

MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION – October 3, 2011

ROOM 03-TOWN HALL

7:00PM

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

1. Mr. Murray moved, seconded by Mr. Buckley: To sign the warrant, UNANIMOUS.
2. Mr. Murray moved, seconded by Chairman DeBartolomeis: To approve the Minutes of September 26, 2011 as submitted. Two in favor, One abstention (Mr. Buckley abstains) IT IS A VOTE.
3. Citizen Participation – None.

4. Barbara A. Auger, Town Treasurer; Brian Boyle, Health Insurance Consultant to the Town of Milford and Gerald M. Moody, Town Counsel were present to discuss the recent amendments to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 32B. Also in attendance was Police Association representative Jay Ball. Ms. Auger summarized the new law, and Town Counsel Moody further explained that on July 12, 2011, Governor Patrick signed Chapter 69 of the Acts of 2011, "An Act Relative to Municipal Health Insurance" ("the Act"). The Act, which became effective immediately upon its' passage contains several important legislative changes to G.L.c.32B that may benefit cities and towns. The most significant changes will allow cities, towns and certain other political subdivisions to offer their employees and retirees copayments, deductibles and other cost-sharing plan design features that are less than or equal to the amounts offered by the Group Insurance Commissioner ("GIC"), or to transfer employees and retirees to the GIC, without bargaining such decision with individual bargaining units or a public employee committee ("PEC").

Mr. Murray requested that the individual bargaining unions be formally notified that a Public Employee Committee consisting of representatives from each collective bargaining unit representing employees within employment of the Town of Milford must be formed.

After a brief discussion, Mr. Murray moved, seconded by Mr. Buckley: That the Town of Milford, through its Board of Selectmen, elects to engage in the process to change health insurance benefits under M.G.L. c. 32B, Sections 21-23, UNANIMOUS.

Ms. Auger also sought the Board's approval for the renewal of the insurance plans offered to Medicare eligible retirees. She stated that both Fallon and Harvard Pilgrim have responded with quotes for the Town's senior offerings. The Town currently offers premium based HP Enhance, and Fallon Senior. She submitted a summary sheet with the results for comparison purposes, including 2011 costs and compared benefits to the GIC UniCare Medicare Extension product. She noted that at a meeting of the Insurance Advisory Committee held on September 21, 2011, the board reviewed quotations submitted by Bob Cannon (FCHP) and Bryan Adams (HPHC). The Fallon Senior proposal includes a 0% increase in cost with no changes in benefit structure. Retirees will see no increase in the cost of this plan. Harvard Pilgrim quoted a Medicare wrap plan, which includes a decrease in the medical plan and no increase in the prescription plan. Retirees enrolled in the Enhance plan will see a \$1.80 decrease in cost. The Insurance Advisory Committee

voted unanimously to recommend the Fallon Senior Rate of \$267.00 and the HP Enhance rate of \$320.30 effective January 1, 2012.

Mr. Murray moved, seconded by Mr. Buckley: To approve the above recommendation, effective January 1, 2012, UNANIMOUS.

5. Paul Seaver, Chairman, Milford Youth Commission, Amy Tamagni, Michael Walsh, Treasurer and Members: Sandra J. Caproni Cicciu, Susan Salamone, Lorian Braza-Butts, Stephen Manguso, and Francis Trafecante were present to review the financial issues confronting the Youth Center. Chairman DeBartolomeis outlined the status of the financial situation of the Milford Youth Commission and indicated that it was the Board's intent to begin a conversation that will seek solutions for the future.

Mr. Seaver reported that the Youth Commission accepted Director James Sanchioni's resignation on Friday, September 30, 2011. He stated that he believed Mr. Sanchioni did a great job with the children who attended the Youth Center. He also noted that at the present time, Sidney DeJesus and three volunteers along with himself are at the Youth Center trying to continue activities. He then yielded the floor to Amy Tamagni who stated that going forward, the Youth Commission needs a plan in place so that this situation does not happen again. The Milford Youth Center closed FY11 with a deficit of \$48,363.61. She noted that part of the reason for the deficit was a decrease in funds from the United Way, from \$63,000 in FY10 to \$28,000 in FY11, the loss of You Inc. Rental for FY10 was \$1,000 per month for a total of \$12,000, in FY11 a total of \$0 which equaled 100% decrease.

Mr. Murray stated that the Youth Center is an important part of the Town. In 2003 the board adopted a new set of guidelines and it appears that a clear plan needs to be put into place at this time. He suggested that representatives from the Youth Commission meet with the Town Administrator, Town Accountant and Town Counsel and also meet with members of the Finance Committee sub-committee to set solid guidelines to monitor the revolving account and develop a plan to fund utilities-phone, heat lights as part of the town of Milford's budget.

Mr. Buckley also stated that the Youth Center plays a valuable role in the community but that controls need to be put into place. He noted that Minutes of their meetings do not reference any budget items and he suggested an audit be done.

Chairman DeBartolomeis recognized Paul Mina, President of the United Way. Mr. Mina stated United Way will withhold funding from the Youth Commission until a financial review is completed. He noted that this issue should never have occurred but that the United Way was committed to the Youth Center. He also committed to a payment of \$30,000 in July 1, 2012 and July 1, 2013 to absorb the deficit.

After a discussion, it was the consensus of the Board, to have Ms. Tamagni meet with Town Administrator Celozzi to discuss the issue and establish a process of reporting programs and expenses.

6. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

- Monthly Budget Update – All budgets under the jurisdiction of the Board of Selectmen are on target in FY12.
- 26 Dilla Street Property – The property owner (Lori Charest) is out of the house, the electricity has been cut off and the water turned off. Scott Crisafulli, Highway Surveyor, has volunteered to demolish the home and save us money. We will expend money to rent the excavator and disposal units. The approximate cost is \$5,000.00 which is a considerable savings.
- I spoke with Atty. Christopher McHallam today regarding the Sprague property on 8 Blanchard Road in response to an e-mail sent to Chairman DeBartolomeis. It appears that Mr. Sprague is still seeking financing. I informed Atty. McHallam that the Town is moving forward.

7. Town Administrator Celozzi outlined the guidelines and preliminary recommendations of the Financial Team consisting of himself, Paul Abbondanza, Financial Analyst/Finance Committee; Barbara A. Auger, Town Treasurer; Gerald M. Moody, Town Counsel and Zachary Taylor, Town Accountant as follows:

- Met to review financial statements, warrant articles and other correspondence relative to the upcoming Special Town Meeting.
- Subjects agreed upon were:
 1. Set aside \$600,000 for road repair, above and beyond Highway Surveyor's budgeted amount.
 2. Utilize \$500,000 of Free Cash to reduce the tax rate.
 3. Recommended funding all Special Town Meeting articles subject to the discussion between Finance Committee and School Committee regarding modular classrooms.
 4. Leave approximately \$1.2M in Free Cash (includes \$600,000 for roads, referred to above).
 5. Levy capacity will be approximately \$42,000.00.
 6. \$2.5M in Sewer Stabilization Fund.

Mr. Celozzi noted that they will be meeting repeatedly prior to the Special Town Meeting and will submit a final recommendation for October 17, 2011.

8. Town Administrator Celozzi provided the Board with correspondence outlining the process and steps taken to fill the position of Assistant Town Accountant. After a brief discussion: Mr. Murray moved to support Mr. Celozzi's recommendation, seconded by Mr. Buckley: To appoint Wendell Phillips Jr. to the position of Assistant Town Accountant, at Step 1 on the M.A.C.E. salary schedule which is presently \$18.47/hr. He will begin his duties on October 31, 2011, UNANIMOUS.

9. Town Administrator Celozzi provided the Board with a copy of the warrant for the October 24, 2011 Special Town Meeting. Chairman DeBartolomeis stated that the Board will discuss the articles at the October 17th meeting.

10. Mr. Murray moved, seconded by Mr. Buckley: To approve the request for the annual Veterans Day Parade, Friday, November 11, 2011, UNANIMOUS.

11. Mr. Murray moved, seconded by Mr. Buckley: To approve the request from the Scouting for Food Coordinator for the use of the Municipal Parking Lot located next to the Food Pantry from 11:00AM to 5:00PM for their Food Drive on Sunday, November 6, 2011, UNANIMOUS.

12. The Board reviewed correspondence from John Erickson, Building Commissioner detailing the recent efforts of the Neighborhood Task Force. A list of violations for properties on a portion of Water Street and the odd side of Oliver Street was submitted.

13. INFORMATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE

1. D.E.P., re: Milford Water Company – Sanitary Surveys
2. COMCAST, re: Programming Change
3. Schedule of Meetings
4. Finance Committee, re: Minutes of 9/14/11

14. Mr. Murray moved, seconded by Mr. Buckley: To adjourn the Selectmen's meeting at 8:28PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Jean M. DeTore
Minutes Recorder

MILFORD BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Dino B. DeBartolomeis, Chairman

Brian W. Murray, Esq.

William D. Buckley