

**Budget Committee  
Deliberative Session  
Milton, N.H. 03851  
Special Session  
2018-19 MILTON TOWN PROPOSED BUDGET @9:00 AM  
Saturday, February 10, 2018**

**Pledge to Flag**

**1. Roll Call of Town**

Moderator - Chris Jacobs, Selectmen - Andrew Rawson, Ryan Thibeault, Tim Long, Town Administrator - Heather Thibodeau, Town Council - Walter Mitchell, Supervisors of the Checklist - Karen Brown, State Representative - Robert Graham, Fire Chief - Nick Marique, Public Works Director - Pat Smith, Police Chief - Richard Krauss

**2. Roll Call of Budget Committee Seating Members**

Meeting called to order at 8:45 am. Chairman Larry Brown, Peg Hurd (School Board Representative), Tom McDougall, Bob Carrier, Shawn Perreault, Erin Hutchings and Shari Gaesser - Secretary. A Quorum was present. Stan Nadeau and Dennis Wing were excused.

To save money town has not printed copies of the warrant articles. Are on the website and PowerPoint. How many would like to have a paper copy? Number of hands raised.

Moderator Jacobs officially opened the Town Deliberative session at 9:17 am. He asked for a moment of silence for those have passed.

Candidates meeting on Feb, 26 to meet candidates for school board and town.

As a reminder that there is no final vote on any article today, it will be held on March 13, 2018. The color of the ballots for today will be red. Speak only to moderator and state your name.

**Warrant articles –**

**Article 1 – Town Officers**

Moderator read article:

Board of Selectman: 1 for 1 year – Larry Brown, Andy Lucier, Tom McDougall; 1 for 3 years – Erin Hutchings, Andrew Rawson. Budget Committee: 1 for 1 year – Shawn Perreault; 2 for 3 years – 2 open positions. Cemetery Trustee: 1 for 3 years – John Katwick, Dennis Therrien; Fire Chief: 1 for 1 year – Stephen Duchesneau, Nick Marique; Library Trustee: 1 for 3 years – Nancy Drew; Moderator: 1 for 2 years – Chris Jacobs; Planning Board: 2 for 3 years – Matthew Morrill, Lynette McDougall; Public Works Director: 1 for 3 years – Pat Smith; Supervisors of the Checklist: 1 for 4 years – 1 open position; 1 for 6 years – Brittney Leach; Treasurer: 1 for 1 year – Pamela J. Arnold, Mackenzie Campbell; Trustee of the Trust Funds: 1 for 3 years – Marion E Trafton; Zoning Board of Adjustment: 1 for 2 years – Stephen Baker; 2 for 3 years – Larry Brown, Stan Nadeau.

The Moderator instructed the Town Clerk to place Warrant Article 1 on the second session ballot as read.

## **Article 2 – Zoning 1**

Town Moderator read the Article.

Motion by Ryan Thibeault was made to open discussion for Article 2 and second by Andy Rawson. It is pretty straightforward. Judy Lover - this is a state statute? Putting towns' requirements on top of that. We are still under state statute – Moderator - yes. Building permit process; life safety; state wastewater rules. Sow state that septic can handle or handle. Motion made to close discussion by Michelle Beauchamp and second by Mr. Gray.

The Moderator instructed the Town Clerk to place Warrant Article 2 on the second session ballot as read.

## **Article 3 – Zoning 2**

Town Moderator read the Article.

Motion was by Ryan Thibeault to open discussion on Article 3 and second by Tim Long. Tim read the information regarding the article. Protect and maintain the water. Bruce Woodruff – town planner. Explains the items to update water protection. NH RSA has changed. Motion to close article 3 by Michael 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Brown.

The Moderator instructed the Town Clerk to place Warrant Article 3 on the second session ballot as read.

## **Article 4: Operating Budget:**

Town Moderator read the Article.

Motion was made by Larry Brown to open the discussion on Article 4 and by Larry and second by Karen Brown. Brian McQuade – I make a motion that operating budget be reduce by \$450,836 to \$4,057,529. Moderator Jacobs – this is now on the floor for discussion. Nancy Wing - Can't afford taxes. Tax 56% increase over 10 year, 20% on wages and 19% inflation. Larry Brown – primary question, what is your point by point to change the budget? Do you have a detailed plan? Mr. McQuade - it is to keep as much money in my pocket as possible. Shawn Perrault – budget committee went through individual line items and thought many to high. I was always told we deal with a bottom line; line-by-line is almost hypocritical. David Carpus. – I did a poll of revenue from neighboring towns. Local towns and pulled consensus. We are not the highest but second highest. Compare to other towns? Are we high or not? Increasing faster than everyone else? Statement – bottom line budget. Money can get move into a 0 item budget. Has there been an analysis done to compare to other towns? Police and fire departments are much higher and DFW are considerably lower. Judy Lover – look at the how – we have a new fire station – comparing town-by-town operating budgets and tax rates is not feasible and you should not look beyond Stafford County. Wakefield tax rate is so low because of the lake property. Market values are strong and stay strong (taxes based on this). It is more than just an operating budget. Look at the whole scope. Ann Walsh – motion to pass and pass in March? What kind of cuts would have to be made? Heather Thibodeau - Department heads worked very hard at the budget. If you look at bottom line budget of 10% cut, every service would be cut. These services would no longer be at level that you expect. There would be \$10,000 cut from town clerk; Late night Thursday hours and Saturday hours would be cut. assessing department \$46,911 would be cut; \$125,360 from the Police Department – 5 officers and Chief, so we would lose 2 police officers; Fire Department \$50,000 – 22 hours to be cut – 11 hours a week. There would be a loss in ambulance call response time. Planning and code - \$75,070 cut full and part time salary – remain –contract services. Wouldn't have a code enforcement department. The Highway department \$63,000– cut down to doing sanding only. Solid Waste \$47,298– cut hours. Outside appropriation \$22,602 would be eliminated. Recreation department – \$62,580 would be eliminated. Library \$53,476– eliminated. Not what the town wants to do but 10% cut would affect all departments. McQuade – Many can be filled by private services. Pete Hayward – in favor or against – you are not showing issues – prioritization what is important vs. not important. Not by line-by-line cut, but across the board.

3<sup>rd</sup> most expensive – per person to run general government is 1%. We are within 1-2% of all towns around us. Comparative numbers. This isn't tax rate numbers. If Wakefield is spending less on police department, then the question is why? Maybe we need to investigate. This might be useful date.

Wendy Abbot – loss of Police and Fire and town hours, I am not willing to give up. Are these definite losses or proposed losses? Ryan Thibeault – we put together this at what we could quickly cut. It would be to go line by line with new selectman in March. Slide was more of a scope of what the cuts would be. That decision would be made then. **Les Elder** – what is 10% cut and what is the amount of Fund balance – **Andy Rawson** – what is in there today? Not certain as it hasn't been audited. How does this pertain to this discussion? **Moderator Jacobs** - Fund balance can't be touched. A special meeting will need to be held to have funds removed from undesignated fund balance unless town is in bankruptcy. It's like a savings account you can't touch. **Les Elder** – why can't we eliminate all warrant articles and have the funds come from General Fund – non-of the warrant articles say this. Correct – articles 8 and 11-13 that say at end “the sum is to come from the fund balance and no amount is to be raised from taxation.” This is a surplus at end of the year. Reasons are: 1) At tax rate setting time up to certain amount set by DRA – reduce tax etc. 2) statutory provision – emergency overspending budget and the town can apply to DRA to get permission to prevent overspending. 3) Holding special town meeting and raising appropriate money to come from fund balance. **Moderator Jacobs** – yes there are future articles that say that. How does that affect this amendment? Les – If those articles are not funded those leave addition funds for the funds we are voting on now.

**Larry Brown** – explained warrant and DRA ask that town holds % of operating budget in the fund balance. **Moderator Jacobs** – lower tax rate; spend less and save more. Is there a similar request to school board? David Carpus – equate it to your parents, you ask for money and you need to provide a reason. **Nick Marique** – if we use the fund balance to lower taxes then you would have to have find a way to fund the fund balance.

**Bo Hughes** – 10% reduction being discussed – would that be bottom line? Heather's graph appears to be by choice. The 10% it is a choice she made to make a point. We don't want to see our Police or Fire department cut – small cut of some departments; if you could but based on state laws there are certain areas that can't be touched. **Chris Carpus** – state doesn't say you need library or planning board. Note we took out for fire station - debt has to be paid before we can buy books or open library. Bo Hughes – instead of 23%. **Chief Krauss** - we would take the biggest hit. Not all departments would be taking small hits but closing. **Bo Hughes** – is this particle. **Chief Krauss** – this is not the decision of this selectman board but the next one voted on in March. 70% of department personnel would be hit. **Heather Thibodeau** – it is a legal contract we have to pay. Maintain what state RSA says. It will be a cut in services. **Roger Moulton** – if there were no salt on roads; it would affect – police/fire/school. **Eric Knapp** – I'm confused, 10% of bottom-line; what isn't being cut? Parts that town can't legally cut. **Chief Krauss** -Debt services can't be cut. **Virginia Long** – what leeway can the town give with property owners that can't pay property taxes? **Andy Rawson** – taken 10% out of budget would be detrimental to town for many reasons. We work with department heads to keep budget level at a flat level. We work with tax payers who have issues paying taxes – go into agreement what would fit your best needs to pay a bit and move forward. **Virginia Long** – does town have any leeway to reduce taxes? **Andy Rawson** – we have state mandates, so no we can't. **Kathy Brown** – we have various credits etc. **Doug Shute** – how much of an increase from this year to last year. (\$175,817.35) 0.41 cents per thousand for homes of \$200,000 shows an \$82 increase. Pension fund was not done correctly we are paying for it now. **Larry Brown** – retirement costs loss of general state revenue into the state retirement systems. Driven down. Legislature of State of NH wants to push them down to local taxpayers instead of state paying. **Zane Poth** – do we have the data and looking at it? **Shawn Perrault**– Dennis Wing has providing the data. **Andy Rawson** – Betsy how many people use the Milton Mills library? **Betsey** – we have from 3700 to 4000 a year and not only for books but also for community organizations as well. We have been fixing library through grants and volunteerism. Please think about these cuts.

**Lynette McDougall** – Dennis Wings web page? **Shawn Perrault** – there are links to web space that he purchases. Why don't we have our own webpage? -**Mr. McQuade** motioned to vote on this

amendment. Amended warrant of reduction to \$4,057,529. Vote is no and the amount goes back to the original budget amount. Article 4 passes. Restricting reconsideration – majority carries.

The Moderator instructed the Town Clerk to place Warrant Article 4 on the second session ballot as read.

#### **Article 5: Highway and Road Reconstruction.**

Town Moderator read the Article.

Ryan Thibeault motioned to open discussion of Article 5 and second by Tom Gray. **Ryan** estimated funds received from highway Block Grant is \$134,000. This money offset the \$290,000 raised for program. Estimated Taxes would not go down but stays the same at .70 cents per thousand of houses over 200,000 would be \$140. Same amount we asked for last year. Motion to close discussion by Tom Gray and second Susan Foster-Brown. Motion to restrict further discussion by Tom Gray and second by Les Elder. Motion passes.

The Moderator instructed the Town Clerk to place Warrant Article 5 on the second session ballot as read.

#### **Article 6 – Lease Purchase Fire Department Pumper**

Town Moderator read the Article.

Motion to open by discussion of Article 6 by Tom Gray and second by Erin Hutchings. **Tim Long** – replaces a 30 year old piece of equipment and raise 5 cents per thousand. No taxes to be raised until 2019.

**Doug Shute** – capital reserve funds that could be used to used to help pay down. **Nick Marique** -have \$893 and other \$30,000 in it. Estimate the interest rate would go up if we delayed. \$15-20K if we wait to purchase this truck. Doug – looking to get a ladder further down road. CIP did not pass the purchase. Ladder truck is 1985. Fred Cameron – part of capital improvement in place? Yes. Brian – haven't seen a lot of firefighter volunteer events. Saturday at 8:00 pancake breakfast. Will be in the bays. Abbot – moving a truck? Truck is being replaced in Milton mills. Truck that going up there has 1k gallon capacity. Flat amount over the next 5 years not an increase. \$505K and \$550k made arrangement's to have it go back down to \$505K. Motion to close discussion by Mr. Gray and second by Mr. Cameron. Motion to restrict reconsideration by Michael Tabory and second by Maureen Steer.

#### **Article 7 – Fire Department Equipment and Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund**

Town Moderator read the Article.

Maureen Steer motioned to open the discussion and Tom Gray seconded. Les – question regarding the wording. Does fund balance contain taxation from previous years? Nick – wording is from the Department of Revenue Administration. Motion to close discussion by Ryan Thibeault and second by Larry Brown.

#### **Article 8 – Highway Department Special Equipment Capital Reserve Fund**

Town Moderator read the Article.

Motion to open discussion by Tom Gray and second by Maureen Steer. Ryan – future purchase capital fund 47 – tax impact no affect on this year tax rate. Motion to close discussion by Tom Gray and second by Fred Cameron.

Motion to restrict reconsideration of Article 7 and 8 by Tom Gray and second by Paul Steer.

#### **Article 9 – Highway Department Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund**

Town Moderator read the Article.

Open discussion by Tom Gray and second by Maureen Steer. No discussion. Motion to close discussion by Tom Gray and second by Fred Cameron.

#### **Article 10 – Establish Municipal Buildings Capital Reserve Fund**

Town Moderator read the Article.

Motion to open discussion by Tom Gray and second Fred Cameron. Motion by Michelle Beauchamp to amend the article to include the wording “Municipal Buildings” in front of Capital Reserve Fund.

**Pat Smith** – this is for bigger projects that we can cover. **John Katwick** – Historical buildings must be maintained in the future. Vote to add the wording “Municipal Buildings” to Capital Reserve Fund – Motion by Larry Brown to close discussion and seconded by Tom Gray. Motion to restrict reconsideration of Article 10. Motion to by Tom Gray and second by Virginia Long.

#### **Article 11 – Milton Free Public Library Capital Reserve Fund**

Town Moderator read the Article.

Motion to open discussion by Fred Cameron and second by Tom Gray. **Les Elder** – There are two Capital Reserve funds? – Vote to eliminate one. Can we put into the fund we voted to eliminate?

**Betsy Baker** – 2005 did capital reserve fund that we use; 2014 also came up with a capital reserve fund for building restoration and that was the one eliminated. We are putting the money in the correct one. Motion to close discussion by Tom Gray and second by Paul Steer. Motion passes.

#### **Article 12 – Town of Milton Technology Fund**

Town Moderator read the Article.

Motion to open the discussion by Tom Gray and seconded by Paul Steer. **David Carpus** – update GIS software included in Reserve Fund? **Bruce Woodruff** - GIS capital fund is next is separate because purchasing GIS Software. We will be smoothing out the cost of the system over the years. Visioning a 5-year program. Amend to add words upgrades to capital reserves. It is not the same animal. **Lynette McDougall** - yes it is and I believe we these funds should be combined together. **Virginia Long** – rational for using funds these articles from Fund Balance rather raising taxes. Motion to close discussion by Robert Graham and second by Patrick Smith. Motion to restrict further discussion of Articles 11 and 12 by Larry Brown and second by Robert Graham.

#### **Article 13 – Geographic Information System (GIS)**

Town Moderator read the Article.

Motion to open the discussion by Tom Gray and seconded by Fred Cameron. Lynette McDougall – the cemetery could use it and it is a great piece of software. Motion to close Article 13 by Tom Gray and second by Fred Cameron.

#### **Article 14 – Establish Bridge Capital Reserve Fund**

Town Moderator read the Article.

Motion to open the discussion by Tom Gray and seconded by Fred Cameron. Motion was by Michelle Beauchamp to add the word “Bridge” before Capital Reserve Fund and second by Nick Marique. Motion to accept the change in wording by Robert Graham and second by Larry Brown. Passed to add the word bridge. **Judy Lover** - Article 5 and this seems to be redundant why do we second fund. **Pat Smith** – Article 5 is for MA and NH bridges and this one is for overlay pavement and culverts and used for road reconstruction from the state redistribution. Wording was added to be able to use this for

funding for culverts. **Bruce Woodruff** – Separate reserve (Block State Grant) the state money must be matched by town. Motion to close Article 13 by Tom Gray and second by Fred Cameron. Motion to restrict further discussion of Articles 11 and 12 by Larry Brown and second by Fred Cameron.

#### **Article 15 – Eradicate European Naiad**

Town Moderator read the Article.

Motion to open the discussion by Andy Rawson and seconded by Larry Brown. Motion to close Article 15 by Larry Brown and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Fred Cameron.

#### **Article 16 – Extend Fire Chief Term**

Town Moderator read the Article

Motion to open the discussion by Tom Gray and second by Paul Steer. Motion to close Article 16 by Tom Gray and second by Paul Steer. Motion to restrict further discussion of Articles 15 and 16 by Karen Brown and second by David Carpus.

#### **Article 17 – Conservation**

Town Moderator read the Article.

Motion to open the discussion by Tom Gray and second by Maureen Steer. **Jen Dupree** – access to schools – cost involved in the maintenance? **Karen Golab** – open up the school board as nature school. Do not anticipate any tax implication. Looking to include volunteers etc. to upkeep. **Richard Lover** – left open all forms of use access i.e. hunting etc. **Karen Golab** – that is a topic is still being discussed. Multiple opinions on both sides – understand concerns. **Virginia Long** – conservation easements it will be up to the town to allow hunting etc. Motion to close Article 17 by Larry Brown and second by Fred Cameron.

#### **Article – 18 –Milton Disincorporation (Submitted by Petition)**

Town Moderator read the Article.

Motion to open the discussion by Tom Gray and second by Betsy Baker. If voters approve would it be valid and not affect. The town doesn't have authority to dis-incorporate itself. Only the state legislature can do this. Amendment – add end of the “town has been advised by the town attorney that this article is not valid.” Motion to close by Tom Gray and second by Fred Cameron. Motion to restrict further discussion of Articles 17 and 18 by Tom Gray and second by Maureen Steer.

#### **Article – 19 – Keno Games (Submitted by Petition)**

Town Moderator read the Article.

Motion to open the discussion by Tom Gray and second by Maureen Steer. **Judy Lover** – what is the benefit to the town? Monetary? **Andy Rawson** - supports the kindergarten and increase revenues. **David Carpus** – what's the negative – state wide basis full time kindergarten is supported by the gambling. **Tom Gray** – last meeting state lottery gave presentation. Motion to close by Bruce Woodruff and second by Maureen Steer. Motion to restrict further discussion of Articles 19 by Tom Gray and second by Maureen Steer.

Motion to adjourn at 12:50 by Andy Rawson and second by Larry Brown

Budget committee remained in session  
Respectfully Submitted by

Shari Gaesser Recording Secretary

Minutes Approved:



Proposed



