

MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION – November 14, 2011

ROOM 03-TOWN HALL

7:00PM

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

1. Mr. Murray moved, seconded by Chairman DeBartolomeis: To sign the warrant and approve the Minutes of October 31, 2011 as submitted, UNANIMOUS.

2. Citizen Participation – Chairman DeBartolomeis recognized Mr. Michael Barton, 34 Church Street, who voiced his concerns relative to the amount of money appropriated for the Community Field Project. Chairman DeBartolomeis explained that meetings were held for the past four or five years to discuss the project before it was brought to Town Meeting as an article for approval.

At 7:04PM Selectman William D. Buckley joined the meeting.

Town Administrator Celozzi noted that, for clarification, the funds were appropriated and approved at Town Meeting not by the Selectmen.

Ms. Helen Wright also voiced her concerns regarding the expense of the Field Project and stated that she also is a Town Meeting member and in her opinion, any recommendations of an article by the Selectmen is “rubber stamped” by town meeting members and that Milford should have an “Open” Town Meeting rather than an elected Representative Town Meeting. She also suggested that the Citizen Participation portion of the Selectmen’s meeting be placed at the end of the meeting as well as the beginning allowing citizens a chance to express concerns or ask questions on issues discussed by the Board during the meeting.

Chairman DeBartolomeis thanked Mrs. Wright for her input.

3. Susan Clark, Community Development Director, met with the Board for the second of three meetings prior to the December 16, 2011 application deadline for the FY12 Community Development Block Grant. Scott Crisafulli, Highway Surveyor, was also present. Ms. Clark updated the Board on the Prospect Heights project stating that it is 99% complete and that the paving of the road will be completed this week. She noted that she has received positive comments and there is a small amount of money remaining in the budget. She believes that with the cooperation of the Highway Surveyor and Community Development funds, they will be able to complete both sidewalks in the Spring. She stated that the purpose of tonight’s Public Hearing was to allow the Board of Selectmen to review the projects that should be included in the Community Development Strategy. She incorporated revisions that the Board recommended at the October 31, 2011 meeting. Mr. Murray suggested including, under the Open Space section, the acquisition of the Carroll Street property. She stated that as a result of three neighborhood meetings held on 7/27/11; 8/24/11; and 10/12/11 and based on input from residents she is requesting approval to apply for a FY12 Community Development Block Grant to revitalize the Church Street, Bancroft Avenue and Draper Park area of town. She noted the infrastructure repairs would include

sidewalks, curbing, drainage and road repair and in addition to this project she is recommending that the Housing Rehabilitation Program be continued.

Mr. Murray moved, seconded by Mr. Buckley: To adopt the Community Development Strategy as submitted and to continue efforts to secure funds for the Church Street, Bancroft Avenue and Draper Park Improvement Project, UNANIMOUS.

Mr. Murray moved, seconded by Mr. Buckley: To authorize the Community Development Office to continue the Housing Rehabilitation Program, UNANIMOUS.

Mr. Murray moved, seconded by Mr. Buckley: To award the contract to GCG Associates in the amount of \$23,975 for engineering services for the Church Street area Infrastructure Project, UNANIMOUS.

Mr. Murray moved, seconded by Mr. Buckley: To award the contract to Breezeway Farms Consulting in the amount of \$4,500.00 for consulting services for preparing the FY12 CDBG application, UNANIMOUS.

4. The Public Hearing for the determination regarding the allocation of the percentage of the tax levy was held at 7:25PM. Samuel Bonasoro, Chairman and member Joseph Arcudi were present along with Assessor/Administrator Priscilla Hogan, who gave the FY12 property classification presentation. According to Ms. Hogan, the town's budget for FY12 is \$84,107,985.39 as determined by Town Meeting and using the shift of 1.48 that was adopted last year; after deducting estimated local receipts, of \$31,090,322, the town must raise \$53,017,663.39 in taxes. She stated that there has been a significant change in property values. Single family homes decreased 3.96%, condos decreased 5.20%, two families decreased 6.4%, three family homes decreased 7.97% and the multi-families decreased 2.85%. This year, three family properties had the most significant decreases in value and from FY10 to FY11 they went down 17.41%. This year they are decreasing by 7.97%, thus the three families are no longer picking up the share of the taxes they previously did in prior years with the result being that the remaining residential parcels are picking up the difference of the taxes that were once paid by the three families. Based on the 1.48 shift, average residential tax bills will increase approximately \$86.32 and the average commercial bill will increase approximately \$1,128.00. The town set aside \$850,000 which did save average commercial taxpayers approximately \$350.00.

Chairman DeBartolomeis reviewed correspondence from the Industrial Development Commission which noted that they agree that business and industry should pay their fair share, however to prevent a detrimental cumulative effect on the business sector, excessive disparities in the shift should be avoided and urged the Selectmen to consider reducing the shift from 1.48 to 1.46.

As this was a public hearing, Chairman DeBartolomeis opened the meeting for discussion. Mr. Rudolph Lioce, owner of Milford Woodworking, along with several small business owners requested

that the town ease the burden on these businesses by reducing the shift from 1.48 to even 1.47. After a discussion including comments from Mr. Lioce, Dr. Richard Heller, Laurie Sullivan, Steven Antinarelli and Louis Guerriere, Mr. Murray moved seconded by Mr. Buckley: To maintain the dual tax rate and set the rate at 1.48%, UNANIMOUS.

Mr. Murray moved, seconded by Mr. Buckley: To not grant a residential exemption for properties that are the principal residence of the owner, UNANIMOUS.

Mr. Murray moved, seconded by Mr. Buckley: To not grant a small commercial exemption, UNANIMOUS.

5. At 8:30PM Chairman DeBartolomeis requested a two minute recess.

6. At 8:32PM Chairman DeBartolomeis called the meeting to order.

7. Ms. Jaqueline Damasceno, d/b/a Jacky's Restaurant & Pizzeria, 163 Main Street was present seeking a Common Victualler License. Hours of operation are Monday-Sunday 7:00AM-10:00PM. Mr. Buckley moved seconded by Chairman DeBartolomeis: To approve the license contingent upon approval from the Fire Chief and completion of food safety certification. Two in favor, One abstention (Mr. Murray abstains) IT IS A VOTE.

8. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

- Monthly Budget Report -All budgets under the jurisdiction of the Board of Selectmen are on target.
- 8 Blanchard Road – On Thursday afternoon, I received the Purchase and Sales from Mr. Paul Germano. As you can see it has a closing date of January 20, 2012. He is expecting a commitment letter from the Bank and he has contacted our Building Commissioner for permit information. (It was the consensus of the Board to postpone demolition of 8 Blanchard Road until November 30, 2011 pending receiving the commitment letter from the Bank)
- Reminder – Licensees – Anyone that has not returned their license renewal for 2012 is now late.

9. Chairman DeBartolomeis reviewed correspondence from Town Administrator Celozzi regarding the status of license renewals for 2012, specifically The Krystal Room which now houses a gym and Casa Nova, which has not picked up or paid for their 2011 license or applied for renewal for 2012.

10. Mr. Murray requested that the Town Administrator respond to correspondence that was received from a concerned resident regarding the vacant property at 12 Rosenfeld Avenue.

11. Mr. Buckley inquired as to whether the Milford Youth Center was submitting monthly updates including receipts, expenditures, and balances. Town Administrator Celozzi reported that the Town Accountant provided this information to both the Milford Youth Commission and the Finance Committee on a monthly basis.
12. Chairman DeBartolomeis requested an update from the Building Commissioner on the abandoned two-family home on Chapin Street
13. Mr. Murray moved, seconded by Mr. Buckley: To approve the request from the American Cancer Society for a permit to obstruct a public way for a bicycle ride fund-raiser June 10, 2012 12Noon-3:00PM, UNANIMOUS.
14. Mr. Murray moved, seconded by Mr. Buckley: To approve the request to dispose of Surplus Vehicles submitted by Thomas J. O'Loughlin, Chief of Police, UNANIMOUS.
15. Mr. Murray moved, seconded by Mr. Buckley: To approve the request of Caffè Sorrento, 143 Central Street for an extension of hours from 11:00 AM to 10:00 AM on Sundays only to serve alcoholic beverages, UNANIMOUS.
16. Mr. Murray moved, seconded by Mr. Buckley: To approve the request from the Milford Permanent Firefighters Association Local 2140 for the Annual Santa Parade, Sunday, December 4, 2011, UNANIMOUS.
17. Chairman DeBartolomeis expressed concern with:
 - various types of signs appearing on Main Street and requested that the Town Planner review the downtown area and provide a summary including the town's present standards and any recommendations that will improve this situation.
 - two issues relative to gas stations
 - a)the number of people congregating at some of these stations
 - b)many of the customers are pumping their own gasoline and requested that the Fire Chief and Police Chief through the inspection process and/or other means that the business owners be made aware of these issues and act to correct them.
18. Chairman DeBartolomeis reviewed correspondence submitted by Mr. Murray in which he refuted comments made by Diego Low, Director the Metro West Worker Center at the Boston rally organized by the Massachusetts Immigrants and Refugee Advocacy Coalition on November 7, 2011 and reported in the Milford Daily News. Mr. Murray noted that if Mr. Low came to Milford he would learn of an excellent school system staffed with qualified and caring individuals who devote themselves tirelessly to provide a multitude of services to non-English speaking children and their families. He also stressed the cultural diversity in Milford and the long term history of Milford's tolerance and support of immigrants.

19. Mr. Murray moved, seconded by Mr. Buckley: To the support the Police Chief's recommendation to amend the Traffic Rules and Order on Central Street and Mount Pleasant to allow a right turn onto Mount Pleasant Street when traveling northerly on Central Street, UNANIMOUS.

20. INFORMATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE

1. EPA, re: Summary-Sustainable Stormwater Funding Project/Final Report
2. Police Chief, re: ICE Presentation- "Secure Communities Strategy"
3. Atty. Angelo Calagione, re: Application – Milford Youth Commission
4. I.D.C., re: Veteran's Memorial Drive/Transportation Bond Bill Language
5. Sen. Richard T. Moore, re: Additional Local Aid
6. XFINITY, re: Channel Lineup Information
7. Schedule of Meetings
8. Mr. DeBartolomeis, re: East Main Street Neighborhood Committee
9. MassDevelopment, re: Bond Project-Seven Hills Foundation and Affiliates

21. After reviewing correspondence from the EPA relative to the Sustainable Stormwater Funding Project, Mr. Murray requested that the Town Planner begin to research this subject in order to determine whether regulations on businesses and builders must be adjusted to meet the proposed new guidelines and the timeline to incorporate these changes.

22. Mr. Buckley requested that a letter of support and appreciation be sent to both Representative Fernandes and Senator Moore for their sponsorship of the proposed legislation "An Act to Enhance Community Safety".

23. Mr. Murray moved seconded by Mr. Buckley: To appoint Angelo Calagione, Esq. to the Milford Youth Commission for a three year term to expire June 30, 2014, UNANIMOUS.

24. Chairman DeBartolomeis noted that there are several vacancies on the Finance Committee and requested a list of Talent Bank applicants interested in serving on this committee for the next meeting.

25. Chairman DeBartolomeis expressed his concerns with the deterioration of the Bear Hill Business Park Sign/Rt. 109-Birch Street and requested that the Town Planner determine the cost of the necessary repairs and determine a funding source.

26. After reviewing correspondence from Larry L. Dunkin, AICP Town Planner relative to Veterans Memorial Drive/Transportation Bond Bill Language, the Board agreed with both the recommendation of Town Planner and Representative Fernandes in that the Town of Milford should allow the current Transportation Bond Bill item for the Veterans Memorial Drive/Alternate Route to lapse and then re-

submit a new request that would allow for both acquisition of R.O.W. as well as for design and construction.

27. Mr. Murray moved, seconded by Mr. Buckley: To adjourn the Selectmen's meeting at 9:03PM, UNANIMOUS. ROLL CALL VOTE: Chairman DeBartolomeis, and Selectmen Murray and Buckley vote in the affirmative to go into Executive Session in order to discuss an insurance claim and property proposal, UNANIMOUS.

Respectfully submitted:

Jean M. DeTore
Minutes Recorder

MILFORD BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Dino B. DeBartolomeis, Chairman

Brian W. Murray, Esq.

William D. Buckley