

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes November 21, 2016

7:00 pm Meeting called to order by Board Chair, Jack Esposito. Also in attendance was Selectman John Quinlan. Candidate for Selectman, Peter Eckhoff of Dow Rd. attended the meeting to introduce himself to the Board.

Board reviewed the minutes of November 7th. Quinlan motioned, seconded by Esposito to accept the minutes of November 7, 2016 as amended. All in favor.

Board reviewed and signed the manifest and checks.

Board reviewed the proposed warrant article for the antenna in the Town Hall. Board agreed to send it to Town Counsel to make sure nothing is being left out. This will go before the voters in March.

Board reviewed the letter submitted by resident Peter Eckhoff offering to fill the open Selectman slot.

Sean Mamone, Town representative to MACC Base and Jay Wilson, MV Fire Chief came before the Board to discuss the MACC Base budget.

Mamone said they have yet to set a budget as the Milford rep. wants to zero out the new equipment line altogether.

Esposito asked if this included zeroing out even the \$50K that was there last year.

Mamone said "Yes, Mont Vernon and Wilton want the additional \$100K, but Milford wants to zero the line. They said that they need more time to research going on their own". This means that MACC Base cannot have the 2nd public hearing because they don't have a consensus on the proposed budget.

Many department heads attended the meeting last week, but they could not get Milford to okay at least the \$50K. The next meeting is at 5:00 pm on November 29th. If we can settle this, they can go right into the public hearing.

Wilson asked if the Town would be able to put forth a warrant article for our portion of the cost. All three towns would have to pass their warrant article, and I don't know what the odds of that are.

Quinlan asked if Milford has figured out whether they are pulling out yet.

Mamone said that they want to pull out, but they don't know how they will get the financing – they have been running a default budget for at least the last two years.

Wilson said that by zeroing out the equipment line item they are putting every emergency service (PD, FD, DPW) for all member towns at risk.

Mamone said that by contract, the budget is supposed to be out to the member towns by December 1st.

Quinlan asked if it is worth it to Mont Vernon to stay with Milford if they continue to be such a bad partner.

Mamone said that if it takes 5 years to upgrade the infrastructure, the new equipment will be ready to cycle out at the 5 year mark.

Wilson said that if we wait until Milford opts out, Mont Vernon and Wilton will own all of the equipment. As Fire Ward and Fire Chief, my recommendation is for the Selectmen to send Milford a very stern letter to support at least the \$50K in the new equipment line in case of some kind of failure.

It is noted here that Town resident, Mike Fimbel offered his services as Selectman at the polls on election day.

8:30 pm As there was no further business before the Board, Quinlan motioned, seconded by Esposito to adjourn. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Laurie M. Brown