

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE  
MILFORD AREA COMMUNICATIONS CENTER**

**November 1, 2022**

**PRESENT:** Jay Wilson, BOG Chairman, Town of Mont Vernon  
Craig Frye, BOG Vice Chairman, Town of Milford  
Eric Olesen, BOG Member, Town of Wilton  
Ray Anderson, MACC Director

**1. Call to Order:** Jay Wilson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and stated this meeting is primarily to talk about the 2023 Budget. Jack Esposito, Mont Vernon Selectman, Dave Freel, Milford Selectman, were both in attendance with Kermit Williams, Wilton Selectman, attending via Zoom.

**2. CY2023 Budget:** R. Anderson confirmed that all Board of Governor's representatives had the copy of the latest 2023 budget. R. Anderson noted that health insurance and the part time line items were increased, temporary positions will be used to fill the Director position for two days at the desk, to allow the Director to do other duties; this will be further explored, with part time temporary positions. If there is more and more time spent by the Director away from the dispatch equipment, that will be looked at to be filled with temporary positions which increases that line item. The Treasurer position was looked at in 2022, there were no interested parties after posting the position therefore that line item will be lowered to \$1. Due to the current staffing level, we were able to lower the longevity line item down. We are looking at an 11% increase in health insurance premiums. Appendix E has costs of the insurance plans; there are currently 6 full time positions, of which some employees do not take the health insurance but instead take the buy out, but we do need to have that money available in case there is a status change for an employee. Currently there are three people using the buy-out and three take health insurance.

The life insurance costs went up, workman's compensation has a slight increase and liability insurance has a slight increase. The audit cost has increased for 2023, the line item for SPOTS has not been charged since 2015 or 2016 and the State is trying to figure that system out statewide, we can bring that down to \$1 and change it accordingly if the State figures it out. At the end of 2022, MACC is setting up staff with uniforms as identified in the Employee Manual. Eversource is looking to increase their rates, but MACC has rates set through 2024 so an increase will not be realized for a while. There are three phone lines for Milford and Mont Vernon and three lines for Wilton and they have to be separate. D. Freel asked if the internet is separate from the phone lines? R. Anderson said the internet is totally separate from the phones. D. Freel asked about the phone lines and what that budget is? R. Anderson said the phone lines alone are \$16,900. J. Wilson said we are not sure what the phone company will do, but \$16,900 is going to be dropped lower. R. Anderson expects a decrease. C. Frye said it hovers between \$1000 and \$14,000, this year we had some things fixed.

E. Olesen said in Wilton there are two lines for emergency and it costs \$1000 per year just for those two lines. R. Anderson just spoke with Consolidated Communications, if MACC loses internet, we have a problem. J. Wilson said there are problems with the internet in Mont Vernon. R. Anderson asked how MACC can make it more straight lined for this installation, he will talk about the options. Milford and Wilton have gone to their own radios so that line item can get lowered in cost because we will be decommissioning the tower.

An IT event in January caused an increase in 2022 but looking at \$5,000 per year going forward. That line was for a back up. The contract was lowered from the actual price. For 2023 the inventory for computers increased. J. Esposito asked if any COLA is included in the payroll increase? R. Anderson responded yes, it is a Step increase of 3% and a 3% COLA increase. That is for the 6 full time and 9 part time employees outlined in Appendix A.

J. Esposito sees that the repair and maintenance line item was decreased but he thinks we should leave it at \$40,000. R. Anderson said the only agency operating on that old equipment is Mont Vernon. The other agencies are working on getting the newer equipment. J. Esposito would rather keep it in the budget because the equipment is getting older. J. Wilson said MACC always has a surplus in the health insurance line item so we could find funds if needed. R. Anderson indicated the console is the biggest item MACC has, if that breaks, we need to buy a new one. D. Freel asked if that could just be bonded? J. Wilson responded it cannot be bonded. D. Freel explained some of the costs and bonding abilities for Milford.

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J. Wilson feels this boils down to the three towns sitting down to talk about the equipment. The Boards of Selectmen need to come up with a plan; it is not just using the left over budget surplus. C. Frye said if towns need to put that money away for those types of failures, they can. E. Olesen suggested getting the Boards together to figure this out. J. Esposito said Mont Vernon has been talking about this with MACC since the ice storm back in 2008. C. Frye said we are here tonight to approve the 2023 budget, those other discussions have been started but not with the Boards of Selectmen about repairs; numbers are being collected for that to talk about in the Spring. It is a lot more than just the \$250,000 for the consoles, it is for all emergency services and needs to be looked at in the spring by all three towns. Tonight the BOG is looking at this 2023 budget to be approved.

C. Frye would like to add 5% to the Director salary for COLA even though the Director started in April 2022. J. Wilson disagreed because he has not been with MACC for one year. D. Freel said the Director salary and steps do not have to be concurrent with other staff at MACC. C. Frye moved to change the Director increase from 4 to 5% for COLA. E. Olesen seconded. There was no further discussion. C. Frye yes, E. Olesen yes; J. Wilson no. Motion passed 2/1.

**3. Public Comments:** J. Wilson would like to have something from the BAC after the November 16, 2022 BAC meeting at 7 p.m. J. Wilson would also like to have something in writing from the BAC to support the 2023 MACC budget if it is supported. C. Frye agreed. E. Olesen agreed.

**4. Items Not on the Agenda:** The public BOG meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m. on motion made by E. Olesen, seconded by C. Frye. C. Frye yes; E. Olesen yes; J. Wilson yes. Motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Darlene J. Bouffard  
Recording Secretary

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Chairman, Jay Wilson

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Vice Chairman, Craig Frye

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Member, Eric Olesen

**THE MINUTES OF THE 11/01/2022 BOG WERE APPROVED 12/12/22**