

Milford Budget Advisory Committee
Approved Minutes
January 14, 2014

Present: Matt Lydon, Karen Mitchell, Jim Roccio,
Chris Pank, Peg Seward, Jolie Whitten,
Bert Becker, Steve Sareault

Absent: Paul Bartolomucci

Guests: Gary Daniels (Chairman, Board of Selectman)
Kevin Federico (Board of Selectman)
Jack Sheehy (Director of Finance)
Wendy Hunt (Exec. Director, MIT), Alan Woolfson
(President, MIT), Edward Killam (VP, MIT)

Business: Meeting called to order at 6:30 by Matt Lydon

Milford Improvement Team

Wendy Hunt presented a power point detailing the activities and projects MIT has been involved in from previous years through 2014.

These activities include, but are not limited to: Make it Milford, Vacant Spaces Tour, Town Clean Up Day, Taste of Milford, Restoration and Rededication of Milford's WWII Memorial Park, Pumpkin Festival and Tree Lighting.

The MIT warrant article for 2014 is asking for \$20,000 to pay for the details (police, fire, ambulance) used during the Pumpkin Festival and the planting of flowers for the Oval and Stone Bridge areas.

Clarification was made regarding the amount approved by the voters being 20k while the actual spent each year by the Town is around 23k-24k to pay for the details. The question was raised as to a back up plan to pay for the details if the warrant was not to pass. Wendy stated that it could affect their ability to not charge for the Pumpkin Festival or that they would

potentially have to move the location or affect her salary. The question was raised asking the balance of their cash on hand and the possibility of using some of this money. There is currently a balance of 83K in their cash fund.

Brox Property

Selectman Daniels and Federico presented the results of the Fieldstone Land Consultants study. There are currently 180,000 cubic yards available on the property with plans for the Town to use 10,000 cubic yards and leave the rest. Based on estimated use calculations, 75,000 cubic yards would last the DPW 30 years at the current rate. These supplies are currently shown to come from Phase I area of the Brox property. The trucks and gravel would head out to Rte. 101 from Perry Road. Questions were raised about losing current recreation areas due to mining that we don't need for schools and a cemetery for 25 years. Selectman Federico stated that the revenues are to help make up for the money spent to purchase the property as well as the MCAA is always looking for new needed field space. The total property is 140 acres, but the Town is only looking at 60 acres for Phase I, Phase III and the access road. Fieldstone had the Brox plan in hand while completing the study for the Town.

Some questions raised were:

- Regarding the removal of the gravel being compatible with future use of the land (i.e. do not leave a big hole)
- Each area being reclaimed before moving toward the next
- Housing that was previously noted to be built – BOS not familiar with this and not part of current plan
- Why not work on area on other side of Rte 101 to not disturb current area where people run, walk dogs, etc. until we need the school and cemetery? Also, was Fieldstone asked about this property and if not, why?

- Is there a market out there to purchase these materials – been told yes, but won't truly know until we get the RFP and go to a company and try to sell to them

A suggestion was made that the warrant article should state that after the authorization to dispose of resources, the BOS would come back to the planning board and others before further investment and planning. A point was made that if and when these needs occur to build – earth removal can still occur without voting permission. The removal comes with the right to build. There was discussion around RSA 155E which is a gravel ordinance that applies to the Town as we are not selling land, we are selling gravel and resources. RSA 41-14A is regarding resources.

Suzanne Fournier (Brox Environmental Citizens) – Ms. Fournier showed the BAC diagrams of wetlands and property with potential access roads as well as what she felt was not an appropriate access road or bridge. She also voiced concerns of hidden costs to repair washouts to use the access road described.

Audrey Fraiser (Conservation Commission) – Ms. Fraiser restated the fact that there is no near term need for a school or a cemetery.

Warrant Article 24 – solar exemption

RSA 72:61 – 72 only applies in some cases (case by case basis)

Warrant Article 20 - Fireworks – the detail (police, fire, ambulance) is not in the warrant article – it is paid directly from the budget

Warrant Article 25 – Budget Committee charge – The intent is no longer to change the charge of the BAC, but to officially change the name to the Budget Advisory Committee. This warrant will not change what the BAC votes on. Article 26 will make it official to count the BAC tallies on the voting ballot.

Steve Sareault discussed his spreadsheet of the Town budget roll up which took the Town budget over the past 4-5 years and compared the budget to budget numbers as well as the actual to actual expenditures. As an example of the 3 year look back, the proposed budget change from 2012 and 2015 was up 16.5%. The concern is that this is not sustainable for the Town. Further discussion was focused towards reduction of department budgets vs. the Town debt. Concerns were discussed that we should be looking more at the debt spending and needs vs. wants.

A request was made for a tax rate comparison per towns and similar communities.

Preliminary votes from the BAC are due by January 26th.

The next meeting is 1/21/15 at 6:30pm

Thursday, Jan 15 the Town BAC will meet with the School BAC

Deliberative Session is Saturday, Jan 31, 2015

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05pm.

Respectfully submitted by, Karen Mitchell, Secretary