

APPROVED
MINUTES OF THE MILFORD BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
November 14, 2022

PRESENT: Paul Dargie, Member Mark Bender, Town Administrator
Tim Finan, Member Tina Philbrick, Executive Assistant
Gary Daniels, Member Andy Kouropoulos, Videographer
Laura Dudziak, Member
Dave Freel, Member

1. CALL TO ORDER, BOARD OF SELECTMEN INTRODUCTIONS & PUBLIC SPEAKING INSTRUCTIONS:
Chairman Dargie called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m., introduced Board members, and then led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. APPOINTMENTS – (Approximate times)

5:30 p.m. - Fireworks Warrant Article (verbal) - Recreation Director, Arene Berry

Ms. Berry received a quote from Pyrotecnico for \$14,000. The Board requested to keep the display as close to July 4th as possible. They can provide a fireworks display on July 1st. There are two companies that can provide displays earlier in June. One of those companies will not quote the number of shells. Chairman Dargie would like to go with the \$14,000. Administrator Bender said if you want the date to be close to Independence Day, this would be the only option. Ms. Berry would be looking to add many activities to that day to have it become a full day of activities. Chairman Dargie asked Ms. Berry to change the warrant article to \$14,000.

5:40 p.m. - Update Vietnam Memorial – Gerry Guthrie

Mr. Guthrie presented the Board with an update on the Vietnam Memorial. To date, they have raised over \$40,000 with more coming. They continue to fundraise by selling bricks and t-shirts. They want to complete the project by the end of 2025. The Public Works Director has been helping locate granite materials. The town will be supplying gravel and mulch eventually. They will need benches. They need steel for their 911 Memorial.

The park where the Vietnam memorial will be placed is currently called the World War II Memorial, they would like to change the name to just the “Memorial Park” so it encompasses all Memorials.

They need help with the names that will be placed on the wall. They are trying to get the name of those people who went to Vietnam, not those who just signed up. They are looking for Town people that can help.

Selectman Daniels mentioned that there may be steel left over from the Green Bridge that was removed and there should be granite found around town.

Chairman Dargie said it will be hard to find names he feels it would be better to not make it just people who went to Vietnam. It doesn't seem fair to have some names and not others.

Chairman Dargie suggests not deciding on changing the name of the park right now. Administrator Bender will do more research to see if it can be done. There was additional discussion about the land at the WWII Memorial.

6:00 p.m. - Clarification of rules for the Re-Adoption of the All Veteran's Tax Credit – Assessing Director, Marti Noel

Ms. Noel presented the Board with better clarification for the Veterans warrant article. Legislation has required that the Veterans Tax Credit is extended to individuals who have not yet been discharged from the Military. The language is confusing. She feels that they should propose re-adopting the Veterans and All Veterans Tax Credit so that we can at least maintain the level that we are currently giving to our Veterans. Ms. Noel discussed her interpretation. The wording on the warrant articles meets the eligibility of the RSA.

6:15 p.m. - 1st Public Hearing to Update the Current Stormwater Ordinance, Chapter 5.32 - Community Development Director, Lincoln Daley and Mike

Chairman Dargie opened the public hearing:

In summary: The Board Members during the previous public hearing process requested that a work session / public meeting be held to discuss and vet the technical details of the ordinance and respond to questions from the public. The Board of Selectmen held the work session / public meeting on October 19, 2022. The proposed amended version incorporates the comments and recommendations generated from the meeting. Mr. Daley presented the updated version of the ordinance reflects this collaborative and constructive public effort. The documents can also be found on the town's website.

APPROVED MINUTES OF BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING – 11/14/2022

Ms. Katherine Kokko, a Milford resident, said the work session was productive. She suggested a change to the agriculture section of the ordinance. She provided information about the best management practices and examples. She is concerned that the ordinance implies that best management practices need to be used across the board and they are not always required. She is suggesting that instead of using the word “established” change it to “required”. Mr. Daley said Ms. Kokko is referring to page 3 under F, 3 a. Things that are exempt from the ordinance, and it includes agricultural and forestry practices. Using either word refers you back to the guidelines and it doesn’t make much of a difference. Neither word changes the meaning.

Selectman Daniels asked if there were times when best management practices are not required but are encouraged. Mr. Daley said through timber cutting, some are not required but are suggested. It references the same document that the state puts out. Ms. Kokko provided an example from several weeks ago regarding a hayfield and a silt fence. She didn’t think the fence would be a requirement. It may be best practice but not a required best practice. Mr. Daley agreed.

Chairman Dargie doesn’t have a problem having requirements in the ordinance that are more restrictive than the minimum state standards if they make sense. Selectman Finan said established may be a better word because it includes things that might be not required but strongly encouraged. Selectman Dudziak agreed and feels that it doesn’t need to be changed.

Ms. Kokko said it is going to put potential additional requirements on people beyond what is required at the state level.

Chairman Dargie closed the public hearing. There will be a second public hearing on Monday, November 28, 2022.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS (regarding items that are not on the agenda)

Joan Dargie, Town Clerk, said there has been a discussion about closing the Town Hall Offices on Fridays and her department is interested in this. It could potentially save on heat and electricity. They would open from 7 until 5 and keep the Tuesday hours longer as they do now. It would require lots of notifications. It would save on part-time personnel. She just wanted the Board to know that it's being looked at. She would prefer to do it along with all the other departments in the town hall.

Administrator Bender said there was some discussion about cost-saving ideas and one was consideration about a 4-day work week. It's just in the discussion stage. Before implementing anything there will be more discussion and public input. There are many advantages to our customers/taxpayers in opening up an hour earlier and staying later. The Town Clerk sets her hours.

Selectman Freel said inspections may be impacted with a 4-day work week; it’s something to think about. Selectman Daniels said the Transfer Station also needs consideration. Administrator Bender said the intent was for the Town Hall only. It could also affect Public Works part way through the year. We are still discussing it and we are a ways away from presenting this to the Board.

Mike Thornton, Milford Energy Advisory Committee, said his group met with two power companies. He suggests a meeting with the Board on November 28th with Standard Power to be presented as a warrant article for March. If we don’t move aggressively we will miss at least a year. The warrant article will be to approve the plan. Selectman Freel is for moving forward with this.

Administrator Bender said it's an aggressive schedule and can be done. Chairman Dargie said he supports this but we should set it up so that if we want to we can go somewhere else. Mr. Thornton said it would be a two-year commitment. There was additional discussion about both power companies.

4. DECISIONS

1. Acceptance and Appropriation of Unanticipated Revenues Under \$10,000 (31:95(b)) Donations towards food for the Annual Fire Wardens Meeting – Cash donation - \$160.00

2. Approval of 2022 Property Tax Warrant

Selectman Daniels made a motion to approve the consent calendar. Seconded by Selectman Freel. All were in favor. The motion passed 5/0.

b. OTHER DECISIONS

APPROVED MINUTES OF BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING – 11/14/2022

N/A

5. TOWN STATUS REPORT –

1. **MACC Base Budget Increase** – Captain Craig Frye

Captain Frye said they had one change which increased the rate from 3.85 to 3.97 which is about a \$992 increase to the Director's pay. He suggests moving forward with the change. They would need an email from the Selectmen saying that they don't have a problem with the change and they approved the change. The IMA was also signed by all three towns for 5 years.

2. **Election Update**

The midterm election last week went well. Voter turnout was over 65%. We had 444 new voters. The election workers did a great job and the results were posted quickly.

3. **Joint BAC/BOS Saturday Meeting, November 12, 2022**

The Budget Advisory Committee, Selectmen, and Departments Heads met on Saturday to discuss budgets and we are working through the comments now.

4. **2023 Warrant Articles**

We will work on the language of the individual articles over the next 2 to 4 weeks. Chairman Dargie asked to include the Standard Power Warrant Article.

Chairman Dargie said the Bandstand Warrant Article will be around \$60,000 after fundraising. Ironwood Restoration was hired to assess the Bandstand.

Ms. Kokko offered additional information about Ironwood Restoration. They don't recommend changing the foundation. Chairman Dargie said they were presented with a historically accurate preservation of what should be done. Selectman Freel suggests continuing to fundraise until they get to what they need instead of doing a warrant article.

Selectman Finan said that the Town Moderator and Town Clerk asked him to be a quasi-representative for a trial of new voting machines.

6. **DISCUSSIONS**

1. **N/A**

7. **PUBLIC COMMENTS. (Regarding items that are not on the agenda)**

8. **SELECTMEN'S REPORTS/DISCUSSIONS**

a) **FROM PROJECTS, SPECIAL BOARDS, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES**

Selectman Finan said the master plan outreach survey has been started and it's on the town's website.

There was some discussion about what the High School was looking to do for upgrades starting in 2024.

Selectman Freel asked if we were close to getting the AoT permit for the BROX property. Administrator Bender said we are close to filing something.

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

9. APPROVAL OF FINAL MINUTES - Selectman Daniels moved to approve the minutes of October 24, 2022. Seconded by Selectman Dudziak. All were in favor. The motion passed 5/0.

10. **INFORMATION ITEMS REQUIRING NO DECISIONS.**

a. **N/A**

11. **NOTICES.** Notices were read.

APPROVED MINUTES OF BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING – 11/14/2022

12. NON-PUBLIC SESSION – Selectman Daniels made a motion to go into non-public in accordance with NH (RSA 91-A:3, II(c)) Reputation and approval of non-public minutes. Seconded by Selectman Finan. All were in favor. The motion passed 5/0.

Selectman Daniels made a motion to exit non-public. Selectman by Selectman Dudziak. All were in favor. The motion passed 5/0.

The Board was informed at the start of the non-public meeting that the scheduled attendee was unable to attend. In writing up the minutes Tina Philbrick, executive Assistant to the Board realized that the agenda stated that the Board would be approving minutes from October 10, 2022. That date was incorrect, the Board approved non-public minutes from October 24, 2022, and did not seal the minutes.

In nonpublic, the Board made one decision.

13. ADJOURNMENT: Selectman Freel moved to adjourn at 7:10. Seconded by Selectman Freel. All were in favor. The motion passed 5/0.

Paul Dargie, Chairman

Laura Dudziak, Member

Tim Finan, Vice-Chairman

Dave Freel, Member

Gary Daniels, Member