

APPROVED
MINUTES OF THE MILFORD BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
February 27, 2023

PRESENT:	Paul Dargie, Chairman	Lincoln Daley, Town Administrator
	Tim Finan, Vice Chairman	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. - Public Hearing for the Acceptance for Expenditure of Unanticipated Funds over \$10K NH (RSA (31:95)b)) – Milford Rotary Club for the Restoration of the Pillsbury Bandstand - \$10,000

Chairman Dargie opened the public hearing. There were no comments. Chairman Dargie closed the public hearing

Selectmen Daniels made a motion to accept \$10,000 from the Milford Rotary Club for the Restoration of the Pillsbury Bandstand. Seconded by Selectman Freel. All were in favor. The motion passed 5/0.

5:35 p.m. - Chapter 3 Revisions, Employee Handbook – HR Director, Karen Blow

Director Blow provided the Board with a summary of housekeeping suggestions for Chapter 3 of the Employee Handbook.

Ms. Blow asked the Board to consider changes to Page 3, Lines 32-36 ‘Compensatory time should be utilized as an exception versus the rule. Compensatory time is to be used by the end of the calendar year in which was taken whenever possible, so there is no carryover from year to year. Carryover from one year to the next requires approval by the Town Administrator’. Selectman Daniels suggested a couple of changes.

Selectman Daniels made a motion to accept the recommended changes to chapter 3 of the employee handbook as presented and amended. Seconded by Selectman Finan. All were in favor. The motion passed 5/0.

5:50 p.m. - Approval of the Community Power Plan – Mike Thornton, Chair

Mr. Thornton said the only thing they need is the execution of the Community Power Plan. If the BOS votes to approve and sign the Community Power Committee Plan they will be all set going into the March 14, 2023 Election.

Selectman Daniels needed more clarification on percentages of renewable energy. Mr. Thornton explained in more detail and said they wouldn't launch a program where everyone couldn't save something. Chairman Dargie said the program won't launch if the default, (lowest level) is not a saving versus Eversource. He explained the different levels and said they won't know the numbers until we go out to bid.

Selectman Freel said the town isn't picking the default rate at any renewable. They are going with the lowest possible rate that they can buy based on no renewables. If you want renewables, you can up your plan. Mr. Thornton said if you do nothing you will get the lowest rate you can get. If you chose a higher level of renewables, you will pay more.

Mr. Thornton said they won't know what we can get until we go out to bid. He repeated that they will not launch the plan if it doesn't save the users money. Selectman Freel said that users will have all the control over this and can opt out at any time.

Selectman Daniels commented on a sentence under equitable treatment and asked for more clarification. Mr. Thornton said it means that this plan will mirror what Eversource has because the state said we must do this.

Vanessa Sheehan, a Milford resident, asked if this passes, can the Select Board change the plan at any time and will this ever go before Town Vote again. Mr. Thornton said the Select Board can change the plan, and if the ratepayers are not happy, they can opt out. It doesn't benefit the Select Board to change it. Ms. Sheehan asked what other towns in NH are doing this. Chairman Dargie said about 10 communities are in line to go live this year between June and August.

Janet Langdell, a Milford resident, asked why we are not looking at additional newspapers to get this information out. Town Administrator Daley said he would look into more options. Selectman Daniels offered two cosmetic changes to the document.

Selectmen Daniels made a motion to approve the Community Power Plan. Seconded by Selectman Freel. All were in favor. The motion passed 5/0.

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

Katherine Kokko, a Milford resident, questioned language in the voter's guide for the Fireworks warrant article. Chairman Dargie explained the statement. Ms. Kokko said under RSA 31:95-b, IV (b) it's considered unanticipated funds and it could be applied. Chairman Dargie doesn't agree. Administrator Daley will check into Ms. Kokko's concerns.

Suzanne Fournier, a Milford resident, requested the Board remove 4. a) 8. from the consent calendar about "Approval to Re-Appoint Janet Langdell and Paul Amato to the Planning Board". She wishes to provide comments on the subject.

4. DECISIONS

a. CONSENT CALENDAR

- 1. Approval to Re-Appoint Wade Scott Campbell and Nick Darchik to the Traffic Safety Committee – Terms Expire in 2026**
- 2. Approval to Re-appoint Zachary Williamson and Paul Bartolomucci as Full members of the Recreation Commission – Terms Expire in 2026**
- 3. Approval to Re-appoint Karen Desjardins as an Alternate member to the Recreation Commission – Term Expires 2026**
- 4. Approval to change Bethany Haerincx from an Alternate Member to a Full Member of the Recreation Commission – Term Expires 2024**
- 5. Approval to change Melissa Sherman from a Full member to an Alternate Member of the Recreation Commission – Term Expires 2025**
- 6. Approval to Re-Appoint Anita Stevens, Kim Rimalover, and Rodney Dellafelice to the Conservation Commission – Terms Expire in 2026**
- 7. Approval to Re-Appoint Chris Costantino to the Nashua Regional Planning Commission – Term Expires 2026.**
- 8. Approval to Re-Appoint Janet Langdell and Paul Amato to the Planning Board – Terms Expire in 2026.**
- 9. Approval to Re-Appoint LaShanta Magnusson and Celeste Philbrick Barr to the Solid Waste & Recycling Committee – Terms Expire 2026**
- 10. Approval of Intent to Cut Wood or Timber, Map 30 Lot 19, 1,2, & 3**

Selectman Dargie moved to remove 4. a) 8. from the consent calendar for discussion.

Selectman Finan made a motion to approve the consent calendar except for 4. a) 8). Seconded by Selectman Daniels. All were in favor. The motion passed 5/0.

Selectman Finan asked if this was appropriate to be done in public or non-public as it has something to do with someone's reputation. There was a discussion about who they should invite to enter the non-public meeting.

Ms. Fournier said the discussion should be made in public and she has a comment about the process. Chairman Dargie asked Ms. Fournier to make her comment not relative to an individual. Ms. Fournier said criticism of public officials' actions is a right of citizens. Chairman Dargie said the RSA says that we can't go into non-public relative to members of the Board that are holding the session. The members that Ms. Fournier is talking about are not members of this Board so they are entitled to meet in non-public for a discussion. Ms. Fournier said none of the documents she provided are confidential everything was obtained under a right-to-know request. She repeated that we have a right to criticize public officials in public. Chairman Dargie said it's a discussion about someone's reputation and it will be discussed in non-public.

Ms. Kokko, said under the reputation exemption, the individual whose reputation is being discussed has the right to request that it be held in a public session.

Selectman Daniels made a motion to go into non-public in accordance with (RSA 91-A:3, II (c)) – Reputation to discuss 4. a) 8) from the consent calendar. Seconded by Selectman Finan. All were in favor. The motion passed 5/0.

Ms. Fournier, Mr. Amato, and Ms. Langdell were invited to go into the non-public session.

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Selectman Finan made a motion to come out of non-public. Seconded by Selectman Daniels. All were in favor. The motion passed 5/0. In non-public, the Board discussed one topic, and no votes were taken.

Selectman Finan made a motion to seal the non-public minutes from February 27, 2023, under (RSA 91-A:3, II (c)) – Reputation because it was determined that divulgence of this information would affect adversely the reputation of any person other than a member of this Board. Seconded by Selectman Dudziak. All were in favor. The motion passed 5/0.

Selectman Finan made a motion to Re-Appoint Janet Langdell and Paul Amato to the Planning Board – Terms Expire in 2026. Seconded by Selectman Dudziak. All were in favor. The motion passed 5/0.

b. OTHER DECISIONS

1. N/A

5. TOWN STATUS REPORT – Town Administrator, Lincoln Daley

1. **Four-Day Work Week** – Staff continues to evaluate and discuss implementing a 4 or 4 ½ day work schedule. Staff views the schedule change to help with a demand for services from residents and as a way to retain and recruit employees. Feedback and discussions are ongoing, further public outreach is needed and the online survey was modified. A majority of the residents that took the survey are supporting the proposed 4 or 4 ½ day workweek with extended hours in the evening. The survey will be extended through March 17th and additional information will be obtained at the March 14th town vote.

Staff continues to work/coordinate with the Town Clerks' office and a final proposal for the alternative hours will be presented at the March 27, 2023 Board of Selectmen's meeting.

Selectman Daniels asked the Town Administrator to identify the morale of the Town employees if these hours are changed. Some people will have a three-day weekend all the time and some will be working a full five days all the time.

6. DISCUSSIONS

1. NH Division of Historical Resources – Milford Town Hall

The Town Hall has been listed in the NH State Register of Historic Places. A plaque has been created to mark the property. The Historical Society was instrumental in obtaining this honor. The Town Hall was named to the National Register of Historic Places in 1988.

2. Federal Hill Cell Tower

Chairman Dargie said the plan is to build a 120' tall tower near the current fire tower on Federal Hill. The New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources hired a company to review the project. They did an extensive review. Properties were included that may have a potential historical impact. The Heritage Commission asked that a balloon test of the area be done.

Dave Palance, Heritage Commission Chairman, explained the process. Chairman Dargie asked Mr. Palance what he was asking the Board to do. Mr. Palance said they wanted to make sure their opinion and voices were known.

Ms. Kokko clarified that the Heritage Commission reviewed the report but has not voted on it. Chairman Dargie said he would rather the Heritage Commission review the report and make a recommendation.

Mr. Palance said he's asking the Selectman to review this report, edit it, offer suggestions, and discuss it with the Heritage Commission. Chairman Dargie suggests that the Heritage Commission review this and make a suggestion. Selectman Freel suggests a work session with the Board and the Heritage Commission to discuss this. Selectman Finan said it sounds like the Heritage Commission is just giving us great detailed information.

Selectman Daniels asked what the timeline was to proceed with the tower. Chairman Dargie read a section about the findings. There is no adverse effect historically. It's officially approved. It's not stopping anything at this point. The Town should continue to work with the Heritage Commission.

Lincoln, asked if they are looking for the town to provide mitigation. Mr. Palance said the goal is to show that we showed diligence and investigated this situation.

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Chairman Dargie said this is good work that was done and it is now documented. It's a monopole and not a fire tower being built. Mr. Palance said they are still looking to see what will be done with the historical fire tower that is already at Federal Hill. Chairman Dargie said the fire tower is a separate discussion.

Ken Flaherty, Fire Chief said the fire tower is being replaced. The state has the plan and hasn't shared it with the town yet. When it's time, they will fly the current fire tower out and fly another one in next summer. Janet Langdell asked that the dates of the fly-in and out are posted as it would be cool to watch.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS (regarding items that are not on the agenda) There were no comments at this time.

8. SELECTMEN'S REPORTS/DISCUSSIONS

a) FROM PROJECTS, SPECIAL BOARDS, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES

Selectman Daniels said Recycling is still working on separating compost. They are looking at places to keep everything flowing. There was additional discussion about recycling centers around the Milford area.

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

9. APPROVAL OF FINAL MINUTES -

1. February 13, 2023

Selectman Dargie moved to approve the minutes of February 13, 2023, as amended. Seconded by Selectman Finan. All were in favor. The motion passed 5/0.

Selectman Dargie moved to approve the non-public unsealed minutes of February 13, 2023, as amended. Seconded by Selectman Daniels. All were in favor. The motion passed 5/0.

10. INFORMATION ITEMS REQUIRING NO DECISIONS.

a. N/A

11. NOTICES. Notices were read.

12. NON-PUBLIC SESSION –

13. ADJOURNMENT: Selectman Daniels moved to adjourn at 7:06. 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