

NEWS

Milton mulls economic development work

By Elaine Cushman Carroll
Milton Times staff

The Select Board has agreed to pursue a state budget earmark of \$1 million for Milton to assist the town in finding ways to diversify its tax base.

Town Administrator Nicholas Milano told the Select Board on Oct. 24 that Milton is one of seven communities which received the funds that were set aside for "economic development."

He said he has consulted with Di-

rector of Planning and Community Development Tim Czerwienski and an initial first step would be a general market analysis to determine which commercial uses would fit in Milton.

Milano said the study would look into possible good locations for those uses.

He added that the public would be engaged in the process to see what residents are interested in, and how to possibly initiate zoning.

Select Board member Ben Zoll said the matter was discussed in the finance subcommittee on which he serves.

He said the question is "Do we want to understand how we can better diversify our tax base, take the burden off of the shoulders of our property owners, and get some more commercial revenue in?"

"I think it makes a lot of sense to advance it," Zoll added,

Select Board Chair Mike Zullas

perceived a consensus from the members and the matter will be back before the board at a future meeting.

In Milton, 67 percent of the town's revenues come from property taxes with roughly 96 percent from residential properties and 4 percent from commercial properties, according to the town's website figures for the fiscal year that ended June 30. Commercial properties pay at a higher rate.

Select Board votes to fly Israeli flag at gazebo

By Elaine Cushman Carroll
Milton Times staff

The Select Board unanimously voted on Oct. 24 to have an Israeli flag flown from the town's Baron Hugo Gazebo through November in light of recent terrorist attacks against Israel.

Select Board member Richard Wells said the decision was not a political decision.

"This is to support a country that was a victim of terror: a victim of terror that has eliminated the lives of over 2,000," he said. "This is a challenging time for our world but I think we should do this, just as we did for Ukraine."

Select Board member Ben Zoll said that anti-semitism is the motivation behind the attacks by Hamas.

"The mission of Hamas is the elimination of Jews and the Jewish state. We need to make sure that remains

front and center as we talk about this," he said. "There is a very evil genocidal purpose to the acts of terror that have struck the Israeli people and the human shields that Hamas is cowardly using to perpetuate their mission."

Member Erin Bradley said she is praying for all the innocent Israeli and Palestinian lives being lost.

"It's Hamas," she said. "It's not one side or another. It's innocent lives that are being lost for no reason. It's very sad to me."

Select Board member Roxanne Musto, who is Jewish, called the attacks barbaric atrocities and acts of terrorism.

"It's like an ethnic cleansing of the Jewish people," said Musto, who offered to donate the flag.

The board agreed to fly the flag through Nov. 30 and after a break for the holiday season, fly it again.



Israeli flag at Baron Hugo Gazebo.

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