

APPROVED
MINUTES OF THE MILFORD BOARD OF SELECTMEN FIFTH MONDAY FORUM
October 30, 2017

PRESENT: Mark Fougere, Chairman
Kevin Federico, Vice Chairman
Gary Daniels, Member
Mike Putnam, Member
Laura Dudziak, Member
Mark Bender, Town Administrator
Tina Philbrick, Recording Secretary
Amy Concannon, Videographer

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

Chairman Fougere called the public meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Chairman Fougere introduced Board members and then led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. The Board is holding a regular meeting and will open the public forum at 7:00.

2. APPOINTMENTS:

1. CIP Overview - Paul Dargie gave the Board of Selectmen an update to the Capital Improvement Plan, (CIP). A project is deemed eligible for inclusion in the CIP if the total exceeds \$75,000 and is reasonably expected to have a useful life of at least five years. The back of the CIP report shows all the individual items that are planned for the next six years. The two big-ticket items are the fire department upgrades to the downtown Station and MACC Base. There are seven projects slated for 2018, they are prioritized as follows:

2018 Fire Department – Upgrades to Downtown Station - \$3,500,000 the committee supports this project.

2018 Public Works – Bridge Replacement Capital Reserve Fund - \$175,000 the committee supports this project. This is an ongoing expenditure. There is currently about \$600,000 in the capital reserve fund and we want to keep adding to that. There was an analysis done several years ago of all the bridges in town that showed about \$9 or \$10 million dollars of repairs that will be needed. We try to postpone repairs to coincide when the state gives funding. There are some bridges that can't be postponed. Chairman Fougere said that sometimes we can repair bridges using alternative means without calling the state. Paul said that culvert repairs can be done inexpensively, but some bridge repairs are expensive.

2018 Public Works – Backhoe, Tractor Loader with Thumb Attachment - \$145,000 the committee supports this project. There was a special Highway Block Grant that came through this year for \$268,000 and the committee felt that the money could be used to buy this piece of equipment. It is eligible and fits within the parameters of the grant. The block grant has to be used on either paving or construction equipment. Chairman Fougere asked for clarification on the wording. Administrator Bender said it couldn't be a planned or budgeted paving project. He doesn't know if the restriction holds for the equipment or not, but after the first analysis of it, we feel that we can use the funds that way. We used some of the money for the McGettigan and Scarborough Road paving this year but it is a non-lapsing grant so we can use part of it in 2018 and the balance of it in 2019. The rationale is that we have approval from voters to spend \$2 million on paving projects and the town has shown a commitment to doing the paving projects and fixing the overall infrastructure. Paul said that he thinks the Board has the authorization to spend the money and does not think they have to go to the voters. Administrator Bender agreed. Paul said that it has to be a 2018 expenditure. The committee is supportive of buying a backhoe as it is something that's needed.

2018 Public Works – Sidewalk Tractor/Plow with Sander - \$155,000 the committee supports this project. The town owns two sidewalk tractor plows, one that works and one that is out of service and can't be repaired. Selectman Daniels asked if we approved a grader last year, and couldn't it be used to plow the sidewalks. Administrator Bender said that it can assist with some of the snow removal on sidewalks but can't do all of it. We still need one and preferably two sidewalk tractor plows. Most of our sidewalks are 4 feet wide and need a sidewalk plow. Selectman Putnam asked why we couldn't limit the workload, instead of doing both sides of Nashua Street and other streets just do one side and then we wouldn't have to purchase more equipment. Administrator Bender said there might be some parts of town that you can do that, but other parts only have sidewalks on one side of the road. Public Works was checking a different manufacture's sidewalk plow other than the Holder. It's less expensive, it has tracks instead of wheels, the mechanics are good, the size is good, and it's a good machine. The cost is much less expensive than the Holder. It appears to be very serviceable for our sidewalks. We are investigating it, should voters go along with our warrant article this year. It would be around \$135,000.

2018 Community Development – Nashua Street/Ponemah Hill Road Sidewalks and Signalization - \$800,000 the committee supports this project. This is a \$800,000 project eligible by application from the NHDOT

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Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Program. This reimbursement program provides an 80% federal funding and 20% local matching funds opportunity. The town's match would equate to \$160,000. The town would have to pay for the project and then apply for a refund. The grant was submitted on Friday. Administrator Bender asked Lincoln when he thought we would hear on this grant. Lincoln said before we decide on the warrant articles. Paul said this project provides for construction of approximately 2,600 linear feet of new sidewalk between 504 Nashua St. and Walgreens to provide a complete pedestrian connection from the Oval to the Lorden and Richmond Plaza commercial area. It includes putting signals next to Giorgio's at that intersection. Chairman Fougere said that some of the cost is being driven by drainage, if you move a sidewalk you have to provide for drainage. Is there a way to get rid of the curb and have the drainage flow the way it is now, drainage is expensive. Paul said he didn't know.

2018 Water Utilities – Dewatering Upgrade - \$1,096,000 (\$0 Town Portion) - the committee supports this project. This project would be paid by user fees. This project is for the purchase of a new sludge dewatering unit to replace the existing unit. They are going to keep the old one for backup. Selectman Putnam said he had not heard anything about keeping the old system. The system is big and it would have to be moved with equipment and they have storage room for it. Tim Finan said that Dave Boucher said they were going to have two separate areas, and they would keep the old one there in case it was needed. There is confusion as to which equipment this pertains to.

2018 Ambulance – Replace 2001 Ambulance - \$273,115 - the committee supports this project. This replacement will permit the staggered replacement of the two 2013 ambulances versus purchasing two ambulances at one time in 2023, or sooner, as it was done in 2013. The 2001 ambulance currently has in excess of 121,513 miles and is kept as a backup or "ready spare" vehicle in case one or both of the two front-line ambulances is out of service for a prolonged period of time due to maintenance or accident. This would help us get into a 15 year rotation pattern that will prolong the life of the ambulances. This rotation would have our ambulances at five years front-line service, five year second line service, and five years in backup service.

Paul asked if they were any questions on the 2018 Capital Improvement Plan items. Selectman Daniels asked about the MACC BASE item. Paul said that MACC BASE was put into 2019. We only prioritized the 2018 items. We called it Milford Emergency Services Infrastructure instead of MACC BASE. We did not get a document on this. We would recommend as a policy, that any capital item that is in the plans have a document or a champion. We recommend someone from the town to advocate for the project. The Board of Selectmen is responsible for this, but there is no one within Administration that's responsible for it. The committee would like to recommend that there is one person to be the "go to" person for all projects, and that we get a report yearly even if it's vague, for all projects. We added MACC BASE to the report because we know it's a topic of interest, and we plugged in a \$2,500,000 amount because we just don't know what it will entail. Paul briefed the Board on the remaining items in the CIP. Paul asked if they were any questions. Seeing no questions, Chairman Fougere thanked the CIP committee for coming.

2. Warrant Article Review - Chairman Fougere said that the DRAFT warrant article list was handed out last week for review. The Board reviewed them, but chose not to take a position on them at this time. Some of the articles that required a more detailed explanation are as follows:

Main Fire Station Upgrade – BOND - \$3,500,000 - Selectman Putnam is in favor of the main fire station upgrade. The current one is 43 years old and it's time to do something. Selectman Federico thought that the \$25,000 authorized last year was to be used to put a number together, he did not expect to see this warrant article for 2018. He understands the fire station needs improvements but for him to support it this year he would need more justification. He will talk to the Fire Chief. Selectman Putnam said that they will have a hard number from the Architect for the fire station upgrade by the beginning of December. Chairman Fougere said if anyone has questions or thoughts, sit down with the building committee and the chief, and walk through the building. Chairman Fougere asked Administrator Bender when the board could expect the budget. Administrator Bender said they will have it next Monday. Administrator Bender asked Selectman Putnam if Water Utilities would be writing the warrant article for the dewatering system. Selectman Putnam said yes. Chairman Fougere asked if they were definitely doing it this year. Selectmen Putnam said that he wasn't sure. They were looking at a 10 year plan, age of the equipment and priorities. Administrator Bender asked Selectman Putnam if all the things that were discussed in the CIP for Water Utilities were put on the warrant, and voters approved everything, do you know what would happen to the rates. Selectman Putnam said no, but this is why we are spreading this out to keep the rates level.

Bridge Replacement Capital Reserve - \$175,000 – Chairman Fougere said that this is a continuation of capital reserve for bridge repair. He asked Administrator Bender how much was in the account. Administrator Bender said about \$600,000 and he would give an update at the Deliberative session. The Mason Road Bridge is scheduled next. Selectman Daniels said it's interesting that a couple years ago we thought we should have a

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capital reserve and now we have eight accounts in the amount of \$370,000 per year. That's a hefty amount, not that it isn't needed. Chairman Fougere said that each year we have to make a decision whether we even put forward that accounts. Selectman Putnam said having a capital reserve account built up saves us a lot in interest when we go to pay cash for the items. Chairman Fougere agrees. Selectman Federico said that the thought process was to set them up and get them started. If we don't want to fund them each year because of the economy, we don't have to.

Public Safety Communication Equipment Replacement Capital Reserve - \$40,000 - Selectman Federico clarified that this capital reserve account was for end user public safety equipment, radios for ambulance personnel, police personnel, fire personnel and DPW.

DPW Vehicles and Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve - \$40,000 - Selectman Daniels asked if this can be used for the lease purchase equipment also. Administrator Bender said it could be used for any type of equipment for DPW weather we are buying it outright or leasing it. This was not included in last year's capital reserve accounts, we are putting it on this year for consideration. Chairman Fougere asked what the Board's thoughts were on using the state funds that were recommended in the CIP to purchase the backhoe. It's money that's typically used for paving. Administrator Bender said you could use it for equipment every year. It's the highway block grant money which is roughly \$300,000 and it can be applied towards an equipment purchase at any time. Selectman Putnam asked if it was just dedicated to paving. Administrator Bender said no and is not like the SB 38 fund that has special allocation, the highway block grant can be used to purchase equipment, and many towns do use it for that. Selectman Putnam asked what else do we use it for if we don't use it to purchase equipment. Administrator Bender said paving. It goes into the general fund and we allocate roughly \$300,000 a year into all of the paving categories that are in the operating budget. Selectman Federico wanted to clarify that we can't use the money on projects that we already had budgeted; it has to go to projects that are above and beyond. Administrator Bender said that he is referring to the SB 38, which is correct. The voters approved \$2,000,000 over three years for paving projects. We identified the 2017 projects so we could not have picked one of those roads from the 2017 projects list and applied the SB 38 funds to that. We identified a couple of other items that were in addition to those that we were doing in 2017 that needed to be done. Selectman Putnam clarified that we still have \$2,000,000 left for paving. Administrator Bender said yes, if you look at the \$2,000,000 that the voters approved and the \$300,000 that we typically put in the budget that equates to nearly \$3,000,000 in total, and we spend approximately \$1,000,000 this year. Selectman Putnam said if the paving is going to be taking care of over the next two or three years he does not see a problem of using some of the money for equipment. Administrator Bender agreed. We would just have to allocate from the general fund. We could take whatever the dollar amount and buy or lease the equipment over 5 years. Chairman Fougere asked if it would just be cheaper to buy the equipment outright. Administrator Bender said the lease rates are pretty low, and he would ask Jacks input on which direction to take. Chairman Fougere asked the Board if they would be willing to support this new capital reserve account this year. Selectman Putnam said that is something we should ask ourselves after we've looked at all of the warrant articles. Administrator Bender said that we have spent a lot of money this year on repairs and refurbishment of DPW equipment. Some of the equipment would not pass inspection, and all of the town equipment has to be inspected in the month of September. Having this capital reserve fund will make it easier to go through the lease purchase process going forward. Selectman Putnam asked if they had an itemized list of repairs. Administrator Bender said yes, itemized by machine and detailed and prioritized. It all had to be done we didn't have many options on it. Selectman Daniels said, to say everything had to be priority #1 doesn't work. If you had an unlimited amount of money, even though everything needed to be done is fine, but you don't. Administrator Bender said that there were things that did not get done because they didn't the money but if you want to plow streets this year you have to repair the machines that you have.

Fire Apparatus Replacement Capital Reserve - \$25,000 Selectman Putnam said we should keep this in because we have some big items coming up for the fire department.

Town Facilities Renovation Capital Reserve - \$25,000 Chairman Fougere, Selectman Putnam and Selectman Dudziak said that this could take a backseat. Administrator Bender said that the only caution he would have on that is the mechanical systems that Paul mentioned earlier that will need to be repaired or replaced. We will need to go out next year and get some request for quotes so that we will at least have an idea on what it is going to cost and have a budgetary number on those items. You can take it out but keep in mind that this is one of the uses for that capital reserve account. Selectman Federico clarified that it was town facilities renovation not just town hall. Chairman Fougere asked Administrator Bender if he met with the pumpkin Festival people. Administrator Bender said he was meeting with them next Tuesday.

Ambulance Vehicle Replacement Capital Reserve - \$25,000 Selectman Federico said this finally puts a plan in place for what Director Schelburg and Paul mentioned about a rotation for retiring 15-year-old vehicles and keeping things current. He is not in favor of staffing three ambulances but he is in favor of having a reserve truck because it's getting harder to borrow an ambulance if one is out of service. Our volume is high enough where

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we would take a significant hit if we didn't have one, or running fully equipped with staff. Selectman Daniels asked what is the reason an ambulance would have to be replaced. Is it body rust or mileage, or size. Selectman Federico said changing the size of them is no reason to replace them. We are talking about an ambulance that is 15 years old with high mileage it's time to replace it. Chairman Fougere said that we are talking about two different warrant articles. This is the capital reserve for \$25,000, a few lines down is buying a new ambulance. We can talk about them together. We bought two ambulances in 2013 obviously it would be smart not to have to buy two the next time. Selectman Putnam said he suggested that we purchase one in 2013 and then one in either 2014 or 2015 so that we would stagger them. But we could not do that because they needed both of them. Now we need a third one. The one that we have now has over 121,000 miles on it. Administrator Bender said ambulance 3A is at 99,403 miles and 3B is at 60,890. Our usage on these vehicles is increasing with the number of calls every year. Chairman Fougere and Selectman Putnam are in favor of the capital reserve for the ambulance, but they are not in favor of buying a new ambulance this year.

Keyes Park Expansion Committee Project Capital Reserve - \$25,000 Chairman Fougere and Selectman Putnam said this would be a low priority for them. Administrator Bender said we do have a building sitting there and although we are not heating it we do have basic electricity so we can have some lights. The building is not getting any better. This warrant article is also written to be used for keys park improvements and the Fletcher site for landscaping. Selectman Federico said he would like to see what everything looks like added up before he makes a decision.

Assessing Revaluation Capital Reserve - \$15,000 Selectman Putnam said that we have to do this. Chairman Fougere said that we may have to do it sooner.

Replacement Ambulance Lease/Purchase - \$56,860 (total price \$273,000) Administrator Bender reminded the board that this was not the capital reserve warrant article. Administrator Bender asked Eric if the town bought the 2001 backup ambulance in 2014. Eric said yes. Chairman Fougere asked how often the 2001 ambulance is used. Eric said it is only used as a backup when a primary ambulance is out of service for maintenance. Once in a while it will cover a call if both of the front-line ambulances are out. It is fully operational. Our volume is going up; we are up almost 170 calls from this time last year. We have also been going to Manchester which puts more mileage on the ambulance. The ambulances will be four years old in December. It's not a matter of replacing an ambulance; it's a matter of getting into a five-year replacement cycle every 10 years. I would like to see it spaced out. I agree with Selectmen Putnam said it would've been nice to replace them separately. When we replaced the others, we were working with a 10-year-old ambulance and a 14-year-old ambulance that had high mileage. They were at a point, maintenance wise that it was not a good idea to keep them on. Selectman Putnam asked what does a new ambulance cost. Eric said an ambulance right now is about \$225,000 without equipment. My request for 2018 includes having a new cardiac monitor and a new powered stretcher and \$3700 worth of additional equipment that we don't have in the 2001 right now. Some of the equipment in the 2001 is currently outdated and can no longer be fixed. The 2018 request is higher than I would normally request because we were looking to put equipment in there that we currently don't have. About \$140,000 worth of equipment is carried in the ambulances. Selectman Putnam said is this all you going to need, you're not going to be back here half way through 2018 asking for additional equipment or funding. Eric said he did not believe so.

Nashua Street/Ponemah Hill Sidewalks and Signalization - \$800,000 Chairman Fougere said it was basically adding a sidewalk from Walgreens down to Medlyn Monument and signals to that intersection. We should know about the grant by December. Selectman Dudziak clarified that we would have to raise the \$800,000 upfront. She asked when would we be reimbursed. Administrator Bender said he wasn't sure, but the net cost would be \$160,000 and the state is very quick about reimbursing when the project is complete; it's not going to take five years. Chairman Fougere asked Lincoln to find out how long it would take to get the money back. Selectman Federico said that since they are not taking a vote on the warrant articles tonight, he would like to not go over the rest of them and continue on with other discussions, most are the regulars that come up every year. Chairman Fougere said that he wanted to discuss the sidewalk plow.

Replacement Sidewalk Plow Lease/Purchase - \$155,000 – Chairman Fougere said we used to have two plows and now one is not in service. Public Works tried to buy a used one last year in Concord, we checked it out and it wasn't good. Selectman Daniels in looking at the warrant article for the sidewalk plow said that it will replace the 2000 holder tractor plow and has exceeded its useful life by five years. He wants to know what that means. It doesn't tell him that it isn't working anymore. He thinks we need to be a little bit more graphic that what shape the equipment is in. Chairman Fougere agreed. Chairman Fougere touched briefly on the rest of the warrant articles to include the new statute where you provide tax relief to new businesses. We need to think about that. We need to come up with a percentage of taxes that they would not have to pay, and over how many years that would be. The project does not have to come to the board for review, if it's in the district and the percentage of the taxes for a certain amount of time it's done. Administrator Bender said that they need to have a properly submitted application. The only place you could do it before was Coos County, and now the legislature is allowing all the counties do it. Selectman Putnam said where 80% of our tax payments come from residential

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he would welcome any type of industrial business to come into the town and create jobs. 50% of the taxes would be covered by other things coming into the town

Osgood Pond Phase II - \$350,000 - Chairman Fougere said that we received grant money but it's for 50-50 matching funds. We have to come up with the \$175,000 and they will give us \$175,000. Selectman Putnam asked how long was the grant money available to us. Administrator Bender said two years but if we didn't do it we could always re-apply in the future if the same grant is available. It's a Conservation Land Grant. Selectmen Daniels said he doesn't know how much money is available; we would have to look around see what's out there. Theoretically \$350,000 would finish that project. Selectmen Putnam said there are a lot of warrant articles to look at, we may decide to fund them or not.

Chairman Fougere asked Administrator Bender if he was thinking of having a separate capital reserve account for the swing bridge. Administrator Bender said most voter's think of a bridge as vehicle access bridges, this is a pedestrian bridge. Historically it is extremely important to the town. It would be good to get clarity from the voters to use the Bridge Replacement Capital Reserve fund should a grant become available. Chairman Fougere agreed. Chairman Fougere asked if there were any other questions hearing none, continued on to the next item.

3. MACC Base Budget Discussion - Chairman Fougere said he was at an impasse on what to do. Administrator Bender said this item is only for the MACC Base budget for 2018 not the communication center. Chairman Fougere said that Selectman Daniels went to the MACC Base budget hearing a couple of weeks ago and asked if he had anything to add tonight. Selectman Daniels said the difficult part of it was that they were not working at full staff for the past year. There was a significant difference between what was budgeted and what was expended. Overall the budget is down .55% over 2017. There are lots of things that haven't been utilized for reasons like change of insurance and the state police on line terminal system (they don't know if they are paying for it or not). This has to be budgeted just in case. The health benefits have come down 21% based upon 2017, but if you look at the 2017 expended, it's just a little bit more than half of what the whole thing is but they are only down two people. It makes it difficult to judge them there because it looks like they wouldn't need some. Selectman Putnam said the holiday pay gets paid out in December that is a chunk of change. Selectman Daniels said with all the moving parts, there should've been more time to review it then what was given. Selectman Putnam said they did spend several weeks on it, and they also had the Budget Advisory Committee look it over. Selectman Daniels said the Budget Advisory Committee needed to understand it better. In the end the budget was down which is a positive. Chairman Fougere said it's been down the last three years. Chairman Fougere asked if there were any questions. Selectman Daniels said the amount was \$707,721 vs \$711,552. Selectman Daniels asked Selectman Putnam if the bottom line figure for 2017 includes everything taken into consideration like comp time etc. Selectman Putnam said yes Selectman Daniels moved to approve the MACC Base budget as presented. Selectman Putnam's seconded. All were in favor. The motion passed 5/0. Selectman Federico said that a statement was made that Chairman Fougere was at an impasse and needed more information. He would like to gather that information that everyone on the Board needs. He would like to know what everyone is looking for. Chairman Fougere said he thinks we need an independent analysis of our communication system from an outside source to evaluate with the issue is and what the cost options are. If we are going to ask the voters for a large amount of money, we want to be able to tell them that this is the problem, this is who told us, and this is what's going to solve the Police Department's problem, and if necessary the Fire and the Ambulance. Chairman Federico said we have a quote from the chief for MRI to do an independent study for around \$18,000. Chief Viola said we need to define the scope and the scope. It could be anywhere from \$10,000-\$18,000 for a comprehensive study all the way through. Administrator Bender said would be a comprehensive study of our existing system and potential solutions or recommendations. Chief Viola said it was pretty much what they did a few years back for Amherst New Hampshire. They have done three in the last year for different towns. He can reach out to them again if he has more of what we're looking for so that they can give him a more accurate amount. Chairman Fougere asked if this was the only group that does this type of work. Chief Viola said that there was one other group that recently worked with MACC Base. Selectman Putnam said the other group's name was under Norm Bergeron. Administrator Bender said the chief interviewed both companies and was more confident with MRI. Chief Viola said he believes they will give the most comprehensive view overall to find out what's best for the town of Milford and that is the ultimate goal. Selectman Federico said he would like to narrow the scope and push forward and see what funds we have available in 2017 to start this study and to get the answers that we need. Chairman Fougere asked him to define "narrow the scope". Selectman Federico said he meant give them the specifics of what we're looking for. Selectman Putnam said there are things that Mark and the chief could come up with that MRI would not have to look at, like benefits and hours. Chairman Fougere agreed, and asked them take a look at it to make sure they're not doing things that we can do and get a number. Selectman Putnam asked how long they thought this was going to take. Chief said he didn't have a clue. Chairman Fougere said if they could update the scope, narrow down the cost and get a timeline of when it would be done that would be good. Selectman Daniels asked if we were done with this issue. Chairman Fougere said

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yes. Selectman Daniels said he would like to request one more thing going back to the MACC Base budget. If account numbers overspent and money is taken from other accounts to pay for that, he would like the board to be notified of the changes by our representative. He questions some of the amounts in there and he thinks they may be excessive but he don't want them to be used as extra fluff in the budget. Selectman Putnam said there should be notations in the minutes of when we did that. Selectman Daniels said he only has one set of minutes.

OPEN FORUM – 7:00 p.m. - Chairman Fougere called 5th Monday Forum to order at 6:59 p.m. 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. This meeting is to allow the public to come in to talk about any town issues in an open forum without an agenda.

Christopher McEleney 27 West Meadow Court has concerns about the lack of street lighting in his neighborhood. The new street is in the last stages of the builder who will be turning it over to the town to maintain soon. There is no street sign yet. There are 34 families on the new cul-de-sac and it's a busy area with children, and animals. A cross walk was recently installed at the top of the street over to the high school side of West Street. There is no overhead lighting on the pole directly across the entrance to West Meadow Ct., or on the pole as you enter the street. It's very difficult to find the entrance when coming up or down West Street at night. This has the potential to be a very dangerous situation with so much activity in the early evening, especially when there are events at the field. Chairman Fougere asked Lincoln if he knew what the policy was to put his street sign. Lincoln said no. Chairman Fougere said that the street sign should have been put in a while ago and that is a simple fix. Adding a streetlight isn't as simple. Selectman Daniels said that it does make sense although he questions why the Planning Board didn't pick up on this in the beginning. Lincoln said this project was approved prior to his working for the town and he is not sure why it wasn't considered in the beginning. Selectman Daniels asked if the cross walk was part of the plans. Lincoln said he would have to check. Selectman Daniels said if you going to have a cross walk it should be lighted so people can see. Chairman Fougere asks who installs lights. Administrator Bender asked if they want to forward this to traffic safety or have him go to Public Works and Eversource. Selectman Daniels doesn't feel there needs to be two lights, but there should be at least one on the side where the street sign is. Chairman Fougere said he agrees. Selectman Federico said he would be curious if it was the plans for that development. Chairman Fougere asked Lincoln to check, and if it is, they will send the bill to the developer. Chairman Fougere asked if they were any more questions for Christopher, hearing none, thanked Christopher for coming in. Chairman Fougere asked if there was anyone else in the audience that wanted to come up.

Chris LaBonte had a couple questions about being transparent on the warrant articles. He would like the Board to be more specific on how long equipment hasn't been running. He would like to know at what point are we expanding or growing our fleet. Instead of saying to the public we are adding a piece of equipment; suddenly we are replacing the equipment. People see the equipment we are trying to replace and feel that we have fully functional equipment and it doesn't need to be replaced. Chairman Fougere said that we've had equipment out to show people that it needs to be replaced. We always said that the equipment was going from here to there. Chris argued that it wasn't the same equipment. Every time we get a new piece of equipment at DPW, the old equipment goes to the transfer station to be used. He would like us to tell the voters where the equipment is going, if it is still in service, and when was the last time it was used. He used the grader as an example, we got a new one last year and no one ever asked when was the last time the old grader was used. Chairman Federico said that the warrant article conversation here tonight was very preliminary and we don't even know what we are going to support. We try to do our best for transparency. We put information in the majority and minority report which is public information. We put it in the voter's guide which is public information. We elaborate on everything at the deliberative session which is public information, we are transparent. Without having the DPW director in the room as far as the backhoe, I think we were very clear on what equipment we were replacing and why. As far as the grader specifically, I was the one that stood up and said the one we have is 40 years old, it hasn't moved because of everything wrong with it and it would cost too much to fix it. With a replacement we would be able to do many projects throughout the next few years. I don't think it's fair that you stand there and say we don't use the equipment when we do. Our intention when we went to the voters in March to get this grader was that it was going to be used. If it's not being used then that is a question that I would ask the DPW director and not make this statement in a public forum. If you feel that there are more questions we can elaborate on in our written statements then let us know. Chris said he wasn't saying that he felt they were trying to deceive the public he was saying they need to be more transparent. He feels we may have a better chance of getting things approved if we say what we do with them versus just think we need them. The average public has no concept on what goes on behind the scenes and how projects get done. They just know that things were changed. We have a tendency in Milford on not disposing of anything, we replace it and we keep the old item. Chairman Federico

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1 said if there is a resale/trading value on an item we do apply it. It was done with the ambulances and a couple of
2 the DPW trucks. Selectman Putnam said a lot of our equipment does go to auction. Chris said no not a lot, he
3 attends the auctions. He does not see many of Milford's equipment there. He just wants us to let the public know
4 our plan upfront of what we're doing with our equipment. For example, we wouldn't be in the scenario of replac-
5 ing the third ambulance if it would have disappeared when it was replaced; it was never shown as an addition.
6 Administrator Bender said that would mean we have four ambulances and we don't. Chairman Fougere said we
7 had five, we bought two new ones and two or three years ago we bought/traded the third one. Chris said a few
8 years ago we had two ambulances at the town hall and then we built the new facility and now we have three
9 ambulances. There was never anything relayed to the public that we are adding and ambulance. Selectman
10 Putnam said we only original vehicle got replaced. The ambulance from Wilton was in better shape than ours so
11 we gave our old ambulance to them to trade in and we got the better one for approximately \$2,400. Chairman
12 Fougere said that the ambulance was a discussion at a Board meeting in public. Selectman Federico said he
13 understands what Chris is saying, on the purchase of those two ambulances four years ago, that in the warrant
14 article, we didn't say all the information about the conversation we had in public and at the deliberative session
15 about the ambulance and what we were doing with it. We did not put in the language that we were keeping one
16 to resell and keeping one for a ready spare. Chris said in this new warrant article it looks like we are replacing
17 one of our front-line ambulances and we are not. Selectman Federico said we replaced both front-line ambu-
18 lances and one of those front-line ambulances went into a ready spare. What I think you are looking for is more
19 of a policy on disposal of assets and language if we are getting rid of or keep the vehicle. You are looking for
20 that third piece of language in the warrant article on what we're going to do with everything. Chris said for ex-
21 ample the holder sidewalk plow, at what point do you say it's not fixable and take it off the books. Administrator
22 Bender said it will be used as a trade in. The 2000 Holder will be eliminated and replaced with the new one if
23 voters approved the warrant article. On the ambulance warrant article it says "replace the 2001 ambulance that
24 is as a backup or ready spare vehicle in case one or both of the two front-line ambulances are out of service".
25 He would like to know how Chris is getting confused that we are replacing a frontline ambulance. Chris said
26 maybe the ambulance was a bad example to use. He just wants transparency on all equipment that we are go-
27 ing for and a plan on what we are going to do with the old equipment. Selectman Federico said that he under-
28 stands what Chris wants but does not believe all of that information can go into the warrant article. He will check
29 with Jack, but he does know that the information can be in the supporting argument. Chris just wants the voters
30 better informed. Peggy Steward said that she agrees with Chris but she also would like to say that Ricky has
31 presented to the BAC a tremendous amount of information on all his data about the age of vehicles and, use of
32 vehicles, cost of repairs, whether it's in service or not and what his plan is for it. The voters don't always get that
33 information, but he does present information at the deliberative session. If the additional questions are written
34 down for Rick, he would help people to understand. Rick held an open house for the public to come down and
35 see the vehicles that needed to be replaced last year. You can put your hand through holes in the dump truck
36 and you can't even keep sand in it but it was never replaced. Four people came down to look at it. The general
37 citizen does not get all this, so it needs to be better relayed. When Rick asks for things it's because he needs
38 them, it's not a wish list. The Budget Committee would like to hear more of what Chris has to say so that they
39 can have a better understanding of what questions to ask and get information out to the general public. Chair-
40 man Fougere asked if they were any more questions for Chris, hearing none, thanked Christopher for coming in.
41 Chairman Fougere asked if there was anyone else in the audience that wanted to come up.

42
43 Larry Pickett has concerns about the low amount of volunteer firefighters that we have for our department. He
44 would like to know what's being done to increase the amount of volunteer firefighters, what are we doing to re-
45 place them and why haven't we done something already about it. Chairman Fougere said that the chief has
46 been keeping us informed on it for a while. He is having a very hard time recruiting people to participate. People
47 don't work in the town like they used to. When Jack he started with the department he actually increased en-
48 rollment for volunteers. Over the year we have held recruitment drives and reached out to the public. If you talk
49 to people around the state and tell them that you have a volunteer fire department for over 15,000 people they
50 are amazed. It is a big concern for the Chief. Larry asked if they knew how much it cost for a full-time firefighter.
51 Chairman Fougere said with benefits about \$75,000. Larry said the cover five trucks is approximate \$5,000,000
52 a year. He said we pay level I firefighter less than nine dollars an hour. They go through 8 to 12 college level
53 credits. The 16-year-old can go to a local store and get \$10 an hour. He does not feel that it's a reasonable pay
54 to pay a fire fighter. He feels that we need to look at providing our firefighters a reasonable pay while we are
55 currently in budget season. Firefighters are shortchanged; they don't get equal work for equal pay. There are
56 people out there that won't come out no matter how much money you paid them to do the job but if we pay more
57 we may see more people. These firefighters miss a lot of family activities, and we pay them nothing. Chairman
58 Fougere said that we can raise this with the chief, but it's the message we've already been getting from him.
59 Selectman Putnam said being a volunteer back 20/30 years ago, was actually fun. There are more expectations

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from the firefighter with additional classes for hazardous materials etc. Not everyone wants to go through these classes even though our fire department pays for all the certifications. It's become a job; it's not fun to volunteer anymore. Most people don't have the time to invest. Larry said other towns still have fun with the fire departments and fulfill the roles. Selectman Putnam said it's not just our town that is having issues getting the volunteers, it's all towns. Chairman Fougere said he doesn't think you can find another town with over 15,000 people that still has the same amount of volunteers on the fire department as we do. He does not disagree with what Larry is saying, but if Larry could find a way to encourage more people to volunteer he's all for it. This is the Chief's department and he should know what works and what doesn't. The chief's biggest concerns right now are during the day not at night. He can still operate with the volunteers he has going forward for the night time calls. Larry said you can't pull people from the jobs that are making \$15, \$20, or \$25 an hour to go to a fire for \$9 an hour. Selectman Putnam said to bring the ideas to the chief he's the one that runs the department. Selectman Federico said he understands the concerns and he doesn't disagree. The chief was just in here three weeks ago discussing this with us at a Board Meeting. He did not mention raising salaries, but did express his concerns. He was hinting towards another full-time firefighter during the day, but we didn't discuss it. We can look at the pay rate of call firefighters while going into through the budget. Larry said that you can double the pay for a firefighter and still not get enough call firefighters. Chairman Fougere told Larry they would look into it and thanked him for coming in. Peggy Steward said when she was on the ambulance as a volunteer at the beginning they didn't even get paid. Over the years there are fewer volunteers and the budget for ambulance is over a \$1,000,000. She feels that we have elderly exemptions, we have veteran's exemptions, and maybe we need to have volunteer exemptions. Something that people could look at in their pockets. Christopher McEleney agrees with Larry. The town is growing and when it grows it puts pressure on police fire and other services. You get a lot of tax revenue but it needs to be expended on the services that you put pressure on because you're adding so many new people in the town. With growth come consequences. Chairman Fougere thanked everyone for coming up to talk at the fifth Monday forum.

4. DECISIONS:

- 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 for discussion. Selectman Putnam moved to approve the Consent Calendar as presented. Vice Chairman Federico seconded. All were in favor. Motion passed 5/0.

1. Request for Approval of Timber Tax Levy Map 50 Lot 1-5

5. NOTICES. Notices were read by Chairman Fougere. Chairman Fougere also wanted to note that the 2017 Tax Rate is 29.39. The municipal portion is 6.65 which was down from 2016 at 7.12 which was down from 2015 at 7.19. The county tax rate is 1.28, the state education tax rate is 2.28, and local education tax rate is 19.18, for a total tax rate of 29.39. This is the second year in a row that we have been able to reduce our town side of the tax rate. This is encouraging.

Captain. Fry asked if he could update the board on road closures. We currently have eight road closures. Ponemah Hill Road, south of Stable Rd. has a pole down with wires and is down to one lane. Armory Road is closed for water. South Street by Kincaid Auto has a tree down. Melendy Road has a tree down with wires across the road. North River Road by MCAA has a tree down with wires and a broken pole. We are detouring people through the parking lot at the MCAA fields. Colburn Road has a tree down with low wires across the road. Old Brookline Road has a tree on telephone/cable wires and across the roadway. Mile Slip Road has a tree pulling wires down on one section and wires from another tree are still down in the road. North Street has low hanging wires across the roadway.

6. NON-PUBLIC SESSION – Chairman Fougere moved to enter into non-public session at 7:37 p.m. for (RSA 91-A:3, II(c)) Reputation and (RSA 91-A:3, II(d)) Land Acquisition. Selectmen Daniels seconded. All were in favor. Motion passed 5/0.

7. ADJOURNMENT: Selectman Federico moved to adjourn at 9:40 p.m. Selectman Daniels seconded. All were in favor. Motion passed 5/0.

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Mark Fougere, Chairman

Kevin Federico, Vice Chairman

Gary Daniels, Member

Laura Dudziak, Member

Mike Putnam, Member