

Town of Milton
BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING
January 17, 2023

ATTENDANCE:

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

Staff: Chris Jacobs- Town Administrator

Board of Selectmen: Claudine Burnham, Matt Morrill

SAU #64 Representative: Adam Houghton- Superintendent

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

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, Stephanie Mills, Kimberly Wischnewski, Bob Carrier, Peg Hurd, Humphrey Williams. A quorum was present.

3.) Public Review of 2023 Town Warrants:

Town Warrant Articles:

Since Ms. Wischnewski and Ms. Mills were unable to attend the previous meeting they were able to vote on the Warrant Articles at this meeting. There were also several Warrant Articles needing a vote by the BOS.

#6 Operating Budget: Ms. Burnham, BOS Chair, motioned to accept Warrant Article #6. Seconded by Mr. Williams. All were in favor; the motion was approved.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3/0/0)

Mr. Carrier indicated he was changing his previous vote of Yes to a No. As Ms. Wischnewski was unable to attend the previous meeting, she voted Yes to #6.

Recommended by the Budget Committee (7/1/0)

#7 Highway and Road Reconstruction Fund:

Ms. Wischnewski and Ms. Mills voted Yes.

Recommended by the Budget Committee (8/0/0)

#8 Re-adopt All Veterans Property Tax Credit: Mr. Williams explained the town's attorney made additional adjustments which added \$500 back into the article. Mr. Jacobs – the wording was added to keep it at the \$500 instead of reverting back to \$50.

#9 Veterans Property Tax Credit:

Mr. Jacobs spoke with both the town attorney and Ms. Serino who indicated there is no accurate way of knowing the fiscal impact. The tax impact is based on 218 veterans; it is not known how many officers who were separated and could participate. The tax impact is estimated to be ~\$.16/\$1,000.

Ms. Wischnewski and Ms. Mills voted Yes.

Recommended by the Budget Committee (8/0/0)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3/0/0)

#10 Dawson Street & Silver Street Area Drainage Project – Capital Reserve Fund:

Ms. Wischnewski and Ms. Mills voted No.

Recommended by the Budget Committee (0/8/0)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (2/1/0)

#11 Hire One New Firefighter:

Ms. Wischnewski and Ms. Mills voted Yes.

Recommended by the Budget Committee (8/0/0)

#12 Lease/Purchase Ambulance:

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3/0/0)

Ms. Wischnewski and Ms. Mills voted Yes.

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

#13 Highway Truck Capital Reserve Fund:

Ms. Wischnewski and Ms. Mills voted Yes.

Recommended by the Budget Committee (8/0/0)

#14 Bridge Capital Reserve Fund:

Ms. Wischnewski and Ms. Mills voted Yes.

Recommended by the Budget Committee (8/0/0)

#15 Recreation Capital Reserve Fund:

Ms. Wischnewski and Ms. Mills voted Yes.

Recommended by the Budget Committee (8/0/0)

#16 Milton Free Public Library

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (1/2/0)

Mr. Carrier changed his previous vote of No to a Yes. Ms. Wischnewski and Ms. Mills voted No.

Recommended by the Budget Committee (2/6/0)

#17 Eradicate Invasive Plant Species:

Ms. Wischnewski and Ms. Mills voted Yes.

Recommended by the Budget Committee (8/0/0)

#18 Conservation Commission Legal Defense Capital Reserve Fund:

Ms. Wischnewski and Ms. Mills voted Yes.

Recommended by the Budget Committee (8/0/0)

**Article #19 Discontinue 1993 Industrial Park CRF:
Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3/0/0)**

#20 2018 Municipal Buildings CRF:

Ms. Wischniewski and Ms. Mills voted Yes.

Recommended by the Budget Committee (8/0/0)

#21 (Solar Farm at Lockhart Field), #22 (Solar Farm at Wastewater Treatment Plant), #23 (Solar Farm at McKeagney Road Parcel 6 on Map 49):

Mr. Jacobs explained Article #23 will be removed due to a possible title problem.

Ms. Burnham motioned to rescind Warrant Article #23. Seconded by Mr. Morrill. All were in favor; the motion was approved.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3/0/0)

#24 Petition Article:

Mr. Morrill motioned to forward Warrant Article #24 for voting. Mr. Williams seconded the motion. All were in favor; the motion was approved.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (1/2/0)

Ms. Wischniewski and Ms. Mills voted No.

Recommended by the Budget Committee (0/8/0)

#25 Nitrogen Source Identification Plan: Mr. Jacobs explained the town was encouraged to submit an application. This will help to determine other water parameters of Milton Three Ponds that are not currently tested for. It is asking the voters to give permission to the BOS to sign the grant application, receive the grant and accept the funding.

Ms. Burnham motioned to accept Warrant Article #25. Seconded by Mr. Morrill. All were in favor; the motion was approved.

Recommended by the Budget Committee (7/1/0)

Public Review of FY24 School Warrants:

Mr. Carrier indicated he wanted to change his previous No votes to a Yes. He was not happy with how the previous meeting occurred and after reviewing last year's Warrant Articles this led him to change his vote. It was determined by reviewing the previous meeting's minutes that only 1 vote needed to be changed for Mr. Carrier. Ms. Wischniewski and Ms. Mills also voted on each of the articles.

#2 Operating Budget:

Ms. Wischniewski and Ms. Mills voted Yes.

Recommended by the Budget Committee (8/0/0)

#3 Library Media:

Ms. Wischniewski-voted No; Ms. Mills voted Yes.

Recommended by the Budget Committee (6/2/0)

#4 Building & Maintenance Fund:

Ms. Mills and Ms. Wischnewski-voted No.

Recommended by the Budget Committee (3/5/0)

#5 \$50,000 Expendable Trust Fund – Education of Educationally Disabled Children:

Ms. Wischnewski and Ms. Mills voted Yes; Mr. Carrier changed his vote to Yes.

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

#6 \$20,000 School Bus Trust Fund:

Ms. Turgeon explained her reservation over the wording of the articles – using words such as unreserved fund balance or surplus; this could be misleading to the voter who may think there is no tax impact. She would like to see verbiage that indicates how much this will cost.

Recommended by the Budget Committee (3/5/0)

#7 \$21,000 Maintenance Vehicle Trust Fund:

Ms. Wischnewski and Ms. Mills voted Yes.

Recommended by the Budget Committee (6/2/0)

#8 \$10,000 Technology Expendable Trust Fund:

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

#9 District to Retain up to 5% District's Net Assessment:

Mr. Morrill asked why this Warrant Article was needed. Mr. Houghton said this will give the school the ability to do projects outside of the standard Warrant Article. This will allow them to better plan for year-end expenditures. Mr. Williams asked why would they not establish the policy first? Ms. Hurd asked if the wording of the Warrant Article could be changed? Information could be added to the note section which would indicate permission for the School Board to develop a policy. Mr. Williams said that is not the intent based on the current wording. He said if it had been written to first develop a policy, he would have voted for it.

Ms. Wischnewski and Ms. Mills voted No.

Recommended by the Budget Committee (1/7/0)

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

a.) There was none.

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

6.) Next Meetings: January 31, 2023

7.) Adjournment:

a. Ms. Turgeon motioned to adjourn at 7:15PM; Seconded by Ms. Hurd. All were in favor.
Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy Winslow-Weiss, Recording Secretary – Budget Committee