

APPROVED
MINUTES OF THE MILFORD BOARD OF SELECTMEN WORK SESSION
January 4, 2016

PRESENT: Mark Fougere, Chairman
Kevin Federico, Vice Chairman
Mike Putnam, Member
Katherine Bauer, Member
Gary Daniels, Member
Mark Bender, Town Administrator
Darlene J. Bouffard, Recording Secretary

This work session was not televised, but was audio recorded.

1. CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Fougere called the work session to order at 5:00 p.m. The purpose of this work session is to discuss budget items and then move on to the Warrant Articles, whatever does not get finished will be carried over to the meeting next week until complete. Selectman Putnam indicated the Board of (Water) Commissioners (BOC) does not want their meetings to be televised. Selectman Putnam stated no one has ever attended a meeting for eight years. It is a waste of taxpayer money to televise the meetings and we do not want Granite Town Media (GTM) there. GTM was told that decision has to come from the Board of Selectmen. Chairman Fougere stated that the BOC is an elected body, so it is just an opinion from the Board of Selectmen, we cannot make the decision for them. Chairman Fougere's opinion is that most Boards prefer not to be on television but it is amazing how many people are actually watching. Selectman Bauer agreed people actually do watch it. Selectman Putnam said the room at the Water Utilities facility is too small. The BOC are elected, so the Board of Selectmen would just provide an opinion but the Board of Selectmen cannot tell the BOC what to do. Vice Chairman Federico stated the Board of Selectmen is elected and has a different view of it than the BOC. The BOC is having public meetings, Granite Town Media has the directive to cover as many town meetings as possible and as a water user he would appreciate being able to watch BOC meetings if needed.

Vice Chairman Federico thinks the BOC should be on television, it is a public meeting and it sets a bad precedent when the water commissioners do not want to be on television. Selectman Putnam said the room is very small and the camera angle cannot be set up correct and it will be disruptive to the meeting. Selectman Putnam feels it is a waste of time and money. The meetings only last one hour or so. Selectman Daniels stated there is not a money savings aspect because it comes out of the franchise fees not the budget. If anyone wants to go in to tape the meeting, they could. You may not want it taped, but you do not have a choice if someone wants to tape it. Selectman Putnam said it is more complicated than just setting up a camera because the room is small. Chairman Fougere agrees the meetings should be on television like all the other boards and commissions, suggesting that technology can solve some of the problems, but it is the BOC decision.

2. BUDGET DISCUSSION: Town Administrator Mark Bender indicated the budget is currently at \$14,087,413 and he is working with staff to wrap up the 2015 encumbrance funds so we know where we will end the year and what type of balance we will have. It will be close. Last week the Board decided to look at things that could impact 2016. There were four ideas: \$25,000 for the Fire Department architect plan, \$25,000 to complete matching funds for Osgood Pond dredging; \$42,000 for electronic time keeping system (which is in the 2016 budget but will come out if this is encumbered); and \$10,000 for the DPW truck engine, totaling \$102,000. We cannot go any further. Selectman Putnam asked how that will impact the Fund Balance. Jack Sheehy responded it should not affect it. Chairman Fougere said we were looking into getting a used tractor plow to save money, but as it turns out, we cannot do that because it had been voted down in 2015.

3. FIRE DEPARTMENT ARCHITECT: If the warrant article for the Library does not pass in 2016, it will be back again next year with the Fire Department facility warrant article, and the architectural plans would need to be re-done. Town Administrator Mark Bender stated the Fire Department only has a rough plan right now, which is what this warrant article is for, but does the Board want to keep it as a warrant article or encumber it in 2015? Selectman Bauer feels the \$25,000 for Architect Fees for the Fire Department Expansion Project should be kept as a warrant article. Vice Chairman Federico wants to use 2015 funds; Chairman Fougere wants to keep it as a warrant article. Selectman Putnam moved to keep as a warrant article. Selectman Bauer seconded. Selectman Putnam, Selectman Bauer, Selectman Daniels and Chairman Fougere were in favor, with Vice Chairman Federico opposed. Motion passed 4/1.

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4. 2015 ENCUMBRANCES:

Osgood Pond - \$25,000 to complete the matching funds for dredging Osgood Pond. Selectman Daniels moved to encumber the \$25,000 in 2015. Selectman Bauer seconded. All were in favor. Motion passed 5/0.

Electronic Timekeeping - \$42,000 to purchase the electronic timekeeping equipment. Selectman Putnam moved to encumber the \$42,000 in 2015. Vice Chairman Federico seconded. Selectman Putnam, Vice Chairman Federico, Chairman Fougere and Selectman Daniels in favor with Selectman Bauer opposed. Motion passed 4/1.

Truck engine repair \$10,000 to repair the DPW truck engine. Selectman Putnam moved to encumber the \$10,000 for truck engine repair in 2015. Selectman Daniels seconded. All were in favor. Motion passed 5/0.

5. LIBRARY. Selectman Putnam moved to NOT support the Library warrant article. Selectman Daniels seconded. Selectman Putnam, Selectman Daniels, Chairman Fougere, Vice Chairman Federico were in favor with Selectman Bauer opposed. Motion passed 4/1.

6. STORM SEWER VIDEO INSPECTION. Vice Chairman Federico moved to support. Selectman Bauer seconded. All were in favor. Motion passed 5/0.

7. TOWN OPERATING BUDGET. Vice Chairman Federico moved to support. Selectman Putnam seconded. Selectman Daniels said he will not support this warrant article; he spoke with the Department of Transportation last week and the State is in the middle of a two year contract for gas and is charging the town \$2.25/gal. The town might have saved money at the beginning, but it is now costing more to purchase gas through the State than at the local pumps. When buying from the State, we do not pay taxes but it is more expansive; he cannot support the budget. It seems like we are just taking the easy way out. DPW Director Rick Riendeau stated if employees buy at the pump, the vehicle would need to sit in line waiting to pump gas and that would be more time for staff. Each truck takes about 50-60 gallons; it takes about ten minutes per truck. Mark Bender said we would also need to get credit cards for staff to gas up. Mr. Riendeau said there are also a limited number of places that sell diesel fuel. Jack Sheehy said the accounting would be a nightmare and the internal control would be difficult if we were to use regular gas stations. Vice Chairman Federico, Selectman Putnam, Selectman Bauer, Chairman Fougere were in support with Selectman Daniels opposed. Motion passed 4/1. The gas will be further researched.

8. BRIDGE REPLACEMENT CAPITAL RESERVE. Previously voted to support 4/1.

9. SIDEWALK TRACTOR PLOW WITH SANDER. Selectman Daniels had asked if we could rent a refurbished piece of this equipment. Mr. Riendeau responded that we cannot. Selectman Daniels asked if we can lease a refurbished unit. Jack Sheehy would need to find that out. Selectman Daniels would want to lease for one year. Jack Sheehy suggested not attempting to lease the sidewalk plow in 2015. Mark Bender added that it was turned down by voters in 2015, so that cannot be done. Chairman Fougere asked what could be done if the current equipment blew up. Mr. Riendeau said we could not plow all the sidewalks. Vice Chairman Federico moved to support this warrant article. Selectman Bauer seconded. Vice Chairman Federico, Selectman Bauer, Chairman Fougere and Selectman Daniels were in favor with Selectman Putnam opposed. Motion passed 4/1.

10. DUMP TRUCK. Previously voted to support 3/2.

11. TRACTOR/BACKHOE/LOADER. Previously voted to support 4/1.

12. FRONT END LOADER, 2-3 CY BUCKET. DPW will work with Water Utilities to share this equipment. Selectman Daniels moved to remove this warrant article from the 2016 ballot. Selectman Putnam seconded. Selectman Daniels, Selectman Putnam, Vice Chairman Federico and Chairman Fougere were in favor, with Selectman Bauer opposed. Motion passed 4/1.

13. KINDER MORGAN. Previously voted to support 4/0.

14. SOCIAL SERVICES. Previously voted to support 4/0.

15. NON-EMERGENCY COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION BUS SERVICES. Previously voted to support 4/0

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1 **16. ARCHITECT FEES FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT EXPANSION PROJECT.** Vice Chairman Federico
2 moved to support. Selectman Bauer seconded. Vice Chairman Federico, Selectman Bauer, Chairman Fougere and
3 Selectman Putnam were in support with Selectman Daniels opposed. Motion passed 4/1.
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5 **17. CONSERVATION LAND FUND.** Selectman Bauer moved to support. Vice Chairman Federico seconded.
6 Selectman Bauer and Vice Chairman Federico were in favor, with Selectman Daniels, Selectman Putnam and
7 Chairman Fougere opposed. Motion failed 2/3.
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9 **18. PUMPKIN FESTIVAL, HOLIDAY DECORATIONS AND PLANTINGS.** Previously voted to support
10 4/0.
11

12 **19. SUMMER BAND CONCERTS.** Previously voted to support 4/0.
13

14 **20. FIREWORKS.** Previously voted to support 3/1.
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16 **21. FUNDING OF THE ANNUAL LABOR DAY PARADE.** Selectman Daniels would like to keep track of the
17 actual costs. Previously voted to support 4/0.
18

19 **22. MEMORIAL, VETERANS & LABOR DAY PARADES AND RECOGNITION – TOWN SUPPORT.**
20 Previously voted to support 4/0.
21

22 **23. TEAMSTERS UNION COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT.** No vote taken yet. Agreement on
23 all items except for one, therefore an agreement number cannot be reached until the last item is agreed to. January
24 12 is the last day for the collective bargaining agreement to get completed.
25

26 **24. GRAVEL PIT RECLAMATION/RESTORATION AND SALE OR OTHER DISPOSITION OF**
27 **RESOURCES.** Previously voted to support 4/0.
28

29 **25. MODIFY SOLAR EXEMPTION.** Previously voted to support 4/0.
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31 **26. ADJUSTMENT TO EXEMPTION AMOUNT FOR ELDERLY EXEMPTION.** Previously voted to sup-
32 port 4/0.
33

34 **27. DISCONTINUANCE OF LINDEN STREET EXTENSION.** Previously voted to support 4/0.
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36 **28. DISCONTINUANCE OF A PORTION OF SCARBOUROUGH LANE.** Previously voted to support 4/0.
37

38 **29. HITCHINER TOWN FOREST CONSERVATION EASEMENT.** Mark Bender indicated that town counsel
39 has advised that the wording could be for a renewable 25 years. Conservation Commission Chair Audrey Fraizer
40 has asked that the wording be retained, in perpetuity. Selectman Daniels asked if counsel gave any reasoning on
41 this. Mark Bender said we could change it and say it is renewable. Vice Chairman Federico asked what other town
42 properties have an easement in perpetuity? Ms. Fraizer said that MileSlip and Pratt properties and part of the Tucker
43 Pond forest, it is standard practice for the Conservation Commission to put in an easement in perpetuity.
44

45 Vice Chairman Federico moved to support this warrant article as written. Selectman Putnam seconded. Selectman
46 Daniels is opposed, since the town could be drastically different in 50 years and people have the right to vote on
47 how to use that land at that time. Selectman Daniels wanted to do this for 25 years but we should not impose some-
48 thing on future generations. Selectman Bauer likes that the land is in conservation in perpetuity. Chairman Fougere
49 said this property was given to the town to offset some contamination. Vice Chairman Federico, Selectman Bauer
50 and Chairman Fougere were in favor with Selectman Putnam and Selectman Daniels opposed. Motion passed 3/2.
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52 **30. OPEN SPACE ACCESS.** Previously voted to support 4/0.
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54 **31. ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business to come before this Meeting, Selectman Putnam moved to
55 adjourn at 6:30 p.m. Selectman Bauer seconded. All were in favor. Motion passed 5/0.
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Mark Fougere, Chairman

Kevin Federico, Vice Chairman

Katherine Bauer, Member

Gary L. Daniels, Member

Mike Putnam, Member