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APPROVED

MINUTES OF THE MILFORD BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

July 1, 2010

PRESENT: Tim Finan, Chairman
Gary Daniels, Vice Chairman
Katherine Bauer, Member
Mike Putnam, Member
Nate Carmen, Member
Guy Scaife, Town Administrator

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Finan called the meeting to order at 7:00 a.m. This meeting was called in order to discuss issues surrounding the possible closure of the Milford District Court and its potential move to Merrimack. The deadline set by the State for the seven towns using the Milford District Court to decide whether or not they were willing to pay the rent for the Milford facility was 30-June-2010 (yesterday). If Milford wishes to take any action to keep the Milford court open, we must do so immediately.

This meeting was deemed “emergency” due to the critical timeliness of the issue (re: RSA 91-A:2 II).

DISCUSSION: Guy Scaife summarized the more recent developments with this issue. The Amherst Board of Selectmen (BOS) voted unanimously (4-0) on Monday night to NOT contribute any funding to keep the court in Milford. Also on Monday night the Mont Vernon BOS reversed their previous vote not to contribute, and now will contribute their share of the costs. The Mont Vernon vote, however, is likely contingent on all seven communities participating.

Guy explained that Milford’s current contribution level of \$36,000 (annual) would increase to \$53,000 if Amherst does not participate, and will increase again to \$57,000 if Mont Vernon also backs out. Selectman Carmen believes that if we concentrate on trying to keep the court for an additional six months, and attempt to get further rent reductions, we could possibly pick up the cost of Amherst’s share and still only have to commit to about \$26,000 for those six months. This would give Milford breathing room for all of the towns to reevaluate and possibly look for other rental space for the court.

Selectman Bauer asked what the real deadlines are for a decision. Guy stated that the formal deadline was June 30th (yesterday), but he was confident that if progress is being made, we might have until the end of July, but that progress would have to be made during the upcoming week. Guy said he believes that based on the vote in Amherst that the State was going to be sending out a letter to the seven communities today (July 1) stating that the Milford District Court will be closing.

When asked what the actual additional costs will be for Milford if we have to go to Merrimack, Guy stated that he was no longer confident with numbers that were given earlier in the process. He is confident that our costs will be greater than the \$36,000 already committed by the Board, but he is not confident that they will go much higher than that.

Vice Chairman Daniels believes there is great value in retaining the court in Milford and that if we allow it to go, it will likely never return. Selectman Putnam sees this as an economic development issue in that many local business take advantage of the “business” brought to town by the court. The Board all agreed we should do everything possible to ensure the court stays.

The consensus of the Board was that we are willing to possibly increase our share of the costs if we are able to get an extra six months with the court in Milford. Guy was asked to contact Amherst to see if we can get a bottom line number of what sort of contribution Amherst might be willing to make. He will also contact all other towns and relevant parties to let everyone know that we want to continue to work toward a resolution on this issue. Guy will keep the Board posted and, if necessary, another Board meeting will be called next week.

APPROVED MINUTES OF BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING - 7/1/10

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There being no further business to come before this Meeting, Selectman Putnam moved to adjourn at 7:58 a.m. Vice Chairman Daniels seconded. All were in favor. Motion passed 5/0.

Tim Finan, Chairman

Gary L. Daniels, Vice Chairman

Katherine Bauer, Member

Nate Carmen, Member

Mike Putnam, Member