

**SELECT BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, February 26, 2024
Veterans Memorial Building Room 229
900 Main Street, Millis, MA 02054**

Chair Schultze called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

The following persons were present Chair Craig Schultze, Vice Chair Ellen Rosenfeld, Clerk Erin Underhill, Town Administrator Mike Guzinski, Assistant Town Administrator/HR Manager Karen Bouret DeMarzo.

Announcements

The Millis Public Library will be holding a Booksale on 3/1-3/3. Friday 3/1 is a preview sale for Friends of the Millis Public Library. Saturday (3/2) and Sunday (3/3) are for the public.

There will be an Easter Egg hunt on Sunday 3/23 at 11:00am in the Town Park with Free Admission.

On Wednesday 2/28 there will be a Millis Middle/High School Building Project Public Forum from 7:00pm – 8:30pm via Zoom.

Early Voting has started in Millis – Beat the lines and vote ahead of Election Day!

24-028 Discuss & Vote to Close ATM Warrant

Chair Schultze listed the items on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

Sel. Rosenfeld motioned for the Board to close the May 7th Annual Town Meeting warrant. Sel. Underhill seconded the motion. Sel. Schultze polled the Board and the motion passed unanimously.

24-029 Dangerous Dog Hearing: 31 Myrtle Street

Sel. Rosenfeld made a motion to open the dangerous dog hearing regarding Hunter, a dog owned by Gary Ciasullo of 31 Myrtle Street. Sel. Underhill seconded the motion. Sel. Schultze polled the Board and the motion passed unanimously.

Town Counsel Steve Chaplin gives a brief overview of the what the steps of the hearing will be.

Mr. Chaplin called Animal Control Officer Erin Mallette review the timeline of events which include the following:

- *July 25, 2018* – Facebook post to the Millis Public Forum with a picture of Hunter in the roadway.
- *March 5, 2023* – ACO Mallette was notified by Norfolk ACO Cohen a motorist reported a loose German Shepard by the high-tension wires on Myrtle Street heading towards Village Street. Both ACO Mallette and ACO Cohen believe this dog to be Hunter who has a known history of being loose in the roadway on Myrtle. A “good neighbor letter” was sent to Mary and Gary Ciasullo regarding Hunter being unlicensed in the Town and roaming at large. There was no correspondence to the letter.
- *June 19, 2023* – ACO Mallette received a call from Millis Police Dispatch. The caller reports a loose German Shepard around Granite Street. Police were unable to find the dog upon arrival.
- *January 4, 2024* – ACO Mallette received a Report of Bite by Domestic Animal. The report stated the person bitten was Michelle Lipsett of Millis. The report also states she received an injury to her left thumb by a German Shepard named “Hunter” of 31 Myrtle Street, Millis. ACO Mallette telephoned Ms. Lipsett in regard to the incident and Ms. Lipsett stated the dog had previously bit her but she did not report it. Ms. Lipsett stated she had a haircut appointment at the residence with Mary Ciasullo. Ms. Lipsett stated when the door opened Hunter lunged at her and bit her hand and Mary quickly grabbed him back securing him. Ms. Lipsett stated she then quickly left the residence to receive medical attention and called the Millis Police Department. Gary Ciasullo was not home at the time of the incident. ACO Mallette telephoned Gary Ciasullo and left a message. ACO Mallette later spoke with Mrs. Ciasullo in regard to the incident and she did confirm that “Hunter” had

bitten Ms. Lipsett. Mrs. Ciasullo stated the dog was owned by Gary and it was not her dog. ACO Mallette explained to Mrs. Ciasullo that “Hunter” was being placed on a 10-day quarantine in their home. ACO Mallette received a phone call later from Gary Ciasullo who stated he was not home at the time of the incident. Mr. Ciasullo stated his home had been robbed several years ago so he got “Hunter” to protect their home. ACO Mallette advised him of the 10-day quarantine and of the dog roaming at large. Mr. Ciasullo stated the dog goes out loose at night to scare the deer off the property. He was made aware of the leash law and advised to keep him in the yard.

- *January 8, 2024* – ACO Mallette received a written complaint for a Dangerous Dog hearing from Michelle Lipsett. The request was forwarded to the Town administrator for advisement.

Steve Chaplin then calls up the dogs owners, Vanessa Ciasullo and Gary Ciasullo.

Mr. Chaplin questioned Gary and Vanessa Ciasullo if they dispute or disagree with any of the report just given by ACO Mallette. They are in agreement. Mr. Ciasullo stated he only allows the dog out at night off leash.

Mr. Chaplin asked Mary Ciasullo to come forward.

Mary Ciasullo testified that she was in the kitchen while Michelle Lipsett came up the cellar stairs unannounced and the dog bit her hand at the top of the stairs. Sel. Rosenfeld asked to clarify if she actually saw the dog bite Ms. Lipsett. Mrs. Ciasullo stated she did not see the dog bite Ms. Lipsett because she was in the kitchen.

Mr. Chaplin asked Michelle Lipsett to come forward.

Michelle Lipsett testified Mary Ciasullo has been her hairdresser for 10 years. Ms. Lipsett stated the first time she went there for a haircut the dog attacked her, she was not hospitalized and did not file a report. Ms. Lipsett testified she came in through the garage, went up the stairs, knocked on the door, then opened the door and the dog came directly at her face, and she put her hands up to block the dog and the dog bit her hand. Ms. Lipsett stated she is still being treated for her injury and is still out of work.

Mr. Chaplin asked Jaikaur LeBlanc to come forward.

Jaikaur LeBlanc, resident at 30 Myrtle Street, a neighbor of the Ciasullo home. Ms. LeBlanc testified that the dog is loose at all hours of the day, not only at night. Ms. LeBlanc stated she does not recall seeing the dog out since January.

Sel. Rosenfeld made a motion to close the dangerous dog hearing regarding Hunter, a dog owned by Gary Ciasullo of 31 Myrtle Street. Sel. Underhill seconded the motion. Sel. Schultze polled the Board and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Chaplin provided a reference sheet differentiating a dangerous dog and a nuisance dog.

The Board discussed and agreed because the dog is a protective animal and in his home, he was protecting his home.

Sel. Rosenfeld made a motion to declare “Hunter” a nuisance dog. Sel. Underhill seconded the motion. Sel. Schultze polled the Board and the motion passed unanimously.

The Board asked ACO Mallette for her recommendations for the nuisance dog.

ACO Mallette stated her recommendations are the dog be humanely restrained by a leash or/tethered on the property having a minimum tensile strength of 300 pounds and when removed from the property “Hunter” shall be securely and humanely muzzled and leashed.

Sel. Rosenfeld made a motion that the Board impose the following remedial measures for the nuisance dog “Hunter”. That the dog be humanely restrained by a leash or/tethered on the property having a minimum tensile strength of 300 pounds and when removed from the property “Hunter” shall be securely and humanely muzzled and leashed. Sel. Underhill seconded the motion. Sel. Schultze polled the Board and the motion passed unanimously.

24-030 Referral to Planning Board for Public Hearing on MBTA Communities Multi-family Overlay District (MCMOD) Bylaw

Sel. Rosenfeld made a motion that the Board refer the proposed MBTA Communities Multi-family Overlay District (MCMOD) zoning bylaw to the Planning Board for review at a public hearing to be held on Tuesday, March 12, 2024. Sel. Underhill seconded the motion. Sel. Schultze polled the Board and the motion passed unanimously.

24-031 Approval of Agreement of Shared Services Review for Millis & Medway

Sel. Rosenfeld made a motion that the Board approve the Professional Service Agreement for Shared Services Review for Millis and Medway between the Town of Millis and the Edward J. Collins Jr. Center for Public Management, UMass Boston, for senior services review for a total amount of \$25,000 and authorize the Town Administrator to sign on the Town’s behalf. Sel. Underhill seconded the motion. Sel. Schultze polled the Board and the motion passed unanimously.

24-032 Vote to Ratify Integrated Collective Bargaining Contract for SEIU

Sel. Rosenfeld made a motion that the Board ratifies the integrated Collective Bargaining Agreement between the SEIU, and the Town of Millis as written. Sel. Underhill seconded the motion. Sel. Schultze polled the Board and the motion passed unanimously.

24-033 Board/Committee Liaison Updates

Sel. Rosenfeld attended the Chales River Pollution Control meeting where they didn’t discuss anything. She also attended the Energy Committee where they worked on the RFP for a Net zero plan.

Sel. Schultze attended the Capital Planning where they discussed the Town Buildings capital requests.

Sel. Underhill attended the Permanent Building Committee where they talked about the difficulty getting quotes for the Lansing Millis Building but they are looking forward to receiving money from the state to restore the building. She also attended the School Building Committee where they discussed the preliminary design proposal and next up is the public forum. She also attended the community preservation commission where they discussed the Oak Grove Trial improvements, and discussed the Farmhouse where there is significant repairs needed.

24-034 Approval of DRAFT Minutes

Sel. Rosenfeld moved that the Board vote to approve the draft minutes of 2/5/24 and 2/12/24 as written. Sel. Underhill seconded the motion. Sel. Schultze polled the Board and the motion passed unanimously.

Sel. Rosenfeld made a motion to adjourn at 7:55pm. Sel. Underhill seconded the motion. Sel. Schultze polled the Board and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted by Victoria Schindler