

MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION – September 7, 2011

ROOM 03-TOWN HALL

6:00PM

PRESENT: Chairman Dino B. DeBartolomeis; Selectmen Brian W. Murray and William D. Buckley; and Town Administrator Louis J. Celozzi. Minutes Recorder Jean M. DeTore was absent.

1. Also in attendance were Rep. John V. Fernandes; Gerald M. Moody, Town Counsel; and Thomas J. O'Loughlin, Police Chief.
2. At 6:00PM, Chairman DeBartolomeis announced that the meeting would be delayed pending the arrival of Beatriz G. Almeida Stein, Consul-General of Ecuador and Pablo Calle, Director of Immigration. He also stated that the meeting would be moved to the Upper Town Hall to accommodate the crowd.
3. At 6:30PM Chairman DeBartolomeis opened the meeting thanking everyone for attending. He explained that Milford was a proud and close community and that these were difficult times as a result of a terrible tragedy. He requested a civil exchange and noted that other than the Ecuadorean officials, two speakers would be allowed- Mr. Michael Denice, brother of the late Matthew Denice and Ms. Maureen Grossi Laquerre sister of the late Richard Grossi. He noted that over a week ago, he had received a telephone call from Beatriz G. Almeida Stein indicating that she had heard of the tragedy in Milford and wanted to meet with the Board of Selectmen to see if she could render any assistance. Chairman DeBartolomeis stated that the problem was clear and specifically stated that the Town was concerned with illegal immigration, excessive drinking, individuals driving without licenses, and illegal activities. Ms. Stein expressed her sympathies to the Denice family and stated that she was here to listen to the concerns of the Milford officials and return with a plan to help alleviate the situation.
4. Mr. Pablo Calle expressed his condolences to the family and vowed to work with local officials. He explained that Ecuadoreans come to America for an opportunity. He stated that his country, Ecuador, is providing incentives for Ecuadoreans to return to their native country, specifically, employment opportunities. He stated that he has met with representatives of local Ecuadoreans already and expressed his commitment to assisting locally.
5. Michael Denice, brother of the late Matthew Denice, made a statement on behalf of his family stating that as a community, we welcome legal immigration but questioning those here illegally with no licenses or jobs and asking for the solution to that problem.
6. Mr. Calle replied that this has been a problem for the past fifteen years and pointed to the Immigration debate that has been ongoing nationally with no resolution as of yet.

7. Ms. Maureen Grossi Laquerre, whose brother Richard was killed in an automobile accident in which an illegal immigrant from Portugal was charged and deported, stated that this was the third death caused by an unlicensed, illegal immigrant and it must stop now.

8. Chairman DeBartolomeis thanked the officials in attendance but concluded with the admonition that things must change. He requested that Ms. Stein and Mr. Calle meet with Representative Fernandes, Police Chief O'Loughlin and the Superintendent of Schools to develop a plan and that they submit this plan to the Board of Selectmen in a month.

9. Chairman DeBartolomeis adjourned the meeting at 7:07PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Louis J. Celozzi
Town Administrator

MILFORD BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Dino B. DeBartolomeis, Chairman

Brian W. Murray, Esq.

William D. Buckley