

**Town of Milton  
Public Hearing  
Budget Committee Special Meeting  
Milton Town Hall  
Tuesday January 17, 2017 5:30 P.M.**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Chairman Brown called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm and welcomed everyone.**

**Roll Call:** Maureen Steer, Tom McDougall, Bob Carrier, Chairman Larry Brown, Lue Snyder (School Board Representative), Stan Nadeau (Water District Commissioner), Dennis Wing, Mike Beaulieu (Selectmen Representative).

Quorum was present

**Board of Selectmen:** Chairman Tom Gray, Andrew Rawson, Heather Thibodeau (Town Administrator)

**Public In Attendance:**

Nick Marique (Chief of Fire Department), Richard Krauss (Chief of Police), Pat Smith (Highway Department), Pam Smith, Kathy Wallingford (Assessing Department)

**Approval of Minutes:**

M. Steer motioned to approve the January 12, 2017 minutes with corrections, seconded by T. McDougall.

Discussion on corrections needed.

L. Brown stated that these corrections are all under other business section of the minutes;

First line after details should be a comma, and after the word "that" it should say "on".

Third line "vote" should read "voted"

Fourth line after the word "served" should be a period.

Fifth line after the word "say" it should read "so due" delete the word "do". After the word "confidentiality" should have a period and the word he should be capitalized.

Sixth line after the word "husband" it should read "was being considered for" delete the words "had taken", after the word "State" should be a period and delete the word "and", and capitalize the word "he".

Last line after the word "Cleared" it should read "on her service" and delete the word "this".

All in favor, Motion carried 8-0.

**Review and vote on the proposed 2017-2018 Town Budget and Warrant Articles.**

- **Article 1:**  
Non-Money article no action needed
  
- **Article 2:**  
Non-Money article no action needed

- **Article 3:**

Article reads:

"To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purpose set forth therein, totaling; or the governing body may hold on special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. (Majority vote requires) (Note: This Warrant Article, the operating budget, does not include special or separate warrant articles.)"

This article has already been recommended

Selectmen 3-0

Budget Committee 7-1

"BUDGET-To see If the Town will vote to raise and appropriate as an operating budget, (\$4,335,400.00) Four Million three hundred and thirty five thousand four hundred-not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be Four Million, three hundred and eighty-three thousand seven hundred and twenty five dollars and sixty four cents (\$4,383,725.64) which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operation budget only."

**Discussion:**

L. Brown stated that there is a typo word "dollars" is missing after the words four hundred, and the Arabic numeral should come in parenthesis after that

- **Article 4:**

Article reads:

"To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Ninety Thousand Dollars (\$290,000.00) for Highway and Road reconstruction purposes. Said amount is partially offset by revenues from the Highway Block Grant estimated to be One Hundred Ten Thousand Dollars (\$110,000.00). This is an annual appropriation that provides for the reconstruction of existing roadways. This appropriation will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7 VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31, 2018. (Majority vote required)."

**Discussion:**

D. Wing stated that for the record the article says \$290,000.00 but L. Brown stated it was \$299,000. L. Brown stands corrected it is \$290,000.00.

**Motion:**

M. Steer motioned to recommend article 4, seconded by D. Wing

**Roll Call:** M. Steer (Yes), T. McDougall (Yes), B. Carrier (Yes), L. Brown (Yes), D. Wing (Yes), M. Beaulieu (Yes). Motion carried 6-0

- **Article 5:**

Article reads:

“To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00) to be placed in the Milton/Maine Bridges Capital Reserve Account previously established. This sum to come from the fund balance and no amount to be raised from taxation. (Majority vote required).”

**Motion:**

M. Steer motioned to recommend article 5, seconded by T. McDougall

**Roll Call:** M. Steer (Yes), T. McDougall (Yes), B. Carrier (Yes), L. Brown (Yes), L. Snyder (Yes), D. Wing (Yes), M. Beaulieu (Yes). Motion carried 7-0

- **Article 6:**

Article reads:

“To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00) to be placed in the Milton Highway Department Truck Capital Reserve Fund, previously established. This sum to come from the fund balance and no amount to be raised from taxation. (Majority vote required).”

**Discussion:**

L. Snyder asked how much is the projected Truck Capital Reserve Fund balance? T. Gray stated that it is over \$1,000,000.00 right now and they have money going back into it as soon as things settle. DRA requires 8% minimum.

S. Nadeau asked, are the warrant articles under the fund balance part of the CIP plan? T. Gray stated yes. S. Nadeau stated the reason he is asking is because in the CIP is some of these purposes and that would be a duplication if this was not a means of funding the CIP.

**Motion:**

M. Steer motioned to recommend article 6, seconded by T. McDougall

**Roll Call:** M. Steer (Yes), T. McDougall (Yes), B. Carrier (Yes), L. Brown (Yes), L. Snyder (Yes), D. Wing (Yes), M. Beaulieu (Yes), S. Nadeau (Yes), motion carried 8-0

- **Article 7:**

Article reads:

“To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of fourteen thousand one hundred fifty-nine dollars (\$14,159.00) to fund a proposed step plan/pay plan for the employees in the Highway, Solid Waste Department and Buildings Department. (Majority vote required).”

Discussion:

D. Wing asked if this has been discussed prior to tonight. P. Smith stated that this was on the warrant last year and it failed to pass, he had asked the Board of Selectmen if it could be put back on for this year. P. Smith stated that he readjusted a number because they had a lot of turn-over at the Highway Department but is now fully staffed. He stated that it is the same plan as last year except for that number being revised because of the turn-over which is \$5,000.00 less than last year.

S. Nadeau asked if there was back up information for the \$14,159.00. P. Smith handed out two sheets of paper, one sets out the step program and the other gives the current hourly rate of pay and the proposed rate.

L. Brown asked what the Selectmen’s over view was on the \$14,159.00. T. Gray stated “to try and get the employees at the public works to a more reasonable rate and to try and retain some

of the employees at the Public Works". M. Beaulieu stated that they have done queries with other towns and this is comparable to what the other towns are paying their employees.

M. Steer stated that if she remembers right there was a comparison in print and it was a several dollar difference from one town to the other.

L. Brown asked what the employee count was for DPW and related.

A. Rawson stated that they did the same intention plan with the police department and it worked, they are keeping Police Officers. So they are trying to do somewhat the same thing with the DPW. P. Smith explained more about this and how he came up with the amount.

L. Snyder asked what the job was that was labeled Step 10 department 312, P. Smith stated it was a Highway Job Diesel Mechanic. L. Snyder's other question was is he going to be doing what the school will be doing, looking to see if the move up is warranted and looking at everything. P. Smith stated that the step will be based on their performance review, they can hold them back if they are not performing. P. Smith stated that it was up to the Selectmen on whether they will be holding back all or part of the step. T. Gray stated that the Selectmen will follow the recommendations of the department heads.

B. Carrier asked if this amount included the 2% raise and COLA and if the budget passes. P.

Smith stated that if this article passes then the 2% raise and COLA will not be taken.

M. Steer asked if there was a calculation of what the 2% raise and COLA would be compared to what this figure is. P. Smith stated that the Step plan will be a little bit more than what the 2% raise and COLA would be, it is comparable. T. Gray did some calculations and it turns out this article will be a couple hundred dollars less than going with the 2% Raise and COLA.

L. Snyder asked if these steps are with previous experience or with just the experience from working in the Town of Milton. P. Smith stated that step 1 would be coming in with a CDL License with no experience, then as the steps go up then there would be more experience required for each step.

S. Nadeau stated that if the budget passes that is a one year hit (the 2% raises and COLA), if this article passes it is a multi-year hit as the steps go up each year and that is the major difference between the two.

**Motion:**

M. Steer motioned to recommend article 7, seconded by T. McDougall

**Roll Call:** M. Steer (Yes), T. McDougall (Yes), B. Carrier (Yes), L. Brown (Yes), L. Snyder (Yes), D. Wing (Yes), M. Beaulieu (Yes), S. Nadeau (Yes), motion carried 8-0

L. Brown opened the Public Meeting at 6:00pm

L. Brown recessed the Public Meeting

- **Article 8:**

Article reads:

"To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) to be added to the Milton Fire Department Equipment and Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund previously established for the purpose of replacing the departments utility truck as described in the capital improvements plan. This sum to come from the fund balance and no amount to be raised from taxation. (Majority vote required)."

**Discussion:**

L. Snyder asked how much was in the fund at the present moment. N. Marique stated that it was less than \$1,000.00. L. Snyder asked how much he would need for that truck. N. Marique state they would need \$30,000.00. L. Snyder asked if the truck was in a position that he would need to change it this year. N. Marique stated yes and explained more on what they were doing. S. Nadeau stated that he was bothered by the statement of “no amount to be raised from taxation” because it was raised from taxation. N. Marique state that was the legal wording for the warrant article. S. Nadeau stated he would be agree with no additional amount to be raised by taxation because the only way there is any money in the fund balance is from tax money that was generated. He is not saying that is not the way DRA wants it, he is just bothered with it. H. Thibodeau stated that after they go through all this process it has to be submitted to the town attorney and then to DRA and this is what they are going to come back with for that particular wording, and you have to go with what they say.

**Motion:**

M. Steer motioned to recommend article 8, seconded by T. McDougall

**Roll Call:** M. Steer (Yes), T. McDougall (Yes), B. Carrier (Yes), L. Brown (Yes), L. Snyder (Yes), D. Wing (Yes), M. Beaulieu (Yes), S. Nadeau (Yes), motion carried 8-0

- **Article 9:**

Article reads:

“To see if the Town will vote to authorize the selectmen to enter into a four year lease/purchase agreement for \$115,000 for the purpose of leasing replacement portable radios for the Fire Department, as described in the capital improvements plan, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$30,344.00 for the first year’s payment for that purpose. This lease agreement contains an escape clause. (Majority vote required).”

**Discussion:**

S. Nadeau stated that for the record they should get the age and description. N. Marique stated that the Current radio’s where purchased by a grant that was issued to every fire department in the state back in 2005 which makes them 12 years old, they have not been supported (meaning you cannot get parts for them) since 2010. They are at the point now that they are losing 1 to 2 radio’s a month so that number that they have is going down, so they all need to be replaced.

L. Brown asked if the old radios can be used for parts on other radios. N. Marique stated that it’s the computer part the internal that is not good anymore so they are not repairable.

D. Wing stated just to be clear, 4 years at \$115,000 he is assuming for the four years it is going to remain at \$30,000 each year. N. Marique stated that it is the same payment annually.

**Motion:**

M. Steer motioned to recommend article 9, seconded by T. McDougall

**Roll Call:** M. Steer (Yes), T. McDougall (Yes), B. Carrier (Yes), L. Brown (Yes), L. Snyder (Yes), D. Wing (Yes), M. Beaulieu (Yes), S. Nadeau (Yes), motion carried 8-0

- **Article 10:**

Non-Money article no action needed

- **Article 11:**

Article reads:

“To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) to be added to the Milton Recreation Capital Reserve Fund previously established for the purpose of renovation and construction of a new town boat ramp as described in the capital improvements plan. This sum to come from the fund balance and no amount to be raised from taxation. (Majority vote required).”

**Discussion:**

L. Brown asked what the current fund balance. N. Marique stated that it was around \$6,000.

L. Brown stated that it should be stated Reconstruction instead of Renovation in the warrant article.

L. Snyder asked if it would take the whole \$15,000 to renovate the boat ramp. P. Smith stated that he is waiting on a price so he is unsure but is assuming it will take all \$15,000 to renovate it. B. Carrier stated that when he was looking at the CIP plan it was a two year plan and asked if that had changed. T. Gray stated that it is a two year, P. Smith stated that if they get the \$15,000 this year and it is not enough to cover the cost of the renovation and they don't want to take from the revolving account then they will need to finish the next year with the next \$15,000.

B. Carrier stated that if the state fixes the boat ramp then the town will lose all revenue from the beach. B. Carrier just want this stated so that they people know how important this article is.

L. Snyder stated that it would be a good idea for the recreation department to take a percentage of the profits from the boat ramp pass and put it into the fund for maintaining the boat ramp. P. Smith stated that he believe they are already doing that, they are taking their revenues and placing it into a revolving account. A. Rawson stated that some of the revenues that are going into that account will also be used to fight the European naiaid as well.

**Motion:**

M. Steer motioned to recommend article 9, seconded by T. McDougall

**Roll Call:** M. Steer (Yes), T. McDougall (Yes), B. Carrier (Yes), L. Brown (Yes), L. Snyder (Yes), D. Wing (Yes), M. Beaulieu (Yes), S. Nadeau (Yes), motion carried 8-0

- **Article 12:**

Article reads:

“To see if the Town will vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of purchasing technology equipment for the town hall as described in the capital improvements plan and to raise and appropriate the sum of Six Thousand dollars (\$6,000) to be placed in this fund. This sum is to come from the fund balance and no amount is to be raised from taxation. Further to name the selectmen as agents to expend from this fund. (Majority vote required).”

**Discussion:**

L. Brown asked what the name of the Capital Reserve fund would be. S. Nadeau stated that you need a name on the warrant article. It was determined that it will be called Town of Milton Technology upgrade.

D. Wing stated that he remembers the CIP mentioning \$6,000 for 6 years is that still holding true. N. Marique stated that it is a 6-year ongoing plan.

T. McDougall asked if this article fails does that mean no technology can be purchased. N. Marique stated yes, they still could purchase equipment if needed.

**Motion:**

M. Steer motioned to recommend article 9, seconded by T. McDougall

**Roll Call:** M. Steer (Yes), T. McDougall (Yes), B. Carrier (Yes), L. Brown (Yes), L. Snyder (Yes), D. Wing (Yes), M. Beaulieu (Yes), S. Nadeau (Yes), motion carried 8-0

- **Article 13:**

Non-Money article no action needed

- **Article 14:**

Non-Money article no action needed

- **Article 15:**

Article reads:

“To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) to be placed in the Milton Town House Capital Reserve Fund, previously established. This sum to come from the fund balance and no amount to be raised from taxation. (Majority vote required).”

**Discussion:**

L. Snyder asked how much was in that capital reserve fund now, and she thought that was established for matching funds. T. Gray stated that it was part of the purpose of it the other purpose of it was once they finish with the restoration it is money put aside for the upkeep. It was mentioned that there was \$1,248.00 in the capital reserve fund now.

**Motion:**

M. Steer motioned to recommend article 9, seconded by T. McDougall

**Roll Call:** M. Steer (Yes), T. McDougall (Yes), B. Carrier (Yes), L. Brown (Yes), L. Snyder (Yes), D. Wing (Yes), M. Beaulieu (Yes), S. Nadeau (Yes), motion carried 8-0

- **Article 16:**

Article reads:

“To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) for the purpose of eradicating the invasive plant species-European Naiad from the water bodies in the Town of Milton. (Majority vote required).”

**Discussion:**

L. Brown asked who would be the expending agents. T. Gray stated the board of Selectmen, L. Brown stated that the warrant article should state who the expending agents are.

D. Wing asked how this \$5,000.00 compared to the state of Maine or Lebanon or state of NH. M. Beaulieu stated that on January 23, 2017 there will be a meeting between the Milton BOS and the Lebanon BOS and the topic is going to be how they are going to combat the European Naiad.

L. Snyder stated that this article should have the wording “this is a special warrant article” so that the \$5,000.00 cannot be used for anything else but this purpose.

S. Nadeau asked if the town of Acton Maine share a part of Northeast Pond. M. Beaulieu stated no.

L. Brown asked if the Board of Selectmen would vote on the new wording that L. Snyder suggested. The Board of Selectmen voted to accept her new wording for the warrant.

**Motion:**

M. Steer motioned to recommend article 9, seconded by T. McDougall

**Roll Call:** M. Steer (Yes), T. McDougall (Yes), B. Carrier (Yes), L. Brown (Yes), L. Snyder (Yes), D. Wing (Yes), M. Beaulieu (Yes), S. Nadeau (Yes), motion carried 8-0

L. Brown called the public hearing to order at 7:03pm

L. Brown read the public Posting

“To the inhabitants of the Town of Milton in the county of Strafford in the said state qualified to vote in town affairs.

First session, you are hear by notified that the first session the deliberative session of the annual town meeting will be held on Saturday February 11<sup>th</sup> 2017 beginning at 1pm at the Nute High school and Library. The first session shall consist of explanation, discussion and debate of each of the following warrant articles and will also afford voters whom are present the opportunity to purpose, debate and adopt amendments to warrant articles except those articles whose wording is prescribed by state law. The second session of the annual town meeting to elect town officers by official ballot and to vote on all warrant articles as they may have been amended from the first session will be held on Tuesday March 14<sup>th</sup> 2017 at the Milton Assembly of God Church at 370 White Mountain Hwy. Polls for voting by official ballot will open at 8am and close at 7pm.”

L. Brown read each article and held discussion for the public after each article.

- **Article #1**

Board of Selectmen recommends this article 3-0

Budget Committee recommends this article – No Recommendation Needed

Public Comments: None

Board of Selectmen Comments: None

Budget Committee Comments: None

- **Article #2**

Board of Selectmen recommends this article 3-0

Budget Committee recommends this article – No Recommendation Needed

Public Comments: None

Board of Selectmen Comments: None

Budget Committee Comments: None



- **Article #3**  
Board of Selectmen recommends this article 3-0  
Budget Committee recommends this article 7-1  
Public Comments: None  
Board of Selectmen Comments: None  
Budget Committee Comments: None
- **Article #4**  
Board of Selectmen recommends this article 3-0  
Budget Committee recommends this article 6-0  
Public Comments: None  
Board of Selectmen Comments: None  
Budget Committee Comments: None
- **Article #5**  
Board of Selectmen recommends this article 3-0  
Budget Committee recommends this article 7-0  
Public Comments: None  
Board of Selectmen Comments: None  
Budget Committee Comments: None
- **Article #6**  
Board of Selectmen recommends this article 3-0  
Budget Committee recommends this article 8-0  
Public Comments: None  
Board of Selectmen Comments: None  
Budget Committee Comments: None
- **Article #7**  
Board of Selectmen recommends this article 3-0  
Budget Committee recommends this article 8-0  
Public Comments: None  
Board of Selectmen Comments: None  
Budget Committee Comments: None
- **Article #8**  
Board of Selectmen recommends this article 3-0  
Budget Committee recommends this article 8-0  
Public Comments: None  
Board of Selectmen Comments: None  
Budget Committee Comments: None

- **Article #9**  
Board of Selectmen recommends this article 3-0  
Budget Committee recommends this article 8-0  
Public Comments: None  
Board of Selectmen Comments: None  
Budget Committee Comments: None
- **Article #10**  
Board of Selectmen recommends this article 3-0  
Budget Committee recommends this article – No Recommendation Needed  
Public Comments: None  
Board of Selectmen Comments: None  
Budget Committee Comments: None
- **Article #11**  
Board of Selectmen recommends this article 3-0  
Budget Committee recommends this article 8-0  
Public Comments: None  
Board of Selectmen Comments: None  
Budget Committee Comments: None
- **Article #12**  
Board of Selectmen recommends this article 3-0  
Budget Committee recommends this article 8-0  
Public Comments: None  
Board of Selectmen Comments: None  
Budget Committee Comments: None
- **Article #13**  
Board of Selectmen recommends this article 3-0  
Budget Committee recommends this article – No Recommendation Needed  
Public Comments: None  
Board of Selectmen Comments: None  
Budget Committee Comments: None
- **Article #14**  
Board of Selectmen recommends this article 3-0  
Budget Committee recommends this article – No Recommendation Needed  
Public Comments: None  
Board of Selectmen Comments: None  
Budget Committee Comments: L. Brown stated that the article does not state what the credit is against. He suggested that they review this with the town attorney.

- **Article #15**  
Board of Selectmen recommends this article 3-0  
Budget Committee recommends this article 8-0  
Public Comments: None  
Board of Selectmen Comments: None  
Budget Committee Comments: None
- **Article #16**  
Board of Selectmen recommends this article 3-0  
Budget Committee recommends this article 8-0  
Public Comments: None  
Board of Selectmen Comments: None  
Budget Committee Comments: None

B. Carrier motioned to send the 2017 Town warrant articles as written with corrections to be made to the February 11, 2017 deliberative session; Seconded by L. Snyder, all in favor, motion carried 8-0.

L. Brown stated that the next meeting of the Budget Committee will be February 4<sup>th</sup> 2017 at 12:30pm at Nute High School.

**Adjournment:**

- Motion to adjourn made by S. Nadeau seconded by M. Steer 7:15 pm. All in favor. Motion stands. 8-0

**Respectfully Submitted by:**

Brenda Pabon – Recording Clerk

Date Approved: 2/4/2017 BLP