

APPROVED
MINUTES OF THE MILFORD BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

December 9, 2019

PRESENT: Gary Daniels, Chairman Mark Bender, Town Administrator
Paul Dargie, Vice Chairman Tina Philbrick, Recording Secretary
Mike Putnam, Member Tyler Berry, Videographer
Laura Dudziak, Member
Chris Labonte, Member

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

INSTRUCTIONS: Chairman Daniels 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 Daniels 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: (Approximate times)

5:00 p.m. – Non-Public (RSA 91-A:3, II(c)) Reputation – Prior to the public meeting the Board attended a non-public session. No decisions were made. Selectman Putnam made a motion to seal the non-public minutes in accordance with (RSA 91-A:3, II(c)) Reputation. Selectman Dudziak seconded. All were in favor. The motion passed 5/0.

5:30 p.m. – Maine Trailer Registrations – Joan Dargie

In summary: in the last six or seven year, companies in Milford are registering their trailers in Maine through companies that are a Maine non-registering agent which means that they are an agent for the state but are not necessarily registering trailers for the state. This is being done for very little money to avoid paying their trailer fees in Milford. Maine doesn't care because they are getting revenue and these trailers are not driving on Maine roads. The issues with registering out of state is that the trailers are garaged here, and by law, if your trailer is garaged in NH, within 60 days of them being garaged in NH, they must be registered.

Joan testified at the state house on and offered suggestions for an amendment on HB 563-FN which pertains to the fees for failing to register certain motor vehicles. Milford is losing between \$25,000 to \$50,000 in revenue yearly because of this. Right now the only way to enforce it is the Police have to stop the vehicle, look at where they are addressed, verify it and then they can give the person \$100 fine. All of these trailers being registered in Maine are still titled in NH because Maine can't title them because they don't have a Maine address. The state came up with a computer system can now identify those trailers that still hold a valid title in NH that are not registered in NH.

The proposal is to identify the trailers and send the owners a letter. They will be given 60 days to register them and if they don't, it's a \$10 per day per trailer fine. The DMV will also send out letters and Joan is putting together a list for them. People have come in to the Town Clerks office to ask why some local businesses are driving around with Maine plates on their trailers and if it's legal. Some major companies register their vehicles all the time and it isn't fair to others. She is also concerned about insurance. How are insurance companies insuring the trailers that are not registered in the state where they reside?

Selectman Putnam asked how many trailers in Milford are registered in Maine. Joan said there are about eight companies that have gone to Maine so about 25 to 30 trailers. So far, she has only looked at the bigger ones, she hasn't researched the under 3,000 lb. trailers yet.

Chairman Daniels asked under which statute does it say the title and trailer have to be registered in the same state. Joan said RSA 261:40. Chairman Daniels said in looking at the amendment, he doesn't see that it's going to do anything. Joan said RSA 269 says it must be registered where it's garaged. RSA 261:40 says you must be registered in the state where the trailer is garaged. Selectman Dargie said this amendment is just showing what is changing, there are other aspects to it with RSA 269 and RSA 261 that talk to that issue.

Selectman Labonte said Joan mentioned the trailers that never go into Maine, what about the trailers that are in Maine and throughout the states everywhere. Not every time is a trailer actually garaged anywhere. How do you determine which trailer is garaged here. You can come here for a day and leave. Joan said those trucks have apportioned plates on them for going all over and they are excluded. Selectman Labonte said you can have a trailer that is pulled by an inter-state or intrastate truck. Joan said another thing that was discussed is that the owner of the trailer can sign an affidavit explaining that and they will be exempt.

Selectman Labonte asked if it was a common practice to send letters to people if they don't register their cars. Joan said when you sell a vehicle it puts the title in a non-status. It's either transferred or destroyed. This is only about trailers.

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Selectman Putnam said he didn't register one of his trucks one year and he receive a visit from two State Police Officers who took the plates back and wanted to see evidence on why it wasn't registered. Joan said part of the bill is to also form a study to look into this further to work out all the issues.

Bob Labonte, Milford resident said the registrations in Maine don't have a fiction address. Joan said it has an address of the registering agent in Maine. If you have an office and a business in Maine it's fine. Bob said it's all fine and there is nothing illegal about this situation. You would be putting a burden on the Police Department if they have to stop every trailer that has a Maine plate. Joan said a list will be produced and the Police Department will work off that list of valid NH titles with out of state plates. Bob said you just said that the Police Department has the right to stop the vehicle. Joan said that is the law they are trying to amend. The only way to enforce it is to have the Police Department stop the vehicle. Bob said that would be impossible and it's like the dog ordinance Joan was trying to pass. Joan said both laws that Bob is talking about have been in existence for the past twenty five years.

Bob said it's totally legit to do this. Joan said it is not. Bob said he could get Oklahoma plates, run that truck here in NH and park it in Milford. Joan said if you have a business in Oklahoma or apportioned plates you can do that, it's legal. Bob said Maine and Oklahoma are known as trailer states. Joan said Maine and Oklahoma are stealing funds from all the other states by doing something that is not legal in NH.

5:40 p.m. – CIP Overview – Lincoln Daley

Lincoln presented an overview of the CIP and the top seven priority project listing and recommendations for the 2020 Town Warrant and Budget Consideration. There is a public hearing scheduled with the Planning Board on December 17th to receive public input and adopt this plan.

1. Nashua Street Sidewalk Improvements \$750,000 (Cash)

This project request is to support the construction approximately 3,500 linear feet of sidewalk along the southerly and northerly sides of Nashua Street from Medlyn Monument which will link with sidewalks constructed as part of the Richmond Plaza, East Ridge Apartments, Walgreen's, and Lorden Plaza developments.

An application was submitted in 2019 for the project to the NHDOT Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Program. This reimbursement program provides an 80% federal funding/20% local matching funds opportunity. The project was selected and has been awarded the federal funding. The project as presented to the Advisory Committee has a total estimated cost of \$750,050. The Town's 20% share equates to \$150,100.

2. Osgood/Armory/Melendy Roads Pedestrian and Bicycle Improvements – \$763,000 (Cash)

This project request is for approximately 4,000 linear feet of multi-purpose striped lanes, 5' asphalt sidewalk, and crosswalks to create a safe pedestrian and bicycle connection from the intersection of West Street and Osgood Road, along Osgood Road to Adams Field, Osgood Pond, and Hazel Adams Burns Park, Leisure Acre s mobile home park, and along Armory Road to its intersection with the Granite Town Rail-Trail. This location is heavily traveled by both motorized vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists and includes a walking route from a high-density mobile home park to the High and Middle Schools.

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Chairman Daniels clarified that the Town has to appropriate the full 100%. Lincoln said yes. The Town would be reimbursed upon or during completion of the project and the money would go back into the general fund.

3. Bridge Repair Upgrade Capital Reserve Account - \$75,000.

This is for the continued annual funding of the comprehensive 10 year Town wide Bridge Repair and Upgrade program developed in 2014 by Hoyle, Tanner Associates, Inc.

4. Caterpillar (or similar) Wheel Bucket Loader - \$145,000 (Cash)

This project request is enter into a five year lease agreement for a new Caterpillar (or similar) wheel bucket loader. This piece of equipment will replace a 2002 Caterpillar bucket loader that will be will be 23 years old at time of replacement in 2025. Its primary purpose will be for maintenance of Town roadways, particularly for winter maintenance and snow removal. The request is consistent with the Public Works Department vehicle replacement program.

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Administrator Bender said it will be 18 years old in 2020. And the replacement to 2020. Lincoln will fix the information.

5. Ambulance Purchase - \$296,392 (5 Year Lease)

This project request is for the replacement of the 2013-A (3A) ambulance as a front line ambulance. This replacement will permit the resumption of staggered replacement of the two 2013 ambulances versus purchasing two ambulances at one time in 2023, or sooner, as was done in 2013.

Selectman Dargie said the ambulance that is leaving is a 2001. The 2013 will go to a backup status but we are going to keep it. Administrator Bender said it's a replacement of a 2013 ambulance as a front line ambulance. Lincoln will get further clarification on this.

6. Milford Emergency Services Comm. Infrastructure - \$2,500,000 (20 Year Bond)

This project request is for the anticipated upgrades and/or replacement of Town emergency dispatch equipment and infrastructure. The committee understands that there will be a presentation on December 16th where the consultant will present their findings to this Board. It was ranked low due to minimal information.

7. Roads – Catch up Project - \$2,000,000 (10 Year Bond)

The Roads – Catch Up Project request is intended to address necessary Town road repairs and maintenance. A 2014 evaluation of the Town's entire roadway system by Cartegraph provided a road by road overall condition index (OCI) score based on both the classification of the road or street and its physical condition.

8. Addition & Renovation of Wadleigh Memorial Library - \$3,400,000 (20 Year Bond)

This project is the result of many years of planning, study, analysis, review of options, receipt of community input, land acquisition, and consensus building to develop a plan that the Wadleigh Library Board of Trustees feels meets the current needs of the community and anticipated evolution of library services into the future based on the Library's Strategic Plan. The Trustees have \$500,000 in contributions towards the total amount and they are also fund raising to reduce the overall total cost.

Lincoln said the remainder of the projects deal with Water and Sewer which has no tax impact on the Town. Administrator Bender asked what the total of those projects were. Lincoln said approximately \$6,000,000 and the Town's portion is about \$7,000,000.

Chairman Daniels clarified that the Water was \$6,000,000 but of that \$6,000,000 the town portion was \$7,000,000? Lincoln the Water Utilities Project total about \$6,000,000 the projects discussed total about \$7,000,000. Lincoln referred the Board to Page 27 of the report which has the estimated tax impact table over the years through 2025.

Lincoln said there is a place holder with the school system in 2021 for a \$5,000,000 bond for school maintenance. They will get more information next year.

Selectman Dargie asked if there was any discussion at the CIP of individual projects as to whether the group supported or not supported them. Lincoln said the most discussion was about the Ambulance and Milford Dispatch. All projects were reviewed extensively.

Selectman Labonte asked if they knew we just put a new motor in the ambulance. Lincoln said yes. If anyone has additional questions, they can e-mail him.

Chairman Daniels asked if the committee for 127 Elm Street every looked into partnering with other towns to have a regional center. Lincoln said that would be part of the feasibility study.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS.

Rodny Richie, Milford resident referred to the last meeting which indicated a surplus in the budget. He would like to know what was approved for expenditure and was not spent and what that value might be. Chairman Daniels said we would know later in December better what the surplus would be. Administrator Bender said the surplus is coming from multiple departments and he can't really look at it and say, it's one big item that's driving it. The Board didn't make any decisions about encumbering funds for any specific purchase at the last meeting. The numbers are being looked at on a weekly basis and will make a recommendation to the Board by December 23rd meeting as to the status of the surplus.

Rodny said we've had a couple of windfalls this year, one being a surplus from MACC Base and the Aid to Towns. He understands that those funds are not being included as far as surplus goes and he asked where they are being held.

Administrator Bender said the surplus from MACC Base went into the general fund and the Municipal Aid was accepted by the Board and used to reduce taxes. They didn't have any impact in the operating expense budget. Rodney clarified that it was to reduce taxes for 2020. Administrator Bender said it went into the calculation in the most recent tax bill for 2019. Rodney asked if the MACC Base surplus that went into the general fund considered revenue so that the taxes will go down. Administrator Bender said the Board can decide where to utilize funds from the general fund to reduce taxes as we go through the year. Administrator Bender said we are required by statute to maintain a certain percentage in the fund balance. We are well over the minimum and well under the maximum and pretty close to where we should be. The Board can look at the total amount in the fund when we close out the year and decide to allocate some for taxes.

4. DECISIONS.

a) **CONSENT CALENDAR.** Chairman Daniels asked if there were any items to be removed from the consent calendar. There were no items to be removed. **Selectmen Putnam made a motion to accept the consent calendar as presented. Selectman Dudziak seconded. All were in favor. The motion passed 5/0.**

1) Application for Milford Industrial Tax Exemption Program – RSA 72:81, Hitchiner Manufacturing Map 13 Lot 6, 594 Elm Street.

b) **OTHER DECISIONS. N/A**

5. TOWN STATUS REPORT –

a. **2020 DRAFT Warrant Articles** – Chairman Daniels said Selectman Dargie suggested having two votes for warrant articles, one for supporting the article and one for putting the article on the warrant. Traditionally the Board has only put warrant articles on that the Selectman supported. If we started taking positions early, that would leave enough time for someone to do a petition warrant article if they saw that the Board was not supporting something. Petition warrant articles must go on the warrants. Petition warrant articles are due the Thursday prior to the Budget and Bond Hearing. Selectman Dargie still supports having two votes. Most of the time they will be the same, but there could be situations where a majority of the Board would support having it on the warrant, but not support it. Chairman Daniels said we need to be cautious about what we are putting on for warrant articles. Selectman Putnam agrees. We don't get a big voter turnout so it isn't really being left to all the voters. There has been a lot of spending in the last three years.

Selectman Dargie made a motion to have two votes, one for supporting the warrant article and one for putting the article on the warrant. Seconded by Selectman Dudziak. The motion failed 2/3 with Chairman Daniels, Selectman Putnam and Selectman Labonte opposed.

Chairman Daniels made a motion to have only one vote to place only positive articles on the warrant. Seconded by Selectman Putnam. The motion passed 3/2 with Selectman Dargie and Selectman Dudziak opposed.

The Board will wait another week before taking a final position on the warrants. Warrants are still in draft format and changes are still being made.

WARRANT ARTICLE - LIBRARY BUILDING PROJECT - \$3,400,000 BOND

Kathy Parentis, Milford resident and Library Trustee Chair asked if they were going to talk about the library. Chairman Daniels said it's in here; he overlooked it when they were talking about Dispatch. Selectman Dargie said he hasn't seen anything on the library yet so he doesn't have an opinion one way or another. Kathy said everyone was invited to their open house, no one showed. The Library Trustees will be at the Board meeting on December 23rd to present an overview.

WARRANT ARTICLE - MILFORD DISPATCH EQUIPMENT - \$2,500,000 BOND

We will have more information on this after the December 16th meeting when CTA presents their Dispatch findings to the Milford Board of Selectmen.

WARRANT ARTICLE - RECONSTRUCTION OF TOWN ROADS - \$2,000,000 BOND

Selectman Dargie is not in favor of another road bond. It makes more sense to increase the amount of money in the budget each year and not borrow the money and pay interest. He would like to put a warrant article in as a regular allocation of \$400,000 for roads for 2020. That would give roughly \$700,000 for roads with what we already budgeted. We need to be spending roughly \$700,000 each year to do our roads.

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Selectman Putnam said he kind of agrees but asked if we could take a break from the roads for one year, come up with a plan and figure out where the \$700,000 is going in a year. Selectman Labonte feels we spend too much money in interest and we are still paying for the last road bond for a few more years, we need a very rigid plan.

Administrator Bender said Rick has been working on a plan and we plan to discuss it in detail on Wednesday. He spoke to Rick about the idea of taking one year off and taking more time to develop the plan. We have some roads that really need some work, like Amherst Street. There are some voids and potential issues that could be really costly. He wanted to get the Boards opinion on taking the time to develop a good plan. Infrastructure is very important and it needs to be done right.

We had three good years where we got more work done than originally presented and we would like to continue with that.

Selectman Dargie isn't in favor of taking a break and just doing the \$300,000. There is easily \$5,000,000 of road work needed. We do need to plan but we need to be spending the money on an on-going basis. Selectman Dudziak agrees and asked if this means you don't even want the bond for next year? Selectman Labonte asked if they could get from Rick, what are we going to do with the \$300,000 if that's all that's appropriated next year and what could we do for an additional \$400,000.

Selectman Putnam said Rick could figure what it would cost for Amherst Street and we could take that one project and fund that on top of the \$300,000. Selectman Labonte said other towns present a plan on what they want to do.

Chairman Daniels agrees we need a plan and to find out what it will cost. He's looking at how much can we put in here, (warrants) before we kill Dispatch. Selectman Labonte agrees but we still need information on what we need for roads. Chairman Daniels agrees with Selectman Dargie about the interest. He is also concerned about the debt the town is taking on. We still have some discussion here.

Administrator Bender said in adding \$400,000 to the paving, you are increasing the budget by another 2.5 percent. Administrator Bender will have Rick work up a plan for the budgeted \$300,000 and an additional \$400,000. The last time Rick did this, he presented a map that showed completed road work, and what was planned for the next year.

Selectman Putnam repeated that we need to target Amherst Street. Chairman Daniels asked if the plan would be ready for the next meeting and have Rick here. Administrator Bender said yes but the next meeting is going to be busy with Dispatch; he suggests having it by the 23rd. Selectman Dargie agreed. Administrator Bender said the concern with Amherst Street is that drainage will need to be repaired, it needs a major upgrade and there are a lot of unknowns.

WARRANT ARTICLE - NASHUA STREET PEDISTRIAN SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENT PROJECT - \$750,500 BOND (town's portion \$150,000)

Selectman Putnam said there is no urgency for this, a few more years isn't going to hurt. Selectman Labonte said he heard Lincoln say it could be done within the next three years. Selectman Dargie said we will lose the 80% funding if we don't put a warrant article in for these next year. Selectman Dudziak agreed. Selectman Putnam asked why they were needed. Selectman Dudziak said for safety. There was some discussion on what the project was going to be. Paul said it has to happen next year or we will lose the funding on both projects. Selectman Labonte said the voting has to happen the construction can happen in the next couple of years. Selectman Dargie said at 80% funding doesn't happen often. Chairman Daniels said you get the 80% but the 80% goes back into fund balance and sometimes you use it and sometimes you don't. People are going to get hit with \$1,500,000 worth of sidewalk projects that comes out of their taxes.

Selectman Dargie said the only thing that hits the taxes is the Towns portion of \$302,000. You have to appropriate the money, but in terms of taxes it isn't the entire \$1,500,000. Chairman Daniels asked how it's appropriated without hitting the taxes; you have to get it from the people. Selectman Dargie said appropriate means you have to get it from something, not necessarily the people. Paul said correct, it gets gross appropriated on one side going into our revenue and on the other side grants and revenues.

Chairman Daniels asked what gross appropriated means. Paul said we have to put the whole amount of the warrant article on even though we will only be withdrawing the portion that the town will pay. For the sidewalks we would have to appropriate \$750,000 but conversely on the revenue aspect we would add the 80% that the state affords us with the grant. Selectman Dargie said the sidewalks are a great deal.

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Selectman Putnam said you have to draw the line somewhere, it's all money. We need to set our priorities; we have a lot of debt now. Taxes for the town have gone up and just because we have a good deal from the state, you want to add another to their taxes just so we can put in a sidewalk that hasn't existed for years. It doesn't make sense.

Selectman Dargie said side- walks are very valuable. Selectman Putnam said we are adding maintaining and plowing to them as well.

WARRANT ARTICLE - OSGOOD ROAD, MELENDY ROAD, AND ARMORY ROAD SIDEWALK AND BICYCLE LANE PROJECT - \$763,000 BOND (towns portion \$152,600)

WARRANT ARTICLE - TOWN OPERATING BUDGET - \$15,465,695

Selectman Labonte asked if the default budget was correct on this warrant. Administrator Bender said no. Paul said it's now \$15,287,249. This is lower than the proposed budget by just under \$178,000. If the Board goes forward and authorizes the two Police vehicles and the Community Development vehicle, the default budget would be just under \$38,000 less than the proposed budget

Selectman Labonte said he feels that when you have a \$15.4 million dollar budget if the town was asked to take \$200,000 from the budget, where could they take it from? Selectman Dargie said that's an off the cuff kind of question. Selectman Labonte said he isn't looking for an answer tonight. Administrator Bender said they could take the \$140,000 from the Police vehicles and the Community Development vehicle, we still have the \$30,000 in there from the stewardship Conservation easement so there is \$170,000. He needs a vote from the Board on what to do with the budget.

Selectman Labonte said this is a proposed budget, it's what we want; it doesn't mean it's a need. Administrator Bender said we spent all day on a Saturday explaining what the needs are and we answered every question that came up. Chairman Daniels said he looks at the budget as, this was prepared by the Town Administrator and the Department Heads feeling what they needed. Ultimately it's up to the Board to decide if we feel it's too high and we wanted to lower it, his feeling is that they should all go through and come back with proposals on where we want to decrease. We can vote on whether to lower and get the direction from the Town Administrator who deals with the day to day operations as to where he feels we may be able to cut back.

Selectman Dargie said he went through the budget in great detail and he would like to have the Police vehicles and the Community Development vehicle brought into this thing. At the last meeting it was mentioned that there may be other items in the proposed budget that we may be able to purchase this year. He would be open to looking at those. He's ok with the budget as presented.

Selectman Labonte made a motion to see what we could take out if we lowered the budget by \$200,000. Chairman Daniels said he needed more clarification from Selectman Labonte. Selectman Labonte asked what is still the most efficient you could run the town with taking \$200,000 away from the proposed budget. Chairman Daniels said we can play the game either way. We can have the Town Administrator find the \$200,000 and we can say no, we don't want to cut that or we can find the \$200,000 and the Town Administrator may say maybe you really shouldn't cut that. He suggest that they all try to target \$200,000 except those who are satisfied with the amount and come to the next meeting to see what we can agree on.

Chairman Daniels asked Paul if when he looks at salaries and wages are the benefits included in the wages. Paul said no.

WARRANT ARTICLE - WATER DEPARTMENT OPERATING BUDGET - Did not have numbers yet. WARRANT ARTICLE - WASTEWATER DEPARTMENT OPERATING BUDGET – Did not have numbers yet.

WARRANT ARTICLE - AMBULANCE LEASE/PURCHASE - \$296,392 (Annual Payment \$45,180/Total Purchase Price (\$296,392))

Administrator Bender said we removed the line "withdraw \$75,000 from the Ambulance Capital Reserve account" because its covered on the next page. Staffs thoughts were to utilize \$75,000 from the Ambulance Capital Reserve Fund and bring the net purchase price down to \$221,392 and that's what the annual lease payments are based on.

Selectman Labonte asked if we have a firm price of what the ambulance is going to cost and what we are going to get for the 2001 trade in. Eric said bids are due back on December 30th. We have rough idea but there are three venders

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who's prices are within \$10,000 apart. We send out to eight vendors. One vendor indicated giving \$3,500 for the 2001 ambulance, but they haven't committed yet. Equipment numbers have come in and they are firm numbers.

Selectman Labonte asked if the trade amount for the ambulance can be added to the warrant article. He would like the same scenario with the loader's warrant article. Chairman Daniels said yes, it could be put in the warrant article or the BOS Minority/Majority report. Selectman Labonte would rather have it in the warrant article.

WARRANT ARTICLE - CATERPILLAR (OR SIMILAR) WHEEL BUCKET LOADER LEASE/PURCHASE - \$145,000 (Annual Payment - \$29,580/Total Purchase Price (\$145,000))

Administrator Bender said we did not build in capital reserve on this but he feels we should. Rick is getting final pricing on it but the \$145,000 is close. We have \$80,000 in the capital reserve account that we could use all or some of and the tax payers have already paid for this.

Selectman Labonte asked if it would make a difference if we use all the capital reserve and skip a contribution year.

Selectman Dargie said he would like to show that we are doing an annual payment on that. He would rather use what we have in the capital reserve account to lower the payment.

Selectman Labonte asked what is forecasted down the road for DPW. Administrator Bender said there is information in the CIP for a truck in 2021 and he doesn't remember beyond that. For tonight he will re-write the article reflecting the capital reserve. Chairman Daniels said it's important to use the capital reserve accounts, which is why we have them.

WARRANT ARTICLE - BRIDGE REPAIR AND/OR REPLACEMENT CAPITAL RESERVE - \$150,000

Administrator Bender is recommending we lower this to \$75,000 like last year. The only thing pending is the Hartshorn Bridge liner and the state has been moving slowly on bridges. We have over \$600,000 in the account now.

Selectman Dargie, jumping ahead to the last's warrant article, (auto registration fees), that can be used for bridges and other things. It's kind of a replacement for the bridge funds. It will generate roughly \$90,000 per year. He is also recommending that the blue bus be paid out of those funds. The blue bus is \$32,000. The remaining dollars can be used for roads or bridge related things. He would support \$75,000 this year.

Selectman Labonte asked what would the Mason Road bridge cost. Administrator Bender said it is a big ticket item and we want to use state funds for that. Selectman Labonte is okay with skipping a year on the bridge fund. After spending \$97,000 on it this year, he would like to think we would be just about there. Selectman Dargie this is risky, we could have a bridge wash out and have a big expenditure to replace it. He is in favor of continuing to put money in that fund.

Selectman Labonte asked if we have anything in the budget for larger culverts. Administrator Bender said if something happened and it fell into the in \$75,000 capital reserve limit the Board could fund it from that. Selectman Labonte said if you have \$60,000 worth of work that needs to be done you can't take it out of capital reserve. Chairman Daniels asked Administrator Bender for a list and status of the bridges in town, this may determine if we need to fund this again this year. Selectman Dargie said the state is slow in funding the 80% and something could happen where we would have to fund the whole amount.

Administrator Bender said the next bunch of warrant articles are capital reserve funds.

WARRANT ARTICLE - DPW VEHICLES AND HEAVY EQUIPMENT CAPITAL RESERVE - \$40,000

We are considering depleting this for the loader warrant article.

WARRANT ARTICLE - FIRE APPARATUS REPLACEMENT CAPITAL RESERVE - \$25,000

We have purchases coming up for Fire down the road.

WARRANT ARTICLE - TOWN FACILITIES RENOVATION AND MAJOR REPAIR REPLACEMENT CAPITAL RESERVE - \$25,000

WARRANT ARTICLE - AMBULANCE VEHICLE REPLACEMENT CAPITAL RESERVE - \$25,000

We will be depleting this for the ambulance warrant article.

WARRANT ARTICLE - KEYES PARK EXPANSION COMMITTEE PROJECT CAPITAL RESERVE - \$25,000

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We've had some expenditures from this account this year. This is a good working fund as we continue to work on 127 Elm Street.

WARRANT ARTICLE - PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT CAPITAL RESERVE - \$20,000

There are two warrant articles one to add to the capital reserve, the second one is to expend \$22,800 for some portable radio equipment identified at the Saturday meeting. He doesn't think we can put both under the same warrant article. We have pulled this out of the budget already. Selectman Labonte said the balance on this is \$80,300 dollars, if we are going to pull \$22,800 for equipment we would still have \$57,000 in there. What would be a recommended amount to keep in here if it's just for radios? Selectman Dargie said when it was setup originally it was estimated that they would need about \$400,000 worth of equipment. It's \$22,800 now but it might be more later. The \$400,000 is for all emergency services.

Selectman Labonte asked why do you still keep building a savings account out of tax payer's money. Selectman Dargie said that is the whole point of a capital reserve account. This has been funded since 2017. Administrator Bender said the first two years we funded \$30,000 each and then it was reduced to \$20,000. This is the first time we've drawn out of it.

Selectman Labonte asked if there was a way to look ahead at what needs to be replaced. Administrator Bender asked the fire department should be replacing more and he asked Chief Viola how many radios he replaces each year. Chief Viola said four on the portables this year and we are putting two consoles into the vehicles as of right now. The portables are going to start going due to wear and tear.

WARRANT ARTICLE - PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT CAPITAL RESERVE - \$

WARRANT ARTICLE - ASSESSING REVALUATION CAPITAL RESERVE - \$15,000

This is to fund the 5 year statutory re-valuation.

WARRANT ARTICLE - SOCIAL SERVICES - \$40,000

This was presented at the last meeting.

WARRANT ARTICLE - NON-EMERGENCY COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION BUS SERVICES – \$32,000

This is for the Blue Bus.

WARRANT ARTICLE - PUMPKIN FESTIVAL SUPPORT - \$23,000

Wade Campbell, Milford resident will give an overview to the Board on December 23rd.

WARRANT ARTICLE - CONSERVATION FUND - \$20,000

Selectman Putnam doesn't think we should do this warrant article this year. They have over \$120,000 in their account and over 1,100 acres. It's nice to have money in case something pops up, but we should be doing that across the board with a whole list of warrant articles. They can always put in a petition warrant article.

WARRANT ARTICLE - FUNDING OF THE ANNUAL LABOR DAY PARADE – \$10,000

Chairman Daniels asked what the balance was for the Labor Day parade. Tina said a little over \$12,000. There was discussion about putting it in for \$5,000. Selectman Labonte said the Labor Day committee is looking for ways to give back money but it's getting harder and harder to get donations for this because they use the same list as the pumpkin festival. They didn't want to have their warrant article reduced. If it's reduced to \$5,000 they could come back next year and ask for \$15,000. Chairman Daniels said they've never asked for more than \$10,000. Selectman Dargie said he would like to leave it at \$10,000 for another year. Selectman Dudziak said that asked to leave it at \$10,000. Chairman Daniels said that's also what they asked for last year, one more year at \$10,000.

WARRANT ARTICLE - SUMMER BAND CONCERTS - \$9,000

WARRANT ARTICLE - FIREWORKS - \$8,500

WARRANT ARTICLE - MEMORIAL, VETERANS & LABOR DAY PARADES AND RECOGNITION - TOWN SUPPORT - \$6,500

WARRANT ARTICLE - VETERAN'S TAX CREDIT AND ALL VETERAN'S TAX CREDIT

WARRANT ARTICLE - TAX CREDIT FOR SURVIVING SPOUSE OF VETERAN

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WARRANT ARTICLE – TAX CREDIT FOR SERVICE CONNECTED TOTAL DISABILITY

WARRANT ARTICLE - ADJUSTMENT TO EXEMPTION AMOUNT FOR ELDERLY EXEMPTION - \$0

WARRANT ARTICLE – WEST MILFORD TAX INCREMENT FINANCING DISTRICT REVOCATION - \$0

Selectman Labonte asked why we are taking this away. Administrator Bender said if we the solar project there won't be a need. The TIFF district has been inactive for many years. Selectman Labonte said even with doing solar, he thought we were still going to retain ninety acres and may have an opportunity to do something with it. Administrator Bender said we would have to re-write for that and re-activate the board. Selectman Dargie said it's never worked and it's never going to work so we should just eliminate it.

WARRANT ARTICLE – BROX PROPERTIES PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT FUND REVOCATION - \$0

This has no balance associated with it.

WARRANT ARTICLE - ADDITIONAL AUTO REGISTRATION FEE

Chairman Daniels asked if we can start filling in the tax impact information on the warrant articles. Paul said he will have them for the next meeting.

Selectman Dargie said this warrant article relates to RSA 261:153 V1, this allows any town to vote and add anywhere from .50 to \$5 to auto registrations. He's recommending the \$5. This should generate in \$90,000 in revenue and it can be used offset existing expenses. It's moving cost from property tax payers to auto owners. We could fund the Blue Bus which is \$32,000 which would eliminate that warrant article. The remaining monies can be used towards bridge repairs. This article copies everything from the RSA and is as flexible as possible. We could also use the money towards a parking facility in the future. This goes into effect as of May 1, 2020.

Selectman Putnam clarified that he wants to take something that's utilized by everyone in town, bridges, etc., and you're taking the tax that's spread out among everyone that uses it and putting it into vehicle owners. Selectman Dargie said yes. Selectman Putnam said it doesn't sound right. You're putting a burden on something that benefits the entire town onto one specific group of vehicle owners. People who have multiple vehicles will pay even more.

Selectman Labonte asked if trailers were included. Selectman Dargie said yes but motorcycles, ATV's and antique cars are excluded. Selectman Labonte agrees with Selectman Putnam.

Rodny Richie asked why we need this, with bridges and roads included in it when we already have capital reserve accounts that cover all of this, including a current road bond and another one being considered. He sees the blue bus more as a social service support situation than transportation. There are some good ideas in the RSA but it's a regressive tax no matter what the age of the vehicle. The property tax, to some degree, is on the basis of the value of the house. He's also concerned about the projects and how you would determine where they came from and who was managing them. Most of the current capital reserve accounts are by specific departments. This would have a broad situation and he isn't sure who would manage it. Selectman Dargie said the authorization to spend would be on the Board of Selectmen, they may give the management of it to the Town Administrator.

Bob Labonte asked where registration money goes now. Selectman Dargie said it goes into the general fund. Bob said that helps all of the people, what you are proposing won't help all of the people. Selectman Dargie said it does indirectly where the property taxes will be lowered by the amount that goes into this fund. Bob said now your targeting specific people. Selectman Dargie said owning a vehicle is pretty common.

Chairman Daniels said he isn't sure of Selectman Dargie's statement of property taxes being lowered because of this. If he has three vehicles he will pay \$15 more but he doubts his property taxes will decrease by \$15. Property taxes are the same people that you are taxing for the auto registrations. Selectman Dargie said assuming we get \$90,000, it's 5.6 cents on the tax rate so about \$12 on a \$200,000 home. Selectman Labonte said he has seven vehicles so he gets penalized. Selectman Dargie said other people have zero.

Selectman Putnam said that is a permanent tax, something that will never go away. If we tax for roads and bridges, it's a ten year bond and ends in ten years. Selectman Dargie said we spend well over \$90,000 a year on roads, bridges and the Blue Bus. Selectman Putnam said you are still penalizing vehicle owners. Selectman Dargie said if you don't own vehicles you make out well and if you own many vehicles, you lose on the deal. The typical person has two vehicles in the household so it's \$10. For most people it's a wash and is just spent a different way. If someone doesn't own vehi-

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cles, they make out with this. In New Hampshire, we rely on the property taxes too much. This is a way to find something else to generate revenue.

Karen Blow, Milford resident asked why motorcycles, ATV's and antique cars are excluded. Selectman Dargie said he doesn't know the rationale; it's what the law says. Chairman Daniels said one benefit of the way it's done now is there are designated accounts where things are going into. With this warrant article, it's being left up to the Board as to how it's going to go and it doesn't necessarily have to go to bridge repair, it can go for a number of things. If he has to pay taxes it's nice to know where the money is going and what I expect to see for it.

Administrator Bender said that Selectman Dargie mentioned that this was generically written based on the statute. We can modify that part of it to be more specific. Selectman Dargie said he wanted to leave it open so, didn't want to tie the hands of people ten years from now. It can also be used for matching funds for sidewalks as well. Selectman Putnam said he doesn't agree with this or support it.

6. DISCUSSIONS: N/A

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

8. SELECTMEN'S REPORTS/DISCUSSIONS.

a. FROM PROJECTS, SPECIAL BOARDS, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES.

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

9. APPROVAL OF FINAL MINUTES. Selectman Putnam moved to approve the minutes of November 25, 2019 as presented. Seconded by Selectman Dargie. All were in favor. The motion passed 5/0.

10. INFORMATION ITEMS REQUIRING NO DECISIONS.

11. NOTICES.

Notices were read.

12. NON-PUBLIC SESSION.

13. ADJOURNMENT: Selectman Putnam moved to adjourn at **6:20**. Selectman Dudziak seconded. All were in favor. The motion passed 5/0.

Gary Daniels, Chairman

Laura Dudziak, Member

Paul Dargie, Vice Chairman

Chris Labonte, Member

Mike Putnam, Member