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**APPROVED**

**MINUTES OF THE MILFORD BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

Fifth Monday Forum – January 31, 2011

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**PRESENT:** Tim Finan, Chairman  
Gary L. Daniels, Vice Chairman  
Mike Putnam, Member  
Katherine Bauer, Member  
Nate Carmen, Member  
Guy Scaife, Town Administrator  
Jodie Gaffney, Recording Secretary

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**1. Call To Order.** The meeting was called to order by Chairman Finan at 7:00 p.m. followed by him leading the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance and Board Introductions.

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**2. Road Conditions.** Resident Joseph Traficante brought his concerns to the Board regarding the conditions of the road he lives on, Boynton Hill Road. Mr. Traficante began by stating that when he purchased his home on Boynton Hill Road, he was told by his listing agent that it was a public road, recognized by the town. After the first blizzard, he found that the road was not plowed, and asked the developer Mr. Manoukian why. He was told he would find out why. Mr. Traficante stated that he called 3 more times regarding the road not being plowed and got no responses. He then called DPW and the Selectmen. Finally the road was plowed by 10:00 a.m. Mr. Traficante is still concerned with the time of the plowing, as his fiancé works and her son goes to kindergarten. He called the DPW and spoke with Bill Ruoff who told him the road would be taken care of, but on an “each storm” basis, with no specific time given. Mr. Traficante is happy that the town has agreed to take care of the road, but is still concerned with the possibility of there being an emergency, and he is concerned with safety. He feels that the developer, Mr. Manoukian, does not care, and how will this affect him and his family in the future, and for next year’s storms? Mr. Traficante wonders if there is any recourse he can take against the owner, or is there a process for him to take?

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Selectman Putnam asked Mr. Traficante who the realtor was, to which he responded Marsha Desantis of Remax Properties, and he plans to report her for not doing her job. Mr. Traficante advised the Board that he has a vested interest in the town of Milford, and wants to know what he can do to get the situation resolved.

Chairman Finan replied that he recognizes the public safety concern and access for emergency vehicles. There is a bigger issue than what you see. From the Town’s Perspective, plowing this road is no different than plowing a privately owned parking lot, there have been lengthy discussions regarding this situation and that he believes the Planning Board has the right to revoke the site plan. Guy Scaife responded first by apologizing to Mr. Traficante for the difficulty he is having. He advised him to feel free to call him for current updates and stated that the town is monitoring that particular developer. The town will certainly inspect the road, but cannot promise what will happen with the next winter season. They are looking into what is involved in finishing the road and accepting it as a public road. It has to meet certain criteria. If the developer does not clean up the road, the town will be out there, but the challenge is the timing. A sign should be there stating that the road is not maintained by the town, and it should be clear to homeowners and realtors that the road maintenance is the responsibility of the developer.

Chairman Finan told Mr. Traficante that he was betting that the road was left until late morning (to be cleared of snow) because it is a small road, not because of their situation. Mr. Traficante said that he understood the major roads were done first.

Jennifer O’Brien resides with Mr. Traficante on Boynton Hill Road., and approached the Board with her statement that she sees the other roads across the street being plowed, but not theirs. She understands this is a process and the town has to look at the situation, she wants to get it taken care of and be effective for homeowners.

Guy Scaife responded to Ms. O’Brien by stating that the priorities are the major roads, main arteries, intersections, and roads that school buses travel on. The DPW drivers have assigned routes and do not go on a private road to plow until they get explicit directions to do so. Selectman Carmen stated that developers are supposed to notify homeowners that the road is private and ensure that there is a clear sign posted on the road. He is looking to the future regarding there being a statement signed with the deed of the property, from the homeowner stating they un-

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1 derstand they are buying a property on a private road, and what the repercussions are. Ms. O'Brien thanked the  
2 Board members for their time and for listening.

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4 Chairman Finan asked the audience if there was anything else to be discussed.

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6 **3. Nixel.** Faye Richey, resident, approached the Board with questions regarding the Town using Nixel. She recent-  
7 ly received an e-mail notification from Nixel sponsored through the Fire Department regarding the smoke generated  
8 by the burning of brush at the dump. Ms. Richey would like to know if the town is planning to use Nixel to an-  
9 nounce meetings, deliberative sessions, voting, etc. She sees this as an asset but does not see it being used as often  
10 as it could be. Her next question was if the Board has formed a decision on whether or not brush at the transfer sta-  
11 tion is going to be ground or burned?

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13 Chairman Finan responded by saying that Nixel is a trial and has been used by the Fire Department. Ms. Richey  
14 asked if it can be used on the PEG channel, for Government notifications, why not use it? Guy Scaife advised Ms.  
15 Richey that roughly 100 people signed up for Nixel, the dilemma is who is going to do it? If it is rolled out and not  
16 used consistently, it would be a disservice. It is a staffing issue in regards to who is going to maintain it. It is a tool  
17 that requires administration. In regards to Ms. Richey's second issue on brush, it has not been brought to the Board,  
18 however, it was suggested that the town burn more than it has been doing. The town has not done any burning for  
19 over a year but did burn last month because it was a good time with snow on the ground. Ms. Richey asked if there  
20 is a standing policy on how brush is handled. Mr. Scaife stated we thought DES was going to tell us to stop (burn-  
21 ing), but they have not. We have gotten a complaint, but a few years ago, burning was a common practice.

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23 Ms. Richey brought up Nixel again, stating that she thinks it has been in public domain for a year, if it is not going  
24 to be used, stop using it and raising peoples' expectations. If it is going to be used, why not move forward and use  
25 it to make announcements? Maybe a volunteer could maintain it? Ms. Richey asked that the Board consider using  
26 it for the next two major meetings.

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28 Chairman Finan agreed, they do have press releases from the Police Department and Emergency Management about  
29 weather situations or code enforcement, if the town chooses to go forward, whatever process is going to be in place,  
30 add another bullet to that process. Selectman Bauer noted the town does have places online that have announce-  
31 ments; she doesn't want people to think the town does not use its online resources. Chairman Finan said that once  
32 you become consistent, you need to stay consistent, if it exists, why not use it? Ms. Richey stated that it can have a  
33 lot of benefits that might save money in the long run.

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35 Chairman Finan asked if there was anything else from the public. There was nothing further. Chairman Finan sug-  
36 gested discussing the deliberative session coming up on Saturday February 5<sup>th</sup>. The Board discussed who would  
37 answer what questions on certain topics that come up, making sure everyone has the opportunity to speak. Select-  
38 man Carmen suggested making a list and assigning people to certain topics that they would like to speak on.

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40 **4. Deliberative Session Handouts.** Rodney Richey approached the Board on behalf of the Budget Advisory Com-  
41 mittee, stating that handouts for the deliberative session were due today, but Dawn Griska had given them an exten-  
42 sion until 8 a.m. tomorrow.

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44 **5. Adjournment.** There being no further business to come before this Board, Selectman Putnam moved to adjourn  
45 at 7:51 p.m. Vice Chairman Daniels seconded. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned.

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49 Tim Finan, Chairman

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Mike Putnam, Member

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53 Gary Daniels, Vice Chairman

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Katherine Bauer, Member

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57 Nate Carmen, Member