

Milford Residents Start EMF Impact Grassroots Campaign

By Christine Galeone, Staff Reporter

The Massachusetts Legislature's Joint Committee on Advanced Information Technology, the Internet and Cybersecurity held a virtual public hearing on several bills. One of them is Bill H. 115, An Act Relative to Best Management Practices for Wireless in Schools and Public Institutions of Higher Education. One gripping written testimony advocating for that bill was given by Christine Daddario.

In it, the Milford resident explained how her former employer had replaced its technology with stronger wifi in late 2020 and the devastating consequences that she believes resulted from that installation. When she returned to her computer after the installation, she describes experiencing symptoms including all over burning sensations, extreme migraines, and nausea. She coped by taking sick days or asking for work tasks that didn't require a computer.

"In February 2021, after a particularly awful day of symptoms, I had a miscarriage," Daddario wrote. After relating that devastating experience, she described worsening symptoms due to a heightened sensitivity to EMF (Electro and Magnetic Fields) exposure. And she later added, "I have now lost my job and my medical insurance, as well as all the other benefits of being employed. As wifi strength is increased everywhere, I am no longer [able] to go inside essentially anywhere that has Wi-Fi."

After learning about Daddario's experiences, Milford resident Tony Chinappi, became concerned about her and others with similar sensitivity to EMF. Chinappi has joined with her to start a grassroots campaign to explore how EMF might be affecting others in Milford and the surrounding communities.

Chinappi, who became acquainted with Daddario when she volunteered for the Milford High School Connections Program, said that their exploration of EMF exposure is just beginning. They've primarily educated themselves about the issue through the work done by EMF expert Cecelia Doucette, the Director of Massachusetts for Safe Technology, (masafetech.org), founder of Understanding EMFs, (sites.google.com/site/understandingemfs/) and Education Services Director for Wireless Education, (Wirelesseducation.org).

As they reach out to the Milford Board of Health, other local officials, and the community, they have aligned themselves with Massachusetts for Safe Technology.

"A vibrant young lady, all of a sudden, can't do anything. It was so foreign to me. But I could tell that she was really between a rock and a hard place," Chinappi shared. The former Milford High School educator added, "We're not against 5G, but there are ways of minimizing it, so that Christine and other people don't have to go through what they're going through."

Dr. Lisa Nagy, an environmental medicine practitioner, also testified at a recent hearing for the same committee as Daddario that many women over 40 have mild environmental illness referring to sickness from things such as Wi-Fi, chemicals and mold.

Doucette has helped countless numbers of children and adults to reduce their exposure. She said that avoiding EMF exposure at night is especially important.

"Some decide to try turning everything off at night, and where needed, moving their beds away from utility smart meters that pulse radiofrequency radiation twenty-four seven," she said.

Chinappi and Daddario hope that area residents who've had symptoms after EMF exposure will contact Chinappi at safewired101@gmail.com.

Editor's note: The Town Crier reached out to a number of medical professionals in the Milford area requesting them to comment on this story and the topic of EMF exposure. However, each declined stating they did not have enough knowledge on the subject.

MENDON

Budget Process Reviewed by Select Board

By Brenda Crowell, Staff Reporter

Town officials in Mendon discussed the town's budget process during the Select Board meeting on November 10.

"There have been a lot of conversations the past week or two about the budget process, both at the Finance Committee and here at the board level," said Town Administrator Kimberly Newman. "I want to start by saying we've used the same process for the last seven years that I've been here."

Newman added that the town's various departments submit their budgets by the end of the year, and she then does a budget review with them. After that, she brings the budgets to the Select Board, which will determine the priorities for the next fiscal year.

"We will then balance that budget to the best of our ability, and then we bring that to the Finance Committee to weigh in on the expenditures," Newman said. "We've been doing that successfully for seven-odd years."

This year, Newman noted that both the Select Board and the Finance Committee want to make the process more transparent. She noted that there is only one item on the budget guidelines from the Department of Local Services (DLS) that is not already in place.

"The one that we don't do is meet with the Finance Committee initially, the school board initially, and this board to talk about revenue projections and priorities," she said. "I think that's a good place to start this year."

Newman suggested a joint meeting among the Select Board, the Finance Committee, and the School Committee to make the process more transparent.

"Our operating budget is \$8 million. It's not that complicated. The changes that we have are usually ones I'm managing, or they're in Public Safety," she said. "I think it might be a good refresh for the public to know what's even in those budgets. If (the Select Board) is on board with that, I suggest you host a joint meeting."

"I'm happy to do a Finance Committee/ Select Board discussion about revenues," said Select Board Chair Mark Reil. "I don't think the school needs to be a part of that."

Newman disagreed, saying that clarifying the differences in the school's budget and the town's budget was needed.

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