

## Milford Finance Committee Meeting Minutes - October 1, 2015

Absent: Phil Ciaramicoli, Bob DeVita, Chuck Miklosovicy, Jerry Hiatt

Also in attendance: Rick Villani, Zach Taylor, Brian Murray, Sue Edmonds, Vonnice Reis, Personnel Board Chair, Will Kingkade, Bill Buckley, Sydney DeJesus

Press: Kevin Rudden

Article 25: The library director discussed the need for several upgrades and purchases at the library. She is looking to renovate the circulation desk, replace the current magnetizer and de-magnetizer, and install a self checkout kiosk. The total of the projects is \$30,000. All of these items were on the capital five year plan. Favorable motion was made by Al Corriea and was seconded by Aldo Cecchi. It was unanimous in favor.

Article 26: The library director proposed the replacement of the fence surrounding the back of the library. The fence has deteriorated and is barely standing in several areas. A wooden fence was priced out for \$12,000 for construction and removal of the old fence. The director explained that the presence of a fence helps to prevent loitering and is a safety factor. Members questioned if other material types were looked into. The director explained that because of its overall appearance, cost, and lifespan, that wood was the way to go. A favorable motion was made by John Tennaro and a second from Chris Morin. It was unanimous in favor.

Article 13: Vernon Grove trustees are looking for a one ton dump truck with snow plow for \$65,000. This dump truck will be used to transport equipment for the care of the North Purchase St Cemetery as well as for plowing both locations in the winter. This vehicle will also be available to the town to plow in place of a more expensive outside contractor. John Tennaro made a favorable motion and it was seconded by Aldo Cecchi. It was a unanimous vote.

Article 2: The personnel board presented an additional study to add to the previous classification and compensation study that would add five more towns and also readdress any changes in job descriptions that occurred in the last 12 months. The cost of this study is \$3,000. The additional towns that will be studied are in a response to the Selectman's issue that the last study did not have towns with a comparable median income to Milford. The five towns added to the study were much closer to Milford's median family income level. The board brought up that the last study was done only 12 months ago and cost \$4,500 for 13 towns. This study would cost \$3,000 and would only cover 5 towns. An unfavorable recommendation was made by Chris Morin, seconded by Mike Soares. It was voted unanimously for an unfavorable recommendation.

Article 3: The personnel board presented a change in the earned leave policy for non union workers. This change would give any employee who does not use three sick days an extra paid personal day to take off. We were told that by historical standards only two to three employees would take advantage of this. A motion to refer to sponsor was made by Mike and was seconded by Aldo Cecchi. It was voted 9-1 to refer to sponsor.

Article 4: The position of Senior Center Administrative Assistant needed to be added to Article 2. It was a previously classified position and just needed to be added to the list. A favorable recommendation was made by Aldo Cecchi and it was seconded by John Tennaro. It was voted unanimously for a favorable recommendation.

Article 21: The town engineer informed us that the town's Hazard Mitigation Plan will expire on December 31st 2015. We were told that the town would not be eligible to receive any grant money from FEMA if we did not have an approved Hazard Mitigation Plan. It was questioned on whether we were even able to receive emergency money from FEMA for snow emergencies or other events if we do not have an active Hazard Mitigation Plan. Vonnie Reis also informed the Board that upon applying for a new Hazard Mitigation Plan it takes two years for its approval. Members voiced concern about what would happen in the next two years if we needed funds. The cost of the Hazard Mitigation study is \$56,000 with a possible grant reimbursement of \$20,000. A favorable recommendation was made by Aldo Cecchi, and seconded by Chris Morin. The vote was unanimous for a favorable recommendation.

Article 22: Town Engineer explained the plan to do repairs on the Godfrey Brook culverts. She was looking for \$300,000 which would be our portion of the \$3.1 million project. There would also be another \$60,000 that would be for the land taking process. It was again discussed of the ability to do this project without having a Hazard Mitigation Plan in place. We were informed that if the Hazard Mitigation Plan Expiration Date would affect our ability for reimbursement that this article would be passed over.

Article 7: This article makes changes to the town by-law regarding sign location, size, and content. Aldo Cecchi made a motion to refer to sponsor, and John Tennaro seconded it. It was voted unanimous to refer to sponsor.

Article 10: Tabled till next meeting.

Article 17: The armory renovation committee is looking to transfer \$1,000,000 to pay off the remaining debt on the project. The committee felt that payoff of our current debt is the best course of action considering our free cash position. John Tennaro made a favorable recommendation, and it was seconded by Aldo Cecchi. It was unanimous in favor of a favorable recommendation.

Article 19: The Armory renovation committee again presented the costs involved with the project. The new numbers from the last meeting were \$67,000 to pave the lot, finishing four rooms that were outside the scope of the project \$24,000.

More information was provided regarding the kitchen hood. That this hood has an automatic shut off as well as a fire suppression system. The debate over the portable generator continued. The committee was adamant about the necessity of a generator that has a automatic relay switch in the case of the loss of power. Because of the lack of concrete information regarding the type of generator and range hood the committee felt the best course of action was to table this article and it would be discussed at the October meeting.

Article 27: There was a discussion of the amount of the stabilization contribution. Zach Taylor presented the current financial position with the effect this year's articles would have on the bottom line. He also covered the long term debt situation and current status with regards to the new Woodland school. Zach Taylor proposed a \$3 million contribution to stabilization and its affect on debt. The case was made for that the large sum so that it would gives us a better bond rating at the time of borrowing and then we could immediately pull it out to reduce the debt. John Tennaro made a favorable recommendation and it was seconded by Chris Morin. It was voted unanimously for a favorable recommendation.

Article 28: The Board of Selectman proposed a \$2.8 million offset to the tax rate. There was much discussion about this \$2.8 million figure versus the \$2 million that was proposed by the Finance Committee. The Selectman have not yet voted on this article and will at their next meeting. The Committee decided to wait to see what the vote was from the Selectman and a more extensive presentation from Zach Taylor before making a decision. The committee tabled this article until our next meeting.

A motion to adjourn was made by Aldo Cecchi , seconded by Al Correia.

Minutes recorded by Chris Morin