

APPROVED
MINUTES OF THE MILFORD BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
February 8, 2016

PRESENT: Mark Fougere, Chairman
Kevin Federico, Vice Chairman
Gary Daniels, Member
Mike Putnam, Member
Mark Bender, Town Administrator
Kathryn Parenti, Recording Secretary
Niko Giokas, Videographer

ABSENT: Katherine Bauer, Member

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

INSTRUCTIONS: Chairman Fougere called the public meeting to order at 5:30 p.m., introduced Board members and then led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Fougere indicated that those people in the audience who want to speak or add to the discussion should please use a microphone in order to be heard on the PEG Access live broadcast.

2. APPOINTMENTS:

5:30 p.m. – Granite Town Media Review of Covered Meetings - Chairman Fougere invited Tim Finan, Tom Schmidt and Mike McInerney to discuss meeting coverage. This was a result from a letter from Town Council Drescher, requested by the Water and Sewer Commissioners regarding recorded meeting coverage. Selectman Daniels noted that anyone can record any meeting. Mr. Finan noted they are merely trying to provide transparency in government by recording and broadcasting as many meetings as possible. If this isn't the way the Board would like them to proceed, then this is a failed experiment. Selectman Putnam, also a Water and Sewer Commissioner, noted the Commission was trying to be fiscally responsible and didn't see how their sometimes very short meetings would be of interest to the community; they aren't hiding anything. He felt the time required to set up for and process the meetings wasn't fiscally responsible. Tom Schmidt noted they are trying to cover the meetings that are most important to the public first and then move on to the other committees. They focus on the elected Board meetings first and those overseen by the Board of Selectmen. He noted they use high school students who gain valuable experience as videographers. Mr. McInerney stated the pay rate starts at \$10 per hour and goes up to \$12 per hour, the longer a student works. The cost to record meetings is minimal. The only time consuming process is getting the recordings ready to be broadcast. They can record multiple events at a time. Vice Chairman Federico noted the broadcasts are being watched on television and online so it is a valuable service. Mr. Finan noted they were in agreement with Town Council Drescher's letter that said the committees are obliged to be recorded but they can say no. They will continue discussions with the Water and Sewer Commission, to work out a plan that is agreeable to all parties.

5:55 p.m. – Mutual Aid Agreement - Lincoln Daley, Director of Community Development, stated they are in the process of coming up with an agreement between Milford and Amherst to provide mutual aid when the building inspector is ill, on vacation or injured. The contract would be for two (2) years. Selectman Daniels asked if that would include commercial building inspection. Mr. Daley replied it would not; that would have to be another discussion. They are currently looking to provide a private contractor for those inspections. Selectman Putnam noted Police and Fire have the same type of agreements and he would like to keep it simple. Mr. Daley replied the agreement had been reviewed by Primex for wording and they did a trial run with Amherst in December, which was successful. Selectman Daniels suggested the word "etc." be removed from the contract to eliminate any confusion. Mr. Daley agreed. Selectman Putnam made the motion to approve the wording for the Mutual Aid Agreement as amended. Selectman Daniels seconded. All were in favor. Motion passed 4/0.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS. (items not on the agenda). There were no public comments this evening.

4. DECISIONS.

a) **CONSENT CALENDAR.** There were no items on the Consent Calendar this evening.

1 **b) OTHER DECISIONS.**

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3 **5. TOWN STATUS REPORT.**

4 **1) South Street Bid** - Mark Bender noted the South Street project has gone out for bid a second time after the
5 Department of Transportation (DOT) reversed its position on advising the town it could not contact potential
6 bidders through email or postcards, only through newspaper notice. It took about 2 weeks for them to change
7 that opinion so the due date had been extended to February 23, 2016 from the original date of February 11,
8 2016. The Community Development office is in the process of sending out postcards and emails to poten-
9 tial bidders.

10 **2) Systems Review at 127 Elm Street** – Mr. Bender noted he, DPW Director Rick Riendeau, Police Chief Vio-
11 la, Community Development Director Lincoln Daley, Building Inspector Tim Herlihy, electrician Rick Blasé
12 and plumber Mike Putnam walked through the building on February 5, 2016 and noted there were no major is-
13 sues to contend with at this point, but it was difficult to judge without lighting in the building. They are in the
14 process of contracting with Rick Blase, Blase Electric, to power up a panel to provide lights for additional in-
15 spections. Selectman Putnam noted there were some small plumbing issues and would like to go back in and
16 test some of the pipes along with draining the remaining water out of the pipes. They all felt the building was a
17 good purchase by the town. It had originally gone to the voters as potential field space but the building is in
18 good shape and should not be torn down. Chairman Fougere suggested a committee should be formed, ask for
19 volunteers with a good cross section of people, including some members of the Recreation Commission to work
20 on a plan for the site. Sherry Federico asked who purchased the site and what funds were used. Chairman
21 Fougere noted the town purchased the property as a warrant article and has only owned the property for six (6)
22 weeks and the use of the property is open for discussion. Arene Berry, Recreation Director noted the Recrea-
23 tion Commission solicited donations for the purchase of the property, through contacts in the Recreation De-
24 partment.

25 **3) Planning Board's Inquiry Regarding Public Input For Downtown Improvements** – Community Devel-
26 opment Director Lincoln Daley noted there were funds earmarked for the improvement of the Oval district as
27 well as federal funding. He is currently working with the DOT to move forward and is looking for public input
28 to form a sub-committee consisting of two (2) Selectmen, two (2) Planning Board members, the Town Adminis-
29 trator and himself. He is looking to get Oval improvements done sooner rather than later. Chairman Fougere
30 stated he would not like to encounter the types of delays that occurred with the South Street project. He is in
31 favor of getting federal money but not waiting for years for it to be released, as was the issue with the South
32 Street project. Mr. Daley noted they would start with the earmarked, town-raised funds. Chairman Fougere
33 thought Selectman Bauer might be able to sit on the sub-committee but if she is unable, he would do it.

34 **4) WEX Gas Program** – Mr. Bender noted the town was looking into purchasing gas from this vendor at a
35 lower rate than from the State. He passed out an information sheet to the Board; the Board will go into more
36 detail at the February 22, 2016 meeting.

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38 **6. DISCUSSIONS**

39 **a) Scheduling of Selectmen at Polling Location for March 8th Town Vote** – Chairman Fougere noted he and
40 Selectman Daniels would be at the polls in the morning, Selectman Bauer would be there between 11 and 2 and
41 there will be three (3) selectmen present at the closing of the polls. He noted a candidate for selectman, Chris-
42 topher Skinner, had requested to be removed from the ballot after the deadline to do so on February 4, 2016 and
43 as a result, his name will remain on the ballot. Chairman Fougere noted there will be a candidate forum on Feb-
44 ruary 17, 2016.

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46 **7. SELECTMEN'S REPORTS/DISCUSSIONS.**

47 **a) FROM PROJECTS, SPECIAL BOARDS, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES** – Selectman Putnam
48 stated MACC Base is looking to bring in additional customers and are working on reducing the budget. They
49 are looking into using the town health care program to save some money.

50 **b) OTHER ITEMS (that are not on the agenda).**

51 1) Fire Department Thank You – Chairman Fougere noted there was a letter from the Brookline Fire Chief
52 thanking the town for mutual aid provided at a recent fire.

53 2) Police and Fire Department coverage at recent candidate events – Selectman Federico noted there were
54 two (2) large candidate gatherings in town recently one at Hampshire Hills and the other at the Fire Station and
55 wanted to thank both the Fire and Police departments for their great work at both events.

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57 **8. APPROVAL OF FINAL MINUTES.** Selectman Putnam moved to approve the minutes of January 30, 2016
58 as presented. Selectman Daniels seconded. All were in favor. Motion passed 4/0.

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9. INFORMATION ITEMS REQUIRING NO DECISIONS.

10. NOTICES. Notices were read by Chairman Fougere.

11. NON-PUBLIC SESSION.

12. ADJOURNMENT: Selectman Fougere moved to adjourn at 6:30 p.m. Vice Chairman Federico seconded. All were in favor. Motion passed 4/0.

Mark Fougere, Chairman

Kevin Federico, Vice Chairman

Gary Daniels, Member

Katherine Bauer, Member

Mike Putnam, Member