

1 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE
2 MILFORD AREA COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

3 December 5, 2018
4

5 **PRESENT:** Jim Cutler, Member BOG, Town of Wilton
6 Mike Putnam, Vice Chairman BOG, Town of Milford
7 Chairman Jay Wilson, BOG Town of Mont Vernon
8 Darlene Bouffard, Recording Secretary
9

10 **EXCUSED:** Jason Johnson, MACC Director
11

12 1. Call to Order:

13 Jay Wilson called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Jay expressed his condolences to Jason for the loss of his signif-
14 icant other. Jim Cutler moved to unseal the executive session minutes of November 14, 2018 for review. Mike Put-
15 nam seconded. All were in favor. Mike Putnam moved to approve the minutes of executive session on November
16 14, 2018. Jim Cutler seconded. All were in favor. It was agreed the executive session minutes do not require seal-
17 ing.
18

19 2. Approval of Minutes: Mike Putnam moved to approve the regular minutes of 11/14/18 as presented. Jim Cutler
20 seconded. All were in favor.
21

22 3. Old Business:

23 Mike Putnam had nothing new from Milford, but other towns should have received the letter from Town Counsel
24 Bill Drescher. John Quinlan said he received it. Jim Cutler also received it. John Quinlan indicated Monday De-
25 cember 10, there is an agenda item at the Board of Selectman meeting in Milford, with other member towns. Jay
26 Wilson sent a letter to the Board of Governors in response to the Milford letter from Bill Drescher; Jay Wilson read
27 the letter into the record as follows:
28

29 BOD – MaccBase Board of Governors
30 MV-BOS – Mont Vernon Selectmen
31 M-BOS – Milford Selectmen/TA
32 W-BOS – Wilton Selectmen/TA
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34 Letter to BOG from Chair Jay S. Wilson, Mont Vernon Representative
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36 I find the letter received from the town of Milford via Attorney Drescher to be one of hypocrisy, misrepre-
37 sentation over the past year and in my personal opinion, a complete lack of integrity from the M-BOS.
38

39 In case Milford has forgotten, you have a selectman on the BOG, whose job it is to keep you informed. As
40 Mr. Putnam was clearly present for our discussions, he should have brought information back to you, as he
41 presented no information back to us from the M-BOS, except to advise that M-BOS have not made any de-
42 cisions. But it is clearly evident from recently unsealed minutes that M-BOS had made decisions and plans.
43 This meant that the BOG's months of work putting together a new IMA to move MaccBase forward, im-
44 prove infrastructure and do it in a way that would spread costs out was a complete waste of time and a waste
45 of taxpayers' dollars [as an attorney was reviewing IMA and wording].
46

47 In reference to M-BOS taking issue with regards to letter dealing with their silence, too bad. The M-BOS
48 was asked by MV-BOS after a meeting to provide points of discussion, stance on issues, and even some
49 recommendations from M-BOS. The M-BOS was asked this, because MV-BOS did not want to come
50 down to another meeting where multiple points of views are being discussed and no one is answering any
51 questions and in which no consensus is reached, thus no decisions or plans could be made. What MV-BOS
52 got was silence from M-BOS.
53

54 I am not sure what the W-BOS think of all this, but I am pretty sure they are not pleased with M-BOS.
55

56 I also take issue with M-BOS, TA, and even the Milford Police Chief. As part of what the BOG was trying
57 to do was improve communications, as Milford indicated "officer safety" issues with officers not being able

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to hear each other, hear dispatch, or dispatch hear the officers. My issue: if it was such an officer safety issue, where the life of an officer is so important, along with the citizens, why did M-BOS block every attempt to spend money to improve police radio communications? If it was so important to the Milford Police Department, why was there not a demand to fund the proposals to protect their officers and improve their safety?

It is obvious, that the safety and well-being of the Milford's Police Officers takes a back seat to the M-BOS and Police Chief's plan to operate their own dispatch center. They have used the past years to undermine the effectiveness and operational capabilities of MaccBase.

What proposals someone might ask, let's review:

MaccBase has offered solutions in the past. Milford would not support funding the projects/proposals, even when Milford proposed a plan [but with Milford having two votes on budgetary items, Milford could vote down or block funding].

*2015-Single Site Radio Repeater system for Milford PD (exactly the same as used by Milford Fire Department), to be expanded by one town per year at a cost of \$58,000. Voted down.

*Suggested to Milford to use returned surplus funds from MaccBase to investigate the use of in car repeaters for Milford PD, Mont Vernon PD & Lyndeborough PD. Both successfully use these to significantly reduce issues. Not Done.

*Comprehensive plan for replacing all equipment for Police, Fire, EMS & DPW transmitters in a multi-year phased in approach, estimated cost \$1.3 million. MaccBase began this process, with further discussions in how to fund it, such as a multi-year IMA with funding methods included.

*2016-MaccBase with Mont Vernon pursued and was awarded an \$182,000 grant to provide microwave connectivity between our antenna sites and link our systems with Hollis & Amherst.

*2017-Milford requested a \$200,000 to \$250,000 solution to provide a repeater Police frequency for the 4 towns be added to the 2017 MACC budget, Milford summarily rejected funding the same plan at the next public budget hearing.

*2016-2017-2018- Milford BOS have caused continued instability for MACC by hampering our ability to attract additional customer towns & our inability to expand and improve service and coverage due to continued lack of funding support for budgetary improvements. This became very obvious by Milford's refusal to support a budget line item for new equipment, forcing the BOG to increase funding in repair-maintenance line to \$50,000.00 in case a site or transmitter/receiver had to be replaced because of failure.

Jay S. Wilson

Jay Wilson has been directed to enter a motion this evening to extend the existing contract for two years. Jim Cutler said he does not have that direction from his Board of Selectmen. Mike Putnam seconded the motion for discussion. Mike Putnam said the existing agreement is the one in place right now. John Quinlan said counsel advised not to extend the current contract beyond two years and to explore other options, no one has given notice of anything and we all need communications services. Right now the motion is to extend the existing contract for two years under the contract in place right now. Kim Roberge said based on Jason's position, it is felt he will support that as well since it puts contracts in limbo and an extension of the existing contract for only two years. Jay Wilson said Milford wants to extend it for five years. Mike Putnam does not have authority to do that. Jim does not have authority and would want to know what happens at the end of two years? John Quinlan said one year is required for notice. This has to be done by the end of December, it cannot wait until January 1.

Kim Roberge said until the three Boards of Selectmen have a meeting, the two year extension is for communication work that needs to be done. In order to move forward it will provide difficulty and two years will provide the ability to move forward. Jay said it also gives the towns time to have discussions without a time line looming. December 10, the Milford Board of Selectmen have a meeting and there is an agenda item at 5:40 after which each Board can re-convene. Jim said the Wilton did not mention that meeting to him, he will have to check tomorrow with the Wilton Town Administrator. This group can re-convene on Tuesday December 11 at 5:15 after the Monday session with the selectmen. It was agreed the BOG will have a special meeting on Tuesday December 11 at 5:15.

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Kim Roberge asked if the items identified in Jay's letter are the only concerns? The Milford BOS was aware of the attempts the BOG and MACC were trying to improve. Jim Cutler feels it is a pretty good timeline that Jay provided in the letter. Kim said it seems that the Milford RFP identified the problem with Milford communications and nothing has been done by Milford police or the BOS to improve it issue. Jay Wilson said the line item for repairs and maintenance was added to the budget but Milford has not supported other items. Milford has not supported any improvements to the communications. Jim Cutler said we have done some minor things. Single site repeaters were just for Milford and they had a problem with it. Kim mentioned that a lot of minutes for the Milford BOS do not have any vote; she does not know how the BOS runs, but normally you can tell where the Board stands based on the votes, but in the minutes she cannot tell if the BOS supports or not. Even reading the full MRI report, the minutes do not represent the MRI report. The RFP was also vague. Kim said if the Milford BOS is all on the same page with this or is it split? Mike Putnam said he cannot remember what votes were taken. Even the RFP did not have a vote on if Milford will go out or no, said Kim. But does the BOS make the decisions and are they involved in the process or for putting the RFP together? Kim cannot tell how any members are feeling because there is never any vote. Jim indicated there was an early BOS meeting when MACC was discussed, in that video, you can get a feeling about where people stand. Kim will go back to watch that video.

Jay indicated the DRED and Pead Hill leases were signed for 2019.

7. Items not on the agenda – there were no new items discussed.

8. Non-Public – there were no non public items this evening.

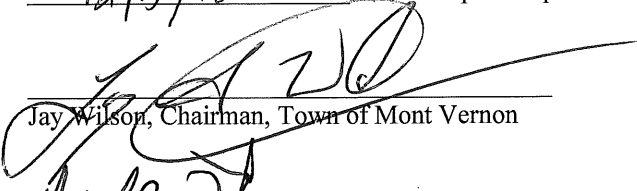
9. Announcement – a meeting will be held Tuesday December 11 at 5:15 p.m. to review discussions at the Milford BOS meeting held on Monday, December 10.

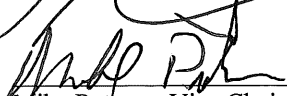
Adjournment: Mike Putnam moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 6:00 p.m. Jim Cutler seconded. All were in favor.

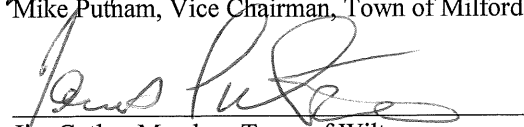
Respectfully Submitted,

Darlene J. Bouffard
Recording Secretary

The minutes of the meeting of the Board of Governors of the Milford Area Communication Center dated 12/5/18 were accepted as presented or as amended in the minutes of the next meeting.


Jay Wilson, Chairman, Town of Mont Vernon


Mike Putnam, Vice Chairman, Town of Milford


Jim Cutler, Member, Town of Wilton