**Milford Budget Advisory Committee**

**Approved Minutes**

**January 30, 2019**

**Present:** Karen Mitchell, Chris Pank, Bob Courage, Paul

Bartolomucci, Wade Campbell, Chris Skinner, Chris

Labonte, George Skuse and Peg Seward

**Absent:** None

**Guests:** Jason Johnson (Director of MACC Base), Jared Hyde (Supervisor, MACC Base), Chief Viola, Captain Frye and Chief Kelley

**Business:** Meeting called to order at 6:30 by Chris Pank

MACC Base - Jay Johnson

Jason Johnson (Director of MACC Base) joined us to discuss the ongoing debate regarding the upgrading and future of Milford’s dispatch center.

He explained that in 2015, they presented a solution of upgrading the equipment as well as a single site repeater for approximately $1.5 million dollars that would be done in phases. The single system repeater is also what our Fire Department currently uses. The Police did not go with the 2015 plan because having each Town on different channels when we are on a regional plan did not seem conducive to how the Town’s would run with MACC Base.

Jason stated that the $1.5 million quote in November of 2015 from Beltronics would solve the MACC Base equipment issues and would also take care of the officer to officer communication problems by using repeaters.

There was no engineering study done for this solution provided by Beltronics or RFP.

The study done for MACC Base in 2017 was done by Communication Design Consulting Group. They are not affiliated with MACC Base.

Jason stated that they checked thoroughly with their attorney, Upton Hatfield in Jaffrey, NH regarding the ability to borrow long term debt if the intermunicipal agreement with the Towns was extended to a ten year term. The response was that it would be allowed. Milford’s attorney, Bill Drescher disagrees.

Going from 100watts to 50watts (the new standard) along with the narrow-banding from 2011 will require more antenna sites. The current sites used are Pead Hill, Abbott Hill and Federal Hill. These sites are leased by the Town of Milford from the property owners. The only antenna owned by Milford is the one on top of Town Hall.

If Milford leaves the MACC Base agreement, it will forfeit all equipment to the other Towns in the agreement. The current $2.5 million proposal does not include permitting fees for the new tower sites.

There was a 180k grant from the 2017 report and it was received from Homeland Security. The equipment has been ordered and we are just awaiting installation.

The proposed microwave links will take care of both analog and digital signals. With the new system, Milford would have our own frequency rather than shared frequencies.

Repeaters were offered to the Police by Beltronics to be “trialed” to see how they worked. Chiefs from each of the Town’s involved were not interested in this trial.

MACC Base switched from 2-Way back to Beltronics for maintenance as our radios, etc. are mainly Kenwood. 2-Way specializes in Motorola. This way with Beltronics in Nashua, equipment repairs will be more timely and do not have to be sent out for repairs.

Chief Viola stated that, “they have a good relationship with MACC Base”. He also stated that he has noticed problems with officer communication since he came to Milford in 2012. He feels that the current proposal by the BOS is the best solution for the needed equipment upgrades as well as the problems with officer to officer communications. This is a safety issue that he would like addressed as soon as possible.

The next meeting will be Deliberative Session, Saturday, Feb 2, 2019

The meeting was adjourned at 9:36 pm.

Respectfully submitted by, Karen Mitchell, Secretary