

APPROVED  
MINUTES OF THE MILFORD BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING  
August 19, 2019

**PRESENT:** Gary Daniels, Chairman Mark Bender, Town Administrator  
Paul Dargie, Vice Chairman Tina Philbrick, Recording Secretary  
Mike Putnam, Member Alex Berry and Hazen Soucy, Videographer  
Laura Dudziak, Member - excused  
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)**

**5:30 p.m. – Light of the World Christian Church Request for Waiver of Ordinance 7.16.070 – Cheryl Stuart-Vail**

Light of the World Church Milford would like to reserve an area near the pavilion at Keyes Field for an event starting Thursday October 17, 2019 – Saturday October 19. This even includes setting up a small tent 10 X 20 near the pavilion and hosting multiple church musicians and prayer leaders for the 56 continuous hours between 9 pm October 17 – 9 pm Oct 19. This event in is conjunction with a nationwide annual event called Tent America. Each of our 50 states will host multiple town, state and college tents across America for continuous prayer and worship over that weekend.

The following are details regarding the event and what to expect during the event. If there are session blocks that cannot be covered during the 56 hour period, the only thing to remain at the tent will be the tent and the chairs until the next session/block can be filled. The waiver is being requested because the parks close at 10 pm.

Chairman Daniels expressed concern about chairs being left unattended if they didn't have sessions covered the entire 56 hours. Selectman Putnam made a motion to approve the waiver of Ordinance 7.16.070 for Light of the World Christian Church. Seconded by Selectman Dargie. All were in favor. The motion passed 4/0.

**5:40 p.m. – New Hampshire Addiction Recovery Coalition – Bradford Volz**

Bradford gave a brief overview of the program. ARC was founded by a group of concerned NH citizens with a desire to empower communities with new recovery options for those who are willing. Their goal is to help the addict help themselves as they create a plan for life-long recovery. They've helped more than 20 men over the past three years live clean and sober lives. They can no longer operate in Hancock due to major repairs needed to that rental property. Their goal is keeping individuals sober and active, out of jail, safe and off government aid. They are looking for locations and funding to continue. They have also taken in Veterans Recover to provide additional support to Veterans. They are also part of CAST in Milford. They are looking for town and community involvement.

Chairman Daniels asked what he was looking for from this Board, is it affirmation that this is a project that we would like to see in our community? Bradford said yes. If they do find a location, he plans to sit with the Police and Fire Chiefs to keep them informed. The state of New Hampshire has no guidance on how to operate a recovery residence. This has been formed under the National Recovery Alliance and we follow their rules.

Selectman Dargie said he's in a subcommittee at the state house and they are looking at sober living house to change the fire codes for them. They may possibly not require sprinkler systems so they can be used for a sober living house; they are working with the state Fire Marshall on this. Bradford has been in contact with the state Fire Marshall.

Chairman Daniels said when they get to the point that they are looking at locations, they would need to connect with Lincoln Daley, the town's Community Development Director for assistance. Bradford said he's spoken with Lincoln and the town's Welfare Department. Chairman Daniels applauds the program and if the Board can help, please let him know.

Monica Gallant, Director for Community Action for Safe Teens, (CAST) a youth substance prevention coalition in Milford. They support this project and know that there is a great need for people struggling with this disorder.

**5:55 p.m. – Heart for God Ministries, Gospel on the Oval – Linda Catano**

In summary, Heart for God Ministries is a small Christian ministry that is quite involved in the proclamation of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. They are embedded in the different communities of the state, working along with other churches including abroad to help educate, invite and support the lost. They would like to bring the message of Gospel at the Oval. There will be 3 to 4 of our members of our organization on the day of the event. They will be offering prayers and providing literature to those who may request it. They will make use of a voice amplifier. The estimated

## APPROVED MINUTES OF BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING – 8/19/2019

time for our message will be for a couple of hours from 12pm to 2pm. They will not be selling any literature, foods or beverages. They would like to hang a couple of banners up. They have done this locally in some surrounding parks. They will contact the Police Department to let them know they are there and have a reservation. They are looking at two days, September 7<sup>th</sup> and September 14<sup>th</sup>. Chairman Daniels thanked her for coming in and suggested that she coordinate with Tina Philbrick for the Oval reservation.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENTS.** - Kathy Parenti, Library Trustee, gave the Board a brief overview of the Library Renovations project. The proposal is focused on much needed renovations with a small expansion. Its focus is on roof repairs, energy efficient windows, improvement to the circulation and children's area as well as additional meeting space. Exterior work will include a welcoming entry and additional handicap spaces. Not included in the renovations is asbestos removal, the purchase of moveable shelving and other small projects. Milestone will manage the construction. SMP was selected as architects for the project. Their goal is to not exceed a \$3,000,000 cap with half raised by fundraising. There will be a work session tomorrow in the Library Keyes meeting room at 6:00.

Rodny Richie, Milford resident asked if they could have updates on the Solar Farm Lease, Osgood Pond Dredging and the final report on what was bonded and expended for the Fire Station Expansion. Administrator Bender will have this for the next Board meeting on September 9<sup>th</sup>.

### 4. DECISIONS.

**a) CONSENT CALENDAR.** Chairman Daniels asked if there were any items to be removed from the consent calendar. Selectman Labonte requested that 4. a) 4) be removed for discussion. Selectmen Putnam made a motion to accept 4. a) 1, 2, 3 and 5. on the consent calendar. Selectman Dargie seconded. All were in favor. The motion passed 4/0.

- 1) Request Approval to change Kierstyn Williamson from an Alternate to a Full Member of the Recreation Commission. Term shall remain the same.
- 2) Request for Acceptance and Appropriation of Unanticipated Revenues under \$10,000 (31:95(b)) Labor Day Parade Donations.
  - \$500.00 - Cardoza Flooring
  - \$ 50.00 - Milford Market LLC
  - \$ 50.00 – Haywards Trading Post
- 3) Request for Acceptance and Appropriation of Gifts of Property under \$5,000 (31:95(e))
  - \$50 desk donated to Community Development from Paul Amato.
- 4) Request Approval of Two (2) Notice of Intent to Excavate Map 42 Lot 1 and Map 38 Lot 58
- 5) Request Approval of Escrow Reduction – Steve Desmarais Construction Inc.

Selectman Labonte asked for clarification on PA-38 Notice of Intent to Excavate form. It list out from April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020, is there a time typically when these are filled out? The directions say it's to be filled out before it's dug. Administrator Bender said before and every year after, it's an annual filing. It probably should have been in earlier but the operator was late and the Board should accept it.

Selectmen Putnam made a motion to accept 4. a) 4. Selectman Dargie seconded. All were in favor. The motion passed 4/0.

### b) OTHER DECISIONS.

- 1) N/A

### 5. TOWN STATUS REPORT – Administrator Bender

a. Hartshorn Lower Bridge Update – Lincoln Daley gave an overview:

On June 27, 2019, Town Staff conducted a public meeting with the property owners impacted by the closure of the bridge. All affected property owners were notified in advance of the public meeting/input session. A total of 8 property owners were in attendance. The following represents a summary of the meeting highlighting the concerns raised, alternatives discussed, and recommendations for consideration by the Board of Selectmen.

#### CONCERNS RAISED BY PROPERTY OWNERS:

The property owners in attendance reiterated a number of concerns that currently impact their properties and under the scenario that the subject bridge was discontinued.

## APPROVED MINUTES OF BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING – 8/19/2019

### Current Conditions:

- Current pavement and road conditions of Hartshorn Mill Road are less than satisfactory and require maintenance/replacement.
- Increased vandalism to properties on Hartshorn Mill Road in proximity to the subject bridge.
- Increased disposal of trash and debris on Hartshorn Mill Road in proximity to the subject bridge.

### Potential Bridge Closure:

- Impacts and limits access to the properties on Hartshorn Mill Road.
- Impacts emergency services by limiting access and to safely maneuver/turnaround.
- Electrical services may be impacted due to the location and access to the utilities on Hartshorn Mill Road and Route 13.

### HARTSHORN BRIDGE ALTERNATIVES:

Property owners stated they preferred that the Town not discontinue the bridge and to keep the Hartshorn Mill Road open as a public road. Owners further questioned the estimated \$500,000 cost to replace the bridge and sought potential less expensive alternatives and updated estimates for further investigation by the Town.

After consideration and discussion of the three alternatives, the property owners are recommending the following:

- Hartshorn Mill Road to remain a public way and replace the Hartshorn Bridge. Privatization of the public road was not considered a viable option.
- Alternatives 1 and 2 detailed in the December 5, 2018 memorandum were supported to extend the life of the bridge, but not viewed as a long-term solution.
- Prefer a long-term solution to improve the structural integrity and life of the Hartshorn Bridge
  - o Acquire cost estimates to engineer and construct a one lane bridge to replace the current two- lane bridge.
  - o Willingness to develop a public/private partnership involving the evaluation and cost estimate for a new bridge.
- Possible funding for the bridge from the Bridge Capital Reserve account or item included in capital improvements program.

### PROJECTED COST ESTIMATES: Based on a December 5, 2018 meeting

#### Alternative 1 - Reduction of Bridge to One Lane (Short Term Solution).

- Total Estimated Cost: \$10,000 - \$15,000
- The project would include the installation of guard rails (\$9,000) and additional signage (TBD).
- The lane reduction would be completed by the Town (Cost TBD) and not require the assistance of a structural engineer.
- Alternative would not improve the structural integrity of the bridge.

#### Alternative 2 - Construct Bridge Overlay (Longer-Term Solution).

- Total Estimate Cost: \$35,000 - \$40,000.
- The project would include the installation of guard rails (\$9,000), four 40' foot steel I beams (\$3,000), two 12'x15' steel plates (\$8,000) placed on over/on top of the 18' span of the existing bridge.
- The project would require a licensed structural engineer to design/stamp the bridge improvements at an estimated cost of \$5,000.
- Construction costs completed by the Town at an estimated cost of \$10,000.
- Alternative may improve the structural integrity of the bridge and potentially extend the life of the bridge (TBD).

#### Alternative 3 - Privatization of Hartshorn Mill Road.

- The property owners seek to privatize the roadway which would include the bridge.
- The property owners would assume all liability, enforcement, year-round maintenance, and repair of the private road and bridge.
- The privatization of the Hartshorn Mill Road would require the creation of a home owner association and legal instrument codifying the responsibilities and financial obligations for the property owners.

The property owners prefer the road remain open, the bridge be replaced and converted to one lane which will reduce the weight on the bridge.

Chairman Daniels asked about the cost to replace the bridge. Administrator Bender said the last estimate was around \$500,000. Selectman Dargie said it would be slightly less for one lane. Lincoln said the estimate may need to be revised to reflect a current cost. Selectman Dargie is not in favor of spending \$400,000 to replace the bridge. If we could do it for \$200,000 he would go for that. He likes alternative 2 for \$40,000. It could extend the life of the bridge for two or three decades.

## APPROVED MINUTES OF BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING – 8/19/2019

Selectman Labonte asked if we ever considered getting current prices on the bridge. The \$40,000 number could have changed from eight months ago. Selectman Dargie said its straight forward; if it changed it wouldn't be by a lot. Chairman Daniels asked if they were looking for a decision from the Board tonight. Lincoln said when they discussed the three alternatives last December, it was meant to be an action item on town warrant. To discontinue a roadway requires a town vote. The Board asked him to propose alternatives.

Chairman Daniels asked if it would take a town vote to do alternative two or could we take the money out of the budget. Selectman Putnam asked if we have the money in the Bridge Capital Repair Account. Administrator Bender said yes, but we set a limit of \$75,000 in that account and Alternative 2 would fall under that. We could do it as a regular Public Works project or we could put it in the budget for 2020. If you are interested in pursuing alternative two, he would have Rick run it by DOT to see if they would accept that as a temporary but longer term solution. We could also talk to DOT on alternative one. We could get a price on replacing it but it would involve engineers and the threat there includes the dam up stream. We could also do nothing and see what the state does.

Selectman Labonte said he agrees with checking with DOT first. Chairman Daniels agreed. Administrator Bender said they would pursue alternative one and two and get some feedback from DOT. Lincoln said the residents are willing to participate in the process and contribute survey work and do an analysis of the current structure and possible cost. Chairman Daniels asked if any of them were a structural engineer. Lincoln said there is a survey engineer. Mike Carter, resident of Hartshorn Road said his driveway ends right across from the bridge. He's a licensed surveyor. If the bridge is renovated or we repair it, if the cost is more reasonable he would agree to provide the survey and arrange the wetland delineation so they could go to an engineering firm and have them evaluate what a real cost might be. He suspects that the \$500,000 estimate was a ball park typical for bridges.

Chairman Daniels said they told us that the green bridge would be \$500,000 to study and remove and we took it down for \$125,000. Selectman Dargie asked for a guess what it would cost us for Mike to donate his services and hire a company to engineer the bridge to get a good number. Lincoln said they guesstimate about \$5,000 to get an engineer to design and stamp a plan for the overlay for the bridge for alternative number two. Selectman Dargie was talking about replacing the bridge. Administrator Bender said it would be quite a bit more. Mike said the survey would provide information for alternate two or an outright replacement. The steel beams would last a long time, but he and several others would like to find out a real number to replace the bridge. It's a piece of town infrastructure that's been on the red list for thirty years and until very recently it was only one of two bridges on the state's red list both of which are on his road. More recently the state added a third bridge but the point is, there aren't many of them. He doesn't like the idea of closing it because it's expensive and not many people use it. We've known for a long time that it needs to be repaired. Us doing a survey will give us a better plan for which alternative or if a full replacement is needed.

Selectman Dargie said he would like to get a cost for doing a full replacement but doesn't want to spend \$75,000 to engineer it to find out that it's going to be \$400,000. If we could do it for a modest amount of money he would be in favor of getting a good number.

Bob Labonte, Milford resident agrees with Selectman Dargie. There would be a weight restriction. He would rather a school bus not have to go around and do a U-turn on route 13; he would like to make it so a school bus could go over it. Chairman Daniels said the safer the better.

**b. Eversource 314 Line** – Eversource has started work replacing the structures. They spoke to school representatives, conservation and other stake holders prior to starting the work. They've gone out of their way in taking appropriate measures to protect the environment and the species that we know are out there. Work is being monitored closely and work should be completed prior to the start of school.

**c. 2020 Budget & Warrant Articles** - As discussed last meeting, Finance Director Paul Calabria and I would like the Board's guidance for the 2020 Operating Budget and specific Warrant Articles. Selectman Dargie would like more money put into the paving budget and not doing bonds. \$300,000 is in the paving budget and we've put another \$600,000 in the last three years. We do work every year and he would like to bump up to another \$400,000 per year. Selectman Putnam said we should bump it up a little higher and once we look at the budget we can adjust it. Start high and work it down. Selectman Dargie said he would like to have a number that maintains our roads over the horizon, \$300,000 doesn't do that.

Selectman Labonte said he isn't opposed to upping the budget, he asked if they would be upping the paving budget or the road work budget. Do you typically do drainage out of paving budget? What does the paving budget cover? Se-

## APPROVED MINUTES OF BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING – 8/19/2019

lectman Dargie said it's road work in general; drainage and paving are a combined thing and are usually done together. Selectman Labonte said you can take out two line items on a budget. He understands we got a piece of equipment and a dump truck out of it, but we forego over \$300,000 in paving last year because we chose to buy equipment with the SB 38 money. Selectman Dargie said we still spent \$900,000 on paving. Selectman Labonte said we have to keep our priority on where we are going as far as equipment replacement and road maintenance.

Chairman Daniels said, what are our priorities were, in general. Selectman Labonte said communication has to be first. Selectman Putnam said we have to be careful because we are paying on a lot of stuff right now. We don't want to keep adding to that and get to the point where we can't afford anything. Chairman Daniels asked what our debt retirement was. Paul said he would get the numbers.

Administrator Bender said we should think about adding more in the paving budget, every \$140,000 adds a percentage point. He strongly feels we should maintain the infrastructure. In paving, we are in control, we've done more roads than we anticipated but we have a lot of miles to do. Selectman Dargie said he would be open to having a warrant article for increased paving but not a bond article. It's important that we maintain our roads and not go back to the \$300,000 a year. Selectman Labonte said Amherst has an elaborate scale on where they are with their roads, can Milford mirror that. Their original bond was \$15,000,000. Educating the voters is the way to go. Administrator Bender said we have a more sophisticated system than they have in Amherst. We used Cartegraph and went out and tested all of our roads and came out with an OCI (overall condition index) for every road and every segment of road. It's a ton of information. Amherst uses basically a stop light; roads are either green (good), or yellow (ok) or red (poor). Selectman Labonte said they also broke it down into what it cost in the sections that they did. That helps moving forward in similar situations. Chairman Daniels said we have a road plan that projects what we are doing in the next year, subject to change depending on the winter.

Rodny Richie asked if the town would need another TAN next year. It cost us unanticipated cost of \$20,000. Why were bonds unfunded and why did we need it. Administrator Bender said there likely won't be a need this year; our cash flow is in good shape with the revenue coming in. The bonds that needed to be placed are done. He can't get into detail on why it didn't happen. It was a personnel issue and there are legal restrictions into how much any of us can say.

**d. DPW 1 Ton Truck Purchase** - Our 2019 Operating Budget includes \$60,000 for a 1 ton truck. We secured 3 bids using the state bid system. The truck is a 2019 International CV515 SFA 4X4 with GVW of 19,500 lbs. Total price is \$59,016 including a 10' Fischer Plow, 11' Aluminum Flat Bed and a trade in allowance on the 2008 Ford F450. Staff recommends the purchase and is requesting board approval.

Selectman Putnam made a motion to purchase the vehicle; the cost is in the budget. Seconded by Selectman Dargie. Chairman Daniels said he looked at this in terms of the purchasing and procurement policy and there is a section that states "on the amounts greater than \$25,001 approval of the majority of the Board of Selectmen is required for the procurement of goods and services in excess of \$25,000, which are not otherwise approved in the budget. This language was added in 2014. It is his opinion that the Town Administrator does not need our approval for this. He's bringing it as a courtesy so we understand what is going on. It also states in the policy that you have to go out to bid on these and bids meeting the specification shall be reviewed by the Department Head and in consultation with the Town Administrator and others as needed. A recommendation shall be made to the Board of Selectmen for approval. Those two statements conflict with each other. He appreciates the Town Administrator bringing it to us and he didn't need to do that. We will be having a discussion about the Purchasing and Procurement Policy at our next Board meeting so we can fix the conflicts that are in there not only with the Town Administrator but Department Heads that are coming to us. We will be able to decide at that time whether we want to keep the thresholds where they are or change them. We can get approval if it is the Boards desire.

Selectman Labonte asked Chris Anton to give some detail about the truck. Chris said they just came out with the International in 2019. International and General Motors came out as a joint venture. He provided more detail on the body, motor and works of the truck. This design vehicle is built a lot stronger than what we would use in another type of truck. Selectman Labonte questioned the cost of bringing it back to the dealer in Vermont for repairs. Chris said you can bring it to any International dealer and they will fix it. Any qualified dealership has to do the warranty work on it. Selectman Labonte asked if it was going to dump. Chris said it's a flatbed; we are replacing a truck that dumps with this. He needs a platform to work on and something that isn't too high so we can lift things on it. It's easier to grab a smaller truck to go out and do a bigger trucks job.

Selectman Labonte asked about getting rid of the older truck we are replacing this with. Chris said no. We have a 2004 and 2006 that have gone through substantial mechanical repairs and upgrades. Do we get rid of something that we've



## APPROVED MINUTES OF BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING – 8/19/2019

spent lots of money or utilize them by reassigning them to the Parks Department where their life span can be proposed a little longer than in a sever duty in the highway garage. We will take the 2008 that has 84,000 miles on it and has been used tremendously more and return his value in a trade value because the other ones don't have a lot of trade value.

Selectman Labonte said we have one dump body that is rotted out and we put wooden sides on it. Chris said it's a flat-bed; we put that on it so that it can be used for burial usages, they made it dual purpose, and it dumps. When the other one is being utilized for another purpose, this one can also be used to dump trash.

Chairman Daniels asked if the truck being traded in was in need of repair. Chris said it will be. Selectman Labonte asked Chris if he knew what was put in the 450 this year for repairs and are we getting rid of the 450 with the plow and are we buying a new sander. Chris said he didn't know the exact amount and the plow is staying and they are using the new sander that they already have. He proposed that we buy the chassis, put an aluminum flatbed on it with a 10 foot Fischer plow and we utilize the sander and other things that we already have. Selectman Labonte asked if Chris knew why Liberty's price was 20% more than Clarks. When you buy under state bid, does it go under dealer or manufacture? Chris said manufacture and it wasn't state bid, its state pricing. It doesn't matter where he buys it, the chassis is there, they call International and then they set their numbers. Selectman Labonte asked why would Liberties and Clarks be so different. The problem is that exact chassis. When we are talking about chassis on the ground in hand available today, we only have them available for what we have to deal with. We are not stocking and ordering something that we are not going to have until next year that would be an apple to apples quote. Selectman Labonte said we are not pricing apples to apples we are pricing a Cadillac and a Chevette. Chris said no we are not. Selectman Labonte said it's a big discrepancy between venders and if we can, we should buy it closer your service would be more satisfactory. Chris disagreed. Selectman Labonte asked what the truck came with for a warranty. Chris said one year. At this point Chairman Daniels cut the conversation off and said the motion before them was the DPW 1 Ton truck purchase. He didn't want to get into an on-going debate about it. This is what is before us and there's been a motion to approve it. The motion passed 3/1 with Selectman Labonte opposed.

Administrator Bender said for his final item, last week we learned that Rick Riendeau, Public Works Director was among 50 of his peers from around the country selected to attend The Public Works Summit this November in St. Augustine, FL. This is not a trade show, but a series of meetings, case studies and roundtable discussions addressing public works issues. We are very proud of Rick for being selected for this. It is a great recognition and there is no cost to the town. Selectman Labonte asked if they paid for salary also. Administrator Bender said we are paying his salary regardless. Selectman Labonte replied, so there is a cost.

### 6. DISCUSSIONS:

**a) Dispatch – MACC Base Intermunicipal Agreement (IMA)** - Chairman Daniels said this is a discussion they needed to have following the meeting with Mont Vernon and Wilton.

**Question 1** – what does everyone expect the Consultant to do for us? His understanding was that they would come up with a list of equipment to fix Milford. Selectman Dargie was hoping for more, a Milford only solution and also a solution that they can quote to the other towns. Chairman Daniels said that would require the consultant to identify what was needed in the other towns and we determined that Milford's taxpayer money, it's up to them to do their own research. Selectman Dargie would like to be able to provide a quote to the other towns. Selectman Labonte asked Selectman Dargie, a quote for what? Selectman Dargie said a cost to run MACC Base, a Milford run dispatch and opportunity for others to be a customer of Milford.

Chairman Daniels asked if Milford would be a service or a system. Selectman Dargie said it's cleaner if everything is owned by MACC Base or Milford, its cleaner. Selectman Putnam said we have to make a decision, go on our own or stick with MACC Base. Chairman Daniels said we can't make a decision without the consultant's information. Selectman Putnam said it would cost us more to start and support our own. Chairman Daniels said he keeps getting an answer that the consultant will take care of this.

Selectman Dargie feels the voting in Milford should reflect 71% of the votes. The other towns would not be willing to continue with MACC Base if that happens. If we ran it they could be customers. Selectman Labonte said we would have to pay a lot more. The other towns said they were okay with Milford keeping two votes. Chairman Daniels said they were willing for Milford to keep their two votes but what if another town comes in as a member and they were given a vote as well. Now you have three towns with maybe 39% that have the ruling votes as three to two and Milford is still paying 71%. Selectman Labonte said you would have to renegotiate the contract. Maybe they will be a customer not a member. Chairman Daniels said there is a clause that has to be unanimous if another customer comes in, that would force negotiations. He doesn't think we should ever have less than 50% of the vote. Selectman Labonte said this can be addressed in the IMA. Selectman Dargie said both towns were fine with going by population. If we had 99% of

## APPROVED MINUTES OF BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING – 8/19/2019

the population, we can say make it a Milford Dispatch. He thinks 71% is close to being 99% in terms of management issues. We are far enough above the even thing where we need to have control over the whole thing.

Administrator Bender said to Selectman's Dargie point about everyone basing it on percentage share, population is just much easier to do. If another town comes in and represents 5, 6 or 7% of the population base, that is what they are going to pay for their share and that's what they are going to get for the vote. It's logical and gives the majority partner the responsibility that they have commencement to the population and what they pay for their share of the cost.

Selectman Labonte said the way he understood the numbers is the original communications was just under \$2,500,000. Alone, we would pay the whole amount. The number is just a conversation number. Even at \$3,000,000, we still come out less than \$2,500,000. Selectman Daniels said he believes their go alone cost was around \$2,100,000 which seems to be about the same for Milford no matter what direction we go. Selectman Dargie said with the addition, it would be around \$2,500,000. Selectman Labonte said MACC Base's budget is \$700,000 per year so his assumption is that it will cost around that much for a Milford owned Communication Center.

Chief Viola said on the \$700,000 number, it's the way they have to budget up there. At the end of the year we get about \$100,000 of surplus back so it wouldn't cost \$700,000 to run it, it would be more like \$508,000 to \$510,000. There would be cost savings in some places and more cost in other places. Either way, we are going to pay about \$2,100,000 to own it or to be a part of a partnership with other groups.

Selectman Labonte said if there is potential savings in the Police Department as far as building their own, that same potential you can do the same at MACC Base. Administrator Bender said there were some credits and rebates in the \$2,500,000 plus there is a communications provider interested in building a tower in town and giving it to us. That would drive some significant cost savings as well. The town of Milford is going to pay \$2,100,000 whether we build something on our own or as a percentage of a regional center.

Rodny said his experience on what a consultant can do for you is come in and look at the operation being conducted, consider if the operation currently in place good, can it be improved and is there a cost to improve it. An objective consultant should give us a better handle on the requirement needed to upgrade equipment and help us have someone bid a real cost. That consultant will not get into the building architecture part. We could make a decision without input from the consultant, but we chose to wait. In observing MACC Base this year, the two for two vote situation has often resulted in stalemate. It isn't good to stick with a stalemate situation.

**Question 2** – Chairman Daniels asked are the benefits that can be derived from one direction or another. If we stayed together, would we gain anything from mutual aid or would it stay the same. Selectman Putnam said it would stay the same. Selectman Labonte said if we go with a Milford only solution, we will still have to be able to talk to the other towns. Chief Viola said Amherst has their own system and if they need mutual aid, they will call into MACC Base. It would be the same if we had our own communications. They all work together. You can go to a patch in channel and talk to other towns. No matter what happens, you are still bouncing off antennas and can talk to other towns and they can reach in to us. Chairman Daniels said to the extent that the other towns have their infrastructure setup to receive. If we focused on Milford only, we would set things up to try to get our dead spots taken care of. Chief Viola said yes. Chairman Daniels said if we are trying to communicate with Wilton and they haven't fixed their dead spot, and our towers don't hit there, you still have that problem. Chief Viola said yes, but that's something they would have to work on. Chairman Daniels said there is some responsibility that the other towns need to take in identifying what they need for equipment to fix their problem just as we do.

Selectman Labonte said no matter what technology we go to, it's going to be a form of simulcast repeater type thing where it's going to get rebroadcast many ways to versus coming off the one tower here trying to get all this distance. If we had five towers it would get broadcasted on all five. Captain Frye said the simulcast is for Eric so we all know what the Fire Department and Ambulance are doing. When MACC Base does it, we all hear where fire and ambulance are going but when they get there we don't necessarily hear fire. Selectman Labonte asked if re-broadcast be the right term he's looking for? Captain Frye said no, simulcast is right. We would do the same thing if it were Milford only, whoever is on the channel would know what is going on. It would also go on their channels. Selectman Labonte said if you're on the west end of Milford, you can squeeze the mic on your portable and for example, it grabs an antenna from Dram Cup, would it get re-broadcasted from there to all the other antennas. Captain Frye said no, the simulcast thing is for the base to go out.

Selectman Putnam said simulcast means a voice message goes out on three different frequencies. You can have multiple transmit sites that are repeated or simulcast. Captain Frye said a portable will go to any antenna it can grab, the car

## APPROVED MINUTES OF BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING – 8/19/2019

does too. Selectman Putnam agreed. When they squeeze the button on the portable, the signal goes out to the strongest signal and then to MACC Base. Selectman Putnam said there on the transmit side; there is a signal where you can transmit from MACC Base and go out several antennas at the same time.

**Question 3** - Chairman Daniels asked how microwave fits into this. Selectman Putnam said those are the links between MACC Base and the antenna sites. Right now some are done with hard wires and lower radio frequencies. Chairman Daniels asked if they go out from central communications to all antennas or do they still have to use the repeaters. Rodney said the microwave is more direct at point to point situation so can have specific communications going on that. The primary dispatch situation will be the Omni antenna sending signal out in most every direction. Chairman Daniels said if you have a hill in the way, you will still have to bounce off another antenna. Rodney said a hill in the way gets in the way of either of those, they are both line of sight situations. Neither is intended to bounce off sky wave. The Omni antenna will get over some situations, but not a lot. Selectman Putnam said vegetation on trees, granite out cropping's and sun spots also interferes with radio communications. Captain Frye said that's why the towers are getting taller to go above tree lines. He also reminded the Board that some of this stuff will be answered by the consultant.

Selectman Putnam said the consultants are not going to educate us on radio signals; they are going to tell us where to put antennas and repeater systems and we will be golden. Selectman Labonte asked with the RFQ's due in at the end of the week, what are they giving us a price on. Chairman Daniels asked if the RFQ was re-written. Captain Frye said no. Selectman Labonte said he brought up questions when the RFQ was written and we were going to wait until the pre-bid to discuss things which we did, then it got pushed to the 29<sup>th</sup> meeting and he's never received any more information. Chairman Daniels said August 22<sup>nd</sup> was the date we were going to ask but through the question and answer period he thought things came up that he thought would require rewriting it. Selectman Labonte asked if we had a list of questions that have been asked by the consultants. Captain Frye said yes. Chairman Daniels said some of them also attended the joint sessions. Selectman Labonte asked if they could get a copy of the questions, he thought that is how the original RFQ was written. Administrator Bender said he believes the responses were due back to Board on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and any questions were directed to Captain Frye. Selectman Labonte still wants to see the questions that came back. Captain Frye said sure.

Selectman Labonte asked if the consultant will be turning in something saying for x amount of dollars I'm going to get this for you. Administrator Bender said yes. Selectman Putnam said that is what he understood this process should be. He thinks we asked them to do two prices, one for just Milford and one to reach out to the other towns because that amount of work isn't that much more to figure that out. We will find out on Friday.

**Question 4** – Chairman Daniels asked everyone's thoughts on bonding, Town or MACC Base, does it make a difference. Selectman Labonte said he understood that it doesn't really make a difference. If we are in a contract for ten years, we pay the bond back no matter how long we took it out for, be it five or ten years. Chairman Daniels said we have three options: one, where each town would go out and bond its own share for as long as it wants. Two, the ability of towns together to get one bond, presented by Selectman Dargie, (it would have to be the same length of time), and three, giving authority to MACC Base for them to bond.

Selectman Putnam said language would have to be put in the IMA if someone wants to get in on the bond with us, they are responsible until the end of the bond for their amount even if they want to pull out early. Selectman Labonte agreed. This will still involve three towns, three votes. Selectman Dargie said one option would be for Milford to be the responsible party and we bond the whole thing, including towers in Wilton and build into the agreement and the other towns would pay back their share over time. It's cleaner and we would own the equipment. We would be responsible for the maintenance and they would be paying for the use of it. Chairman Daniels said Selectman Dargie was referring to the towns as being customers. Selectman Dargie said yes.

Chief Viola asked how would you own the equipment if it was in other people's towns. They can say they don't want that tower. If it was Milford owned, we could say that but if it's part of a group, Wilton might just say they are fine with our communications as it is. Do we have the right to tell them that they have to put something up? Is the IMA going to be drafted based on what the consultant says needs to be done? He doesn't think we will get the buy in from all the towns on this; it's a lot of money. Selectman Dargie said we can rent land in another town and put a tower on it. Chief Viola said he's spoken to other towns about this and they shy away from doing this. They make the towns take care of their own equipment.

Chairman Daniels said if each town bonded their share, you have that contractual agreement that you need to pay your share back. If another town comes in, how does that work out? Selectman Labonte said a disbursement check back. It would be a buy in but a reimbursement to the other towns. Administrator Bender said the length of the bond is the dep-



## APPROVED MINUTES OF BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING – 8/19/2019

recation period. If someone comes in at five years of a ten year agreement, they are obligated for 50% of the original amount. It has to be written into the IMA.

**Question 5** – Chairman Daniels sense that people support a ten year agreement, what everyone's thoughts were. Selectman Dargie said is seems good to him and it could link up with a ten year bond. Chairman Daniels said Mont Vernon said they wouldn't be able to do it if it wasn't a ten year bond. Selectman Putnam said ten years is good, it isn't like it's tying us into something that we want to get rid of in a couple of years.

Chairman Daniels asked about a previous comment about giving a notice of leaving, going to a two year instead of a one year notice. This was on the IMA that we didn't sign. He doesn't like two years. Selectman Labonte said he can see a year's notice if everyone is buying in on the buying in aspect. The only advantage of going two years is you have the heads up that the remaining towns would know that their parts would be going up. Chairman Daniels said the down side is the clause that says, "once you give notice", you can no longer vote on the budget. If you are at two years, there will be one annual budget that you won't have any say over but you will have to pay.

Selectman Dargie you would want the statement to say that you could vote on that budget if you are part of the district. You don't get to vote on the budget if you are no longer involved. Captain Frye said ultimately, any town that gets into the agreement for ten years with a corporation of MACC Base and it comes back to, if you want to leave, you have to build a structure that you have in your own town that isn't cooperatively owned by an entity, you're basically starting all over again. Say Milford signs the ten year agreement, we write the check to MACC Base and five years down the road we want out, what do we actually own. It would be nothing because you can't break it up. That's how the other towns have done it. Hollis doesn't own anything in Brookline because if Brookline doesn't like the service, they can leave and go somewhere else. He's almost 100% sure that the consultants are not designing a regional system for MACC Base. That price tag could be a lot higher than \$3,000,000 as regional fix. To get it fixed at once so that towns could bond, no one's really ever from MACC Base said ok, let's get an RFQ out, get an RFP out and design a regional system for these three, possibly four towns.

Selectman Putnam said it's been done, they have the numbers upstairs although they may be a couple of years old. It's been done several times. Captain Frye right but would ask them again and send it out in an RFQ/RFP to get it out there and do it. This would find out what the magical number are to put new antennas up where needed, it's never really been done. Selectman Putnam said Beltronics did it two years ago for the region. Captain Frye said so did Two Way and we fought about that. He's saying we've taken the steps to look for Milford's best interest with the possibility of MACC Base, but to design the proper system you would have to take MACC Base and have it recreated and structurally built with everything new, not band aiding it together, just one price tag. That's what the voters wanted. We are still dabbling in the weeds and we haven't separated anything. He repeated that the price for a regional system will probably be higher. If you're going to spend millions of dollars, forget a ten year contract, you might as well do a thirty year contract because in thirty years let someone else deal with it and if they want to break off, all the stuff is obsolete anyway the way it is now. The Director said it all needs to be replaced.

Selectman Labonte asked what has changed over the last thirty years that for the last thirty years we haven't worried about who owned the antennas. Captain Frye said it's because we've never spent millions of dollars before. Selectman Labonte said thirty years ago things were done on a gentlemen's hand shake versus now there is a 100 page contract. He thinks that some of it gets over thought. No one has ever answered him the question of if we could spend \$100,000 and fix your issue temporarily so there is no there is no emergency services danger, why aren't we spending that \$100,000 to fix it. Could repeaters fix that immediate danger for Milford? Captain Frye said they were told it was going to cost a lot more than \$100,000. Selectman Labonte said he would love to see a resolution on the whole deal and what it would cost us. Captain Frye said we haven't gotten there yet. Selectman Labonte said right now, we are talking eighteen to twenty four months no matter where we go to get the systems in place. Captain Frye said he didn't know how long it would take. Selectman Labonte said should we really be fighting this or doing fixing the fix. Captain Frye said the consultant is going to give us some guidance. This is what was requested at the Deliberative Session, to see what direction we should go in. We are working on an option A or B, but as a Board of Governors I'm waiting to see what the consultant says before I present it. When we start with this \$100,000 project we are just kicking the can down the road and putting a band aid on it, when we have an opportunity to fix it all together at once either with MACC Base or go alone. Selectman Labonte said he's just trying to keep the officers safe, if there a fix that you can do now.

Chief Viola said there could be a band aid out there; he's not saying there's not. We are looking at what is best for the Town of Milford financially, safety wise and everything wise. This is why we wanted a whole system done. It's no difference then when we bought the consoles, he was under the impression they were going to make things a lot better for us, it did nothing for us. Selectman Putnam said the consoles wouldn't do anything for us. Chief Viola said he un-

## APPROVED MINUTES OF BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING – 8/19/2019

derstands that, he didn't know communications at the time. In the seven years since he's been here, all he's done is complain about radios. A few years back they said we need consoles and he thought they might solve some of the problems. It did nothing for us. He's talked to Jason on several occasions and they've talked about different things like putting repeaters on poles and in cars, we've talked about the astro channels and we even tested it. The problem is when you're down at Penguin Mart on the astro channel, you still can't hear anything. Dispatch doesn't know when you've clicked your mic and you don't know that they are not hearing. He isn't looking for the town to spend \$100,000 for a quick fix and a year from now you are going to come to him saying we just spent \$100,000, how come you are still having problems. Selectman Labonte said he's trying to address officer's safety. Chief Viola said he's been trying to address his officer's safety for several years. Selectman Labonte said it would be easier to get voters to approve \$100,000 than \$2,000,000. If you can wait two years for a \$2,000,000 system, he disagrees if you say there's officer's safety; it has to be dealt with now. Chief Viola said he doesn't want to wait two years, he knows the reality of it, these officers need to be safe and feel comfortable out there and right now they don't. They haven't for several years. We just need it done. He doesn't think the town will be too happy to spend \$100,000 now and \$2,000,000 two years from now. He thinks the voters are worried about the officers too and he thinks they will vote whatever way because it's about it being a safety issue.

Chairman Daniels said everyone has to remember that it isn't just the Police, they may have the majority of the problem, but Ambulance and Fire also have issues. We are trying to find that balance. If you're going to find a quick fix then you want to put out equipment that's going to work with new stuff that you are putting out there as part of a whole system so you don't have to throw something away that's two years old.

Selectman Putnam said you can buy a computer tomorrow and six months from now it's not compatible. It's the same thing at MACC Base. Chief Viola said that's why they didn't want to piece meal it. MACC Base said they wanted to do it in sections and we felt that we would just be continually putting new stuff in. We felt that we needed to do it all at once. Selectman Putnam said we should call it a night and see what happens on Friday. Chairman Daniels said we pick up more every time we meet. Selectman Labonte asked if there was a big con on either side of going with MACC Base or going on our own. Selectman Putnam said he didn't see a difference. Chairman Daniels said he didn't know. Parts keep moving in this.

Administrator Bender said the bids will come in sealed on Friday and we will open them. Whoever wants to be here can come. If more than two of you come, we will have to post it as a meeting. We are expecting two or three bids.

**7. PUBLIC COMMENTS:** There were no public comments at this time.

### **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 July 29, 2019 as amended. Selectman Dargie seconded. All were in favor. The motion passed as amended 4/0.

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

**11. NOTICES.** No notices were read.

**12. NON-PUBLIC SESSION.** Selectmen Putnam made a motion to go into Non-public in accordance with (RSA 91-A:3, II(e)) – Legal and Approval of Non-public minutes in accordance with NH RSA 91-A:3,II(b) – Personnel, July 8, 2019. Selectmen Dargie seconded. The motion passed by roll call vote, Selectman Putnam yes, Selectman Dargie yes, Chairman Daniels yes, and Selectman Labonte yes. 4/0.

**13. ADJOURNMENT:** Selectman Putnam moved to adjourn at 8:45 Selectman Dargie seconded. All were in favor. The motion passed 5/0.

APPROVED MINUTES OF BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING – 8/19/2019

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Gary Daniels, Chairman

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Laura Dudziak, Member

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Paul Dargie, Vice Chairman

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Chris Labonte, Member

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Mike Putnam, Member