

MINUTES OF THE MILFORD BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
FIFTH MONDAY FORUM
Monday April 29, 2024

PRESENT: Tim Finan, Chair Lincoln Daley, Town Administrator
Paul Dargie, Vice Chair (Arrived Late) Susan Mallett, Executive Assistant
David Freel, Member
Chris Labonte, Member
Tina Philbrick, Member

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

Select Chair Finan called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., introduced the Board and led the Pledge of Allegiance. He further explained this is the 5th Monday Forum and public input is welcome.

2. OPEN FORUM

No input from the public at this point.

3. DISCUSSIONS

Mr. Finan made a comment as a member of the rotary club, and this coming year is the 75th anniversary. They have a whole bunch of stuff planned for around town. The celebration will begin in July 1, 2024, and one of the things they want to do is put up banners around the oval, about 8 to 10 poles and put up every third or so. He noted there are some missing and this would be a good opportunity to fill in the blanks. He reached out to Chappell and Leo and Lincoln, no one had concerns. When the oval was fixed in the early 2000s the light posts were put up and businesses paid for all the banners. Selectwoman Philbrick and Selectman Freel noted they have no issue with this either. Chair Finan said this hasn't been approved by the Rotary Club, but he wanted to be sure Select Board had no objections or concerns before proceeding.

Selectwoman feels the Rotary does a lot for community and she has no objection to it. Selectman Freel noted he had no objection either.

TA Daley said keep in mind the design of the banners, do you want it to be seasonal, should it mention 75 years, keep in line with other banners.

Selectman Labonte asked if these would fall in line with the rules for the Oval. It was confirmed it's in line.

TA Daley informed the Select Board that they have an interim Finance Director, Kevin Blanchard, to fill in the gap until they find a permanent person. We found out during the process of switching over authorization to accounts that we need to mention Kevin Blanchard is an employee of the Town of Milford.

TA Daley also noted that Congressman Kuster is soliciting projects, both transportation and econ development projects. He was originally going to suggest a bypass off of 101 to the BROX industrial property, at an estimated \$40-50 million per recent estimate.

Selectman Freel and Labonte clarified TA Daley meant interchange and not bypass.

Other programs we might be able to apply for is under HUD, are 127 Elm St or small parking lot on South St. We need to pick just one of the projects. He is asking for 4 letters of support, working with Camille Patison, Planning Board, Ms. Sheehan, and the Select Board or allow TA Daley to write letter on their behalf.

Selectman Labonte suggested swing bridge, but TA Daley noted we can't match federal money with federal money.

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Selectwoman Philbrick asked about the cost for each project. TA Daley replied that South St parking lot would be \$250K and razing removal of 127 Elm St would be \$400k per last RFP, say \$500k with inflation.

Representative Sheehan would be happy to sign off on a letter for these projects.

Selectman Freel says he'd go with the project that was more money, and Selectwoman Philbrick says she agrees.

Selectman Labonte would favor the South St Parking lot and sidewalks because it's closer to the downtown area. This would improve the appearance of the downtown area. He feels the cost to raze Elm St should not have increased in cost that much.

Ms. Kokko, asked for clarification on what the parameters are for this funding source. TA Daley responded that he would forward the link to the HUD section that dictates the terms of this. The general notion is that it creates an economic driver for the community and what can provide positive impacts for the businesses and residents or the Town itself.

She suggested other projects might qualify, such as the library and other capital improvements issues that have come up in Town that have been asked about and been front and center.

Selectman Labonte asked TA Daley if he had any other projects that we could knock off the list. TA Daley noted the time frame was very short and these were the two that were top of the list.

Selectman Freel asked about the sidewalks.

Chair Finan agreed that the parking lot was a good use of the money along with benefitting the downtown area versus 127 Elm. TA Daley said there are some residual discussions to have regarding the building.

Selectwoman Philbrick has no problem with the South St Parking but not sure people will walk to the downtown area. It would be used by local residents and businesses not downtown area.

TA Daley noted it is a two-and-a-half-minute walk from Oval to South St Parking lot. Also, that NH DOT has been looking at EV Charging stations along route 101. He thinks this property is close enough that it could possibly be included in that project.

Selectman Freel will never vote for EV Charger project.

Mike Thornton noted in Santa Barbara they rented a trolley for special events and that was popular and a revenue stream for the city. In San Luis Obispo they did BBQ events that also was a revenue stream.

Chair Finan recalled that there was an ad hoc committee for parking and he believes a trolley was considered. TA Daley said issues was getting drivers and vehicle to drive around, his thought process is that the parking lot will check off a lot of boxes.

Ms. Langdell asked if any way to expand beyond just the parking lot and also remove the walkability between South Street and Nashua Street. The quality of the sidewalks is not good in some places. There are businesses on Nashua Street that would benefit. Also, as noted by Selectman Freel, they are probably not ADA compliant.

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Selectwoman Philbrick made a Motion to support grant for the South Street Parking lot and expand as far as possible on the sidewalks and authorize Lincoln to draft letter of support on behalf of the Select Board. Seconded by Selectman Freel. All in Favor. Motion passed 4/0 with Paul Dargie absent.

Ray Anderson will be at the May 13th meeting to give status of the MACC Base, including equipment and next steps regarding location.

David Palance offered a caution, when items are not on the agenda, and they don't have background information that he cautions the Board to not submit a vote. Chair Finan in principle agrees with this, however, this grant is on a short notice and timeline, and normally would not do it like this.

Chair Finan spoke with the DPW Director Lessard, and they tossed an idea around to put an 80-foot pole at Keyes Park in the center of the park. It would be a beautiful location as noted by Selectman Labonte, possibly viewable from Elm St/Oval.

Chair Finan would like to go into the community to do some fundraising for this. DPW estimate is roughly \$15–20K, for the installation, lighting and maybe a plaque or something. Chair Finan also talked to the Parks & Rec Director and she is also in favor. As it is now, the swim team can't see the flag when they do the Pledge of Allegiance. We can accept donations into a special purpose fund for this.

Selectman Labonte made a motion to go into non-public at 6:45pm in accordance with NH (RSA 91-A:3, II(a)) Personnel, seconded by Selectman Freel. All were in favor. The roll call motion passed 4/0

Note: Selectman Dargie arrived to the meeting just after the Board went into Non-Public.

The Select Board returned to public session at 6:55 p.m. It was announced that while in non-public session, the Board discussed one topic Took one vote and one action.

Selectman Freel motioned to seal the minutes, seconded by Selectwoman Philbrick. All were in favor. The motion passed 5/0

ADJOURNMENT: Selectman Freel moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:00. Seconded by Selectwoman Philbrick. All were in favor. The motion passed 5/0.

Tim Finan, Chairman

Paul Dargie, Vice-Chairman

Dave Freel, Member

Chris Labonte, Member

Tina Philbrick, Member