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**MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION – May 11, 2020**  
**ROOM 03 – TOWN HALL**  
**7:00 PM**

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PRESENT: Chairman William D. Buckley, Selectmen William E. Kingkade, Jr. and Michael K. Walsh and Town Administrator Richard A. Villani.

Also present: Fire Chief William Touhey, Deputy Fire Chief Mark Nelson, Police Chief Michael Pighetti, Director of Public Health, Jackie Murphy, IT Director, Chris George, Town Counsel Charles D. Boddy, Jr, Finance Director Zach Taylor and Town Clerk Amy Neves.

Pursuant to Governor Baker’s March 12, 2020 order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A sec 18, this meeting is being conducted via remote participation.

1. Chairman Buckley read the Governor’s Order regarding the Open Meeting Law and remote participation.
2. Mr. Kingkade moved, seconded by Mr. Walsh: To sign the warrant, UNANIMOUS. Roll Call Vote. UNANIMOUS.
3. Mr. Kingkade moved, seconded by Mr. Walsh: To approve the Regular Session Minutes of April 27, 2020, May 1, 2020 and May 4, 2020 as submitted. UNANIMOUS. Roll Call Vote. UNANIMOUS.
4. Mr. Kingkade moved, seconded by Mr. Walsh: To approve the Executive Session Minutes of April 27, 2020 and May 4, 2020 as submitted. UNANIMOUS. Roll Call Vote. UNANIMOUS.
5. Police Chief Mike Pighetti, Fire Chief Touhey, Deputy Fire Chief Nelson and Director of Public Health Jackie Murphy were present to update the Board on the COVID19 virus. Fire Chief William Touhey stated he received KN 95 Masks from MEMA. MEMA’s Inventory is limited. He has sufficient PPE. Milford Regional has 31 % of their residents having tested positive for the coronavirus. They are still making their own gowns. They distributed informational flyers to the non-English speaking community at the School Lunch Program on Friday with coronavirus symptom information. They will be sending more flyers with information on Wednesday or Thursday. Police Chief Pighetti said he still has minor challenges monitoring Louisa Lake regarding the face mask order and parking. Compliance for the most part has been good. He is working with Harris Rehabilitation to keep their

parking lot clear. He is recommending residents use the Fino Field and Scared Heart parking lots. The Cedar Street lot has been crowded with cars. He is reminding the public that there are some exemptions to the face mask order as he is getting a few calls regarding people not wearing masks. Three officers returned to work. Unfortunately, he now has another 3 officers out due to contact with a man in custody on Friday night who resided in a residence where an occupant tested positive. He complimented Facilities Director Carlos Benjamin and Custodian Lester Simmons for their efforts in cleaning the Police Station. PPE is OK. He did receive masks and gloves. The Police Department did conduct a virtual ceremony on Sunday for Milford Police Officers killed in the line of duty. Director of Public Health Murphy said she conducted a webinar with representatives from Long Term Health Care Facilities, Nursing Homes and Milford Regional. They discussed Best Practices regarding PPE and dealing with visits from the National Guard. She reminded the public there are reasons that some people may not be wearing masks such as a child under the age of 2 and those individuals with a respiratory illness. There is still a compelling reason to wear masks to protect others from the coronavirus. The Way Church did a Video with information for the non-English speaking community. The Town Administrator informed the Board that additional information will be added to the Coronavirus folder on the Town of Milford website, and the site will be updated frequently to reflect the new COVID-19 statistics released by MEMA. We understand residents are interested in how the virus is impacting the Town specifically, and would like to see regularly-updated statistics. At the request of the Chairman of Board of Selectmen, we are searching for an intern who will regularly monitor and update the Town of Milford website. Our IT Director is following up on a potential experienced candidate for this position and we will update the Board as soon as we have confirmation. We were informed by Veterans Agent John Pilla that he is recommending the Memorial Day Parade scheduled for Monday, May 25, 2020 be cancelled due to the COVID 19 pandemic. They still intend to honor our deceased veterans by the “flagging of the graves” by Scouts and their parents and, Scout leaders. This will be done with strict adherence to the social distance protocols currently in place. COVID Costs to date incurred by the Town total \$89,875.61.

6. Town Counsel Charles D. Boddy, Jr. was present to discuss a grant of an Easement and installation of poles within a Town Right of Way to Massachusetts Electric Company. Eugene Bernat was present on behalf of Massachusetts Electric. This will not interfere with the Town’s Easement area for Sewer purposes. Town Counsel read the Consent to Easement Agreement. Mr. Kingkade moved, seconded by Mr. Walsh: To grant the Easement to Massachusetts Electric and to authorize Town Counsel Boddy to sign the Consent to Easement Agreement on behalf of the Town. UNANIMOUS. Roll Call Vote. UNANIMOUS.
7. The Emergency Task Force and Town Clerk Amy Neves next discussed the change of polling location and polling hours for the local election. Town Administrator Villani informed the

Board the Task Force members went to the Milford High School gymnasium to try to determine if the election could be safely held at that location. The Team developed a Risk Mitigation List to deal with issues such as Social Distancing, ADA compliance, Mask Orders and sanitizing the facility. Town Clerk Neves said the goal is to develop a plan for a safe election. There will be a separate area for those who cannot wear masks due to an exemption. We will have ADA compliant booths and there is an ADA ramp to access the building. She has mailed 15,000 Early Voting applications to registered voters. She is promoting early voting by mail. She will be visiting Uxbridge on Tuesday to view their election process. Mr. Buckley said we must be ready to deal with the issue of a hot day. Mr. Kingkade 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, that: the Polling Location for all eligible and qualified voters in all precincts to Vote in the Local Election scheduled for Tuesday, June 16, 2020 will be at the Milford High School located at 31 West Fountain Street, Milford, Massachusetts. Entry to the facility for voting will be at the gymnasium entrance located at the rear of the High School building. This will be the only Polling Location. UNANIMOUS. Roll Call Vote. Kingkade 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, that: the Polling Hours for all eligible and qualified voters in all precincts to Vote in the Local Election scheduled for Tuesday, June 16, 2020 will be from 12:00 PM noontime to 8:00 PM at the Milford High School located at 31 West Fountain Street, Milford, Massachusetts. Entry to the facility for voting will be at the gymnasium entrance located at the rear of the High School building. This will be the only Polling Location. UNANIMOUS. Roll Call Vote. UNANIMOUS.

#### 8. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – May 11, 2020

A. MILFORD CULTURAL COUNCIL - In the coming weeks, the Milford Cultural Council will be sponsoring a "Chalk the Walk" event. Inspired by similar events in neighboring towns, we hope the program will boost morale and promote community spirit in these difficult times. Residents are encouraged to create a fun or inspirational message or image on their driveway or sidewalk. They can share their creations on social media using the hashtag #ChalkTheWalkMilford, or by emailing photos to [culturalcouncil@townofmilford.com](mailto:culturalcouncil@townofmilford.com). To help as many families as possible participate, the council has purchased sidewalk chalk and will be distributing it to families at Memorial's free lunch program later this week. (Special thanks to Michelle Zale of the Milford Area Humanitarian Coalition and Dr. Jacquelyn Murphy of the Board of Health for their help with this.) We hope that this event will demonstrate the value of even small-scale public art projects, and that it will kickstart a conversation on public art in Milford that has already

attracted support from the Downtown Revitalization Committee and War Memorial Revitalization Committee.

- 9.** Attorney Suzette Ferreira was present on behalf of Central Gas and Market, Inc. of 186 Central Street to discuss their application for a new Retail Packages Wine and Malt Beverages License. The new manager will be Kevin Ribeiro. Mr. Kingkade moved, seconded by Mr. Walsh: To approve the application for a new Retail Packages Wine and Malt Beverage License. UNANIMOUS. Roll Call Vote. UNANIMOUS.
- 10.** Manning Food, LLC dba Sky Buffet was scheduled to present an application for the transfer of their All-Alcohol Beverages License. Chairman Buckley opened the Hearing and continued the Hearing to the June 1, 2020 Selectmen meeting upon request of the applicant. Mr. Kingkade moved, seconded by Mr. Walsh: To continue the Hearing to the June 1, 2020 Selectmen meeting. UNANIMOUS. Roll Call Vote. Mr. Buckley emphasized this would be the final continuance granted to the applicant.
- 11.** Mr. Buckley stated there is a proposed Gas Tax Increase which was voted on by the House of Representatives and is being now discussed in the Senate. He asked the Board members if they would consider letting our Legislators know "it is a bad idea.". Mr. Kingkade said we should not be taxing at this time with record unemployment. Mr. Walsh said unemployment is at a record high and now is not the time to further burden residents. He is in favor of sending letters to Senator Fattman and Representative Murray. Mr. Buckley said "it is a direct assault on the middle class." The Board requested the Town Administrator send letters to the Senate President, Speaker of the House, Senator Fattman and Representative Murray requesting they not vote for the Tax Increase.
- 12.** The Board reviewed the draft Annual Town Meeting Warrant. After discussion with the Finance Director and the Town Administrator, Mr. Kingkade moved, seconded by Mr. Walsh: To remove Articles 9, 10, 13, 20, 21 and 25 from the Warrant. UNANIMOUS. Roll Call Vote. UNANIMOUS.
- 13.** The Board reviewed a Memorandum from Town Counsel Charles D. Boddy, Jr. regarding Public Participation in Remote Meetings under COVID 19. We are complying with the Governor's Remote Participation Order as the public is able to listen to the meetings. We do not have the technology or personnel available at this time to allow Invitation to Speak. There have been issues of "zoom bombing" in other communities. Mr. Kingkade asked how many complaints we have received and Charles said we have received one complaint. Mr. Kingkade said we are not shutting down democracy and we are "keeping things moving." Mr. Walsh said we are "being transparent." Mr. Buckley requested Town Counsel's Memo be sent to all Boards and Committees as well as being posted on the Town website with a

link to the Memo. Mr. Buckley said he received a letter from a resident Jamie Wheelock regarding bringing back Invitation to Speak.

**14. INFORMATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE - NONE**

**15. Mr. Kingkade moved, seconded by Mr. Walsh: To adjourn the Selectmen’s meeting at 8:51 PM, UNANIMOUS. ROLL CALL VOTE: Chairman Michael K. Walsh; Selectmen William D. Buckley and William E. Kingkade, Jr. all vote in the affirmative to go into Executive Session to discuss the deployment of security measures and devices, or strategies with respect thereto, for the protection of the Town of Milford’s electronic data, information and the equipment relating to its creation and storage. UNANIMOUS.**

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Richard A. Villani  
Minutes Recorder

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William D. Buckley, Chairman

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William E. Kingkade, Jr.

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Michael K. Walsh