

MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION –MARCH 17, 2014

ROOM 03-TOWN HALL

6:00PM

PRESENT: Chairman William D. Buckley; Selectmen Dino B. DeBartolomeis and Brian W. Murray; and Town Administrator Richard A. Villani. Minutes Recorder Jean M. DeTore was absent.

1. Mr. DeBartolomeis moved, seconded by Mr. Murray: To sign the warrant, UNANIMOUS.
2. Mr. DeBartolomeis moved, seconded by Mr. Murray: To approve the minutes of March 10, 2014 as submitted, UNANIMOUS.
3. Citizen Participation – None.
4. Kelly A. Capece, Temporary Town Treasurer; Adam Thornton BlueCross BlueShield Representative; Brian Adams, Harvard Pilgrim and Peter Filosa, Chairman of the Insurance Advisory Committee et al were present to review the FY15 rates. Ms. Capece stated that in her letter to the Board dated January 24, 2014, Harvard Pilgrim presented the Town with a rate increase of 19.8%. She further noted that this increase was mostly based on the Town's high utilization experience over the most recent rating period. Since that time, quotes from various carriers were received. Both Tufts Health Care and Fallon Community Health Plan declined to submit quotes, both indicating that with our current utilization experience, they did not feel they would be able to submit a competitive rate. In addition, BlueCross BlueShield submitted quotes for their HMO Blue, Blue Care Elect (PPO) and Medex II products. HMO Blue and Blue Care Elect plans offered a rate that would be an increase of approximately 16.5% higher than our current rates. The rate proposed for the Medex II plan was a decrease of over 18% compared to our current Medicare supplement rate which renewed in January; and due to certain Federal regulations, the earliest we would be able to enroll members into the Medex II program would be June 1, 2014. She also noted that the Insurance Advisory Committee reviewed the possibility of joining the Group Insurance Commission (GIC) reviewing their policies and procedures as well as plan options and rates that they currently offer. It was determined that the earliest date the Town could enter into an agreement with GIC would be January 1, 2015 and would require a minimum 3 year commitment. After a review, it was the consensus of the Insurance Advisory Committee stated that in their opinion this option would not be in the Town's best interest at this time. In conclusion, the Insurance Advisory Committee seeking favorable consideration from the Board to accept their recommendation to change health insurance carriers from Harvard Pilgrim Health Care to BlueCross BlueShield as soon as possible after May 1, 2014; and in addition authorizing notice to the PEC to begin negotiations. Also recommended are the Delta Dental and Boston Mutual Life rates, which indicate no rate increase.

Mr. DeBartolomeis moved, seconded by Mr. Murray: To accept the recommendation of the Insurance Advisory Committee to change health insurance carriers from Harvard Pilgrim Health Care to BlueCross BlueShield as soon as possible after May 1, 2014, UNANIMOUS.

Mr. DeBartolomeis moved, seconded by Mr. Murray: To authorize the Temporary Treasurer, the Insurance Advisory Committee and Town Counsel to take whatever steps are needed to begin negotiations, UNANIOMOUS.

Mr. DeBartolomeis moved, seconded by Mr. Murray: To approve the recommendations of the Insurance Advisory Committee as outlined and renew the Life and Dental Insurance as proposed, UNANIMOUS.

5. Chairman Buckley outlined the format for the three interviews for the Town Treasurer's position which were scheduled for this evening. He explained that he would detail each candidate's application packet, noting references and submissions and allow each individual to make an opening statement, followed by questions from the Board and a dialogue.

6. At 6:45PM, the Board interviewed Kelly Capece.

7. At 7:30PM, the Board interviewed Irene Larivee.

8. At 8:15PM, the Board interviewed Neil A. Vaidya.

Chairman Buckley suggested postponing any decision until the next meeting.

9. Mr. Murray moved to appoint Kelly Capece to the position of Treasurer. There was no second.

Mr. DeBartolomeis moved to appoint Irene Larivee to the position of Treasurer. Chairman Buckley seconded. A discussion ensued.

Mr. DeBartolomeis again moved to appoint Irene Larivee, Chairman Buckley seconded. Two in favor 1 opposed. (Mr. Murray in opposition). IT IS A VOTE.

10. Chairman Buckley stated he wanted to signal the Board he had concerns regarding transferring the Consigli property and other parcels of land to the Trustees of Reservations. He indicated it could restrict what the Town might want to do with this land in the future. Mr. Murray stated the Town has placed the Walden Woods property with the Trustees of Reservations and there is protective language contained in that Deed transfer that would be utilized in this case. He suggested putting this on a future Agenda.

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11. Mr. DeBartolomeis moved, seconded by Mr. Murray: To adjourn the Selectmen's meeting at 9:01PM, UNANIMOUS.

Respectfully submitted:

MILFORD BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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Richard A. Villani  
Town Administrator

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William D. Buckley, Chairman

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Dino B. DeBartolomeis

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Brian W. Murray, Esq.