

Joint Selectmen's Meeting with Wilton Board of Selectmen Minutes April 27, 2020

6:00 PM Zoom Meeting called to order by Selectboard Chairman, John Esposito. Also in attendance were Mont Vernon Selectmen Kim Roberge and Tim Berry and Wilton Selectmen Matt Fish, Kellie-Sue Boissonnault, Kermit Williams, Town Administrator Paul Branscombe and Administrative Assistant Janice Pack.

Esposito asked if anyone had heard from the Milford Board of Selectmen.

Williams said that he had had an unofficial conversation with one of them after Town Meeting.

Fish explained that Milford PD seems to be running the show.

Boissonnault stated that Milford intends to move forward with their own communication center.

Roberge said that it concerns her that we will be going on with no upgrades to the infrastructure.

Fish reminded everyone that it is basically "Last man standing" that gets all of the infrastructure. The 2-year extension is up in December 2020. They will most likely rebuff any attempt at a longer contract. Should we propose a 5, 7, or 10-year IMA and call them out? What are our options? That should be our conversation tonight. Calling them out will make us put up or shut up.

Esposito asked if the physical plant was big enough for MACC to continue for the next 5 – 10 years.

Fish said that he had asked a couple of people about that. Any proposal to upgrade would trigger an upgrade to the Town Hall.

Williams said that the consultant said that they had to build a new operations center. If they stay in the Town Hall the security system and all mechanical systems would have to be redone.

Esposito said that all of the infrastructure is ageing – what would we do to cover a major failure?

Williams agreed that this is not the year for a major Emergency Dispatch failure.

Boissonnault said that if Milford tries to force their hand, they may lose their facility.

Esposito asked if anyone knew what was on the MACC BOG meeting agenda for tomorrow.

Boissonnault said that Jason Johnson told her they would be discussing the MACC agreement.

Roberge said that we had tried for a 24-month agreement and asked if we were going to go for a longer term? Our rep. Chief Jay Wilson feels it would be to our advantage to be the "Last man standing".

Fish feels that now that Milford's two warrant articles have failed, it is time for us to go on the offensive.

Berry likes Fish's idea. He doesn't like our future being dictated by Milford. I like the idea of forcing the issue with a long-term agreement.

Boissonnault reminded everyone that we had drawn up an IMA with a longer term, made sure everyone had equal voting rights etc. We can go for a 10-year agreement – we can always settle on 5.

Fish said that we would be suggesting 5, 7, or 10 years – we are not trying to tie them to us forever.

Williams asked if we have any leverage.

Roberge said that she doesn't think we have any. She doesn't believe we would be forcing their hand.

Fish feels like we would be getting a crappy deal now or a crappy deal in 2 years – why kick it down the road.

Boissonnault asked if we should ask Lyndeborough to come in now as a partner rather than a customer.

Esposito said that he is getting fed-up with this dragging on too long.

Fish wants to have a meeting with all of the Boards involved to decide how to move forward.

Berry wants to dust off the old proposed IMA and re-present it to Milford.

Fish said that he agreed 100% but that the one Town; one vote will be a heated discussion. We should have a double track; simultaneously be looking into what we would do without Milford.

Esposito agreed. He would like a meeting with all 3 Boards to present the agreement.

Wilton board agreed.

It is agreed to let the BOG know of their intentions, and want to set up a meeting with Milford.

6:30 PM As there was no further business before the Boards, Berry motioned, seconded by Roberge to adjourn.

All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laurie Brown