

APPROVED
MINUTES OF THE MILFORD BOARD OF SELECTMEN FIFTH MONDAY FORUM
August 29, 2016

PRESENT: Mark Fougere, Chairman
Kevin Federico, Vice Chairman
Mike Putnam, Member
Katherine Bauer, Member
Mark Bender, Town Administrator
Darlene J. Bouffard, Recording Secretary
Dave Bosquet, Videographer

EXCUSED: Gary Daniels, Member

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

INSTRUCTIONS: Chairman Fougere called the meeting to order at 6:30 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:

6:30 p.m. – Osgood Pond Additional Dredging. Mark Bender explained that at the last Board of Selectmen meeting, it was discussed that the contractor performing dredging of Osgood Pond has the opportunity to do additional dredging within the permit limitations and the sale of the materials for which the town would receive \$1.50/yard. To date, they are working to dredge 24,000 yards for the town and going forward, the contractor can sell additional material to those interested. At the last meeting, Chairman Fougere said he needed a little additional information on this. Mark Bender asked if there are any questions or concerns with selling the spoils. Vice Chairman Federico asked if the town is selling the material for \$1.50/yard or is that just the amount that comes to the town since Chairman Fougere wanted to get information regarding that. Chairman Fougere responded that we will have the contractor bring the materials to the Brox pit for fill. The town needs 40,000 yards of fill to bring up the level. Chairman Fougere said it would need to move into Phase II for Osgood Pond dredging. Mark Bender added that he is currently working on the Phase II application and the town should identify matching funds by the time the application is submitted. Mark Bender talked with Dave Wheeler who has talked with Fish & Game for the Phase II funding. Chairman Fougere said this will allow the town to go into Phase II, without this option, the contractor would be done, but this would get the town into Phase II. Vice Chairman Federico said the permit is to go beyond the 24,000 yards. Chairman Fougere said this would be a good addition to this project at no cost to the taxpayers.

Town Administrator Mark Bender said a number of people have inquired about materials, but there have been no commitments. Vice Chairman Federico asked if the Board feels there is enough material in Osgood Pond for this? We are using 24,000 yards to reclaim Brox and we need 40,000 yards, can we find that elsewhere? Chairman Fougere said those materials are on-site. After we sell off part of it, Vice Chairman Federico asked if there is enough left? Chairman Fougere answered we do not know if there will be a Phase II if there is no funding. Selectman Putnam moved to sell the spoils. Vice Chairman Federico seconded. All were in favor. Motion passed 4/0.

Chairman Fougere indicated the town wants to get commitments in writing and get the oversight worked out. As of Friday, August 26, Mark Bender said we are about 45% complete of the 24,000 yards.

NHMA Legislative Policy Conference – Floor Proposals . Mark Bender explained that at the last Board meeting, the legislative conference was discussed at length. The list was covered except for the floor proposals that were submitted after that was issued. Mark Bender wanted members to review and identify if the Board supports the legislation or not. Mark Bender reviewed the latest list of proposals and asked for input so that he can represent Milford on September 23 at the conference.

7:00 p.m. – Joint Meeting with the Milford School Board and Board of Selectmen. School Board members and staff in attendance: Bob Marquis, Superintendent; Paul Dargie, School Board Chairman; Kevin Drew, School Board member; Len Mannino, School Board member; Bob Willette, School Board member; Bob Carvell, School Board member; Jen Burke, School Business Administrator. Chairman Fougere indicated last year there were a number of

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1 warrant articles that did not pass, a lot of the same things will come up on the warrant in 2017. The recommenda-
2 tion is for a Capital Reserve Fund be set up for \$500,000 a year; this is a new discussion item for the voters. The
3 Library Trustees will be putting the new Library back on the warrant in the spring and also repairs to the current
4 Library but right now, they are focused on hiring a new Library Director. Last year we had talked about a \$5 mil-
5 lion road bond warrant as well as DPW equipment. Chairman Fougere said the School Board might be looking at
6 some initiatives next year as well.

7
8 Paul Dargie indicated the School Board does not start talking budget until about November. Right now they are
9 waiting until school starts. As far as capital items, the School Board will have the same \$3 million bond that failed
10 last year for the district facility improvements. There were complaints about some of the elements of that bond, so
11 some things may be changed around, but we are trying to cut it down to a more manageable amount. Mr. Dargie
12 said last year we started with a \$5 million bond and it was too much to ask for, so it ended up as a \$3 million bond
13 and failed. That bond covers a variety of items. Superintendent Marquis indicated they are looking at information
14 about Bales school and how a renovation could be done and what it would take to move the program into a different
15 place. The bond also asks to look into solar energy at the schools. Mr. Dargie noted the School Board is looking at
16 moving gently down the road of outsourcing. It is on the table and a couple of collective bargaining contracts are
17 coming up. Chairman Fougere indicated the Town Administrator has talked to solar people recently and Standard
18 Power has worked with the Town and School on electric contracts.

19
20 Superintendent Marquis indicated they will meet next week and should get a thorough report to present to the
21 School Board. Currently we are looking at solar for the high school. Mr. Dargie said complaints last year were fo-
22 cused around air conditioning not being available in schools in the district. Some people want to get rid of Bales but
23 we want to address a possible alternative. Mr. Dargie is in favor of keeping the building and renovating it over time;
24 other people do not want to keep the Bales school building. Chairman Fougere indicated Bales is close to Jacques,
25 but the building could be used for other things. Mr. Dargie said if it is going to be used for something, we could
26 renovate it. Chairman Fougere said if the school could not use it, it could be made into housing or something else.
27 Mr. Dargie indicated in 2010, that building was looked at for senior housing but it did not work. Bob Willette added
28 that it was looked at for possible housing, but there was no community support. Even with extra funding, Mr. Dar-
29 gie said senior housing numbers did not work. Len Mannino indicated it is hard to encourage people to vote for a lot
30 of money to renovate an old building. The windows alone would have cost half a million dollars. Jen Burke indi-
31 cated that was for the historic version of windows to keep with the historic nature of the building. Mr. Dargie indi-
32 cated all of the numbers in the bond are engineering estimates, they would all need to be put out for bid if it passed,
33 but currently the numbers are just estimates.

34
35 Chairman Fougere talked about healthcare cost increases, and is there a way to marry the town with the school to get
36 value in the numbers for both town and school? Town Administrator Bender indicated one obstacle is the time of
37 year; the town is on a calendar year (January-December) and the school is on a fiscal year (July-June). That coordi-
38 nation is what holds it up, it is impractical. Selectman Putnam worked on the committee 5 years ago that looked at
39 possible savings by sharing between town and school and meshing the healthcare between the two was looked at,
40 but it was found that it would not work. Chairman Fougere asked if it is just the timing? Mr. Dargie said both the
41 town and school use managed groups for healthcare. Chairman Fougere said the Board just went over those costs
42 and the cost just keeps going up, there is no way to cut it. Jen Burke said even the health insurance groups have
43 gone out to bid for cost reduction. Chairman Fougere asked if there are any other thoughts on health insurance?
44 Seeing none, he indicated that Town Administrator Bender currently calls Bob Marquis and Jen Burke all the time
45 about what they are doing at the schools and they are working together with the electrical, which worked out well
46 for the town and school. Mr. Bender said the town is looking at energy efficiency programs as well, to save some
47 money and is looking at HVAC systems; the system in Town Hall is about 30 years old. If there is an interest in
48 joining in that, we can add the school to the RFP. Grants and Tax advantages are also something to keep in mind.

49
50 Chairman Fougere noted the town is looking at every option out there in order to save money. Vice Chairman Fed-
51 erico heard about the outsourcing from a person at a sports event, but he feels the safety of sidewalks is always
52 something people bring up in town as a concern. If looking at outsourcing, maybe look at combining efforts specifi-
53 cally grounds maintenance and plowing which would need to be something to talk with DPW about. Further, before
54 looking at outsourcing, Vice Chairman Federico suggested having the two departments talk to combine some of the
55 efforts. Mr. Federico was reminded by Selectman Putnam about the committee that looked at combining
56 town/school for cost savings and it was found that both town and school are very efficient. Selectman Putnam indi-
57 cated the snow plow purchase prompted that committee and a warrant article for the study committee was the result
58 and it passed. The bottom line however, is that the town could not meet the snowplow schedule for the school

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1 needs. All of that was looked at and the only thing that came out of it was leasing copier equipment; things are as
2 tight as they get according to Selectman Putnam. Selectman Putnam said there should be a report on that study and
3 he was impressed with how the town and school are doing with tightening their belts for savings.
4

5 Mr. Carvell noted that a lot of equipment is being taken care of by outsourcing which has worked for the school.
6 We will see savings with that, now we need to think outside the box. We are getting information from other schools
7 (outsourcing) and the numbers drive that. Selectman Putnam noted that another aspect is accountability and there is
8 no number for that, when the outsourcing company does not show up in a snowstorm for example. Mr. Carvell re-
9 sponded that it would be written in the contract, it is all in how the contract is defined. Chairman Fougere agrees
10 there must be ways to deal with that. Mr. Carvell said we have also talked about a phased in approach or a hybrid
11 approach to the outsourcing. Other districts are doing it and we need to look at it and be very detailed.
12

13 Chairman Fougere said goals have not been discussed yet, but the Town is pushing the bridges and roads as a priori-
14 ty. There was just an issue with two culverts on Mason Road (by McGettigan Road and the Wilton town line) this
15 past week and the road had to be closed so the culverts could get fixed. Mr. Bender said the culverts are not classi-
16 fied as bridges, but sink holes were developing so they had to be stabilized to buy time. A more in depth repair will
17 be done by DPW. The Savage Road bridge was also done by in house personnel and only cost about \$100,000.
18 Chairman Fougere noted after the recession, things were cut back so much that now the infrastructure needs to get
19 caught up.
20

21 Mr. Carvell thinks as we get closer to the budget season, we need to look at inclusive bids and have another work
22 session like this between town and school. Chairman Fougere appreciates that the Town Administrator and Superin-
23 tendent are talking and helping each other out. Mr. Carvell also is thankful that the town is moving forward with the
24 playing fields because the citizens of Milford desperately need them. Paul Dargie noted that the town should be sure
25 to use good, quality material on the fields and not try to use the cheapest product, since it is very important that the
26 fields be done properly. Chairman Fougere said the town will use good, organic materials. Superintendent Marquis
27 said the safety of the kids is of the utmost importance. Vice Chairman Federico said the DPW Director has been in
28 touch with a golf assistant manager who knows how to grow lawns. Corrections have been made to Kaley Park
29 based on that input. Mr. Marquis asked about the water ban in town and appreciates that the Water Commissioners
30 have granted some leeway with the ban in regards to the field maintenance, he appreciates that they are working
31 with the schools
32

33 **3. PUBLIC COMMENTS. (items not on the agenda).** Chairman Fougere indicated the VFW would like to hon-
34 or the town emergency service personnel, and asked if any members can be present at the Labor Day parade. Most
35 members will not be around, but Selectman Bauer said she may be able to attend. Selectman Putnam indicated the
36 Board of Selectmen and Board of Commissioners met on Friday about the Route 13 utility work and talked about
37 some issues that came up and how the town could improve on them.
38

39 Suzanne Fournier, Brox Environmental Citizens Group Coordinator, asked if the public forum will be heard this
40 evening. Chairman Fougere explained that the forum opens at 7:00, there was an appointment prior to opening the
41 public forum at 7 p.m. A brief recess was called prior to the public forum.
42

43 Dave McManus, Brookview Drive, said he is troubled by the vote taken by the Board at the last meeting that ap-
44 proved Mark Bender to move forward with the Brox land being developed into playing fields that has a pending
45 warrant article coming before voters in March. Mr. McManus said the voters want an opportunity to vote on this
46 and asked that the Board rescind last week's vote and wait on moving forward on that project since it is a capital
47 project. Chairman Fougere said this project is not a capital project and has been talked about for years. The author-
48 ization was given to the Board months ago, a hearing was held with the Conservation Commission and it was fully
49 engineered. Chairman Fougere stated there were strong arguments made by MCAA and Recreation and the Board
50 feels there is a severe shortage of fields in town and the Board of Selectmen feels strongly that we should proceed
51 with the project. By having it done in house with town resources and with the required permit the town wishes to
52 proceed. Chairman Fougere indicated it may be appealed, but the town has a permit and we are going to proceed
53 until we are told to discontinue. Mr. McManus said in that case he will go to the Superior Court to file an injunction
54 saying the town must stop; if the town votes in March to not do the project, Mr. McManus asked if each Board
55 member will write a check to pay for the work that was done? As he understands it, the permit is being appealed so
56 the town will have to wait for that appeal to go through. The petition warrant article was submitted exceedingly
57 early, said Chairman Fougere, who noted that Town Counsel feels the Board has the right to move forward. Mr.
58 McManus said the voters want a vote. Chairman Fougere said a petition warrant article was submitted six months

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1 before the election, but there is no timeline to write and submit petition warrant articles. There is a need in town for
2 fields. Citizens have a right to submit a petition warrant article and it is everyone’s prerogative to do so. Mr.
3 McManus indicated that the Board should consider itself on notice that he will file with Superior Court regarding
4 this action.

5
6 Suzanne Fournier, Brox Environmental Citizens Group Coordinator, indicated that Town Administrator Mark Bend-
7 er wrote a letter in the newspaper about sports fields, noting that the permit lists nine conditions that must be met,
8 condition number ten on the permit, which wasn’t mentioned in the letter, is that there be no vehicle access by the
9 public in the pit or other portions of Brox. The pit should also be gated and locked. Ms. Fournier thanked the Fish
10 & Game Commission for making that a condition on the permit. Also in the letter, Mr. Bender expressed gratitude
11 for the support of Fish & Game. The NH Fish & Game wildlife experts in NH have said “ ... the town has not
12 demonstrated minimization of loss of habitat and has not submitted sufficient avoidance conditions ...” Ms. Four-
13 nier recommended to DES that they deny the alternate permit based on the wildlife. DES issued the permit but that
14 does not give the town anything to be proud of. The experts are charged with protecting the species, but they won’t
15 deny the permit. For this and for other reasons, the abutters to this property are appealing to the Water Council. The
16 abutters have 30 days in which to do that; it is in the law that there is a 30 day window in which to appeal and the
17 town may want to become familiar with that.

18
19 Chairman Fougere asked for any further public comments. Seeing none, he moved to the 7:00 appointment.

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21 **4. ADJOURNMENT:** Selectman Putnam moved to adjourn at 7:45 p.m. Selectman Bauer seconded. All were in
22 favor. Motion passed 4/0.

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27 Mark Fougere, Chairman

Kevin Federico, Vice Chairman

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30 _____
31 Gary Daniels, Member

Katherine Bauer, Member

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34 _____
35 Mike Putnam, Member