

**Warrant Committee  
January 6, 2020  
Blute Conference Room**

**Present: George A. Ashur (Chair), Brian Beaupre (Secretary), Rosemary C. Bouzane, Erin G. Bradley, Kathleen A. Cassis, Brian G. Foaster, Christine J. Gimber, Susannah H. Hegarty John E. Driscoll, Scott D. Johnson.**

**Absent: Jonathan Boynton, Christopher R. Hart, Gwendolen Long, Douglas B. Scibeck.**

**Guests: Anthony (Tony) J. Farrington (Select Board Member and Member of the PILOT Program).**

**Meeting called to order at 7:03 p.m.**

**1.) Chairman remarks:**

7:03 p.m. Chair Ashur requests that Warrant Committee members review the Town Budget binders before meeting with their respective sub-committees. Minutes from the last meeting will be submitted at a later date, so the acceptance of the minutes will be deferred for now.

**2.) Warrant Discussions:**

a.) 7:04 p.m. Mr. Farrington gave a brief history of the PILOT program (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) to the Warrant Committee. The PILOT program requests monetary contribution to the Town coffers from Town entities that are tax exempt. The three biggest Town tax exempt entities are: Curry College, Milton Academy and Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital. Mr. Farrington noted that Curry College contributed \$110,000.00 to the Town for fiscal year 2020 (a ten percent increase over their fiscal year 2019 contribution). Milton Academy contributed \$140,000.00 to the Town for fiscal year 2020 (an increase of \$125,000.00 from fiscal year 2019). Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital has yet to make any contribution. Mr. Farrington noted that although he has spoken at length to CFO at Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital, he has not been able to make any headway. Mr. Farrington noted BID has commented they help the community in other ways, (BID made a contribution to the Milton Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition). However, Mr. Farrington noted it is not the same as a direct contribution to the Town coffers. The Warrant asked if there was a formula to determine the desired amount of how much each entities should pay. Mr. Farrington explained that the PILOT committee based their request off of what the city of Boston requests from Boston based tax exempt entities.

The "Boston" formula consists of calculating 25% tax of the asseted property value (if the entity could be taxed by law), then reduce the amount by half (the reasoning for reduction in half is the value the entities add to the community). (For example: Milton Academy property value is \$161 million dollars, if Milton Academy had to pay taxes it

would be \$3.2 million dollars in taxes, 25 % of that would be \$815,000.00, reduce that number by half for the communal benefit of having these institutions in our Town bring the PILOT request to \$407,000.) Following this formula Curry College would be \$776,780.00 and BID would be \$245,000.00.

The Warrant Committee asked who Mr. Farrington was requesting the PILOT payments from. Mr. Farrington said he has spoken to Kenneth Quigley (President of Curry College), Richard Fernandez (President of Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital), Theodorick (Todd) Bland (Head of School Milton Academy) and that all three entities are open to conversations. Mr. Farrington noted that with a new strategy, the PILOT committee is talking directly to the Board of Trustees. Mr. Farrington also commented that BID in Needham and BID of Plymouth both make PILOT contributions to those respective towns.

Chair Ashur discussed the possibility of the Town were to adopt fees similar to Airbnb, and said fees could be applied to the faculty of Milton Academy whom resident on campus housing and do not pay real estate taxes; would that encourage these entities to make PILOT payments.

Chair Ashur noted currently there are 34 children of Milton Academy faculty who live on these tax exempt properties attending Milton public schools at approximately a cost of \$14,000.00 per student, totaling of \$476,000.00.

The Warrant Committee and Mr. Farrington discussed at length why BID pays PILOT taxes to some towns and not to Milton. Mr. Farrington noted he will follow up and see if he can seek more information on how much BID pays in the other Towns.

The Warrant Committee and Mr. Farrington discussed how to education the residents of Milton better on the Town budget shortfall and the need for these non-for profits to contribute to the PILOT program. Mr. Farrington noted that not everyone is aware that 77% of the Town revenue is based off of residential home taxes and that Milton has a revenue issue.

The Warrant Committee and Mr. Farrington discuss at length how to better education Milton residents. Mr. Farrington noted there is a delicate balance, not to make an enemy out of a non-for profit neighbor.

The Warrant Committee discussed how Milton is not the only Town with non-for profit entities and struggling to receive PILOT payments. There was some discussion among Warrant Committee to bring this to the Legislature and to unite the communities.

There was discussion among the Warrant Committee to ask Milton Academy to maintain the Mary C. Lane playground on Randolph Ave. Mr. Farrington noted this was a good idea, starting small to build a relationship with the school to better the Town.

Chair Ashur noted that Warrant Committee would like to request Select Board and Town Administrator to review if there is law preventing students attending Milton Public School who parents are living in households that are not tax paying, and or looking into a fee similar to Airbnb.

Chair Ashur suggested the presidents of the non-for profit coming in and speaking to the Warrant Committee.

- b.) 7:54 p.m. Chair Ashur discussed the Warrant Sub Committee scheduling meetings with the respective department heads. The next Warrant Committee meeting will be January 15<sup>th</sup>. Chair Ashur asks if any Warrant Committee members needs contact information, please contact Mike Dennehy. Chair Ashur reviewed the Annual Town Meeting timeline with the Warrant Committee.

The next Warrant Committee meeting will be Monday January 15<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall.

8:01 p.m. On a motion from Erin G. Bradley , seconded by Kathleen A. Cassis, the meeting is adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynne Hoye

Warrant Committee Clerk