

APPROVED
MINUTES OF THE MILFORD FIFTH MONDAY FORUM
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
March 30, 2009

PRESENT: Tim Finan, Chairman
Gary Daniels, Vice Chairman
Mike Putnam, Member
Katherine Bauer, Member
Nate Carmen, Member
Guy Scaife, Town Administrator
Darlene J. Bouffard, Recording Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER, BOARD OF SELECTMEN INTRODUCTIONS & PUBLIC SPEAKING

INSTRUCTIONS: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Tim Finan at 5:30 p.m. explaining that this is a special Board of Selectman meeting for the Town Administrator Guy Scaife to present information regarding Solid Waste and Milford Recycling Operations. Chairman Finan noted that those people in the audience who want to speak or add to the discussion should please go to the microphone in order to be heard on the PEG Access live broadcast. This special presentation will be followed by a Fifth Monday Public Forum, scheduled to begin at 7:00. Chairman Finan introduced Board members and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. PRESENTATION OF SOLID WASTE AND MILFORD RECYCLING OPERATIONS BY TOWN

ADMINISTRATOR. Town Administrator Guy Scaife presented information regarding the current Solid Waste and Recycling Operations in Milford. Mr. Scaife proposes and supports Single Stream Recycling. Mr. Scaife thanked everyone for coming out tonight to listen to this proposal, noting that tonight he will go through the lengthy presentation which explains why he supports single stream recycling. The decision has not been made to go with single stream yet and there will be several more meetings with the Board before any critical decisions will be made. Mr. Scaife indicated people must focus on the long term. Current costs for the Transfer Station are \$748,000, including salaries and benefits with revenues of about \$178,000; the net cost to taxpayers being \$560,000. Tonight's presentation focuses on recyclables. Expanding the current Transfer Station was found to be impractical; a minimum of ten acres would be desired. There are approximately 145,000 vehicles going in and out of the Transfer Station each year. Plastic numbers 3-7 currently do not get recycled in Milford. Chairman Finan asked if the towns who have switched to single stream send their recyclables to a separate facility, as opposed to separating their recyclables locally? Mr. Scaife answered that 100% of the trash for those towns is sent to be processed at a separate single stream facility; this program has been received very positively. The co-op was formed in 1984 when there was not a lot of recycling; a couple of years ago the co-op decided to build a facility for single stream. Two facilities were visited by Mr. Scaife and Bill Ruoff (Haverhill Mass. and Auburn Mass.) that handle single stream and it was amazing the way the types of plastics were separated using technology. In 2008 a study was done to determine the recycling volume in Milford, it was found that by recycling more, Milford could achieve a decrease of about 5% in solid waste. Milford already has a high rate of recycling, but it can be improved; there are so many multi-family units whose waste does not go to the Transfer Station or get recycled. Milford is the best local town for recycling, but there is additional opportunity.

Chairman Finan asked if the school system was identified as having a recycling program? Mr. Scaife responded that it was not, however most of the education regarding recycling comes from the schools. 45% of the housing in Milford is multi-family second only to Nashua in the state. There are 2,737 multi-family units in Milford making up the 45% of housing. Chairman Finan asked if mandatory recycling applies to private haulers when they transport trash to a facility other than our town Transfer Station? Mr. Scaife indicated the town has the right to enforce the mandatory ordinance which requires recycling. By changing to single stream, there would be a savings of \$48,000. There is also a profit sharing opportunity by becoming an associate member of the co-op based on tonnage. In 2008, ECO Maine received \$25/ton in profit sharing. Chairman Finan asked if the co-op runs in the red, are the towns partially responsible? Mr. Scaife responded that the co-op would push out the debt payment so that they would not pay profit sharing but would not come back to the towns. Chairman Finan read about an "out clause" somewhere in the contract that gave towns the right to leave the co-op if they ever had to pay in, as opposed to get paid by the co-op. Mr. Scaife indicated if there are contract questions, the President of the Co-op will be at the next Board meeting and those questions can get addressed. The towns that commit by the end of May will be eligible for

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1 profit sharing for the lifetime of the facility. Mr. Scaife strongly believes this is the way for Milford to go. Select-
2 man Carmen asked if there is detail about how things are going for the towns like Milford, such as Exeter, that
3 switched. For example, how it is working for them as compared to what they had been doing previously. Mr.
4 Scaife responded that Milford is not talking about going to curbside pickup right now. Selectman Carmen said it
5 makes sense for the future if Milford does go curbside. Goffstown has been doing curbside pickup for about 20
6 years and went to single stream several years ago. Vice Chairman Daniels indicated if Milford recycling was all
7 done manually, this would reduce the effort, but Milford is further along with automation than other towns. He
8 would want to know what ECO Maine had before going single stream. Mr. Scaife does not know what Vice
9 Chairman Daniels means by saying Milford is automated, since recyclables are sorted manually. There are very few
10 towns in the state that do not offer recycling and it is mostly done manually. Milford has a conveyor belt system,
11 but it is not used for the bulk of what is coming in. Maybe there could be a tour of the Milford facility to see how it
12 is being done. Chairman Finan feels this has the possibility of increasing recycling but thinks he will still separate
13 everything at his house. Mr. Scaife responded that with single stream, the recyclables all get separated using tech-
14 nology, it is not a matter of separating, it is a matter of where it gets separated. Some people are more diligent about
15 recycling and more people will recycle if it is easier to do. Both single stream facilities told Guy that communities
16 have overstressed the cleanliness of the recyclables.

17
18 Questions:

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20 Merv Newton, stated what is missing from the presentation is that cost will be added with curbside pickup. Mr.
21 Scaife responded that tonight's presentation is only for single stream recycling; another option is to use pay as you
22 throw; some towns just switched to pay to throw, which is a different alternative. Mr. Scaife hopes that curbside is
23 not something that has been pre-decided because there is a cost. It would take a Warrant Article before that is ever
24 put in place.

25
26 Bert Becker, Federal Hill Road, asked if the single stream facility exists? Mr. Scaife said it is not yet built. Mr.
27 Becker asked if it is the same one that runs the solid waste burning in Concord? Mr. Scaife said the co-op had a
28 facility for burning solid waste, but the towns within the co-op dispose their waste but do not own the facility.
29 Those 27 communities saved up the capital for another facility for single stream; they have bought the land and are
30 waiting until May 31 to take a final vote. Mr. Becker asked if they do go ahead when will the facility be complete?
31 Mr. Scaife said they hope to be on line by the end of the first quarter 2010 which is less than 12 months for con-
32 struction. Mr. Becker asked if there would be financial contributions sought? Mr. Scaife answered that there would
33 be no upfront costs, the obligation would be a long term commitment to be a member.

34
35 Janelle George said she works in Goffstown and takes the items not recyclable in Milford to work with her so that
36 they do not go in the town solid waste. She feels this will be a benefit to homeowners when they can recycle more
37 items.

38
39 Guy Scaife indicated if Milford goes with single stream and joins the co-op, the town would not cut over until the
40 second quarter or later in 2010.

41
42 Bob Courage, Quarry Circle, complimented Guy Scaife on the presentation on recycling noting it was made based
43 on the presumption of a worst case scenario for recycling revenue. The revenue received for recycling goes up and
44 down; single stream recycling is probably a good idea, but based on the presentation, about how we have outgrown
45 the facility, by going to single stream recycling it will not improve things. Mr. Courage suggested offering the com-
46 plete package with curbside pickup. Having to drop it off is not the answer, it needs to be monitored. Milford was
47 one of the first towns in the State to have mandatory recycling; our rate of recycling is pretty high. Guy Scaife re-
48 sponded that the idea to get a Warrant Article before the town this year was not practical; if Milford takes up this
49 opportunity to join the co-op, curbside can be bundled with it later, but if the opportunity is missed in May, it will
50 cost more to the town. Mr. Scaife agrees that a drop-off system does nothing to solve the traffic and congestion
51 problem, if there was not a deadline to become an associate member in May, that would have been looked at. When
52 the idea of building a new transfer station came up, people in the town came to Mr. Scaife saying it would just move
53 the problem to another part of town.

54
55 Chairman Finan asked if Milford signs the contract for 15 years, could it change to curbside pickup and have a ven-
56 dor take care of that portion? Mr. Scaife responded that could be done. Steve Palmer indicated single stream is the
57 way to go and curbside pickup is the way to go. If he can put it in one box instead of sorting it, that is a benefit.

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1 Curbside pickup is a way to enforce the mandatory recycling and if they are not participating, residents could be
2 notified in order to encourage recycling.

3
4 Steve Trombly, North River Road, asked if the rates currently received on recyclables would be the same as what
5 the co-op might receive? Guy Scaife answered that the town would not have bulk because it would be sent to the
6 recycling facility who will sell it. When they sell it, whatever price the market is demanding, they will get. What-
7 ever they make, because it is not for profit, will be shared with the co-op towns through the profit sharing. If Mil-
8 ford were to deal with a "for profit" company, Milford would not get any additional benefit from the sale of recy-
9 clables. Steve Trombly, as a dairy farmer, said he was forced to join a co-op and was promised dividends and other
10 benefits, noting for the town to be careful, it is not all rosy. The research is great, but there are some things to be
11 aware of; he would like to keep it local – they do a good job. The traffic on Saturday mornings is the only time he
12 sees a problem, with re-routing at the Transfer Station that could be improved.

13
14 Bert Becker asked if other co-ops would take people after the May deadline – it seems like it is being pushed right
15 now and the public has not heard a lot of information until tonight. Guy Scaife said there is not a single stream fa-
16 cility in New Hampshire at this time; the closest one is in Massachusetts. Those towns who sign up by the end of
17 May (municipalities only) have to meet that deadline because the co-op will vote May 31. The towns signed up will
18 be associate members and will benefit from the surplus based on tonnage on a quarterly basis. Commercial busi-
19 nesses and municipalities can join after May 31, but those organizations will not benefit from the profit sharing.
20 The associate membership is restricted only to municipalities. Guy Scaife does not know when southern New
21 Hampshire can justify another complex such as this.

22
23 Janet Langdell asked how the solid waste and recyclables get from Milford to Concord? Guy Scaife said the town
24 contracts with Waste Management to transport the waste. Milford will use our own truck to transport the recyclables
25 as we do today. Ms. Langdell asked if there will be shipping costs? Guy Scaife said the shipping costs will be
26 about the same as they are currently.

27
28 A resident asked about the physical set up at the Transfer Station if the town goes with single stream and what
29 equipment will no longer be used. Guy Scaife said the exact configuration has not been finalized; the recyclables
30 area could be used for commercial dumping if that were to be integrated. The paper compactor and cardboard bai-
31 ler would no longer be used; the same trucks would transport the recyclables. The recyclables would be dumped
32 into a unit (compactor) similar to today's paper compactor in the area where solid waste is currently dropped. The
33 conveyor would go to scrap metal.

34
35 Steve Trombly asked how long the contract would run with the co-op and if there is a provision to get out of the
36 contract if it's not working out? Guy Scaife answered there is an opportunity to get out of the contract if needed,
37 but the contract is for fifteen years.

38
39 Gil Archambault, Savage Road, said there is too much to decide. If Milford doesn't join by May 31 the only thing
40 forfeited is the profit sharing. It seems like it is being rushed. If the town studies this more, we can look into the
41 details, there needs to be more work. A lot of homework still needs to be done; we have apartments and also the
42 trash goes into one container with this program. If we go to single stream, the residents will still need to go to the
43 Transfer Station, we need more time to digest this before a decision is made. It should be looked at a little further.
44 Chairman Finan indicated that Mr. Scaife has done the homework and the presentation was completely thorough. It
45 may seem like it is happening too fast, but Mr. Scaife has been working on this for over a year; the Board is not
46 rushing this. Mr. Scaife felt it was ready to bring before the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Scaife added that the profit
47 sharing will be for the entire length of the contract with the co-op; he takes exception to the point of not having the
48 detail, if there is anything specific that Mr. Archambault would like detail, on he can provide it. This item has been
49 on the agenda for the past 1 ¾ years with different bits and pieces. The economy has held this up, when the market
50 changed so quickly. The Recycling Committee gave Mr. Scaife direction October 1, 2008. Gil Archambault agrees
51 there has been a lot of homework, but his overall message is to be cautious.

52
53 Selectman Bauer asked that anyone who is interested in this to come to the next Board of Selectmen meeting on
54 April 13 when the officials from the Co-op will be before this Board, the Board will discuss this at length before
55 making any decisions. Rodney Richey indicated this presentation was extremely detailed. This is a difficult case to
56 make on a financial basis, unless we can increase the recycling. If people don't need to clean the recyclables so
57 much, we need to get that out to people on the website or PEG access. Recycling needs to be done with multi-

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1 family housing and businesses as well. Guy Scaife said he has a problem with telling people to back off on how to
2 clean the recyclables; we need to be careful that it doesn't go the other way.

3
4 Gil Archambault suggested the town have a hazardous waste collection instead of people having to go to Nashua; he
5 thinks that people would recycle more things like batteries if they did not have to go all the way to Nashua. Milford
6 should have its own hazardous waste containers that get brought to Nashua to reduce the hazardous waste being put
7 in the landfill. Gil Archambault also noted that the Granite Town Quarterly welcomes volunteers to the town that
8 are on payroll, but it does not welcome volunteers that are truly volunteers. Mr. Archambault suggested the GTQ
9 welcome and thank all the true volunteers to the town.

10
11 Rodney Richey asked if the logs brought to the Transfer Station will be burned or chipped? Guy Scaife was told by
12 Bill Ruoff, DPW Director, that they will be grinding it this year, due to the quantity. Burning will no longer be
13 done at the Transfer Station.

14
15 Betty Hall, Brookline, indicated she lives in Brookline and was a State Legislature in the past; she is working on
16 bringing a redemption company to New Hampshire. There is a piece of Legislature in process to enable that to hap-
17 pen; this is an issue she is interested in and would love to present to the Board regarding the bottle bill. Single
18 stream and the bottle bill can work together.

19
20 Gil Archambault indicated he was happy to hear the Board of Selectmen will be continuing the fifth Monday forum
21 nights; not many towns have a forum night, so he thanked the Board for allowing people to express their views.
22 Chairman Finan responded that the Board has the fifth Monday forums every fifth Monday (of the month), however
23 there is also an item on every agenda for public comments. The Board meetings are public and people are welcome
24 to come express their opinions at the regular meetings as well.

25
26 Selectman Bauer thanked Rodney Richey for the complete study on the multi-family recycling survey.

27
28 **3. ADJOURNMENT:**

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30 There being no further business to come before this Meeting, Selectman Putnam moved to adjourn at 8:00 p.m.
31 Vice Chairman Daniels seconded. All were in favor. Motion passed 5/0.

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36 Tim Finan, Chairman

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41 Gary Daniels, Vice Chairman

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46 Nate Carmen, Member