

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes April 15, 2019

7:00 pm Meeting called to order by Chairman Jack Esposito. Also in attendance were Selectmen Kim Roberge and Tim Berry.

Joanne Draghetti and Jay Wilson of the Conservation Commission came before the Board to discuss the removal of \$6000 from their warrant article on the floor at Town Meeting. Draghetti made a point of saying that she was taken by surprise and embarrassed that she didn't have an answer on the spot, and wished that she had been approached before Town Meeting with this. They will go to the Trustees of Trust Funds to see if they can be made whole by a grant from one of the Trust Funds. Discussion over what they can do with the money they did get ensued and it was decided that they will come back before the Board next Monday; after they have had a chance to meet with the Trustees.

7:25 pm Wilson stayed to discuss MACC. Milford wants their share of the new found surplus immediately. We need to have a full accounting of that money before it gets released. The Board of Governors will meet with the Auditor mid May.

Roberge asked if we could earmark that money for upgrades to our system.

Esposito said that we would have to encumber those funds.

Brown explained that you need a "sum certain" and a contract for the expense. If we got the money this year and encumbered enough to do a specific project, the money would be available for 2020. If the project is cancelled, the money would go back to the general fund to offset taxes.

Roberge asked if the cell tower contract includes having an antenna for dispatch.

Esposito said that the contract states that 911 services can be located on the tower without a recurring cost.

Wilson said that the PD, FD, EMS and DPW are 911 services and are covered under that clause of the contract. What we should be doing right now is deciding if we want to stay with Milford or go with someone else.

Roberge stated that it doesn't matter what happens, Milford will be taking their surplus out of MACC and we will need to decide if we want to take our money or have MACC facilitate an upgrade. It makes sense to ask Wilson to come up with an upgrade plan.

Wilson agreed.

Esposito asked if we own the tower on the Fire Station and was told that we own the tower, MACC owns the antennas and radios.

7:45 pm South Main St. resident, Robert Haynes, came before the Board with an application for a Discretionary Preservation Easement for a 320 square foot structure on his property historically known as the "Lemon Drop".

It is believed to be an old Tea Room from the Grand Hotel era.

Haynes believes it would qualify for the Easement as he uses it for storage of farm equipment.

Esposito said that he doesn't believe it was ever used agriculturally.

Berry said that it wasn't used agriculturally historically, but he is saying that is how it is used now.

Roberge asked if neighboring towns or buildings in neighboring towns have this easement that we could look at. Have any neighboring towns adopted this? No one knows the answer to this.

8:00 pm

- Board reviewed the minutes of April 8. Roberge motioned, seconded by Berry to accept the minutes of April 8, 2019 as amended. All in favor.
- Board reviewed minutes of April 1 and made some amendments. Board will review for approval next week.
- Board reviewed and signed checks and manifest.

8:20 pm Esposito let the Board know he met with Milford Selectboard Chairman Gary Daniels last week. Daniels was there to find out how Mont Vernon feels about what is going on with MACC. He offered that he has selectmen who are for setting up their own dispatch center and those who want to remain with MACC.

Esposito told him that we have some problems with the way Milford has been trying to pass some of what should be Milford expenses through MACC and therefore having Mont Vernon and Wilton pay for Milford upgrades. An example of this is the repeater for the Milford Police. Mont Vernon and Wilton have already paid for their own repeaters, and Milford should do the same.

Daniels asked if we would become a tenant of Milford Dispatch if they went out on their own.

Esposito told him that we are cost driven: whether we would stay with Milford or go with someone else depends almost solely on the cost. We are a small town, and cannot take the hit for a large increase. That is why we wanted a 10-year contract – so we could spread out the cost of any upgrades.

Roberge said that being a tenant of Milford would probably cost more than it does to belong to MACC now.

Esposito said that he told Daniels that we have been looking into the cost of going elsewhere and the cost would be significantly lower than what we are paying now.

Roberge asked if the Board had given any thought to the chimneys on either the McCollom Building or the Town Hall. Meaning do we want to take down any unused chimney or keep and restore for esthetic value.

Berry is of the mind to remove any unused chimney on the McCollom Building, but repair the two on the Town Hall. Board agreed.

Esposito relayed that he spoke with the Town Clerk about the Supervisors of the Checklist moving over to the Selectmen's meeting room. She initially stated that she needs copies of every piece of paper in their files. Esposito explained that she will get a key to the meeting room and their file cabinet and that will have to suffice.

Roberge asked the Board to look over a draft of an RFP that she drew up for the installation of the windows on the McCollom Building. There was a short discussion of revisions.

Esposito asked what the lead time was for getting the windows and was told 6 to 8 weeks.

Berry spoke about our streetlights: 14 of them are old incandescent lights that should be replaced. The rest are newer and can stay, but he still has no estimate from Eversource as to how much we would save by replacing them.

Brown read a request from Draghetti, chair of the Conservation Commission to elevate Adrienne Penkacik from an alternate to a full member of the Commission. Roberge so moved, seconded by Berry. All in favor.

Berry offered to advertise the openings on the Building Renovation Committee on Facebook. Board agreed.

9:00 pm As there was no further business before the Board, Roberge motioned, seconded by Berry to adjourn. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Laurie Brown