

APPROVED
MINUTES OF THE MILFORD BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
January 09, 2023

PRESENT: Paul Dargie, Member Mark Bender, Excused
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. – Announcement of New Town Administrator

Chairman Dargie announced that Lincoln Daley, Community Development Director, will be the new Town Administrator starting February 12, 2023.

Mr. Daley is a Professional Municipal Planner with 20 years of experience, proficient in long-term comprehensive planning, master planning, and community and economic development with land use and community long-scale projects. This background will be extremely helpful as a Town Administrator. Mr. Daley previously worked for the town in Community Development. He has worked in three other towns and has been back in Milford since 2015.

5:35 p.m. – Approval as a Full Member to the Milford Community Power Committee – Eric Fischer (Term Expires 2025)

In Summary, Mr. Fischer has an excellent background in CyberSecurity, Data Security, and Data Loss Prevention and has worked with Federal agencies including; the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Defense, and civilian agencies. Currently, Mr. Fischer is an on-call Emergency Medical Technician for the Town of Lyndeborough.

Mike Thornton pointed out a survey for the Energy Plan. A link to the survey is on the Town's website.

Selectman Freel made a motion to approve Eric Fischer as a full member of the Milford Community Power Committee with a term expiring in 2025. Seconded by Selectman Daniels. All were in favor. The motion passed 5/0.

5:40 p.m. – Downtown Improvement Presentation Preliminary Concept – Community Development Director, Lincoln Daley, and Greg Bakos, Engineering Consultant.

Mr. Daley said this is an update to the Board regarding the status of the Milford Downtown Pedestrian and Vehicular Improvements project and to present the initial design concepts for both the downtown Oval area and Nashua Street (between Tonella Road and Clinton Street). The Board had previously expressed a strong desire to be involved in the design stage for both project areas. This represents the first opportunity for members to ask questions/provide needed guidance and a precursor to the required public stakeholder meeting to occur later this month. This was approved by voters in 2007 and 2009. It passed both times. The amount of \$155,000 was raised as 25% of the Town's required remaining match of \$620,000 to obtain the full Federal transportation earmarked funding of \$2,400,000. There will be 4 phases to complete the project in about 3 to 4 years. This is the first of many public meetings.

The conceptual design for both areas of the project was presented by Greg Bakos. Mr. Bakos said this is an unscheduled meeting. The next public meeting will be presented to the public. The engineering study has not been completed. They are in the conceptual stage so there is room for refinement.

Project considerations:

- Traffic circulation and truck maneuverability
- ADA compliance and pedestrian safety
- Parking demotions will be considered
- Aesthetics
- Lighting, with a focus on where the crosswalks are

Proposed Oval Improvements: Cost would be around \$1.2 million

- Removal of a non-conformant parking spot
- Raised turn lane like what is on South Street
- Input bump outs for better visibility
- Expanding the triangle towards the Post Office
- Proposing moving a crosswalk next to Union St.
- Possibly converting Middle Street to one way

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There was additional discussion about parking spaces and curb safety. Some curbs are too high and some are too low, both can cause tripping hazards. There could be pushback on the historical curbing of the Oval.

Proposed Nashua Street considerations:

- Traffic Operations and Safety
- ADA compliance and pedestrian safety
- Multimodal Accommodations
- Right of Way constraints
- Expanding sidewalk
- Dual use turn lane
- Addition of a left turn lane at Tonella Road

Chairman Dargie feels that alternative 2 won't work.

Lynn Coakley, a Milford resident, asked if they would be reconfiguring the County Stores parking lot because of the difficulty of seeing traffic when leaving that lot.

Chip Polick, a Milford business owner, said we all want more safety but we are going to lose parking spots. He has concerns about eliminating a crosswalk due to traffic safety concerns. He will get together with Lincoln Daley with other questions.

Dean Chappel, a Milford resident, drives tractor-trailers through the oval a lot. Adding anything to those islands will hinder getting the trucks through. He also has concerns about removing the crosswalk on the oval and closer to the school.

Ammy Rice, a Milford resident, said you can't get to Mont Vernon and Lyndeborough without going through the oval. She also has concerns about trucking.

Janet Langdell, a Milford resident, said she would hope before the next public hearing that VHB and Community Development will take into consideration of the potential impact and increased traffic on Bridge Street and School Street. She also has concerns about future bus stops with the possibility of public transit and the current bus that drops people off in front of Town Hall.

Aaron Caplan, a Milford business owner, also has concerns about the raised curbing in the oval and the loss of parking spots. Mr. Daley said it won't be raised. Selectman Freel said it would be flush brick. It will be similar to South Street.

At this point, the Board went into the Bond hearing.

6:30 p.m. – Budget and Bond Hearing (see separate minutes)

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

4. DECISIONS

a. CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Approval of two (2) Polling Notification Forms for the Deliberative Session and Town Vote.

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

b. OTHER DECISIONS

1. N/A

5. TOWN STATUS REPORT – N/A

6. DISCUSSIONS

1. Warrant Article Votes

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WARRANT ARTICLE 3 - WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY (WWTF) UPGRADE PROJECT – \$23,953,000 BOND
(Loan Forgiveness \$3,592,950) (Wilton NH Portion \$3,031,611.45) (20% SAG Grant \$3,465,687.71) Remaining amount
\$13,862,750.84.

The Selectmen voted to recommend this warrant article 5/0.

WARRANT ARTICLE 4 - TOWN OPERATING BUDGET - \$ 17,457,068

The Selectmen voted to recommend this warrant article 4/1 with Selectman Daniels opposed.

WARRANT ARTICLE 7 - FIRE ENGINE REPLACEMENT - 7-YEAR LEASE/PURCHASE - \$755,000 Gross Purchase Price
(Annual Lease Payment \$124,665)

The Selectmen voted to recommend this warrant article 3/2 with Selectman Daniels and Freel opposed.

WARRANT ARTICLE 8 - RECONSTRUCTION OF TOWN ROADS - \$ 400,000

The Selectmen voted to recommend this warrant article 4/1 with Selectmen Daniels opposed.

WARRANT ARTICLE 9 - ONE REPLACEMENT AMBULANCE (5 YEAR LEASE/PURCHASE) (Annual Payment
\$52,857/Total Purchase Price \$371,922)

The Selectmen voted to recommend this warrant article 3/2 with Selectman Daniels and Freel opposed.

WARRANT ARTICLE 10 - AFSCME/POLICE CONTRACT - \$175,398

The Selectmen voted to recommend this warrant article 5/0.

WARRANT ARTICLE 11 - BANDSTAND RENOVATION - \$90,000

The Selectmen voted to recommend this warrant article 3/2 with Selectman Daniels and Freel opposed.

WARRANT ARTICLE 12 - SOCIAL SERVICES - \$40,000

The Selectmen voted to recommend this warrant article 5/0.

WARRANT ARTICLE 13 - TRANSFER STATION RECYCLING CENTER / REVOLVING FUND - \$40,000

The Selectmen voted to recommend this warrant article 4/1 with Selectman Dargie opposed.

WARRANT ARTICLE 14 - NON-EMERGENCY COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION BUS SERVICES –
\$32,000

The Selectmen voted to recommend this warrant article 5/0.

WARRANT ARTICLE 15 - MODIFICATION OF EXISTING ELDERLY EXEMPTION CRITERIA - \$30,000

The Selectmen voted to recommend this warrant article 5/0.

WARRANT ARTICLE 16 - WADLEIGH LIBRARY MAINTENANCE AND UPKEEP CAPITAL RESERVE - \$25,000.

The Selectmen voted to recommend this warrant article 5/0.

WARRANT ARTICLE 17 - INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION FIREWORKS - \$14,000

The Selectmen voted to recommend this warrant article 4/1 with Selectman Daniels opposed.

WARRANT ARTICLE 18 - ANNUAL LABOR DAY PARADE SUPPORT - \$10,000

The Selectmen voted to not recommend this warrant article 2/3 with Selectman Daniels, Dudziak and Freel opposed.

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Later in the meeting, Selectman Daniels made a motion to decrease the amount from \$10,000 to \$3,000 because there is over \$13,500 already in the account, and the average parade costs around \$15,000. Selectman Freel seconded. All were in favor. The motion passed 5/0

The Selectmen voted to recommend this warrant article 5/0.

WARRANT ARTICLE 19 - SUMMER BAND CONCERTS SUPPORT - \$9,000

The Selectmen voted to recommend this warrant article 5/3 with Selectman Daniels and Selectman Freel opposed.

WARRANT ARTICLE 20 - MEMORIAL, VETERANS & LABOR DAY PARADES AND RECOGNITION SUPPORT - \$8,000

The Selectmen voted to recommend this warrant article 5/0.

WARRANT ARTICLE 21 - RE-ADOPT THE OPTIONAL VETERAN'S TAX CREDIT WITH EXPANDED ELIGIBILITY - \$5,000

The Selectmen voted to recommend this warrant article 4/0/1 with Selectman Daniels abstaining.

WARRANT ARTICLE 22 - RE-ADOPT ALL VETERAN'S TAX CREDIT WITH EXPANDED ELIGIBILITY - \$5,000

The Selectmen voted to recommend this warrant article 4/0/1 with Selectman Daniels abstaining.

WARRANT ARTICLE 23 - MILFORD COMMUNITY ELECTRICITY AGGREGATION - \$0

The Selectmen voted to recommend this warrant article 5/0.

WARRANT ARTICLE 24 - HISTORICAL PRESERVATION OF THE TOWN OF MILFORD'S FIRE HORN by Petition

The Selectmen voted to not recommend this warrant article 1/4 with Selectman Dargie, Selectman Finan, Selectman Daniels and Selectman Dudziak opposed

An additional petition warrant article came into the Town Clerks office late today.

WARRANT ARTICLE 25 – ELECT MEMBERS OF THE MILFORD PLANNING BOARD by Petition

The Selectmen voted to not recommend this warrant article 0/5.

Selectman Finan asked Selectman Daniels what it would take for him to vote yes on warrant article 4, Town Operating Budget. Selectman Daniels said he would like to see the percentage go down to 5%,

2. Designation of Majority and Minority Report Authors 2023

Majority

Minority

WARRANT ARTICLE 3 - WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY (WWTF) UPGRADE PROJECT – \$23,953,000 BOND

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(Loan Forgiveness \$3,592,950) (Wilton NH Portion \$3,031,611.45)
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Selectman Freel

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Selectman Dargie

Selectman Daniels

WARRANT ARTICLE 12 - SOCIAL SERVICES - \$40,000

Selectman Dudziak

WARRANT ARTICLE 13 - TRANSFER STATION RECYCLING CENTER / REVOLVING FUND - \$40,000

Selectman Daniels

Selectman Dargie

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WARRANT ARTICLE 15 - MODIFICATION OF EXISTING ELDERLY EXEMPTION CRITERIA - \$30,000	Selectman Finan	
WARRANT ARTICLE 16 - WADLEIGH LIBRARY MAINTENANCE AND UPKEEP CAPITAL RESERVE - \$25,000	Selectman Freel	
WARRANT ARTICLE 17 - INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION FIREWORKS - \$14,000	Selectman Dargie	Selectman Daniels
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WARRANT ARTICLE 24 - HISTORICAL PRESERVATION OF THE TOWN OF MILFORD'S FIRE HORN by petition	Selectman Dargie	Selectman Freel
WARRANT ARTICLE 25 – ELECT MEMBERS OF THE MILFORD PLANNING BOARD by petition	Selectman Finan	

In reference to Selectman Daniels wanting to reduce Town Operating Budget Warrant Article down to 5%, Mr. Calabria said the budget would have to be reduced by \$260,000 to get to the number Selectman Daniels wants.

Mr. Calabria reminded the Board that they already signed off on wages and the 2022 COLA for the non-union employees to retain employees. This accounts for 77% of the increase in the 2022 budget.

Selectman Finan asked when the Warrants have to be posted before Deliberative. Tina Philbrick, the Executive Assistant, said the warrants have to be posted by January 30, 2023.

Selectman Daniels asked what we would cut if we went into a default budget. Mr. Calabria said we would cut training that was not already mandated by the state. Departments with open positions would be asked to not fill those positions. We would delay cost of living adjustments for non-union employees. An example he used was DPW, everyone is worried about the streets in this town, and DPW's budget would be on the list to be cut. We are hoping for a 50.1% vote in March and a 5/0 recommendation by the Board. The BAC has strongly indicated a vote because they know that keeping staff in this town is a huge issue.

Chairman Dargie asked Finance to make a list of cuts we would have to make to get down to the 5% with the number of \$260,000 quoted.

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

Andrea Kokko, asked where we were in this process for the Downtown Improvements. She and others have concerns. She is also concerned with the narrowing of the oval, that we won't be able to have the Pumpkin Festival because the oval needs two lanes when the festival is held. Mr. Daley said we are in the beginning stages and anyone can e-mail him with questions. We intend to have a required public hearing later this month people will be allowed to voice their concerns and he will make Mr. Bakos aware of the Pumpkin Festival concerns.

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 Dudziak moved to approve the minutes of December 27, 2022, as amended. Seconded by Selectman Freel. All were in favor. The motion passed 5/0.

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10. INFORMATION ITEMS REQUIRING NO DECISIONS.

a. N/A

11. NOTICES. Notices were read.

12. NON-PUBLIC SESSION –

13. ADJOURNMENT: Selectman Freel moved to adjourn at 9:10. Seconded by Selectman Daniels. 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