped the ball by not charging the search committee with
66 specifics to consider in the hiring process.

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68 The Board took additional public comments.

69
70 Cushing moved to reconsider the action taken on the May 18th meeting relating to the
71 negotiations between Sanford Miller and Vice-Chair Stuart King for a six-month contract to serve
72 as Town Manager. Second by Bartlett. **All approved.**

73
74 Cushing moved to withdraw the negotiations between Sanford Miller and the Town of Milton.
75 Second by King. **Approved 4-1 (Nolan voted no).**

76
77 Cushing moved that the Selectboard appoint a committee comprised of members of the Town
78 Manager Search Committee, at least one Selectboard member, a member of the Town staff and
79 one or more citizens to prepare a protocol for the hiring of the next and future Managers for the
80 Town of Milton. The document will be presented to the Selectboard at a publically warned
81 meeting to be reviewed in detail and shall become a part of the Administrative Code of the
82 Town of Milton. Second by King.

83
84 Discussion to the next steps in the process, whether to reopen the search or move forward with
85 candidates who had been interviewed by the Selectboard.

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87 Adams proposed looking into hiring a financial consultant in the short term. Bohne stated there
88 would be enough funds to cover this expense.

89
90 **Cushing withdrew his motion.** Bohne will work with the search committee to draft a hiring
91 protocol for the Town Manager which will be passed onto the Board for review.

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93 Nolan asked Bohne to assemble a list of possible financial consultants who could be looked at.

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95 The Board will bring two of the candidates back for an additional interview following the current
96 process in place. Decision reached by consensus, no formal motion.

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VI. Possible/Anticipated Executive Session per V.S.A. Title 1 Section 313

Bartlett moved to find premature public knowledge about litigation would cause the Town or person to suffer a substantial disadvantage. Second by King. **Approved unanimously.**

Bartlett moved to enter into executive session to discuss litigation under the provisions of V.S.A. Title 1 Section 313. Second by King. **Approved unanimously.**

Entered Executive Session at 8:50 PM.

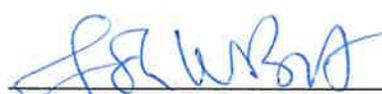
Bartlett motioned to close Executive Session at 9:08 PM. Second by King. **Approved unanimously.** There was no action as a result of Executive Session.

VII. Adjournment

Cushing motioned to adjourn meeting at 9:14 PM. Second by King. **Approved unanimously.**

These proceedings were live-streamed and filmed by LCATV and audio-recorded by the Town.

Respectfully Submitted,



John Bartlett, Selectboard Clerk

Date: 6-15-15

Filed with Milton Town Clerk's Office on this 16 day of June, 2015

ATTEST:  **Milton Town Clerk**