

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS (BOG) OF THE
MILFORD AREA COMMUNICATIONS CENTER (MACC)**

January 13, 2020

PRESENT: Chairman Jay Wilson, BOG Town of Mont Vernon
Vice Chairman, Craig Frye, BOG Town of Milford
Eric Olesen, BOG Town of Wilton
Jason Johnson, MACC Director
Darlene J. Bouffard, Recording Secretary

1. Call to Order: Jay Wilson called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

2. Approval of Minutes – There were no minutes for review.

3. Old Business: J. Wilson said there is no update on the Mont Vernon channel; frequency searches are ongoing. C. Frye said the report was sent out to the other town Chairs and was discussed a week ago. J. Wilson said a two year extension on the Intermunicipal Agreement (IMA) can be done. C. Frye indicated if the Town Dispatch Center is voted in, it will take about one and a half to two years to implement, but after March we will know better what that timeline is. J. Wilson said if the warrant article passes or fails, the other towns need to identify what they will do.

J. Wilson asked how everyone feels about adding “Domestic Partner” to the health insurance in handbook. E. Olesen moved to accept the changes in the Employee Handbook to include the domestic partners rider. C. Frye seconded. E. Olesen said in Wilton they have this rider and it works well as a benefit if someone is in a domestic partnership. C. Frye was curious if other towns carry it? Karen Blow, Milford Human Resources Director, indicated a survey just went out January 16 to other towns and the majority of those that responded do not have the rider. C. Frye said the employee would get taxed additionally with this rider. J. Wilson said if the employee accepts that insurance, they sign for the additional tax. J. Johnson said that was explained in the paperwork he distributed. Health-source will require a letter signed by the Board of Governors to be sent if that is the decision. Karen Blow sent the survey to other municipalities in NH and of the responses received, about 80% do not have this rider. J. Wilson did not find out if Mont Vernon has it, but in Mont Vernon they pay 100% of the health insurance.

E. Olesen noted that the person must have lived for a year with the employee in order to be eligible for a domestic partnership. J. Johnson said the taxable amount explanation was included in his paperwork he gave to employees. C. Frye wants to bring this to his Board of Selectmen to see if they want to accept it. J. Wilson said it is like taking on another plan for MACC. C. Frye said the next BOS meeting is tonight (January 13) so he will find out. E. Olesen said if the Milford meeting is tonight, the decision would not be until the next BOG. The BOG already knows the Milford Town health insurance does not recognize domestic partnerships, so the answer will most likely be no. E. Olesen asked if J. Wilson could find out if Mont Vernon offers this? J. Johnson sent a message to find out right then and received an answer that they do not. J. Wilson said if this was going to have a financial aspect, he would feel it should go to the BOS, but there is not an impact to the towns. C. Frye wants to say no initially, which is why he wants to find out from the BOS. K. Blow said the survey just went out, there could be more responses next week. E. Olesen suggested making the decision in one month at the next regular BOG meeting and withdrew his motion. C. Frye seconded the motion.

J. Johnson is looking at the potential of Milford withdrawing from the Inter-municipal Agreement and what will MACC do going forward. Mont Vernon and Wilton BOS need to decide. E. Olesen will talk to the Town Administrator in Wilton to schedule a meeting. At a public safety meeting, they discussed meeting with Mont Vernon about this. One thought, said J. Wilson, is to have two towns bring MACC in with other towns, but Wilton and Mont Vernon need to discuss the options. In 4-6 months, things could change. If Milford decides to pull out, we need to know what we will do by this summer. E. Olesen said we should be prepared for Milford to pull out of MACC. J. Wilson wants to be prepared, it is Fire, Ambulance, DPW and Police. J. Wilson said he wants to look at putting together a couple employees to begin that process to work with the emergency directors about options and go from there.

J. Johnson said the microwaves are still moving forward, they are working through the connectivity. For the 2018 audit – an email was sent out and we should have more information today, they are waiting to finish. DNCR and Federal Hill are being worked on. DNCR is in its early stages with US Cellular about relocating antennas and

microwaves at a higher point and also putting up a new structure. Waiting on a timeframe but moving forward. J. Johnson said the monopole solves the issue. If a new monopole is built, it solves the problem. The DNCR property needs to be talked about with Planning and Zoning in Milford, regarding the tower and what that entails. C. Frye asked if the microwaves are already in place up there? J. Johnson said they are. C. Frye asked how much property DNCR owns? J. Johnson said the driveway is right next to a private road and the fire tower is still in use.

4. Public Comments: There were no public comments.

5. Items not on agenda: J. Johnson mentioned that the new Direct Deposits show up with a zero on the check registers since they all go in as one deposit. The sick cash out, holiday and longevity pay were all distributed. J. Wilson indicated the loss of service happened in Mont Vernon and they are trying to figure out what happened, they think it is Eversource. Consolidated Communications was up there for 3 hours on Friday, they seem to think it is an Eversource issue. J. Wilson asked if there could be some kind of signal when it goes down? J. Johnson said right now, they only find out it is down when it does not work. We need to find out what is causing the outage and figure out some kind of alert system. J. Wilson suggested maybe a pager could notify users when it goes down. The vacation carry over process was briefly discussed. E. Olesen said Wilton allows 40 hours to be carried over to the next year. If they do not use it they lose it.

C. Frye said in Milford the employee gets a certain number of hours per year of service, but there is a cap of hours that can accrue and you stop accruing more time when you reach the cap. For example for years 1-5 the employee receives two weeks of vacation time, if it is not used you do not get it paid out, it rolls to the next year, with a maximum accrual allowed. E. Olesen said Wilton does not allow pay out of vacation, if it is not used, it is lost. J. Johnson said in 2018, it was found that people were not able to take the vacation time, now employees get vacation allocation for the year and a reasonable amount could be carried over but no specific number was identified. E. Olesen said in Wilton there is a number of hours carried over and must be used by a certain date, but if it is not soon after the new year, they lose the hours. C. Frye asked if it would be easier to track with the calendar year instead of the anniversary date? J. Johnson said it is in the computer so it is not difficult. C. Frye noted that his vacation is capped and he cannot take all of the time because he is working, he does not get a payout and is unable to take vacation. With a stressful job the time should be taken. J. Wilson agreed that the instability of MACC and not being able to maintain full staff, has made it difficult for employees to take vacation time they deserve, so at the end of the year they lose the hours because of staffing. J. Johnson said when someone takes vacation, the person that fills in still needs to be paid, if people are not using vacation time, they get a payout. E. Olesen said this is a benefit that is not used, noting they should use the time.

C. Frye asked if there is a list of employees with the number of years of service. He would like to know how long the employees have been with MACC. C. Frye moved to continue the handbook discussion further at the next BOG meeting. E. Olesen seconded. All were in favor.

6. Adjournment: E. Olesen moved to adjourn 10:11 a.m. C. Frye seconded. All were in favor. C. Frye requested that the agenda be made available earlier than right before the scheduled meeting. There was no date set for the next BOG meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Darlene J. Bouffard
Recording Secretary

The minutes of the meeting of the Board of Governors of the Milford Area Communication Center dated 1/13/2020 were accepted as presented in the minutes of the next meeting.

Jay Wilson, Chairman, Town of Mont Vernon

Craig Frye, Vice Chairman, Town of Milford

Eric Olesen, Member, Town of Wilton