

Town of Milton
BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING
(Deliberative Session)
February 5, 2022

ATTENDANCE:

Members: Humphrey Williams (Chair), Bob Carrier, Claudine Burnham, Peg Hurd, Lisa Gautreau, Laura Turgeon, Larry Brown, Mike Beaulieu

Town Moderator: Chris Jacobs

Public: Deliberative Session

Humphrey Williams, Chair, opened the session at 9:05AM.

1.) Pledge of Allegiance: Humphrey Williams, Chair, led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2.) Roll Call:

- a. Mr. Williams, Chair, led the roll call of members to determine if a quorum was present. Humphrey Williams (Chair), Larry Brown, Bob Carrier, Mike Beaulieu, Lisa Gautreau, Claudine Burnham, Laura Turgeon, Peg Hurd. A quorum was present.
- b. Public participation: Deliberative Session.

Mr. Williams officially opened the Budget Committee meeting as part of the Deliberative Session.

3.) The Deliberative Session Review of the FY23 School Warrant:

No additional business, apart from that of the Deliberative Session, was conducted by the Budget Committee during this session.

The FY23 School Warrant Session of the Deliberative Session concluded at 11:28 AM

4.) Budget Committee vote prior to the Deliberative Session Review of the 2022 Town Warrant:

Just prior to the start of the 2022 Town Warrant portion of the Deliberative Session, Mr. Williams called the Budget Committee together to revisit, review, and vote on the updated Warrant Article, **Dawson Street & Silver Street Drainage Project –Phase 2**, which was changed after the Budget Committee voted on it during the January 11, 2022, meeting and presented at the Public Hearing on January 17, 2022. The updated Town Warrant Article 6 reads as follows:

To see if the Vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$611,000 for the Dawson Street and Silver Street Area Drainage Project Phase 2, as designed by Underwood Engineers to excavate and relapse/repair the storm-water drainage system and sidewalks as phase two of the total project. \$200,000 of this total to come from the unassigned fund balance. To further authorize the Board of Selectman to accept and expend \$280,000 from the American Rescue Plan Act as part of the Clean Water State Revolving Fund for Storm-water Services for this purpose. The remainder to be raised

by general taxation. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per NH RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the project is completed or by December 31, 2024, whichever occurs first. This article is separate from and does not include the appropriation in Article 7. (Majority Vote Required).

Estimated tax impact is \$0.26 per thousand dollars of valuation.

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

Mr. Williams noted the following changes from the originally proposed Warrant Article the committee voted on at the January 11, 2022, meeting:

1. The amount of money to be raised for Phase 2 of the Dawson Street and Silver Street Drainage Project changed from \$781,000 to \$611,000
2. This article now includes \$200,000 to be applied to the project from the unassigned fund balance.
3. The \$280,000 from the American Rescue Plan Act as part of the Clean Water State Revolving Fund for Storm-water Services, has been included in this article.
4. The estimated tax impact has been revised from the original warrant article, identified as \$1.56 per thousand, to the now identified amount of \$0.26 per thousand.

Mr. Williams noted that the \$200,000 from the unassigned fund balance, used to offset the direct tax impact to the public, amounts to \$0.40 per thousand dollars of taxpayer money already raised that could otherwise remain in the general fund or could be in the future to buy down the tax rate.

Mr. Williams made a motion to approve the update Dawson Street & Silver Street Drainage Project - Phase 2, as written. Seconded by Ms. Turgeon

Roll call vote: **Mr. Brown, Mr. Carrier, Ms. Burnham – Yes; Ms. Turgeon, Ms. Gautreau, Ms. Hurd, Mr. Beaulieu, Mr. Williams - No. Motion did not pass – 3 / 5 / 0**

This roll call vote results were the same as the results on January 11, 2022. Therefore, no changes had to be made to the Warrant Article being presented at the deliberative Session.

5.) The Deliberative Session Review of the 2022 Town Warrant:

The 2022 Town Warrant portion of the Deliberative Session opened at 11:45AM, with the Budget Committee still in session.

During the session presentation of Warrant Article 6, **Dawson Street & Silver Street Drainage Project –Phase 2**, new information was presented that was contrary to what had been previously presented to the Budget Committee prior to two different roll call votes on the article. The new information was as follows:

1. The \$280,000 was initially identified to the Budget Committee as a Grant Loan and now the Budget Committee was informed it was actually a grant, not a loan that would have to be repaid as previously discussed.

2. The Budget Committee was also previously informed that the “Grant/Loan” would be available as long as some form of funding was established by the town to proceed forward with Phase 2 of the Drainage Project. The Budget Committee had specifically asked, in prior meetings, if the grants would be applicable if Warrant Article 6 failed and the \$60,000 contingency plan, Capital Reserve Funding, identified in Town Warrant Article 7, was approved by the voters. At that time the Budget Committee was informed the grants would still be applicable. Now, during the Deliberative Session discussion on this article, the Budget Committee was informed that the drainage project had to be fully funded to qualify for the grant money.

In light of this new information being presented to the Budget Committee, Mr. Williams informed the Moderator that this information changed the intent of the article by which the committee members had originally based their vote. Mr. Williams was informed that in order to legally change the recommended vote by the Budget Committee, the proposed Warrant Article would have to be “Amended”, otherwise the original recommended vote would have to stand. After a brief discussion, Mr. Williams put forth the amendment recommendation to change the unassigned fund balance amount to be applied from \$200,000 to \$200,001. The amendment was opened for discussion by the Moderator and then approved by public vote.

6.) Budget Committee vote on Amended Warrant Article 6, Dawson Street & Silver Street Drainage Project –Phase 2

As a result of the amendment to Warrant Article 6, **Mr. Williams made a motion to approve Warrant Article 6, Dawson Street & Silver Street Drainage Project - Phase 2, as amended.**

Seconded by Ms. Turgeon.

Roll call vote: **Mr. Brown, Mr. Carrier, Ms. Turgeon, Ms. Gautreau, Ms. Hurd, Ms. Burnham Mr. Beaulieu, and Mr. Williams all voted Yes. Motion passed – (8-0-0).**

The Town Clerk modified the Budget Committee recommended vote on Amended Article 6.

7.) Adjournment:

Mr. Williams stated he would entertain a motion to conclude the meeting.

Mr. Brown made the motion to adjourn at 5:40 PM; Seconded by Ms. Hurd. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Humphrey Williams – Budget Committee Chair

Approved February 24, 2022