# APPROVED

## MINUTES OF THE MILFORD BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING April 24, 2017

**PRESENT:** Mark Fougere, Chairman

Kevin Federico, Vice Chairman

Gary Daniels, Member Mike Putnam, Member Laura Dudziak, Member

Mark Bender, Town Administrator
Darlene J. Bouffard, Recording Secretary

David Bosquet, Videographer

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER, BOARD OF SELECTMEN INTRODUCTIONS & PUBLIC SPEAKING

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Chairman Fougere called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m., introduced Board members and then led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Fougere indicated that those people in the audience who want to speak or add to the discussion should please use a microphone in order to be heard on the PEG Access live broadcast.

#### 2. APPOINTMENTS:

**5:30 p.m.** – Appointment of Daniel Ayotte as a Full Member of the Ethics Committee. Chairman Fougere asked that Daniel Ayotte please join the Board at the table for this discussion. Chairman Fougere indicated that this appointment was scheduled for the last Board meeting, however Mr. Ayotte was out of town at that time. This appointment is for another new person on the Ethics Committee for which he thanked Mr. Ayotte. Daniel saw that the Ethics Committee was looking to add members and he has always been interest in ethics and he has been involved in a lot of town things. Professionally, he is an FAA Controller. His wife is very happy to hear that once he is on the Ethics Committee, he cannot volunteer for anything else for another three years. All members thanked Mr. Ayotte for stepping up. Selectman Putnam moved to appoint Daniel Ayotte as a full member of the Ethics Committee. Selectman Daniels seconded. All were in favor. Motion passed 5/0.

5:35 p.m. – Appointment of Wade Scott Campbell as an Alternate Member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA). Chairman Fougere asked Wade to join the Board at the table for this discussion. Chairman Fougere appreciates that Wade is stepping up. Mr. Campbell indicated he has lived most of his life in Milford and volunteered on the Budget Advisory Committee (BAC) last term, which he enjoyed. He thought now he would try something else. Chairman Fougere explained the ZBA is a very important Board and it is a tough Board. Mr. Campbell said he looks forward to the challenge. Selectman Daniels knows that Wade has sat in on a few ZBA meetings already so he knows what it is for. Mark Bender said Wade did a good job on the BAC last year. Vice Chairman Federico thanked Mr. Campbell for stepping up. Selectman Putnam moved to appoint Mr. Campbell as an alternate member of the ZBA. Selectman Daniels seconded. All were in favor. Motion passed 5/0.

**5:40 p.m.** – **Finance** – **Departmental Update, Investment Policy Review and Re-adoption, and Treasurer's Delegation.** Finance Director Jack Sheehy provided the yearly update for Finance, indicating there are four employees that make up the Finance Department. The department has had several accomplishments over the past year and has several goals for 2017. The property taxes have had 96.5% collected, with tax liens for 2016 taxes taking place May 1. Selectman Daniels asked if the taxes collected is what people owe or what was actually collected? Mr. Sheehy answered it is 96.5% taxes that have actually been collected out of what is owed. Mr. Sheehy indicated the part time clerk still needs to learn some backup functions and is continuing to learn the accounts payable job. The electronic time keeping system is still being worked on to be implemented in 2017. The credit card payment are functioning for Property Taxes (through the town website) and for Water Utilities, Mr. Sheehy is hoping to bring Community Development on-line next for credit card payments of building permits, etc.

The Town of Milford Investment Policy requires review and re-adoption annually by the Board of Selectmen by April 30. Mr. Sheehy indicated there have been no changes from last year and requested re-adoption by the Board. Mr. Sheehy also requested the renewal of the Treasurer Delegation.

Selectman Putnam moved to adopt the Investment Policy as presented. Selectman Daniels seconded. All were in favor. Motion passed 5/0.

Selectman Putnam moved to delegate Brian Sanborn as the Town Treasurer and Allen White as the Deputy Town Treasurer as presented. Selectman Daniels seconded. All were in favor. Motion passed 5/0.

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6:00 p.m. - 2nd Public Hearing - "RULE" Target Shooting Prohibition on Town Community Lands. Chairman Fougere opened the public hearing at 6:00 p.m. and explained that at the last Board meeting Chief Viola provided a presentation on the first reading of the Rule for Target Shooting Prohibition on Town Community Lands. Chairman Fougere suggested that since the presentation was done at the last meeting, this is the second public hearing and we do not need to revisit the presentation. The Board is going through the public hearing process to get input from the residents.

A hard copy of a proposal from the Milford Gun Club was given to Board members to allow target shooting on the Town Community Lands, presented by Tina Vallier and Chris Skinner, who stated at the last meeting that the Board said it would consider any proposals to allow target shooting on town community lands. This proposal identifies that shooting would not be done during school hours, only on Saturdays and Sundays 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. during the school year and also on Tuesdays during summer, no shooters under 21 years old would be allowed unless accompanied by an adult, and it would be for Milford residents only with no more than two guests at a time and that clean up would be conducted regularly. The proposal also states that there would be a registry of shooters utilizing the area and targets would be controlled. Mr. Skinner stated the Milford Gun Club does not want to push out other activities on that property (hikers/bikers). Tina Vallier and her husband went out to the property over the weekend to clean up the area. Chairman Fougere thanked those that participated in the clean up. Ms. Vallier said she posted her plans to clean up the area on Facebook and other people came out to help. Selectman Putnam asked who participates in the Milford Gun Club? Ms. Vallier said there are about 15 members.

Robert Rogen, Perry Road, suggested putting a fence around the property with signs on the fence stating no firearms. Injuries happen, there are stupid people out there. He suggested if there is target practice allowed that steel signs be used for target practice so that the lead bullets fall right down and then can be recycled. Chairman Fougere stated this is the first time the Board of Selectmen has seen this proposal and members will have to review it before commenting on it. Bob Rogen stated it is a long walk out to the area where target shooting has been done. Kevin Drew, Milford School Board member, said three members of the School Board were at the last Board of Selectmen meeting and they took information to their next meeting and also talked with Chief Viola. In the end, the School Board took a vote to support the proposed Rule that Chief Viola presented for safety; the kids and adult safety is critical. The School Board feels it is a good case. The School Board vote was 4/0.

Joelle Martin, Noon's Quarry, and State Representative thanked Chief Viola for preparing this rule and she supports it both for the community and for the kids.

Eric Schelberg, Whitten Road, is an abutter to this property and he appreciates what is being brought forward by Chief Viola and also appreciates those who would like to have target shooting on this property. However, it is not only the safety factor, it is also the noise. He does not want to hear shooting every weekend from his home. He appreciates that people want to do these things, but he is not sure the residents want to have that type of activity in town. As a someone living nearby that will have to hear the shooting, he is not sure he wants to hear it every weekend. It would be like having fire crackers going off every weekend for five or more hours. Mr. Schelberg asks that the noise be considered. Chairman Fougere said the Board of Selectmen has to look at the proposal and if it were to go forward it might need a public hearing as well.

Bob Rogen said if the rule to prohibit shooting on the Community Land is approved, what about shooting on the Class VI road? How will the town deal with that? Selectman Putnam said that would be covered under this rule, as it is for all the community lands, whether it is a Class VI road or not. Chief Viola said one of the things we will do is respond as to what is going on, if there are shots fired. At the last meeting, we talked about a firearm being pointed in the direction of a resident. If the Police get a call, we will go check it out. Chairman Fougere asked if shooting is allowed on a Class VI road? Captain Frye answered that people can shoot across a Class VI road for hunting, but you cannot shoot parallel with the Class VI road, that is the difference between hunting and target shooting. Chief Viola said if a person is target shooting in a questionable manner, we would take the appropriate steps.

Tina Vallier would like the people that oppose this proposal to actually come out and walk out there to see how far the target shooting is from the school. This particular area is heavily wooded; the trees absorb sound and it is a pretty safe area.

Chairman Fougere closed the public hearing.

Selectman Putnam would like to take some time to review the proposal submitted. Selectman Daniels was contacted by Mike Thornton who is on the ZBA who also expressed interest in getting an organized group together. Ms. Vallier asked if he could contact her. Mark Bender indicated the Board asked for a map overlay of the Community Lands so that has been provided here tonight. It is pretty extensive mapping and includes the Osgood Pond area and Beaver Brook. Mark Bender suggested moving this to the next Board meeting on May 8. At the next meeting, Chairman Fougere said the Board will make a decision. We will need to find out a lot of details on the proposal for when the Board looks at the proposal.

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6:30 p.m. - Current Use Classification Map 8 Lot 31. This appointment was deferred to the May 8, 2017 Board of Selectmen meeting at the request of the applicant.

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**3. PUBLIC COMMENTS. (items not on the agenda).** There were no public comments.

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## 4. DECISIONS.

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a) CONSENT CALENDAR. Chairman Fougere asked if there were any items to be removed from the Consent Calendar for discussion. There were no items removed from the Consent Calendar for discussion. Selectman Putnam moved to approve. Selectman Daniels seconded. All were in favor. Motion passed 5/0.

1) Request for Approval of Gravel Tax Levy Map 58, Lot 3. The Board approved the Gravel Tax Levy for Jane Provins in the amount of \$430.82.

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2) Request for Approval of Gravel Tax Levy Map 8, Lot 31. The Board approved the Gravel Tax Levy for Stephen Trombly in the amount of \$70.00.

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b) OTHER DECISIONS.

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#### 5. TOWN STATUS REPORT.

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1) 124 Prospect Street Possible Lot Sale. Town Administrator Mark Bender stated at the last meeting the Board was in support of selling the 124 Prospect Street lot for which the Water Utilities Department no longer has a use; the Prospect Street Tank was removed and remediation has been completed. The lot is just over a quarter acre, the 25' access was reduced to 20' in 1992 because there is a building on the town lot. The easement is part of the deed. A letter from the Water Utilities Commissioners was requested and will be executed. If the Board wants to move ahead, it will require two public hearings and a Board vote. Selectman Putnam has seen the letter from the Board of Commissioners (BOC) and it is just awaiting signatures from all members. The BOC discussed it at the last meeting. Chairman Fougere said this Board should put it on the agenda for a public hearing at the next meeting; let's keep it simple. Selectman Putnam said the abutters might be interested in buying it and 3

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should be notified. Mark Bender will move forward with the first public hearing and will notify abutters of the sale.

- South Street Update. Town Administrator Mark Bender indicated the remaining work on South Street will begin May 1, there was a bit of a delay. Mark Bender asked if Selectman Daniels has contacted DOT regarding the parking spaces. Selectman Daniels said he tried to get ahold of DOT and he talked to the State Engineer who said it is a local issue and that we need to determine if we went to recoup some of the parking spaces, but the State will have to okay it. Because of the change, it would need to go to the State since the plans that were presented show the parking being taken out. Selectman Daniels does not know how long that will take. Chairman Fougere asked Mark Bender to talk to Milford's project engineer to find out how long that might take. Chairman Fougere thinks we should not add more than one space back. Selectman Putnam stated if more than one goes back, it would be back to what it was before the change.
- 3) LED Street Light Test. Town Administrator Mark Bender indicated that LED test lamps have been installed on Union Street between Lincoln and George Streets. The town would like to hear from residents on their preference for color temperature or brightness of the LED lamps. At Lincoln street there are two 3000 Kelvin LED lamps followed by two high pressure sodium lamps and then two 4000 Kelvin LED lamps. Residents should vote for their preference and provide input on the town website, at Town Hall, on the Milford Facebook page and the Milford residents Facebook page. Voting will be open for a month with installation scheduled to begin in July. Selectman Putnam asked if there is a cost difference between the 3000/4000 lamps. Mark Bender said no, it is just a different style bulb.

#### 6. DISCUSSIONS.

1) DPW Equipment (carry over). Mark Bender indicated additional information has been provided from DPW Director Rick Riendeau regarding the estimated cost to repair the truck. Selectman Putnam did not talk to the person that he would like to get an estimate from to refurbish this truck and he feels that a refurb might be the better answer. Chairman Fougere looked at the truck the other day and it looks bad once you look underneath and at the body; there is a lot of rust and the oil that it is burning is terrible. Selectman Putnam said the motor replacement would take care of the oil. The State has some trucks that are 30 years old and they work fine. That truck could be refurbished and last another 10-15 years. Selectman Dudziak asked if this truck can be used next winter? Mark Bender said not unless it gets refurbished. Mr. Riendeau said it will take about 3-4 months to refurbish, during which time it will be out of commission.

Mark Bender indicated this Board needs to decide by June if it wants to refurb this truck. Chairman Fougere said the subcontractor for plowing would need notification by September. Selectman Putnam asked what are the pro's and con's of subcontracting versus refurbishing? Mark Bender said he can get a fair amount of control with staff or with a subcontractor. The requirements for the contractor would be in the contract and would lay out what is needed. If we use staff, they can also do other work in addition to plowing. A plowing contract is only for snow removal. Vice Chairman Federico hates to put \$50,000 into a 17 year old truck. Chairman Fougere suggested subcontracting for plowing for one winter and see how it goes. Selectman Daniels is willing to wait a couple weeks to see if Selectman Putnam could get an estimate from another person on refurbishing this truck. We are doing what we can and we are looking at alternatives. Selectman Putnam said we have subcontracted smaller trucks and that has worked out. Mark Bender has no problem with subcontracting for next winter. Selectman Putnam moved to subcontract for the 2017/2018 winter. Selectman Daniels seconded for discussion. Vice Chairman Federico asked what does the guy do that drives the plow truck for the town? Does the town have another truck he could drive? Mark Bender said we have to look at the overall staffing at DPW for the year. All were in favor of the motion. Motion passed 5/0. Chairman Fougere noted to not junk the truck yet, just park it.

2) Review of Building Fees, updated. Director of Community Development, Lincoln Daley, presented the proposed changes to the Building Permit Fee Schedule. After discussion, the question arose that there are a lot of comparisons with surrounding towns and their fees. Mr. Daley explained that without looking at comparisons in surrounding communities, he would have no way of knowing if Milford's fees are in line with other communities. Mr. Daley indicated he would like to implement the changes July 1, 2017. Chairman Fougere said these proposed changes provide income to the town, which offsets the budget for the department, but he does not want these changes to become a revenue stream for the town. Selectman Daniels does not mind the fees to offset the cost of doing the work, but when comparing to other towns, why do we have to compare to the towns around Milford? The other towns really have nothing to do with what we do for our residents in Milford. Selectman Daniels does not mind having a set fee to cover the costs but we should not be using it to raise revenue. Vice Chairman Federico likes having the fee re-allocated to where the effort is put in. Selectman Putnam does not have a problem with covering costs but he does have a problem with increasing fees just to raise revenue.

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In 2015, Mark Bender said the revenue for the Building Department was under \$89,000 and the costs were \$123,000. There were permit fees that were not close to covering expenses. In 2016 the department reduced expenses. The value of comparing to other towns is to make sure we are in the ball park and there is some rationale to the numbers. A lot of effort was put into this fee structure. It was not an easy task. Mark Bender has a 10-year analysis on revenue and expenses. Chairman Fougere said it is really dependent on the economy. Chairman Fougere ere said he does not have a problem with the changes, maybe on sheds we shouldn't have a square footage fee. The 200 sf and under shed shouldn't require a permit. Selectman Putnam asked why the expenses were so much in 2012. Chairman Fougere answered the town had two full time inspectors at that time. Selectman Dudziak asked what the projection on building permits is for the next few years and why would we want to increase the rates when the building permits will be increasing. Mr. Daley responded that we have seen a reduction in multi-family permits, but electrical and plumbing permits have not decreased. Selectman Daniels is concerned about increasing fees just to increase revenue. Residential permit fees would increase for everyone, not only developers. Vice Chairman Federico considers the comparison a way to see if we are charging too much or too little; there are increases and decreases and maybe it has not been a high enough fee for a while. The inspectors should collect revenue for the work that is done. Selectman Putnam said that when people see a fee increase, they will just not bother with the permit or the inspection. We have to be careful about that.

Mark Bender said people that come in for a building permit will see the increase over time. Mr. Daley indicated that the building permits are not expensive. Chairman Fougere said builders are used to the fees, but a home owner that is doing a renovation does not understand the fees. Chairman Fougere is more concerned about the guy that is fixing up his house and suggested maybe bringing the per square foot charge down a couple of cents which might help. Vice Chairman Federico is also concerned with the cost for homeowners.

All Board members were happy with the increase in commercial fees, which is the cost of doing business. Chairman Fougere commended the staff for coming up with the charts and said it is work that was well done.

3) **Review of Ambulance Fees (carry over).** Chairman Fougere indicated that Ambulance Director Eric Schelberg had previously given the Board a presentation on the ambulance fees, therefore we do not need to review that again. Chairman Fougere asked if there were any thoughts on the proposed fee increases. Mr. Schelberg indicated the last time fees were increased was March 2016; Milford was behind in fees and is getting caught up. Mr. Schelberg explained that he is trying to catch up to the average of the local communities to be in the ball park range of fees. Selectman Daniels asked why does it matter if we are in the ball park? Mr. Schelberg responded that he wants to be sure we are not over or under, to know where we should be with what we are charging. We are putting the costs on to the users. Mark Bender said the comparison is just a reality check. If you don't have the information, how do we base the fee structure? Selectman Daniels said if we were at the top, would we be here to lower the fees?

Vice Chairman Federico wants to know if we are in line with other communities. In this instance, Mr. Schelberg wants to see where we fit with both private and municipal services similar to Milford. Selectman Daniels said that people that have had ambulance rides have told him they received a \$500 bill for it. Is that because they have insurance or are we just covering costs of the service? Selectman Putnam asked if we could establish an enterprise fund for the ambulance service like water utilities? Jack Sheehy responded that he would not recommend an enterprise fund for the ambulance department. It would not work like water utilities' enterprise fund. Chairman Fougere said the ambulance fees cover about 70% of the department budget. Selectman Putnam would like to sit down with Eric and talk about the numbers from five years ago versus five years into the future, which might give us information to make an accurate decision on the fee schedule. Chairman Fougere stated we have a few departments that help pay their way, which helps keep it off the taxpayers. The ambulance fees went up 20% last year, now we are looking at another 10-20%. Mr. Schelberg said the numbers here tonight are just suggested numbers, the Board does not have to accept those numbers. Vice Chairman Federico would like to close the gap; this is not shocking and is not unreasonable. There are also numbers from other towns provided by Eric. Chairman Fougere asked about the staffing change last year and how much did that add to the budget? Mr. Schelberg answered it is about a \$30,000 difference. Selectman Putnam feels like it is a lot since the last increase, he would want to wait another year. Selectman Dudziak thinks it is a lot considering it went up just last year. Selectman Daniels would not want it to go up this much. Mr. Schelberg said he can bring it up for next year; when the ambulance does not have the volume, the revenue goes down. 2017 has been very busy so far, like 6-7 calls per day.

4) **Board of Selectmen 2017-2018 Goals and Objectives.** Chairman Fougere does not think any more goals need to be added since it is a long list, Selectman Putnam added that there will be plenty of things that come up and get added as the year goes on.

#### 7. SELECTMEN'S REPORTS/DISCUSSIONS.

a) FROM PROJECTS, SPECIAL BOARDS, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES. Selectman Putnam stated the MACC Base Board of Governors (BOG) should take the equipment issue from here; the BOG knows the equipment and where to make changes and they can bring forward a recommendation to the Boards. Both technology firms were at the April 12 meeting and identified what they could do. Both firms agreed that what Milford has is not a system but is a conglomeration of pieces of equipment. We need to get a true system in place and it may be the resolution to the issues we have with police. Vice Chairman Federico said the BOG cannot borrow money and there has been a plan in place for years and nothing has been done. Everyone knows that Milford is pushing for something; we have a problem. We need to resolve the issue. The BOG does not have the ability to fix this. Milford has to take action. Will that be a regional communication system, we do not know but we need to make a decision on what we want today. The other towns will not do it for Milford. Lyndeborough spoke up and said that they are on board with this. Chairman Fougere said the way it is structured now, MACC Base cannot borrow money. If MACC Base considers this something they can take on they need to make a decision. Selectman Putnam said it is a lack of knowledge with the Boards of Selectmen, the BOG should take care of it because we understand it. Vice Chairman Federico said the fix for MACC Base was to add money to the budget which we did not want. We need to decide what we want to do. If we do this, is Milford paying 71% of the bill? If we move forward with this upgrade for \$1.8 million is Milford paying 71% of it? Vice Chairman Federico does not want to pay for equipment we are not using.

The intermuncipal agreement will not work moving forward. Chairman Fougere said we will have to borrow the money; the agreement will have to be amended and all the towns will have to do the same. Selectman Putnam said the BOG can move a lot faster than all these subcommittees. Vice Chairman Federico said the BOG does not have the ability to borrow money, not once has the BOG come to the town to change the agreement to borrow the money. The BOG has had this problem for three years and nothing has been done. Chairman Fougere stated at the next Board meeting, he would like to know what the plan is. If the other towns are not interested, we need to know that. What happens if Milford votes it in but no one else does? Vice Chairman Federico did not ask the question of which town is in favor of this upgrade. The only one to stand up was Lyndeborough who said they will support the upgrade. Vice Chairman Federico did not ask that question. Vice Chairman Federico is raising the issue more than the BOG has raised the issue because they have had it for three years knowing there is a problem. Selectman Putnam asked that Vice Chairman Federico not make it seem like the BOG has been doing nothing. We have the ability to re-write the agreement and bring it to the Board of Selectmen for their input. Chairman Fougere said we need feedback from the BOG, if other towns are not on board, Milford needs to know. Selectman Putnam said he will make some calls tomorrow to find that out. Chairman Fougere would like to have this on the warrant in 2018.

- b) OTHER ITEMS (that are not on the agenda). Town Administrator Mark Bender indicated that Governor Sununu signed HB329 for the vote in March 2017 which sets up a program for the Board of Selectmen to ratify the vote at a Board meeting. Mark Bender will set up a time for this as it is a public hearing. Selectman Daniels said that HB329 did ratify the elected people, everything else on the ballot must be ratified by the Board of Selectmen in a public hearing.
- **8. APPROVAL OF FINAL MINUTES**. The minutes of March 27, 2017 were reviewed. Selectman Putnam moved to approve as presented. Selectman Daniels seconded. All were in favor. Motion passed 5/0.

The minutes of April 10, 2017 were reviewed. Selectman Putnam moved to approve as presented. Selectman Daniels seconded. All were in favor. Motion passed 5/0.

### 9. INFORMATION ITEMS REQUIRING NO DECISIONS.

**10. NOTICES**. Notices were read by Chairman Fougere.

11. NON-PUBLIC SESSION. Selectman Putnam moved to enter into non-public session at 7:45 p.m. Vice Chairman Federico seconded. All were in favor. Motion passed 5/0. Selectman Putnam moved to unseal the non-public minutes of March 13, 2017. Selectman Daniels seconded. All were in favor. Motion passed 5/0. Selectman Putnam moved to approve one set of non-public minutes of March 13, 2017 as presented. Selectman Daniels seconded. All were in favor, with Selectman Dudziak abstaining. Motion passed 4/0/1. Vice Chairman Federico moved to re-seal the minutes of March 13, 2017. Selectman Daniels seconded. All were in favor. Motion passed 5/0. Vice Chairman Federico moved to seal the minutes of the non-public session. Selectman Dudziak seconded. All were in favor. Motion passed 5/0.

Vice Chairman Federico moved to permanently unseal the minutes of January 9, 2012. Selectman Daniels seconded. All were in favor. Motion passed 5/0.

## APPROVED MINUTES OF BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING - 04/24/2017

1	After non-public session, Chairman Fougere announced that in non-public session the Board discussed a lega		1
2	issue and approved one set of	non-public minutes of March 13, 2017 and made no other decisions.	
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4	12. ADJOURNMENT: Vi	ce Chairman Federico moved to adjourn at 8:10 p.m. Selectman Putnam seconded. A	1
5	were in favor. Motion passed 5	%/0.	
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