

MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION –MARCH 9, 2015

ROOM 03 – TOWN HALL

7:00PM

PRESENT: Chairman Dino B. DeBartolomeis; Selectmen Brian W. Murray, Esq. and William D. Buckley; Town Administrator Richard A. Villani; 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 Mr. Buckley: To approve the Minutes of February 23, 2015 as submitted, UNANIMOUS.
3. INVITATION TO SPEAK –None
4. Kelly A. Capece, Temporary Town Treasurer; Brian Boyle and Brian Boyle Jr. Health Insurance Consultants were present to review the FY16 rates. Ms. Capece stated that in her letter to the Board dated February 23, 2015, Blue Cross Blue Shield submitted a rate increase of 7.3% which includes only 8 months of claims experience, but it appears that our group continues to have a high utilization rate with 11 claims in the HMO group that has totaled over \$989,000.00. She further stated that the Insurance Advisory Committee also accepted renewal rates from Delta Dental and Boston Mutual Life Insurance. Delta Dental indicated there would be no rate increase this year. Boston Mutual has submitted a rate increase of 14% for the basic life and a 0% increase for AD&D insurance for active employees which is an overall rate increase of 13.5%. She also submitted the proposed rates. After a brief discussion, Mr. Murray moved, seconded by Mr. Buckley: To approve the recommendations of the Insurance Advisory Committee as outlined and renew the Life and Dental Insurance as proposed, UNANIMOUS. Mr. Buckley also requested an analysis of Milford's benefits and cost compared to the GIC program over the past several years and provide an update every three to four years for review.
5. Zachary Taylor, Town Accountant/Interim Finance Director provided the FY15 Financial Status including the General Fund Certified Free Cash Balance, Enterprise Fund Stabilization, Excess Levy Capacity, Reserve fund Balance, FY16 State Aid (Cherry Sheet)-Governor's budget and FY15 Snow & Ice Deficit (as of February 28, 2015). He provided the FY16 Budget Preparation Guideline stating that all departments should build their salaries and wages budget based on existing union contracts or an assumed COLA adjustment for Article 2 employees. All general expenses should be level funded with the exception of those departments with electricity costs. He also noted that all budgets should be reviewed by the Department's Finance Committee Sub-Committee as well as a copy submitted to the Town Accountant for review by Friday, March 13, 2015 with final submissions by April 1, 2015 for Article 4 of the May 2015 Annual Town Meeting. He also stated that he will be compiling an all-inclusive Capital Plan by the end of the fiscal year and educating department heads as to why and how it should

be completed. Mr. Taylor also updated the board on the status of the Geriatric Bond and the funding for the Woodland School Building Project. Mr. Buckley requested a report on Net Metering Credits and their impact on the budgets.

6. Ms. Xia Lin, Hunan Express Inc. d/b/a Hunan Gourmet, 130 Main Street, was present requesting a transfer of ownership of a Common Victualler license from Wing Hua Ind. d/b/a Hunan Gourmet to Hunan Express Inc. d/b/a Hunan Gourmet. Mr. Murray moved, seconded by Mr. Buckley: To approve the transfer of ownership, UNANIMOUS.

7. TOWN ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

1. FY16 Local Aid Estimates – We have received the FY16 Local Aid Estimates. The estimate for Chapter 70 Education Aid is an increase of approximately \$736,000.00 and the estimate for increase Unrestricted Gen Gov't Aid is \$97,800.00.
2. Snow Storm Federal Disaster Assistance – Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) has indicated all ten counties have met the thresholds for public assistance and for Snow Assistance. MEMA is now preparing a major disaster declaration request letter that will be submitted by Governor Baker to President Obama. Also, while traditionally FEMA does not recognize cumulative impacts of multiple storms as a qualifying circumstance for a major disaster declaration, MEMA believes the extraordinary circumstances of the significant storms over a short period of time makes a compelling argument for FEMA to consider expanding the disaster declaration for the January 28-28 Blizzard to include these additional storms and associated costs. They have requested that we submit one completed Initial Damage Assessment (IDA) reflecting all costs for the Storms on January 26-28, February 2-3, February 8-10 and February 14-15. The Fire Chief has filed this Report providing estimates of costs associated with snow removal (plowing, sanding, salting, de-icing, snow dumping), as well as labor costs, including overtime. MEMA will use this information to build the strongest case possible for additional Federal Disaster Assistance.
3. Milford Pond Update – Work has begun at Milford Pond. The work crew is mobilized and moving forward on this project. Currently they are building the boundaries of the area to be filled. This will help to create the islands. I will keep the Board updated as this project progresses.
4. Update Selectmen Request List – A. Carven Road Pole Relocation – this will be done in the spring as this will include a raised landscape island.

B. Farmers Market Rezoning – After several meetings with Jenn Yohn, Town Planner and me as well as discussion with the Planning Board an article to provide for a Farmers Market by Special Permit in RA residential zones has been prepared for the May Town Meeting. The Planning Board has agreed to sponsor the article.

C. 495 Sign Rout 16 and Cedar Streets – Will be installed in the spring.

D. MFS Lighting – Resident has been contacted and a meeting will be set up in April to view the lighting issue.

8. Town Administrator Villani provided correspondence which explained the procedure that was used to advertise the position of a Network Administrator. He stated that eleven applications were received and reviewed by himself and Paul Blivess IT Director, both recommending the hiring of Brandon Vandel. He recommended that Mr. Vandel be appointed at Grade 3/Step 2 Salary Position with a starting salary of \$62,316.00. Mr. Murray moved, seconded by Mr. Buckley: To appoint Brandon Vandel as recommended, UNANIMOUS. Mr. Buckley commented that he was pleased that the job was being recommended to a local resident.

9. Town Administrator Villani provided a summary of the meeting with Milford Business Owners held on February 19, 2015 as follows:

-Each business and/or property owner was provided an opportunity to speak

-Among the areas discussed were:

1. Parking –Almost everyone labeled this as a significant issue. They encouraged having employees park in municipal lots, leaving Main Street for customers.
2. Traffic – Several people were concerned over traffic, coordination of lights, better traffic flow, better signage to direct to parking
3. Cleanup – Concerns about trash around businesses, homemade signs in windows and awnings are in need of replacement-asked about a grant program.
4. Trees – Paul Gilbody from Milford Federal Savings and Loan Association said the bank would be willing to work with the Town to resolve the issue of uprooting and overgrown trees on Main Street causing the sidewalk to crack. We will be setting up a meeting.
5. Residential Apartments – Second and Third floor of buildings for such a use.

Chairman DeBartolomeis stated that possible future action could be to establish a sub-committee of the Milford Business owners, contact Dunkin Donuts to clean up areas and consider a source of funds to hire a person to oversee and promote the downtown area.

10. Town Administrator Villani reviewed the Request for Proposals for the Lease of former Purchase Street School property at 229 Purchase Street. He stated that bids were advertised in the Milford Daily News on January 6 and January 13, 2015 and the Central Register on December 17, 2014 with a bid deadline of January 28, 2015 at 2:00PM. One bid was received from Little Stars Day Care and Pre School LLC. Mr. Buckley requested time to review the proposal since it was not on the Agenda.

11. After a brief discussion: Mr. Murray moved, seconded by Mr. Buckley: To support the recommendation of a 2% increase for Article 3 (Elected Officials), UNANIMOUS.

12. Mr. Murray moved, seconded by Mr. Buckley: To remand the following proposed amendments to the Planning Board for public hearing, UNANIMOUS

1. Amend the Zoning Bylaw by adopting a new Section 3.8 relating to obstructions permitted in required yards.
2. Amend the Zoning Bylaw by adding text that had been inadvertently omitted in Section 1.5.4. Completion of plantings.
3. Amend the Zoning Bylaw by adopting a new Section 3.16 relating to grading and drainage of individual lots.

13. Mr. Murray moved, seconded by Mr. Buckley: To remand the following proposed amendments to the Planning Board for public hearing, UNANIMOUS

1. Amend the Zoning Bylaw by rezoning approximately 8.7 acres located in the vicinity of 55 Medway Street from RB Single Family Residential District and/or IB Highway Industrial District to CB Neighborhood Commercial District.
2. Amend the Zoning Bylaw to provide for Farmers Markets by special permit in RA residential zones.

14. After reviewing the proposed request for street acceptance for Roland Way; Mr. Murray moved, seconded by Mr. Buckley: To remand the request to the Planning Board for public hearing and review, UNANIMOUS.

15. After reviewing the proposed request for street acceptance for Woodland Court; Mr. Murray moved, seconded by Mr. Buckley: To remand the request to the Planning Board for public hearing and review, UNANIMOUS.

16. Town Administrator Villani provided a request from the Commission on Disability to use funds collected from Handicap Parking fines for the “benefit of Persons with Disabilities.” Town Administrator Villani stated that many cities and towns do allow the use of such fines by the Commission on Disability to help improve the quality of life for their disabled citizens. He further explained that G.L. c. 40, sec. 22G authorizes a city or town, which has accepted the provisions of G.L. c. 40, sec. 8J, to deposit all or part of the funds received for violation of handicapped parking regulations in a separate account for utilization by a commission on disability “for the benefit of persons with disabilities.” Section 8J authorizes and provides an outline of the powers of a Commission on Disability. He further noted that Milford did not accept Section 8J, but created its own Commission on Disability in 1985. Mr. Murray moved: To support an article to accept G.L. c. 40 Section 8J and therefore allow fifty percent (50%) of the funds collected from handicap Parking Fines to be used by the Milford Commission on Disability for the benefit of persons with disabilities, Mr. Buckley seconded for discussion. He suggested allowing 100 percent. Mr. Buckley made a motion to amend the previous motion: To support an article to accept G.L. c. 40 Section 8J and therefore allow one hundred percent (100%) of the funds collected from handicap Parking Fines to be used by the Milford Commission on Disability for the benefit of persons with disabilities, UNANIMOUS.

17. Sgt. Michael Jones was present to recommend the appointment of Auxiliary Police Officers for the Milford Police Department; Mr. Murray moved, seconded by Mr. Buckley: To appoint the following individuals as recommended by Sergeant Michael Jones, Commanding Officer of the Auxiliary Police: Keith M. Gattozzi, Elias Giokas, Geoffrey Iadarola, Michael Martell, Kevin O’Loughlin and James Sanchioni, UNANIMOUS.

18. INFORMATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE

1. Town Engineer, re: Monthly Status Report
2. Police Chief, re: Central Massachusetts Law Enforcement Council Mutual Aid Agreement
Blackstone Valley Drug Task Force Written Directive
3. Verizon, re: Programming Changes

19. Mr. Murray moved, seconded by Mr. Buckley: To adjourn the Selectmen’s meeting at 8:28PM, UNANIMOUS. ROLL CALL VOTE: Chairman DeBartolomeis, Selectmen Brian W. Murray, Esq. and William D. Buckley all vote in the affirmative to go into Executive Session to discuss Police Department Collective Bargaining, UNANIMOUS.

Respectfully submitted:

Jean M. DeTore
Minutes Recorder

MILFORD BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Dino B. DeBartolomeis, Chairman

Brian W. Murray, Esq.

William D. Buckley