

Milford Budget Advisory Committee  
BAC Minutes / MPD Community Room  
December 17th, 2024, 6:30 PM

**Attendees:** Karen Mitchell, Chris Pank, Peg Seward, Wade Campbell, Kevin Hunter, Mike Thornton, Vanessa Sheehan, Paul Bartolomucci, and Claudia Lemaire

**Absent:** none

**Guests:** Leo Lessard(DPW), Jim Poullier (Water and Sewer), Kevin Philbrick (Water and Sewer)

Karen calls the meeting to order at 6:33PM.

Leo Lessard begins the meeting by going over his operating budget. Leo discusses the increased cost of paving and how much we need to increase costs yearly to catch up on the roads in Milford. There is a discussion about Brox paving holding a quote from the previous year and honoring the original price per foot. Selectmen are requesting that the paving go out to bid instead of extending the contract with Brox. With a bottom line budget, DPW money that remains is often spent on other town items or returned to the taxpayers. The BAC members do not want to see money removed from DPW but rather the remaining funds be spent or retained each year to help Milford stay on track with continuous road repairs.

Leo has changed the specs on future housing developments for paving. He has the contractor putting additional binders so the roads will last longer.

DPW has installed and replaced a considerable amount of water and sewer pipes. Leo discusses the areas of town where the pipes were repaired or replaced and describes the pipes as being the old cast iron, which corrodes over time.

Leo remarks on the diesel gas tank that will be placed above ground at the DPW site for fuel. This will save labor costs for employees and also be a tremendous convenience.

The trailer at the Milford Transfer Station will need to be replaced in the next five years. The flooring repairs have been taken out of the budget since we are looking for a total replacement instead of a quick fix.

Leo discusses the warrant article for the new ten wheeler truck. The warrant article amount for the truck may change, Leo is in negotiations with the dealer. More information will follow soon.

Leo wants to outfit the trucks with a system to track the salt/sand output and extensive GPS tracking. The cost is minimal for the efficiency the new product would bring while plowing and sanding.

There are 23 people currently employed at DPW excluding admin. There are five employees at the transfer station, three at parks, fifteen on highway and there is one engineer, one admin, and Leo in the office.

Jim Poullier reviews the water and sewer budget. The bond for the Pennichuck Booster Station is the biggest increase to the water budget. The new pump station is almost complete. It will be done by February. The water department will be putting out a warrant article to redo the water main on Nashua Street .

With new developments being built in Milford, Paul B. asks if water and sewer can handle the increased capacity. Jim states that we are looking good with water and sewer but some of the pipes near the developments could be problematic and may need to be widened or replaced especially near Webster Street.

A discussion begins about responsible development and that we may need to put more on the contractors to make sure it isn't costing the taxpayers money in repairs or additional infrastructure. Impact fees may need to be considered for various developments. This is a question for Community Development.

Karen reviews the final meetings and the timeline until the Deliberative Session. Mike Thornton wants to be put on the agenda of our next meeting to discuss housing and development. Karen will grant him a thirty minute slot.

January 13th we will take preliminary votes and assigned write ups. Claudia will edit the write-ups.

**Chris makes a motion to approve the minutes from the December 10th meeting, Kevin seconds, all approved with Claudia abstaining.**

Peg briefly reviews Warrant Article changes discussed by Chris Labonte after the last BOS meeting.

There are questions that have come up on the filing of abatements. Who pays for the reassessment of the dwelling or structure and how many abatements have been filed? What was the outcome of the reassessment of the dwellings? and how much has it cost the town if it was found to be needing an adjustment in taxes?

Karen requests that questions get sent to her on assessment. She will forward them to the town department.

**Paul makes a motion to adjourn the meeting, Vanessa seconds . All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:26PM.**

Next Meeting will be January 7th, 2025, in the MPD Community Room, at 6:30PM.

Minutes Respectfully submitted by, Claudia Lemaire, Secretary BAC.