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**MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION – November 16, 2020**  
**ROOM 03 – TOWN HALL**  
**7:00 PM**

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PRESENT: Selectmen Michael K. Walsh, Selectman Thomas J. O’Loughlin and Town Administrator Richard A. Villani.

Also present: Administrator/Assessor Jen Sclar, Finance Director Zach Taylor, Town Treasurer Chris Pilla and IT Director, Chris George.

Absent: Chairman William E. Kingkade, Jr.

1. Mr. O’Loughlin moved, seconded by Mr. Walsh: To sign the warrant, UNANIMOUS.
2. Mr. O’Loughlin moved, seconded by Mr. Walsh: To approve the Regular Session Minutes of November 2, 2020 as submitted. UNANIMOUS.
3. Mr. O’Loughlin moved, seconded by Mr. Walsh: To approve the Executive Session Minutes of November 2, 2020 as submitted. UNANIMOUS.
4. Invitation to Speak – NONE.
5. A Public Hearing was held for the determination of the allocation of the percentage of the tax levy. Board of Assessor Member Josh Lioce was present along with Assessor/Administrator Jennifer Sclar who gave the FY21 property classification presentation. Resident Jack Salvia asked the Board why taxes are being increased when the Town received a “windfall” from the State and how come Senior Citizens do not receive a Tax break. Assessor/Administrator Sclar stated there is a statutory Senior Tax Exemption, but it is asset and income based. Finance Director Taylor said the Town is receiving up to \$2.5 million under the CARES Act, but it can only be expended on COVID 19 related expenses. Mr. Walsh said he will contact Mr. Salvia on Tuesday. Ms. Sclar said she will send information to the Board members regarding tax assistance for Seniors to be shared with Mr. Salvia. Mr. O’Loughlin moved seconded by Mr. Walsh: To maintain the dual tax rate and set the rate at 1.58. UNANIMOUS. Mr. O’Loughlin moved seconded by Mr. Walsh: To not grant a Residential exception for properties that are the principal residence of the owner. UNANIMOUS. Mr. O’Loughlin moved seconded by Mr. Walsh: To not grant a small commercial exemption. UNANIMOUS. Mr. O’Loughlin moved seconded by Mr. Walsh: To not grant an open space discount. UNANIMOUS.

6. The Board again reviewed a Memo from Finance Director, Zach Taylor, regarding reducing licensing fees paid by businesses due to the COVID 19 pandemic. Mr. Taylor informed the Board they do have the authority to set the license fees. He presented a list of licenses which included All Alcohol, Common Victualler, Wine and Malt and Entertainment and Amusement licenses with their current assessed fees. Mr. Walsh asked if there is a specific requirement as to the period of time a licensee has to pay the license fee. Mr. Taylor said it needs to be paid within the fiscal year which ends June 30, 2021. Mr. O'Loughlin said the On-Premises licensees have been impacted the greatest by the pandemic. He would consider reducing On-Premises pouring alcohol and on premises general common victualler serving food license fees by fifty (50%) per cent. He also said he would recommend allowing six (6) months for the license to be paid. If a licensee misses a payment, they would be subject to losing the license. He further stated he would allow the issuance of the Entertainment and Automatic Amusement licenses, but not have the fee due until the Governor authorizes the use of these licenses. Mr. Walsh said we are now experiencing a second wave of COVID 19 and he wants to help businesses. Mr. O'Loughlin moved, seconded by Mr. Walsh: To reduce the License Fees by one half (50%) for Common Victualler on premises pouring licenses for the annual calendar year 2021. UNANIMOUS. Mr. O'Loughlin moved, seconded by Mr. Walsh: To reduce the License Fees by one half (50%) for Common Victualler on premises food service licenses for the annual calendar year 2021. UNANIMOUS. Mr. O'Loughlin moved, seconded by Mr. Walsh: To allow license applicants in the seven categories listed in Finance Director Taylor's Memo to pay for their license in six (6) equal monthly installments beginning January 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2021. If a payment is not made then the License is subject to suspension by the Board of Selectmen. UNANIMOUS. Mr. O'Loughlin moved, seconded by Mr. Walsh: To allow the fee for Entertainment and Automatic Amusement Licenses not be required to be paid until the Governor allows the use of these licenses. The license will be issued to the license holder. Once the Governor allows the use, then the fee must be paid by the license holder prior to using the license. UNANIMOUS.
7. Treasurer Chris Pilla was present to request the Town declare surplus and authorize the sale of property located on South Cedar Street Lot 52-0-21 consisting of 0.05 Acres of IA Zoned Land. It is not a buildable lot and has no municipal use. Mr. O'Loughlin moved, seconded by Mr. Walsh: To declare Town owned land at South Cedar Street identified as Lot 52-0-21 on the Assessor's map as surplus. UNANIMOUS. Mr. O'Loughlin moved, seconded by Mr. Walsh: To offer the land for sale to the abutters by a direct disposition with a minimum bid of \$7,000, with the condition that within three months of sale the parcel be merged with the abutting parcel by the filing, approval and recording of a plan merging the two parcels into a single tax parcel. UNANIMOUS.

8. Town Administrator Villani and IT Director Chris George were present to provide a COVID 19 Update and to discuss rescheduling the Special Town Meeting. Mr. Villani reviewed a report from Director of Public Health Jackie Murphy indicating the number of COVID 19 cases are increasing in Milford and recommending a fully remote Special Town Meeting. IT Director George said we will not be ready to do a fully remote Special Town Meeting in December. There are thirty to forty Town Meeting members who are not able to participate in a remote meeting. He also needs more time to test the equipment. Mr. Walsh read an Order to be signed by the Board rescheduling the Special Town Meeting from December 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020 to January 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 7 PM. Mr. O'Loughlin moved, seconded by Mr. Walsh: In light of the current state of emergency in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, I move, pursuant to the executive authority granted to the Board of Selectmen by the General Court, recommend to the Town Clerk, that: The Special Town Meeting scheduled for December 9 and 10, 2020, instead be recessed and continued to 7:00 PM on Wednesday, January 6, 2021 and Thursday January 7, 2021. UNANIMOUS.

9. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

A. Welcome Santa Parade- Unfortunately, due to COVID 19, the Annual Welcome Santa Parade will not be held this year.

B. Thanksgiving Eve- A reminder that Town Hall will be closed at 1:00 PM on Wednesday, November 25, 2020, the day before Thanksgiving. Town Hall will be open normal hours on Friday, November 27, 2020.

C. ADA Amendment House Budget- I have been informed by State Representative Brian Murray that he was able to secure in the House version of the FY 21 Budget the following amendment on behalf of the Town of Milford: "not less than \$50,000 shall be expended for the implementation of the disabilities act self-evaluation and transition plan for the Town of Milford." The budget now proceeds to the Senate and he will be in contact with Senator Fattman's office for assistance in having this item pass the Senate budget also.

D. Governor Baker's Budget Proposal – Governor Baker released his revised Budget Proposal for Fiscal Year 2021. His budget level funds Milford's Unrestricted General Government Aid with FY 20 in the amount of \$3,243,398.00 and increases Chapter 70 Funding by \$3,866,691.00 from FY 20 for a total amount of \$31,168,900.00. As you know these numbers do not necessarily reflect a finalized, maximum ceiling as the House and Senate will be filing competing budgets.

10. Mr. Walsh read a Memo from Police Chief Mike Pighetti updating the Board on his review of calls for service from July 31st through November 1st, 2020 at Wendy's Restaurant

located at 128 Cedar Street. There were no calls for service. The Board was pleased with the report.

11. The Board reviewed a Memo from the Town Administrator with a recommendation, regarding Governor Baker's Order allowing Local Licensing Authorities, to automatically extend requests for expansion of outdoor table service from November 1, 2020 for any period up to and until sixty (60) days after the end of the state of emergency. Mr. O'Loughlin moved, seconded by Mr. Walsh: To allow the Town Administrator to automatically extend requests for expansion of outdoor table service from November 1, 2020 for any period up to and until sixty (60) days after the end of the state of emergency. UNANIMOUS.

The Board took a recess at 7:59 PM and returned at 8:00 PM.

12. The Board reviewed a Memo from the Town Administrator recommending the Board appoint Keith Haynes as the Inspector of Animals. Mr. O'Loughlin moved, seconded by Mr. Walsh: To appoint Keith Haynes as Inspector of Animals. UNANIMOUS.
13. The Board reviewed a letter from Amy Tamagni, Chair of the Milford Youth Commission recommending the Board appoint Brendan Rickert as a member of the Youth Commission. Mr. O'Loughlin moved, seconded by Mr. Walsh: To appoint Brendan Rickert as a member of the Youth Commission. UNANIMOUS.
14. Mr. O'Loughlin moved, seconded by Mr. Walsh: To accept a gift of \$1,000.00 to the Milford Youth Center from Benjamin Moore & Co. to support programming. UNANIMOUS.
15. Mr. O'Loughlin moved, seconded by Mr. Walsh: To accept a gift of \$25,000.00 to the Milford Youth Center from Amazon Logistics to support the future completion of a music and multipurpose media room. UNANIMOUS.
16. Mr. O'Loughlin moved, seconded by Mr. Walsh: To accept a gift of \$2,500.00 to the Milford Fire Department from Benjamin Moore & Co. to support first responders. UNANIMOUS.

**17. INFORMATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE – NONE**

18. Mr. O'Loughlin said he received a letter from a resident, Amber Rose, requesting the Board investigate speeding and Traffic volume on Dartmouth Drive. She also has traffic concerns once the access road to the Leaf Dump is built. He sent the letter to Police Chief

Pighetti and Highway Surveyor Scott Crisafulli to review the issues and report to the Board.

- 19.** Mr. O'Loughlin requested the Board discuss at the next Selectmen meeting appointing a liaison to interact with Amazon local officials and to attend monthly zoom meetings with Amazon corporate officials based outside Massachusetts. He suggested the Town Administrator and he act as the liaisons.
- 20.** Mr. O'Loughlin requested the Board discuss at the next Selectmen meeting requiring all Town Department budgets within the purview of the Board of Selectmen first be presented to the Board of Selectmen for review.
- 21.** Mr. Walsh moved, seconded by Mr. O'Loughlin: To adjourn the Selectmen's meeting at 8:15 PM, UNANIMOUS.

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Richard A. Villani  
Minutes Recorder

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William E. Kingkade, Jr. Chairman

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Michael K. Walsh

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Thomas J. O'Loughlin