

1 **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE**
2 **MILFORD AREA COMMUNICATIONS CENTER**
3 November 14, 2018

4
5 **PRESENT:** Jim Cutler, BOG Town of Wilton
6 Mike Putnam, Selectman, BOG Town of Milford
7 Jay Wilson, BOG Town of Mont Vernon
8 Jason Johnson, MACC Director
9 Darlene Bouffard, Recording Secretary

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11 1. Call to Order:

12 Jim Cutler called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

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14 2. Approval of Minutes: There were two corrections requested to the minutes of October 17, 2018. Mike Putnam
15 moved to approve the minutes of 10/17/18 as amended. Jay Wilson seconded. All were in favor.

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17 3. Old Business:

18 Milford BOS conversation with other towns. Kim Roberge, Mont Vernon Selectwoman, stated Milford has
19 not had a conversation with other towns about MACC, can this be discussed tonight. Jason Johnson has information
20 from the two other towns, Mont Vernon and Wilton but not Milford. The letter from those two towns was read into
21 the record by Ms. Roberge as follows:

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23 “To the Milford Board of Selectmen, dated November 7, 2018-11-18

24
25 Enclosed please find the Intermunicipal Agreement for the Provision of Communications endorsed by both
26 the Mont Vernon and Wilton Boards of Selectmen. With the submission of this endorsed contract, the res-
27 pective Boards expect that MACC will continue to operate into 2019 with or without Milford.

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29 Your silence thus far indicates to us that Milford is trying to dissolve our union. It is past time for the Mil-
30 ford Board of Selectmen to act. If it is your intention to start your own communication center, give notice,
31 or sign the contract and opt out with 2 years’ notice. Should you decide not to enter into the agreement, you
32 will no longer be a voting member of MACC. We will assume that to be your official decision to leave, and
33 therefore, forfeit the rights to all MACC equipment. In the event you do not sign the agreement, the pre-
34 sumption is that no services will be available to you for MACC after 12/31/18 at midnight.

35
36 This agreement has been worked on for over twelve months and neither Mont Vernon nor Wilton is inter-
37 ested in extending the existing contract. We would encourage you to sign the agreement so that we can con-
38 tinue to move forward as partners.”

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40 Jay Wilson asked if Milford has made a decision. Mike Putnam answered that Milford would like to extend the ex-
41 isting contract out two years. John Quinlan asked if that was discussed in public session, or non-public session, there
42 is no record of it in any minutes. Mike Putnam said they have looked at the municipal agreement and want to extend
43 it two years, all Milford Board members agreed for a two year extension. Kim Roberge asked why is the discussion
44 not in public session? There has been no talk in public session about MACC. Mike Putnam responded he does not
45 know. Kim Roberge said we are all team players and we are being kept out of the decision making process. Mike
46 Putnam said he understands and he said the Milford Board of Selectmen looks at it totally differently, he cannot get
47 into that right now. Kim Roberge asked what Mike Putnam’s opinion is and can he make that known? Mike Putnam
48 said he cannot remember what was discussed in public and in non-public session. Kim Roberge does not believe that
49 can be in non-public session, to discuss that, we need to bring that up to the Board of Selectmen but if Milford is not
50 ready to commit to the agreement the two towns are all ready to move on. Mike Putnam suggested she challenge the
51 non-public session. Kim Roberge responded that she attended the BOS meeting in Milford last night and it was on
52 the agenda, there was a section in the CIP report that the committee did not have enough information to move the
53 MACC equipment forward and moved it out another year and she thought there would be discussion on that last
54 night at the BOS. At the BOS meeting Kim challenged the Town Administrator about going into non-public session
55 for this. We asked that this be put in the minutes of last night and was told by the Town Administrator that a request
56 should be sent electronically that it be put into the minutes. Kim Roberge said, as a member town, they were not told

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1 anything but as of last night, there were options presented that they will put out an RFP and that was the only discus-
2 sion in public session last night at the BOS meeting.

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4 Jim Cutler said Milford has approached Wilton about being a customer for a center in Milford. Mike Putnam was
5 surprised about that. Further, Jim said Wilton has given the Milford Town Administrator the letter (read into the
6 record above) and asked about the discussions being in non-public session. Jim Cutler said Wilton stands with Mont
7 Vernon. Jay Wilson said Mont Vernon is not coordinating with Milford but Milford is trying to get Wilton into their
8 center; that does not build trust with the other towns. Mike Putnam has no indication that anyone in Milford has
9 talked to anyone in Wilton about joining. Jim Cutler said that needs to be looked at and it is not right. Mike Putnam
10 said this is the first he heard about it. Wilton said that the police departments in Wilton and Mont Vernon have both
11 posted on Facebook that they are joining Milford. Mike Putnam only saw on Facebook about the MRI report.

12
13 Regarding the budget, Jim Cutler said if Milford is not going to sign the contract, how do we move forward? If Mil-
14 ford is terminating the agreement, the only two towns that have input in the budget are Wilton and Mont Vernon.
15 Mike Putnam said Milford is still with MACC for another month and a half. Jason Johnson has to send out budget
16 invoices by the 31st of November, but at this time he is held up without a signed agreement. Jim Cutler said we will
17 run into problems with this. Jim Cutler, Jay Wilson and Mike Putnam have worked on the agreement for a long time
18 and Mike Putnam has given good input for the agreement. The arrangement with the three towns is fair and equita-
19 ble. Mike Putnam agreed that is a fair assessment.

20
21 Chris Labonte, Milford Budget Advisory Committee, said he is one of the liaisons for the BAC with MACC and one
22 of the questions that has come up is if Milford is trying to pursue a communications center, there needs to be a Plan
23 B in case it does not pass in March. From a budgetary standpoint, everyone knows the equipment needs to be updat-
24 ed but has anyone come up with plans to do updates if the warrant article does not pass? From what he sees, nobody
25 has shared anything for that. The Milford Town Administrator has told Chris Labonte that Mike Putnam has been
26 instructed what to do with MACC.

27
28 Jim Cutler said MACC needs upgrades to the equipment. Chris Labonte asked why Milford is talking about jumping
29 ship from MACC? Kim Roberge said Mont Vernon has not heard any discussions at all, so when the BAC asks
30 questions from the Milford BOS, are they getting answers? No negotiations ever happened with the other two towns.
31 Wilton and Mont Vernon should have been involved. This close to the deadline and Milford has not made a deci-
32 sion. Jim Cutler wants to confirm that all three Board of Governors members are still on board with this discussion?
33 Mike Putnam said he is. Jay Wilson said he is. Jim Cutler confirmed he is still on board. Jim Cutler asked why
34 would the Board of Governors extend a new contract instead of keeping the same contract? Mike Putnam said it was
35 not discussed at the BOS last night because it is a legal discussion which cannot happen in public session.

36
37 Jim Cutler said outside of the anger from the other two towns, Milford is putting people at risk. Mike Putnam hopes
38 we will resolve this before the agreement terminates, we always do. Jim Cutler said public safety is a priority. John
39 Quinlan understands that, stating the contract should have been signed months ago and Milford is playing games.
40 Mike Putnam said if that is a problem, people should challenge it. Jim Cutler requested that Milford call a meeting
41 November 19 to resolve this issue. Kellie-Sue Boissonnault, Wilton Board of Selectmen, extended an invitation to
42 the Milford and Mont Vernon Boards of Selectmen to attend their meeting Monday November 19 to talk about
43 MACC, noting a formal invitation will be send via e-mail. It was agreed that Milford and Mont Vernon representa-
44 tives would attend the Wilton Board of Selectmen meeting at 6:30 p.m. and the next **MACC meeting would be held**
45 **Wednesday December 5 at 5:30 p.m.**

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47 Mont Vernon and Wilton representatives have signed the MACC agreement for a ten years contract, Milford is re-
48 questing a two year extension on the existing contract. Mike Putnam said he cannot speak for the other four Board
49 members in Milford. John asked if there is a provision in the contract that would allow Milford to come back to
50 MACC if they fail with their own center? Jim Cutler said that would be up to the Board of Governors.

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52 4. New Business – there were no new business discussions.

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54 5. Update from Director: Jay Wilson asked if Dred has been renewed? Jason Johnson said they have been very qui-
55 et, and no contracts have been renewed yet.

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1 Jason Johnson stated the grant is moving forward, initial approvals are being done. He will wait to see if it gets stuck
2 in the "holiday" slowdown. The generator should be in by next Wednesday.
3

4 6. Public Comments:

5 Kim Roberge asked what else could be held up without a signed contract? Jason Johnson explained healthcare bene-
6 fit negotiations are supposed to be signed by December 1. This happened a couple years ago when it came down to
7 insurance cards being e-mailed to members for healthcare for coverage. Budget requirements for the budget commit-
8 tees by December 1. Jim Cutler noted tonight is the second budget hearing for his town, traditionally this is the
9 meeting when the MACC budget gets approved.
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11 7. Items not on the agenda – there were no new items discussed.

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

13 9. Announcement -
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15 Adjournment: Mike Putnam moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 6:00 p.m. Jim Cutler seconded. All were in
16 favor.
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18 BUDGET HEARING:
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20 Jason Johnson indicated the 2019 budget is about a 4.4% increase over the 2017 budget. Depending on if the Inter-
21 municipality Agreement is signed, the numbers change very little. One recommendation was made to have the actual
22 columns and the budget columns re-aligned. Gary Daniels, Milford representative, asked about some of the items
23 such as the tuition reimbursement program. Jason explained that he is encouraging staff to take advantage of the
24 Southern NH University program and the tuition reimbursement benefit to obtain a degree. Gary Daniels asked
25 about having the overtime line item although the full time position has now been filled. Jason Johnson explained that
26 overtime amounts are not based fully on not having a full time person, there are many part time people that cover
27 holidays and are paid overtime for that. Kellie-Sue Boissonnault, Wilton representative, asked about the new
28 equipment and why it is at \$1? Jason Johnson explained that line item was changed last year and the amount was
29 moved to the Repair of Equipment line item.
30


31 All budget committee members felt the budget was ready to approve. Jay Wilson moved to accept the 2019 MACC
32 budget. Mike Putnam seconded. All were in favor. Motion passed.
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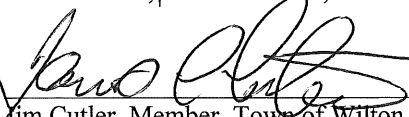
34 Respectfully Submitted,
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37 Darlene J. Bouffard
38 Recording Secretary
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40 The minutes of the meeting of the Board of Governors of the Milford Area Communication Center dated
41 _____ were accepted as presented or as amended in the minutes of the next meeting.
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45 Jay Wilson, Chairman, Town of Mont Vernon
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48 Mike Putnam, Vice Chairman, Town of Milford
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51 Jim Cutler, Member, Town of Wilton
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