Warrant Committee
January 27, 2020
Blute Conference Room

Present: George A. Ashur (Chair), Rosemary C. Bouzane, Jonathan Boynton, Brian G. Foster, Christine J. Gimber, Christopher R. Hart, Douglas B. Scibeck, John E. Driscoll.

Absent: Brian Beaupre (Secretary), Erin G. Bradley, Kathleen A. Cassis, Clinton Graham, Susannah H. Hegarty, Gwendolyn Long, Scott D. Johnson.

Guests: Michael Dennehy (Town Administrator), Brian M. Walsh (Chairman of the Fire Station Building Committee), Daniel Clark (Vice-Chair of the Fire Station Building Committee).

Meeting called to order at 7:04 p.m.

1.) Chairman remarks:
7:05 p.m. On a motion from Douglas B. Scibeck, seconded by Jonathan Boynton the minutes from January 6th, 2020 are approved unanimously.

2.) Warrant Discussions:
   a.) 7:07 p.m. Mr. Dennehy informed the Warrant Committee he received an email that Governor Baker had released the preliminary fiscal year 2021 budget recommendations. Mr. Dennehy reminded the Warrant Committee that the Milton School Finance Subcommittee had estimated that the Town would receive an increase of $800,000.00 towards Chapter 70 funding. However, the actual Chapter 70 increase was 1.21 million dollars. Additionally, Town Accountant and Mr. Dennehy had conservatively estimated local aid to be same as last fiscal year, however, it increased 2.8 percent. Mr. Dennehy noted the additional monies from the state means the Town will not need to reduce the budget the 3 percent as originally thought. Mr. Dennehy estimates that leaves the Town, (both schools and Town), at a $450,000.00 deficit. Mr. Dennehy noted out of the 351 communities, Milton was one of the 157 communities to receive additional money to Chapter 70 due to large student enrollment.

   b.) 7:11 p.m. Chair Ashur noted that Fire Chief John Grant was asked to present the Fire Department budget, however he is away and will present at the next Warrant Committee meeting.

   c.) 7:12 p.m. Mr. Clark and Mr. Walsh addressed the Warrant Committee. Mr. Clark gave a brief review of the work the Fire Station Building Committee has been working on. The Committee has completed preliminary designs and site designs as well as schematics. The Committee would like to complete the design development prior to Town Meeting and then after Town Meeting complete construction documents so that they can be sent out for bids. The Committee is not sure which station will be started first, however,
they are projecting the start date of the first one of 2021. The East Milton Fire Station Location is still to be determined. Mr. Clark and Mr. Walsh reviewed with the Warrant Committee the designs for Atherton Street and Canton Avenue Fire Stations. The Warrant Committee asked if it was one architect working on all three stations. Mr. Clark and Mr. Walsh confirmed there was only one architect. Mr. Clark reviewed the possible locations for the new East Milton Fire Station location. The Fire Station Building Committee hopes to confirm the exact location in the next few months. The Warrant Committee asked if it was one architect working on all three stations. Mr. Clark and Mr. Walsh confirmed there was only one architect. Mr. Clark reviewed the possible locations for the new East Milton Fire Station location. The Fire Station Building Committee hopes to confirm the exact location in the next few months. The Warrant Committee asked if it was one architect working on all three stations. Mr. Clark and Mr. Walsh confirmed there was only one architect. Mr. Clark reviewed the possible locations for the new East Milton Fire Station location. The Fire Station Building Committee hopes to confirm the exact location in the next few months. The Warrant Committee asked if most of the proposed lots have to be purchased. Mr. Clark confirmed that land would have to be purchased, however, the sale of the land of the existing East Milton Fire Station would be more than the purchase of the new location. The Warrant Committee inquired what location does the Fire Station Building Committee prefer. Mr. Walsh and Mr. Clark noted that has not been determined yet by the entire committee. Mr. Clark then reviewed the projected budgets with the Warrant Committee. The Fire Station Building Committee is committed to stay within the budget of 25-29 million dollar for all 3 stations (that sum includes equipment, office furniture, etc).

Mr. Clark noted that the Fire Station Building Committee had wanted to build all three stations simultaneously to avoid delay on any one station. Currently there is an article for Annual Town Meeting to address the Atherton Street and Canton Ave stations. Mr. Clark noted the Committee has to vote if they want to start on the Canton Ave and Atherton Street station and wait on East Milton location for a future date when the location has been confirmed. If the Fire Station Building Committee votes to withdraw their article from Annual Town Meeting with the intention of submitting a new article for December Special Town Meeting, Mr. Clark feel there would still only be a few months delay in starting actual construction. There was much discussion among the Warrant Committee and Mr. Clark and Mr. Walsh on the cost of delaying the start of the construction as well as benefits. Mr. Clark noted that a delay could be beneficial because the building design and schematics would be further along allowing more accurate pricing of the project. The Warrant Committee asked about purchasing versus leasing the parcel of land that is part of St. Agatha’s property. Mr. Clark noted that this was discussed and it was explained to the Fire Station Building Committee the Archdiocese prefers to lease, however recently a north shore town purchased a parcel of land from the Archdiocese for the purpose of building a fire station so there is precedent. The Warrant Committee and Mr. Clark and Mr. Walsh discussed the poor conditions the Fire Stations are currently in.

d.) 7:46 p.m. Chair Ashur asked if the Warrant Finance Sub Committee has meet with the Library Trustees and asked if they wished to come to a Warrant Committee meeting to discuss the Library budget. The Warrant Finance Sub Committee will meet soon with the Library and confirm if the Trustees would like to present the Library Budget.

e.) 7:49 p.m. The Warrant Committee discuss the Planning Board articles. The Warrant Committee discuss the idea of having one or two Warrant Committee members
dedicated to Planning Board articles and vet them before the Planning Board chair presents them to the Warrant Committee.

f.) 7:51 p.m. The Warrant Committee discuss asking the School Building Committee to present an update to the Warrant Committee regarding their progress.

The next Warrant Committee meeting will be Wednesday February 5th, 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall.

7:58 p.m. On a motion from Christopher R. Hart, seconded by Brian G. Foster, the meeting is adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynne Hoye
Warrant Committee Clerk