

APPROVED
MINUTES OF THE MILFORD BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Fifth Monday Forum – August 30, 2010

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

1. Call To Order. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Finan at 7:00 p.m. followed by him leading the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance and Board Introductions.

2. Pigeons and Intersections. Resident Merv Newton brought various issues to the attention of the Selectmen. Mr. Newton stated that there is a serious pigeon problem at the Transfer Station. He indicated there are many pigeons roosting in the main building where residents drop off trash and the droppings are all over the pavement. Town Administrator Scaife stated that he was aware of this issue and that some action has been taken to alleviate the problem, but not to a satisfactory level. Mr. Scaife told Mr. Newton that he would look into the issue to see what additional actions can be taken.

Mr. Newton also stated that the double yellow lines on South Street had worn down such that they are barely visible. The Town Administrator replied that the striping of town roads would be done this fall and that portions of South Street would be re-striped at that time.

Mr. Newton then expressed concern over two other traffic issues. First, Mr. Newton feels that the four way stop at the intersection of Summer and Adams Street is unnecessary. Mr. Newton feels that only one of the directions requires a stop sign. Further, he believes that the stop sign on Mont Vernon Street, in front of the Rite Aid heading toward the oval, is unnecessary. Chairman Finan stated that the Board would take these requests under advisement and would refer them to the Traffic Safety Committee, if appropriate.

3. Fletcher Site. Jerry Guthrie, Landscape Architect and former member of the Fletcher Cap Committee, approached the Board to discuss the future use of the Fletcher Superfund Site. Mr. Guthrie had read in last week's paper that the Selectmen were considering putting a parking lot on the site and wanted to express his disagreement with that position. Mr. Guthrie explained that in 2005 he had presented to the Selectmen a plan to build a Vietnam War Memorial on that site. Mr. Guthrie stated that his plan had a great deal of support by the Selectmen, Veteran groups and the public. He claimed that at the time the Selectmen had voted to go ahead with his plan and decided against putting a parking lot on that site. Vice Chairman Daniels, who was on the Board at that time, stated that he recalled that the vote was not to support any particular plan, but rather was a vote to support some sort of park, as opposed to a parking lot.

Mr. Guthrie then walked the Board through his proposal, explaining where the various paths and monuments would be placed and where the underground utility corridors would be located. He explained that GE was fully aware of these plans and that these corridors were included in the initial plans for the site. In response to the need for additional parking, Mr. Guthrie feels that the town should consider acquiring the abandoned gas station at the intersection of South Street and Clinton Street and convert that lot to public parking.

Bill Fitzpatrick, resident, rose to ask Mr. Guthrie why he or his supporters never followed up with a request for a Warrant Article to fund this park. Mr. Fitzpatrick felt that if there were so much support for this plan, there would have been some effort in the last five years to try to get funding for it.

Town Administrator Guy Scaife followed up by stating that there are no funds set aside to do any portion of Mr. Guthrie's proposal. He stated that the plans presented by GE include utility corridors, but there will be no utilities placed in those corridors. Mr. Scaife further stated that the Administrative Assistant had spoken with former Town Administrator Katie Chambers earlier in the day, and it is her feeling that the best use for that site would be a parking lot and not a park.

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2 Former Town Administrator Lee Mayhew rose to explain some of the early history of this plan. While he was the
3 Town Administrator, Mr. Mayhew emphasized that the Town of Milford, as a partially responsible party, is respon-
4 sible for and must maintain the cap on that site for perpetuity. Any breach of that cap will be the sole responsibility
5 of the Town, not the EPA or GE, and the Town must take that responsibility seriously. Mr. Mayhew explained that
6 the utility corridors included in the plan were not for a memorial, but rather were to provide lighting and a bath-
7 room/bubbler facility on the site. Mr. Mayhew’s opinion is, and always has been, that the best use of that lot is a
8 parking lot.

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10 Chairman Finan thanked Mr. Guthrie for his presentation and all of his hard work. Chairman Finan stated that no
11 final decision has been made and that the Board would give Mr. Guthrie’s proposal full consideration.

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13 **4. Parking Concerns.** A resident of the Granite Square Apartments, expressed her concern that people drive down
14 Pine Street too fast and continue straight on into the parking lot of Granite Square. She is concerned that someone
15 walking in the parking lot will get hit. Chairman Finan asked Town Administrator Scaife if there is any signage on
16 Pine Street indicating that it is not a through street. Mr. Scaife indicated there is none that he is aware of, but that he
17 would bring the issue up with DPW.

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19 **5. NHMA Positions.** Seeing no further public comments, Chairman Finan stated that the Board would now re-
20 view and vote on the nine floor proposals submitted by various communities for consideration at the upcoming LGC
21 conference. Each of the following proposals were moved by Vice Chairman Daniels and seconded by Selectman
22 Putnam for discussion.

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24 ***Floor Proposal #1***

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26 *To see if NHMA will OPPOSE: any change in current state statutes which would eliminate or reduce the*
27 *current obligation of public water entities whose land holdings are in another municipality from paying*
28 *that municipality a payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) that is equal to what the property taxes would be for*
29 *that property.*

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31 The Board wished to defer this issue to the judgment of the Water and Sewer Commissioners. Selectman Putnam
32 will bring this to the commission’s attention at their next meeting on August 31, 2010.

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34 ***Floor Proposal #2***

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36 *To see if NHMA will SUPPORT: Legislation to require that draft rules be returned to the relevant policy*
37 *committee prior to submission to the Joint Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules to ensure they*
38 *accurately reflect the policy committee’s intent.*

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40 *The Board supports by a vote of 5/0.*

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42 ***Floor Proposal #3***

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44 *To see if NHMA will SUPPORT: Legislation to permit municipal assessing offices to request financial in-*
45 *formation related to the rental income and rental expense of commercial and industrial property from*
46 *those property owners.*

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48 The Board supports by a vote of 5/0, contingent that the word “request” in the first line be changed to “require”.

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50 ***Floor Proposal #4***

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52 *To see if NHMA will SUPPORT: Legislation to allow the governing body of a community to adjust the par-*
53 *tial payment of the taxes assessed on April 1 in any tax year by taking the prior year’s assessed valuation*
54 *times one-half of the previous year’s tax rate, and an amount sufficient to collect any extraordinary in-*
55 *crease or decrease in the Statewide Education Property Tax.*

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57 The Board supports by a vote of 5/0.

APPROVED MINUTES OF BOS FIFTH MONDAY FORUM – 08/30/2010

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Floor Proposal #5

To see if NHMA will SUPPORT: Additional wording to 105:9 III that the decision to assign details can be overridden by a unanimous vote of the Board of Selectmen when the work involves details in the town.

The Board supports by a vote of 5/ 0.

Floor Proposal #6

To see if NHMA will SUPPORT: Change to RSA 72-B:1 I to raise the Excavation tax significantly (e.g. .20 per yard) or failing that to eliminate the Excavation Tax of .02 per yard entirely.

The Board support by a vote of 4/1; with Vice Chairman Daniels opposed.

Floor Proposal #7

To see if NHMA will SUPPORT: Legislation to provide that expansion of gambling in New Hampshire be allowed and based on local home rule, rather than State Legislative decisions.

The Board opposes by a vote of 0/5.

Floor Proposal #8

To see if NHMA will SUPPORT: The establishment of a legislative committee to study the repeal of RSA 128 relating to Town Health Officers and the re-enactment of RSAs 125:1 and 125:2 or enactment of new legislation providing for a New Hampshire Department staffed by medical professionals and funding of same.

The Board opposes by a vote of 1/4, Selectman Bauer supports.

Floor Proposal #9

To see if NHMA will TAKE NO POSITION on the collection of the statewide property tax.

The Board supports by a vote of 5/0.

6. Adjournment. There being no further business to come before this Board, Selectman Putnam moved to adjourn at 8:45 p.m. Selectman Carmen seconded. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned.

Tim Finan, Chairman

Mike Putnam, Member

Gary Daniels, Vice Chairman

Katherine Bauer, Member

Nate Carmen, Member