

**TOWN MEETING STUDY AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE
(TMSIC)**

**TOWN HALL
52 MAIN STREET MILFORD, MA 01757**

Meeting Minutes

The regular meeting of the Town Meeting Study and Improvement Committee was held on Monday, May 21, 2018, in Room 14 of the Town Hall. Renaldo A. DeLuzio being in the chair called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m.

Present at the meeting were six members of the Committee: Michelangelo Bon Tempo, Renaldo A. DeLuzio, Richard A. Heller, Bartholomew R. Lawless, Kathryn L. Mastroianni, and Richard A. Morrison. Joanne Dillon and Steve Trettel, members of the Committee, were absent. Three Participating Applicants to the Committee were present: Charles M. Clark, Sr., Susan Marie Hastert, and B. Gregory Johnson. No one from the public was present.

Mr. DeLuzio informed the Committee of Andrea Wexler's resignation.

The first order of business was the election of officers for the Committee for the upcoming year.

Dr. Heller nominated Renato DeLuzio for Chairman. No other nominations were forthcoming. Mr. DeLuzio was unanimously chosen Chairman.

Ms. Mastroianni nominated Bartholomew Lawless for Vice-chairman. No other nominations were forthcoming. Mr. Lawless was unanimously chosen Vice-chairman.

Dr. Heller nominated Michelangelo Bon Tempo for Clerk. No other nominations were forthcoming. Mr. Bon Tempo was unanimously chosen Clerk.

Chairman DeLuzio informed the Committee of a conversation he had with Bryan Cole, Participating Applicant, on the need to define the duties and responsibilities of the officers, members, participating and non-participating applicants of the Committee.

Chairman DeLuzio drafted a Duties and Responsibilities of the Committee that was received and placed on file.

Chairman DeLuzio stated that he will not be available for the June 25, 2018 meeting, and that Mr. Lawless would be Chair.

1. Chairman DeLuzio moved to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of April 30, 2018 as read.

The motion was carried unanimously.

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2. Chairman DeLuzio made the following observations regarding the May 14, 2018 Annual Town Meeting.

- Finance Committee slides that shows the big picture should be made available to members before the meeting.
- Issues with the audio system persist: too much bass; some echo; speakers tapping the podium; speakers turning away from the microphone
- Recognition by the Moderator is still a problem
- Vote on Article 10 "Speaker Time" was closer than expected (97 yes, 70 no, 58%)

Dr. Heller had the same observation on the vote on Article 10. He also noticed that Finance Committee had an issue with their slide presentation during Article 1.

Ms. Mastroianni commented that a slide presentation should be practiced using the Town's audio/visual equipment in advance of Town Meeting.

Mr. Bon Tempo observed that Town Meeting members sitting and waving their hand while waiting to be recognized, rather than rising and stating, "Mr. Moderator." He also made note of the habit of some speakers to turn away from the microphone while speaking.

Ms. Hastert observed Atty. Michael J. Noferi, Town Moderator, put the question even though members were standing and exclaiming "Mr. Moderator" in an attempt to be recognized. She commented that maybe the Moderator should take a longer pause before proceeding to a vote.

Mr. Clark commented that everyone should have a chance to speak.

Mr. Morrison observed that Article 13 was placed in the Warrant, therefore setting the expectation that a discussion would ensue concerning Police Chief Thomas O'Loughlin's plan to have a specifically trained, rapid response team to provide protection for Milford schools and other public buildings.

An additional observation was made that Christopher Morin, Chairman of the Finance Committee, noted in his Committee report under Article 1 that the police budget increase was due to the addition of a rapid response team. He also stated that Police Chief Thomas O'Loughlin would explain the plan of that team at a later point in the meeting. That explanation never happened.

Mr. Morrison commented that since an expectation was set and then an explanation was not forthcoming, Town Meeting members were denied a basic right and promise of Town Meeting, and that is for its members to freely debate the expenditure of funds.

Mr. Bon Tempo recollected that at its April 30, 2018 meeting, the Finance Committee approved a police budget that included the cost of a rapid response team.

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Mr. Bon Tempo observed that in the Finance Committee Report mailed to Town Meeting members the recommendation for Article 13 was not consistent with the vote it took at its April 30 meeting on the police budget. The recommendation should have been to “pass over the article.”

Dr. Heller commented that as debatable motion, the Board of Selectmen should have given a reason why Article 13 was being passed over.

Mr. Bon Tempo commented that the Finance Committee, in its advisory role, is answerable to Town Meeting.

3. Chairman DeLuzio presented an amended Committee Ground Rules that was received and placed on file.

4. The status report of Sub-committee #1, Topic #9 – Website Content by Chairman DeLuzio was received and placed on file.

The status report of Sub-committee #7, Topic #7 – Pre-Town Meeting Article Education Program and Topic #8 – New Town Meeting Member Orientation Program by Mr. Morrison was received and placed on file.

The status report of Sub-committee #4, Topic #10 Town Meeting Rules and Procedures by Mr. Bon Tempo was received and placed on file.

No status reports were submitted by Sub-committees #2, #3, #5, #6, and #8.

5. Chairman DeLuzio offered the following goals for the Committee to work on between now and the October 2018 Special Town Meeting.

- Pledge of Allegiance article
- Small operating budget for the Committee
- Improvements to audio system
- Discussion with Atty. Michael J. Noferi, Town Moderator on the need to repeat motions; use of a countdown clock to track speaker time; solutions to ensure speaker recognition; and an article to codify *Town Meeting Times* and the traditions and customs of Milford Town Meetings

6. By unanimous consent, the Committee agreed to take no action on the issue of Town Meeting attendance records brought to the attention of the Committee by Bryan Cole, Participating Applicant. Chairman DeLuzio remarked that he will discuss the matter with Amy Neves, Town Clerk.

7. Mr. Johnson, Participating Applicant, commented on Sub-committee #7's initiative to conduct a pre-Town Meeting Article education program. He stated that while the program would be of great benefit to Town Meeting members, it may encounter the same problems that the Capital Improvement Committee (CIC) had with scheduling a time convenient for all

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involved. Sponsors of articles might resent having an additional meeting added to their busy schedules leading up to Town Meetings.

Mr. Johnson, again, voiced his concern with the of the Annual Town Meeting article on Speaker Time.

Lastly, Mr. Johnson questioned if there was a better way to achieve recognition by Town Moderator during debates.

Mr. Clark, Participating Applicant, enquired on the need for the Town Moderator to repeat each motion made at Town Meeting.

8. No Non-participating Applicants were present.

9. No one from the public was present.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Michelangelo Bon Tempo
Clerk

Approved
8/27/2018