

**Town of Milton Budget Committee**  
**Thursday January 7, 2014**  
**Milton Town Hall**  
**Meeting Minutes**

The meeting opened at 5:36PM with a Roll Call by Chairman Woodruff.

Members Present were:

- Bruce Woodruff – Chair
- Doug Shute - School Board Representative
- Stan Nadeau – Water District Representative
- Jennifer Crone – Member, Provided Notes
- Larry Brown – Vice Chair
- Bob Carrier – Member
- Eric Ohlenbusch – Member
- Mike Beaulieu – Selectman's Representative

Also Present – Board of Selectmen – Tom Gray, Robert Bridges, and Mike Beaulieu. Town Administrator Elizabeth Dionne. Police Chief Krause. Rebecca Dean – Recording Secretary.

The group discussed the process and timeframes for setting a public hearing. A snow day is also allotted.

2013 and 2014 defaults are up over \$200,000

Default budget – bade 2013 + uncontrollables + contracts. Items After discussion, it was concluded that the default needs to be corrected.

The 2013 default was approx 3,816,116. There is a question as to how much was really left over from this past year. One figure was \$0.27, but there is also the question of \$1500 that was allotted to move the safes at the Town House, but never used. Books close January 17, 2014.

The BOS agreed to check for the correct default figure.

The default for 2014 is set by the BOS, not the Budget Committee.

The proposed budget currently is 7.7% over last year.

\$95k represents a 5% increase. Is 7.7% affordable? Some members felt that this was not an affordable amount.

**MOTION** by Stan Nadeau to reduce the budget bottom line by \$95k. This would be about a 5% increase. Doug Shute seconded. Discussion: 5% over if- this amount can use Bob's suggestions to limit hurt to departments. There is an increase which would be reasonable. Chair Woodruff stated he felt that 5% was too low, the dollar has devalued, but he would support an increase in around 6%. Motion failed, 2-6.

**MOTION** by Larry Brown to accept Selectmen's budget at 3,697,694.22. Seconded by Mike Beaulieu. Discussion: Have PD look at Lease/ purchase vehicles. Motion failed 3-5.

**MOTION** by Larry Brown to set budget at 3,650,000. Seconded by Jennifer Crone. Discussion: Larry Brown said that there are no good choices, no fighting, just concern. Stan Nadeau said this would be a \$47,694.22 reduction; it works out to roughly 6.4%. In favor: Woodruff, Crone, Carrier, Ohlenbusch, Brown. Opposed: Beaulieu, Shute, Nadeau. Motion passed 5-3. Larry Brown noted that the Selectman's representative must vote for the BOS position. Chair Woodruff said that the 3,650,000 will go to public hearing, then the group will vote again.

#### **Review of Warrant Articles**

- #5. Fire Station – 2,864,100 for purpose of design and construction of fire/EMS facility. **MOTION** by Jennifer Crone to recommend. Seconded by Bob Carrier. Discussion: Difference in last year is in price;

Bob Carrier said this is something the town needs and we cannot keep pushing it off. The figure does include interest. Motion passed, 6-2.

- #6 Lease/Purchase Highway – Long term lease for \$425,958 over 7 years for 3 six wheel dumpers, 65615 for first year's payment. Municipal funding escape clause included to void warrant article 8. **MOTION** by Larry Brown to recommend article 6. Seconded by Jennifer Crone. Discussion: Pat Smith has explained that it's cheaper than buying and comes with all benefits of leasing. If something breaks, they fix it. Stan Nadeau pointed out that if the funding goes away in the future, they come and take the trucks, and for this reason he would vote no. Selectman Bridges explained how this works if the funding isn't there in the future – the town would lose the trucks but at no penalty to the town for breaking the lease. The voter guide will specify this. Currently we have 3 trucks that need replacement – there are holes in them. Motion passed 7-1.
- #7 Done (operating budget)
- #8 Purchase 1 truck highway 6 wheel with plow, sander \$158,486– **MOTION** by Doug Shute to recommend. Seconded by Stan Nadeau. Discussion: Group felt that the voters should have opportunity to review this option. Motion failed with a 4-4 tie.
- **MOTION** by Bob Carrier to not recommend Warrant 8. Seconded by Eric Ohlenbusch. Discussion: none. Motion failed 3-5.
- Motion Rescinded – all yes.
- New **MOTION** to recommend warrant article 8 by Doug Shute. Seconded by Stan Nadeau. Motion passed 5-3.
- #9 \$15k in highway department truck capital reserve fund - previously established. This is not to be confused with the plow/6 wheel trucks – this is for pickup/1ton. **MOTION** by Stan Nadeau to recommend. Seconded by Larry Brown. No discussion. All in favor, motion passed.
- #10 Highway and Road reconstruction \$290,000 annual appropriation – same as every year. State same amount this year, Chair Woodruff said that the town needs to prioritize and present a plan to the public. State contribution amount is the same. **MOTION** by Doug Shute to recommend warrant 10. Seconded by Larry Brown. All in favor, motion passed.
- #11 15,000 Milton Highway Equipment Capital Reserve fund, previously established. **MOTION** by Doug Shute to recommend. Seconded by Eric Ohlenbusch. Discussion: this is for hand equipment, smaller items. All in favor, motion passed.
- #12 Ambulance Vehicles and Fire Department equipment capital reserve fund \$10,000 – **MOTION** to recommend by Doug Shute. Seconded by Eric Ohlenbusch. All in favor, motion passed.
- #13 Fire Department Equipment and Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund 15,000 – Covers air packs, stretchers, equipment in the ambulances. **MOTION** to recommend by Stan Nadeau, Seconded by Jennifer Crone. Discussion: None. All in favor, motion passed.
- #14 Fire Department Vehicle Repairs and Improvements \$10,000 – **MOTION** by Larry Brown to recommend. Seconded by Stan Nadeau. Discussion: covers repair of vehicles, pumps, trucks, major repairs. All in favor, motion passed.

- #15 Library \$5000 Capital Reserve fund addition – **MOTION** to recommend by Eric Ohlenbusch. Seconded by Larry Brown. All in favor, motion passed.
- #16 Recreation capital reserve fund \$10,000 – **MOTION** by Doug Shute to recommend. Seconded by Bob Carrier. All in favor, motion passed.
- #17 Cemetery \$5000 capital reserve – **MOTION** by Stan Nadeau to recommend. Seconded by Eric Ohlenbusch. All in favor, motion passed.
- #18 Bridges \$40k – **MOTION** by Bruce Woodruff to recommend. Seconded by Stan Nadeau. Discussion: increased due to Town House bridge closure and removal. Chair Woodruff cited State law, which says that the town has a duty to maintain roads and bridges. \$140k currently needed from Milton. There are many variables. 1.5 Million total price. NH and ME would need to help pay. All in favor, motion passed.
- #19 Grader – Lease/purchase 240,000 for 7 years. 36,970 is first year's payment. Contains municipal escape clause. **MOTION** to recommend by Doug Shute. Seconded by Eric Ohlenbusch. Discussion: current grader that is town-owned is not useable; outsourcing task would likely cost more. This is needed to maintain unpaved roads in town. Voting in favor 7, opposed 1 (Nadeau).
- #20 Capital Reserve Fund \$35,000 for addition to Public Works garage – **MOTION** to recommend by Larry Brown. Seconded by Stan Nadeau. Discussion: The current addition is broken. Wording questionable. Add "and future needed repairs" to article wording. All in favor, motion passed.
- #21 Police Department Computer / Radio – **MOTION** to recommend by Doug Shute. Seconded by Jennifer Crone. Radio, laptops, software, server. All in favor, motion passed.
- #22 Police Retention \$90,097 Special Warrant Article in addition to Article 7, one time cost – **MOTION** by Stan Nadeau to recommend. Seconded by Doug Shute. Discussion: Doug Shute said he felt we need to make up our minds and do this now. All in favor, motion passed.
- #23 allows library to accept donation. #24 votes to change sewer commission agent to board of selectmen. No review or voting involved from Budget Committee.
- #25 MFPL General Fund Trust for structural repairs \$20,000 – **MOTION** by Larry Brown to recommend. Seconded by Eric Ohlenbusch. Discussion: This is held under the Treasurer, not the library Trustees. All in favor, motion passed.

### Member Comments

Public Hearing is scheduled for January 16 at 6:30p and 7:00pm. Snow day is January 17.

Doug Shute commented that the budget was hard this year. He extended a thank you to everyone for their effort.

### Citizen Comments

None

### Adjournment

Next meeting is Thursday 5:30pm at Nute High School cafeteria with School Board.

MOTION to adjourn by Stan Nadeau. Seconded by Larry Brown. All in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:18pm.

Respectfully Transcribed (from notes),

Approved:

Rebecca Dean



, Chair 1/27/14