

**NOTES OF THE MILLVILLE  
TOWN COUNCIL WORKSHOP  
February 26, 2013 @ 7:00PM**

In attendance were Mayor Gerry Hocker, Deputy Mayor Jon Subity, Council Members Robert Gordon, Joan Bennett and Harry Kent; and Town Manager Debbie Botchie, Town Solicitor Seth Thompson, and Town Clerk Matt Amerling.

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

Mayor Hocker called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- A. The Town will host a “dumpster day” for their property owners and residents on Saturday, April 20, 2013.

Town Manager Debbie Botchie asked if Millville volunteers who work this event and are not Millville residents are allowed to bring trash and dump their trash. Council Member Joan Bennett stated, out of fairness, the non-residents should not be allowed because if word got out, other non-residents would want to dump as well, and other residents might not like it. Ms. Botchie stated she was asked the question and she wanted to pass on the question to Council. Mayor Hocker stated he agreed with Ms. Bennett. Ms. Bennett asked how the Town is publicizing this event and making sure what can and cannot be thrown out. Ms. Botchie stated the event will be advertised in the local newspaper and there would be a “call-‘em-all” to residents, as well as a post on the Town website. Council Member Bob Gordon stated last year no one checked the person’s ID to see if they were a resident and asked how the volunteers can make sure they are a town resident. Ms. Botchie stated volunteers are supposed to check driver’s licenses for residential status, and when Ms. Botchie helped, she had a list of all of the town’s residents and if she did not know them, they gave her their name, property address, and their ID, and she would write it down on her printout and check them off.

**3. NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. Discuss replacement of the current Town Hall sign due to the SR26 project and wind damage.

Synopsis: The Town will be receiving compensation from State of Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) to replace/move the current sign for the Town Hall. The sign was damaged by wind earlier in the month.

Ms. Botchie stated Council Member Bennett wanted to have this item on the agenda and in her emails she sent to the Council, it was the consensus to leave the sign where it is for now until the Town at least gets money from DelDOT. Ms. Botchie stated she could not turn the lights in the sign off, but Mayor Hocker did advise to take the bulbs out. Ms. Botchie stated if the Council looked at the site plan, they could see where the new sidewalk would be placed, along with the taking of five spaces from the front parking, with seven spaces remaining in front of Town Hall’s garage. Ms. Botchie further stated the Town’s new code states a sign has to be within 25 feet of the property line, and Ms. Botchie pointed out

where the sign most likely would be located after DelDOT's renovation of SR26. Ms. Botchie stated Code and Building Administrator Eric Evans suggestion of placing the sign in front of the Town Hall building in the middle, and her suggestion was the option of building up a monument-type sign with a lit insert. Council Member Harry Kent asked Ms. Botchie if Mr. Evans' suggestion of sign placement would be where the rain garden currently is positioned. Ms. Botchie stated the rain garden is over further and the new sign placement may not affect the rain garden, but if it does, she knows the Town could dig it up and relocate it between the new addition and the side of the main building, although it would be behind the garage and wouldn't be very visible. Mr. Kent agreed. Ms. Botchie stated hopefully the sign will not take up much space of the current rain garden. Mayor Hocker asked if there might be any planning on placing protective rails around the garden.

Ms. Botchie stated the Town felt really good there will be a sign rebuilt and it will be higher and more visible. Ms. Botchie stated Mr. Evans wants to have a LED/digital sign constructed. The Council expressed their disapproval of the idea. Ms. Bennett stated by avoiding a LED/digital sign and placing an architecturally more appropriate sign, it keeps more with the building design. Mr. Kent stated the Town's situation is not like a retail store where we have to constantly change what's on the sign. Mr. Kent stated, for the most part, the only postings on the sign are occasional dates of meetings. Ms. Botchie stated there are several town halls that do not have a bulletin board or sign. Ms. Bennett stated the other thing she and Ms. Botchie talked about was whether or not the Town wanted to entertain having on-building signage to identify the building if there was no room on the front lawn.

Mayor Hocker asked Ms. Botchie if there would need to be a new design for the sign. Ms. Botchie stated yes. Mayor Hocker stated there are some local sign companies which may be able to give the Town a discount. Ms. Botchie stated there are companies such as Rogers and Philips Signs the Town can check on.

**4. PROPERTY OWNERS/AUDIENCE COMMENTS:**

There were no comments.

- 6. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING – March 12, 2013** – Mayor Hocker announced the next meeting of the Town Council will be March 12, 2013, at 7:00 p.m., beginning with the Town's organizational meeting.

**MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION** – Council Member Bennett motioned to go into executive session at 7:13 p.m. Council Member Gordon seconded the motion. All present voted yes. Motion carried 5-0.

**7. EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Discuss personnel matters in which the names, competency, qualifications and abilities of individual employees will be discussed.

**MOTION TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION AND RECONVENE OPEN MEETING --**

Council Member Kent motioned to come out of executive session and reconvene the open meeting at 9:00 p.m. Council Member Bennett seconded his motion. All present voted yes. Motion carried 5-0.

**8. ADDITIONAL NEW BUSINESS:**

Discussion and possible vote on Executive Session matters.

The following employee pay increases were presented for approval:

- Motion to approve a 3.1% increase for “Employee A” was made by Council Member Bennett. Council Member Kent seconded her motion. Ms. Bennett voted yes. Deputy Mayor Subity voted yes. Mr. Kent voted yes. Mr. Gordon voted yes. Mayor Hocker voted yes. Motion carried 5-0.
- Motion to approve a 2.35% increase for “Employee B” was made by Ms. Bennett. Mr. Kent seconded her motion. Ms. Bennett voted yes. Deputy Mayor Subity voted yes. Mr. Kent voted yes. Mr. Gordon voted yes. Mayor Hocker voted yes. Motion carried 5-0.
- Motion to approve a 3.1% increase for “Employee C” was made by Council Member Gordon. Ms. Bennett seconded his motion. Ms. Bennett voted yes. Deputy Mayor Subity voted yes. Mr. Kent voted yes. Mr. Gordon voted yes. Mayor Hocker voted yes. Motion carried 5-0.
- Motion to approve a 3.1% increase for “Employee D” was made by Ms. Bennett. Mr. Kent seconded her motion. Ms. Bennett voted yes. Deputy Mayor Subity voted yes. Mr. Kent voted yes. Mr. Gordon voted yes. Mayor Hocker voted yes. Motion carried 5-0.
- Motion to approve a 3.1% increase for “Employee E” was made by Mr. Gordon. Deputy Mayor Subity seconded his motion. Ms. Bennett voted yes. Deputy Mayor Subity voted yes. Mr. Kent voted yes. Mr. Gordon voted yes. Mayor Hocker voted yes. Motion carried 5-0.

**9. ADJOURNMENT:**

Council Member Gordon motioned for adjournment at 9:04 p.m. Council Member Kent seconded his motion. All present voted yes. Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,  
Matt Amerling, Town Clerk