



MINUTES OF THE MILLVILLE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

May 9, 2023 @ 7:00 P.M.

1. **Call to Order:**

Mayor Belinko called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the **Pledge of Allegiance**. **Present:** Mayor Ronald Belinko, Deputy Mayor Sharon Brienza, Secretary Joseph Parent, Treasurer Peter Michel, Council Member Robert Wisgirda, Town Manager Deborah Botchie, Assistant Town Manager Eileen Scerra, Town Clerk Wendy Mardini, and Finance Director Lisa Wynn.

Mayor Belinko made an announcement that Planning and Zoning Chairman Pat Plocek's wife passed suddenly, and the Town sends their condolences.

The Mayor also announced that Item 6 on the Agenda will not be discussed this evening since there was paperwork missing.

2. **Citizens' Privilege:**

James Holmes, 23828 Pembroke Lane, Millville, DE 19967; Mr. Holmes stated that at the last meeting, there was a motion by the Town Council to raise the ambulance subscription, which was approved, and the Town posted an agreement to be signed by the Town and the Millville Fire Department. He said that when he reviewed the agreement under the coverage section, that it was missing a crucial sentence and the sentence was 'that after insurance was billed, that the participant would not be billed.' Mr. Holmes pointed out that nowhere in this agreement does it state that a participant will not be billed for any services and suggested that it should be in the agreement. If you look at the ambulance subscription on the Millville Fire Department, the sentence basically says that medical insurance will be billed for all transports, any balance due from patient after insurance is resolved, will be forgiven. He stated that it is a crucial sentence, and it should be part of this coverage. When the Assistant Fire Chief spoke, he stated that if a person subscribed was a participant, there would be no charge. He was concerned if there was actually a charge if there was no insurance, or after the insurance is billed, that there will be no charge for the participant. He felt that this needed to be clarified in this agreement. Debbie Botchie advised that she will look into it. Mr. Holmes also wanted to know if the Town was a participant in the subscription program and if the Town paid \$50.00 for each building. Ms. Botchie answered "absolutely."

David Holmes, 33701 Tudor Place, Millville, DE 19967; Mr. Holmes stated that he had a follow-up on that same subject. He pointed out that the bills are just coming through now for the New Year and that he received his. He wanted to make sure that the homeowners associations, which are going to be exempt, are going to get a bill for the \$50 as well because he feels that they need to be subscribing. They have approved structures, for instance, Millville by the Sea has a couple of pool complexes and if there are visitors and they are non-residents, which is typical, he feels that probably they should be paying so they are not billed. He felt that this was something the Town might want to follow up on. Ms. Botchie asked if they had been previously billed and that she would investigate his suggestions.

3. **Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes and Executive Session**

- A. April 11, 2023, *Executive session*
- B. April 11, 2023
- C. April 18, 2023
- D. April 25, 2023

Mr. Wisgirda made a motion to approve all four sets of the minutes. Ms. Brienza was not present for the April 18th meeting; she will abstain from approving those minutes. Mr. Michel seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0 for the minutes of April 11th (Executive Session), April 11th regular session and April 25th. Motion carried 4-0-1 for the minutes from April 18th with Ms. Brienza abstaining.

4. **Financial Report** – Treasurer, Peter Michel

General Fund Revenue	\$109,687.00
General Fund Expenditures	\$ 79,267.00
Restricted Revenue	\$172,391.00
Restricted Expense	\$103,052.00
General Interest Income	\$ 2,565.00
Restricted Interest Income	\$ 11,758.00
CD Purchase – CIBC Bank	\$240,000.00
CD Purchase – WSFS Bank	\$240,000.00
CD Purchase – Cathay Bank	\$250,000.00
CD Purchase – Farmers National	\$250,000.00
CD Matured – Santander Bank	\$250,000.00

Mr. Wisgirda questioned the Santander Bank CD. He stated that the bank was going to close 140 banks in this country and was concerned about the maturity of the CD. He suggested that the Town proceed with caution in this regard.

5. **Administrative Matters** – Town Manager, Deborah Botchie – No pressing matters to report. Ms. Botchie did address Mr. Wisgirda’s concerns about people in Millville that are suffering and hurting financially. She advised Mr. Wisgirda that she knows of several state agencies and programs that could help them financially and if they needed food stamps, she could help direct them in that direction. Ms. Botchie also advised Mr. Wisgirda that her church has a Food Bank and would be happy to help anyone that needs it. Mr. Wisgirda told Ms. Botchie that he is also a member of a church and organizations that help in these situations and if he were to forward their names to her for any needs it would have to be with their permission.
6. **New Business:** Coastal Real Estate Holdings, LLC, for a proposed Coastal Kids Pediatric Dentistry – CANCELLED.
7. **Old Business:** Mr. Jason Gerlach of Holiday Décor made himself available via phone to answer any questions that the council may have regarding the Hometown Heroes Banner Program. Mayor Belinko asked about the warranty and life expectancy. Mr. Gerlach explained that there is a two-season warranty on the banners. He did suggest that they should be brought in over the winter months due to the weather. They will stand behind their product 100%.
8. **Citizens’ Privilege:** David Holmes, 33701 Tudor Place, Millville, DE 19967; Mr. Holmes handed to the council an analysis that he did for the last 12 months of the cash accounts, money markets and CD summaries of the Town. He believes that the Town is missing out on short- and long-term opportunities.

James Holmes, 23828 Pembroke Lane, Millville, DE 19967; Mr. Holmes suggested that the Town take the franchise fees they are getting from Mediacom and apply them to a government access channel for Millville. Ms. Brienza said that she had suggested that a long time ago but there were a lot of issues that had to be addressed so it never got off the ground. Mayor Belinko said that it would be something to look into. Mr. Holmes suggested that if the Town was not going to use that money towards televising the meetings, can we just ask that the franchise fee be suspended, so that the customers are not paying this money? The Mayor said that it would be taken into consideration.

9. **Announcement of next meeting** – May 23, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.
10. **Adjournment**

Ms. Sharon Brienza made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m. Mr. Robert Wisgirda seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Mardini
Town Clerk