

APPROVED  
MINUTES OF THE MILFORD BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING 5<sup>TH</sup> MONDAY FORUM  
January 31, 2022

**PRESENT:** Gary Daniels, Chairman Excused                      John Shannon, Town Administrator excused  
Chris Labonte, Vice Chairman                      Andrew Kouropoulos, Videographer  
Laura Dudziak, Member                      Tina Philbrick, Executive Assistant  
Paul Dargie, Member  
David Freel, Member

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

Vice Chairman Labonte called the public meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., introduced Board members, and then led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. APPOINTMENT: (Approximate times)**

**7:00 p.m. Town Voters Guide (Verbal)** – Tina Philbrick, Executive Assistant gave to Board an update as to the cost of the voters guide for 7,000 copies that will be mailed out to all mailboxes in town. The school will be helping with the cost, although she is not sure of the amount.

**7:00 p.m. OPEN FORUM**

Brendon Philbrick, Wilton resident, Milford Business owner, has issues with the inadequate parking in Milford. The parking lot next to the Police Department isn't always cleared and doesn't have enough space. Wants to know what can be done to fix this. He gave some suggestions of what could be done. He suggested utilizing space at the Library.

Chief Viola said they really don't police the parking lot next to the Police Department, its open parking. If there are complaints, they look into it. DPW does the best they can do clearing out that lot but they sometimes have to go around vehicles.

Selectman Dargie said there is a committee that has been discussing parking, but they haven't met due to COVID. He expects them to start up again soon.

Captain Frye said parking is an issue all over town when it snows. The apartment buildings have the same issues moving vehicles to different areas so they can clear snow.

There was additional discussion, but nothing can really be done at this point until the committee starts to meet again.

Jeff Marshall, a Milford resident, asked why the Board didn't use ARPA money to buy an Ambulance vehicle given that the budget is high and the Board is trying to find ways to decrease the operating budget. It would have met the need without the tax impact.

Selectman Labonte said they want to prioritize the ARPA funding with \$850,000 coming in. They have \$2,400,000 in requests. Mr. Marshall asked if they were going to prioritize it then revisit this at a later date? Selectman Labonte said the ambulance vehicle is still in the budget. Mr. Marshall said he's driven the vehicle and it isn't in good condition, he wouldn't put additional money into it. We have money we can use for a new ambulance vehicle. He encourages the Board to reconsider their decision.

Selectman Labonte said they have \$2,400,000 in requests for the ARPA money. The ambulance vehicle is already in the operating budget. He is uncomfortable just randomly picking and grabbing. Selectman Dargie said we won't get the money until June. He felt that we should have encumbered the ambulance in the money left over last year. He feels we should prioritize the ARPA with number one being the new tower on Federal Hill for \$300,000. All the projects are valuable.

Mr. Philbrick also has an issue with his sewer bill increase to 26%. He said there used to be notices about meetings when the increases were going to happen. Selectman Labonte said there was a public meeting on the increase for sewer in September and no one showed up. Selectman Dargie said the Water/Sewer Commissioners usually do increases every 4 or 5 years. Their long term plans are reviewed in detail.

Mr. Philbrick said they went up on the commercial users not the residential users. The small business owners are being hit hard. Selectman Labonte said it's an increase on sewer, not water. He suggests that Mr. Philbrick go to the next meeting.

**3. DECISIONS**

**a. CONSENT CALENDAR**

## APPROVED MINUTES OF BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING – 1/31/2022

1) N/A

**4. ADJOURNMENT:** Selectman Freel moved to adjourn at 7:46. Seconded by Selectman Dargie. All were in favor. A roll call vote was taken with Selectman Dargie yes, Selectman Dudziak yes, Selectman Labonte yes, and Selectman Freel yes. All were in favor. The motion passed 4/0.

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Gary Daniels, Chairman    EXCUSED

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Paul Dargie, Member

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Chris Labonte, Vice Chairman

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David Freel, Member

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Laura Dudziak, Member