

Town of Milton
BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING
January 10, 2023

ATTENDANCE:

Members: Laura Turgeon (Chair), Bob Carrier, Lisa Gautreau, Mike Beaulieu, Humphrey Williams, Peg Hurd. Absent: Kimberly Ward, Stephanie Mills

Staff: Chris Jacobs- Town Administrator

Laura Turgeon, Chair, opened the session at 6:00PM.

1.) Pledge of Allegiance: Laura Turgeon, Chair, led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2.) Roll Call:

- a. Ms. Turgeon, Chair, led the roll call of members to determine if a quorum was present.
Laura Turgeon (Chair), Lisa Gautreau, Mike Beaulieu, Bob Carrier, Peg Hurd, Humphrey Williams.
A quorum was present.

3.) BC Business Conduct and Participation: Ms. Turgeon thanked everyone for attending.

Discuss Town and School Warrant Article's and Vote:

Town Warrant Articles:

#1 Election of Officers: For the Budget Committee, there are three open positions – two positions for three years, and one position for two years.

Articles 2-5 are Zoning with no voting required by the Budget Committee.

#6 Operating Budget: The proposed budget is \$4,940,452 and the default is \$4,900,067. While this had been voted on at the last meeting, Ms. Gautreau and Mr. Beaulieu were not in attendance. They both voted Yes to #6.

Recommended by the Budget Committee (7/0/0)

#7 Highway and Road Reconstruction Fund: Raise and appropriate #350,000 with estimated tax impact \$0.44/\$1,000.

Ms. Gautreau, Mr. Beaulieu, Mr. Carrier, Ms. Hurd, Mr. Williams, Ms. Turgeon voted Yes.

Recommended by the Budget Committee (6/0/0)

#8 Re-adopt All Veterans Property Tax Credit: Additional wording was added to allow for officers and covers those who are still serving. Per NH Legislation to a change in RSA law, this article needs to be re-adopted. No vote is required.

#9 Veterans Property Tax Credit: Adjusting the All Veterans Property Tax Credit and Optional Veteran's Tax Credit to \$750.00 (an increase from \$500). The estimated cost of \$16,000; tax impact

\$.02/\$1,000.

Ms. Gautreau, Mr. Beaulieu, Mr. Carrier, Ms. Hurd, Mr. Williams, Ms. Turgeon voted Yes.

Recommended by the Budget Committee (6/0/0)

#10 Dawson Street & Silver Street Area Drainage Project – Capital Reserve Fund: \$60,000 to be placed in CRF. Estimated tax impact \$0.12/\$1,000.

Ms. Turgeon opened for discussion; seconded by Ms. Hurd. Mr. Williams was questioned as to why he voted No as a BOS? He feels with increased taxes being asked of town residents, it's better just to stick with the original buffer for now. Last year, \$611,000 was approved.

Ms. Gautreau, Mr. Beaulieu, Mr. Carrier, Ms. Hurd, Mr. Williams, Ms. Turgeon voted No.

Not recommended by the Budget Committee (0/6/0)

#11 Hire One New Firefighter: \$52,000 to hire up to one full-time career firefighter/EMT for the final six months of 2023. Ms. Turgeon opened for discussion; seconded by Ms. Hurd. Mr. Williams said this would help reduce the dependency on overtime hours to help fill shifts. For 2024 this would increase to \$105,000 (depending on insurance costs).

Ms. Gautreau, Mr. Beaulieu, Mr. Carrier, Ms. Hurd, Mr. Williams, Ms. Turgeon voted Yes.

Recommended by the Budget Committee (6/0/0)

#12 Lease/Purchase Ambulance: This would authorize the BOS to enter into long-term lease/purchase agreement – amount of \$405,000 payable over 7 years (~\$45,000 for first year with anticipated delivery during 2024 or 2025). Estimated tax impact for year 2024 \$.09/\$1,000. There is no tax impact for 2023; the first payment would not be required until 2024 or 2025.

Ms. Gautreau, Mr. Beaulieu, Mr. Carrier, Ms. Hurd, Mr. Williams, Ms. Turgeon voted Yes.

Recommended by the Budget Committee (6/0/0)

#13 Highway Truck Capital Reserve Fund: \$75,000 for CRF. Estimated tax impact \$.15/\$1,000. Ms. Turgeon opened this for discussion; seconded by Ms. Hurd. Mr. Williams said it is very difficult to find any available truck and currently with the four trucks owned by the town, it is typical to have 1-2 trucks down at any time.

Ms. Gautreau, Mr. Beaulieu, Mr. Carrier, Ms. Hurd, Mr. Williams, Ms. Turgeon voted Yes.

Recommended by the Budget Committee (6/0/0)

#14 Bridge Capital Reserve Fund: \$25,000 placed into CRF. Estimated tax impact \$.05/\$1,000. It was noted this is only for Milton Bridges only. This amount would not really get us ahead, but just keep us breathing. Ms. Hurd asked if this would only cover fixing Winding Road which would leave Church & Hopper which are considered inter-state bridges.

Ms. Gautreau, Mr. Beaulieu, Mr. Carrier, Ms. Hurd, Mr. Williams, Ms. Turgeon voted Yes.

Recommended by the Budget Committee (6/0/0)

#15 Recreation Capital Reserve Fund: \$5,000 into CRF; estimated tax impact \$.01/\$1,000 – purpose to replace boat ramp at the Town Beach. Ms. Turgeon said this really needs to be done by the town. Residents have asked why doesn't the town just put this under state control; if this happened, the town would have no control over the ramp. Mr. Jacobs said Karen Brown is getting a bid package ready and application to receive grant money (~\$70,000 to \$100,000). The town

has already received two approvals from the state. Last year's article did not specify putting money into the Recreation CRF which meant the money needed to be used or they would lose it. Ms. Gautreau, Mr. Beaulieu, Mr. Carrier, Ms. Hurd, Mr. Williams, Ms. Turgeon voted Yes.

Recommended by the Budget Committee (6/0/0)

#16 Milton Free Public Library: \$20,000 into MFPL Capital Reserve Fund. Estimated tax impact \$.04/\$1,000. Mr. Williams said they had just received an LCHIP grant which should be enough to take care of the roofing project. Ms. Hurd asked which BOS voted against this one? Mr. Williams and Ms. Burnham both voted no as they have \$44,000 already in the fund and received the LCHIP grant.

Ms. Gautreau, Mr. Beaulieu, Mr. Carrier, Mr. Williams and Ms. Turgeon voted No; Ms. Hurd voted Yes.

Not recommended by the Budget Committee (1/5/0)

#17 Eradicate Invasive Plant Species: Establish CRF '2023 Invasive Plants' - \$7,500; estimated tax impact \$.015/\$1,000. Mr. Williams said last year's expense was \$5,300; he recommended decreasing the article amount from \$10,000 down to \$7,500. Mr. Jacobs said this article does not limit which bodies of water this can be used toward.

Ms. Gautreau, Mr. Beaulieu, Mr. Carrier, Ms. Hurd, Mr. Williams, Ms. Turgeon voted Yes.

Recommended by the Budget Committee (6/0/0)

#18 Conservation Commission Legal Defense Capital Reserve Fund: \$1,000 into CRF. Estimated tax impact \$.002/\$1,000.

Ms. Gautreau, Mr. Beaulieu, Mr. Carrier, Ms. Hurd, Mr. Williams, Ms. Turgeon voted Yes.

Recommended by the Budget Committee (6/0/0)

#20 2018 Municipal Buildings CRF: \$764.64 placed into existing 2018 Municipal Buildings CRF (if Article #19: Discontinue 1993 Industrial Park CRF passes). There is no tax impact.

Ms. Gautreau, Mr. Beaulieu, Mr. Carrier, Ms. Hurd, Mr. Williams, Ms. Turgeon voted Yes.

Recommended by the Budget Committee (6/0/0)

#24 Petition Article: Establish Historical Society Building Capital Reserve Fund - \$10,000 placed into the fund. Estimated tax impact \$.02/\$1,000. Mr. Williams said the town owns the building. The article's wording limits the use of the fund only to the one building in Milton Mills. If the article was worded Historical Building's CRF the funds could be used for the other historical buildings in town. It was noted since this is a petition article any changes in the wording would have to come from those who submitted the article at the upcoming deliberative session.

Ms. Gautreau, Mr. Beaulieu, Mr. Carrier, Ms. Hurd, Mr. Williams, Ms. Turgeon voted No.

Not recommended by the Budget Committee (0/6/0)

#25 Nitrogen Source Identification Plan: \$100,000 to develop a nitrogen source identification plan for Great Bay Total Nitrogen General Permit. Noted the funds will come from a Clean Water State Revolving fund loan which will be forgiven. Estimated tax impact is \$0.00. Mr. Jacobs reiterated through the grant agreements there will be no need to pay back received grant monies.

Ms. Gautreau, Mr. Beaulieu, Mr. Carrier, Ms. Hurd, Mr. Williams, Ms. Turgeon voted Yes.

Recommended by the Budget Committee (6/0/0)

School Proposed Budget:.

School Warrant Articles:

#2 Operating Budget: The Budget Committee had approved the budget at the previous meeting – Proposed Operating - \$11,504,266.09; Default - \$11,519,979.32 (proposed Operating \$15,713.23 below the Default). Ms. Gautreau and Mr. Beaulieu voted Yes.

Recommended by the Budget Committee (7/0/0)

#3 Library Media: \$5,000

Ms. Gautreau, Mr. Carrier, Ms. Hurd, Mr. Williams, Ms. Turgeon voted Yes; Mr. Beaulieu voted No.

Recommended by the Budget Committee (5/1/0)

#4 Building & Maintenance Fund: As of November 30th there was \$166,132 in the fund.

Ms. Gautreau, Mr. Carrier, Ms. Hurd voted Yes. Mr. Beaulieu, Mr. Williams, Ms. Turgeon voted No.

Not recommended by the Budget Committee (3/3/0)

#5 \$50,000 Expendable Trust Fund – Education of Educationally Disabled Children: The School Board wants to use this funding to pay for the recently purchased Van and repairs to the lifts in Nute. Mr. Beaulieu questioned the wording of this article – if this fund is to be used for purposes of ‘education’ how can this be used to purchase a van? Ms. Hurd – the district is responsible to provide education for all students; this means some students may require a wheelchair van to get to school to access education. Ms. Turgeon felt this is a grey area since the wording is specific to ‘education.’ Mr. Williams said that’s why the trustees could potentially have an issue with using this fund to pay for the van. Mr. Beaulieu said that could possibly be changing the purpose of the article. This fund should be used only for education and no other purpose. Ms. Hurd said the district is currently discussing this with the DOJ.

Ms. Gautreau, Mr. Beaulieu, Mr. Carrier, Mr. Williams, Ms. Turgeon voted No; Ms. Hurd voted Yes.

Not recommended by the Budget Committee (1/5/0)

#6 \$20,000 School Bus Trust Fund: Currently in the fund - ~\$43,000.

Ms. Gautreau, Mr. Beaulieu, Ms. Turgeon, Mr. Williams voted No; Mr. Carrier, Ms. Hurd voted Yes.

Not recommended by the Budget Committee (2/4/0)

#7 \$21,000 Maintenance Vehicle Trust Fund: There is ~\$26,000 in the fund. Mr. Beaulieu asked about the current state of the maintenance vehicles. The donated ¾ ton truck has ~200,000 miles; they also have a one-ton dump truck and recently purchased a new plow and sander. Mr. Beaulieu also asked if the town and school could collaborate and share services through the town. Mr. Williams said the town already has issues with its own trucks plus they are independent of one another.

Mr. Williams, Ms. Turgeon voted No; Ms. Gautreau, Mr. Beaulieu, Mr. Carrier, Ms. Hurd voted Yes.

Recommended by the Budget Committee (4/2/0)

#8 \$10,000 Technology Expendable Trust Fund: Ms. Turgeon clarified this is not used to purchase

student laptops; used for networking equipment, etc. She asked if this was used to purchase copiers? Ms. Hurd said the copiers are leased.

Ms. Gautreau, Mr. Carrier, Ms. Hurd voted Yes; Mr. Beaulieu, Mr. Williams, Ms. Turgeon voted No.
Not recommended by the Budget Committee (3/3/0)

#9 District to Retain up to 5% of District's Net Assessment: Mr. Williams asked for clarification – the district is looking to keep 5% of the monies left over and the school does not have a fund balance for this to go into – where is the money going? Does the 5% come before or after a Warrant Article? Ms. Turgeon asked what this would be used for? Ms. Hurd said the expenses could be used for anything. Ms. Turgeon said it sounds like there are a lot of grey areas and has the potential to be ripe for abuse. Mr. Williams recommended developing a policy to explain the exact intent of the Warrant Article.

Ms. Gautreau, Mr. Beaulieu, Mr. Carrier, Mr. Williams, Ms. Turgeon voted No; Ms. Hurd voted Yes.
Not recommended by the Budget Committee (1/5/0)

4.) Other business that may come before the board:

a.) There was none.

5.) Public Comments or Questions on Budget Committee Meeting Topics: There were none.

6.) Next Meetings: January 10, 2023

Public hearing is scheduled for January 17th, 6:00PM; meeting will be held at the Nute Cafeteria.

7.) Adjournment:

a. Ms. Turgeon motioned to adjourn at 8:45PM; Seconded by Ms. Hurd. All were in favor.
Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy Winslow-Weiss, Recording Secretary – Budget Committee