



**Town of Milton
First Session
Deliberative Minutes
February 8th 2020**

Chris Jacobs, Town Moderator, declared the meeting in session at 9:05AM and led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance. He asked for a moment of silence for Jerry Pelletier, Clifford Trafton, Joanne Goodrich, Nancy West, Victor Joos and those that have passed.

A total of 45 registered voters were in attendance.

The Moderator introduced the following: Board of Selectmen (BOS): Ryan Thibeault, Erin Hutchings, Andy Rawson; Town Council Keriann Roman; Town Administrator: Ernest Creveling; Town Clerk Michelle Beauchamp; Budget Committee (BC) Members: Thomas McDougall, Larry Brown, Dennis Woods, Humphrey Williams, and School Board Representative Peg Hurd; Supervisor of the Checklist: Karen Brown.

The Moderator noted that there would be a Candidate's Forum for all candidates running for School District and Town Offices on Sunday February 23rd, 2020 at 3PM at the Town Hall in the Selectmen's Chamber.

The Moderator explained the rules of SB-2.

The Moderator mentioned that there are some persons in the room that are not eligible to vote but may wish to speak to one or more of the articles. Those persons are: Town Council, Town Administrator, and Police Chief Richard Krauss.

M.Beauchamp made the motion to allow those nonresidents to speak. L.Brown seconded. Majority in favor, motion passed.

The Moderator noted that the second session, Annual Town Meeting, would be held on Tuesday, March 10th 2020, at the Restoration Church Community Room located at 370 White Mountain Highway and the polls for voting by official ballot will be open from 8am to 7pm.

The Moderator read Article 1:

To choose all necessary Town Officers for the ensuing year for which there are vacancies, for such terms as may be permitted by law.

Board of Selectmen (1 for 3 years); Budget Committee (1 for 1 year); Budget Committee (2 for 3 years); Cemetery Trustee (1 for 3 years); Library Trustee (1 for 3 years); Moderator (1 for 2 years); Planning Board (1 for 2 years); Planning Board (2 for 3 years); Supervisor of the Checklist (1 for 6 years); Treasurer (1 for 1 year); Trustee of the Trust Funds (1 for 3 years); Zoning Board of Adjustment (1 for 3 years).

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

The BOS and BC called their meetings to order.

The Moderator read Article 2: Operating Budget

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate as an operating budget, Four Million Five Hundred Sixty-two Thousand Forty-seven Dollars (\$4,562,047), 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 purposes set forth therein. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be Four Million Five Hundred Twenty-seven Thousand Three Hundred Sixty-eight Dollars (\$4,527,368) 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 (1) special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. (Majority Vote Required).

Estimated Tax Impact Town Proposed Operating Budget: \$7.68 (Seven Dollars and Sixty-eight Cents)

Estimated Tax Impact Town Proposed Default Budget: \$7.61 (Seven Dollars and Sixty-one Cents)

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

Recommended by the Budget Committee (7,0,0).

Tom Gray made the motion to open the warrant article for discussion. John Katwick seconded the motion. Majority in favor, motion passed. *The Moderator opened the warrant article for discussion.*

A.Rawson noted that the proposed operating budget is a reduction of .03% under last years adopted budget. The 2019 operating budget was \$4,563,423 and the 2020 is \$1,376 less. The Town Administrator noted that the default budget includes certain adjustments, debt service adjustments, and contractual agreement adjustments.

R.Thibeault made the motion to amend the article to add *per thousand at the end of the estimated impacts*. Patrick Smith seconded the amendment. Majority in favor, motion passed.

M.Beauchamp made the motion to close further discussion. L.Brown seconded the motion. Majority in favor, the motion passed.

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

R.Thibeault made the motion to restrict reconsideration. Nick Marique seconded the motion. One opposed, majority in favor, the motion passed.

The Moderator read Article 3: School Resource Officer

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eighty-nine Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty Dollars (\$89,760) to be added to the Milton Police Department General Operating Budget to Fund a School Resource Officer. This sum will be for half a year for 2020 and will then become a full year position in 2021 and will become a new line in the Police Department General Operating Budget. This sum will be for Salary, FICA, Retirement, Medicare, Workers Comp, and Insurance cost. (Majority Vote Required).

Estimated tax impact is \$0.18 (Eighteen Cents)

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

Recommended by the Budget Committee (6,1,0).

T.Gray made the motion to open the warrant article for discussion. H.Williams seconded the motion. Majority in favor, motion passed. *The Moderator opened the warrant article for discussion.*

R.Thibeault made the motion to amend the article to read Fifty-nine Thousand Five Hundred Twenty-eight Dollars (\$59,528); and to change the estimated tax impact to \$0.12 (Twelve Cents) per thousand. H. Williams seconded the amendment. E.Hutchings noted that the amount changed due to a miscalculation. R.Krauss noted that the formula doubled up the salary.

C.Jacobs questioned the need for a School Resource Officer (SRO). E.Hutchings noted that an SRO is believed to be required to make relationships between the student body and police officers, she added that this will promote perceptions of safety.

R.Krauss noted that schools are required to report incidents to the police department. An SRO will allow us to expand DARE (Drug Awareness Program) which is currently only being offered to fifth grade. We do not have the staffing to teach the other grades. He added that it is a ten-week program and ties up our officer. Having an SRO can free up the duty officer from the morning shift of Monday to Friday and afternoon patrolling and walk throughs. When we are short staffed as we are right now it makes that one officer not available for duty for the Town. The SRO will handle the calls coming from the school. He added that if we wait until there is a major problem, then we are doing a disservice to our children. It can take three to five minutes after a call is made from the Police Department to the school. An SRO can assist on scene with an incident. The SRO would also be assisting in teaching classes. He noted that the supervisor of the SRO would be the Police Chief. There would be a Memorandum of Understanding between the School and the Police Department. The SRO would be working the same hours as the school from 7:30am to 3:30pm Monday to Friday. During school vacations the officer would be available to the Police Department.

Glenn Bailey questioned why one of the BC members voted against the article. Tammy Smith noted that she no longer is on the BC and she was the one who voted not in favor of this warrant article. She felt that if the Chief needed another officer, he should add it to his staff and not classify that person as an SRO.

L.Brown noted that the supervisory, operational and fiscal management of the position had been discussed for better clarity and administrative control. P.Hurd noted that this position would build a rapport with the students and she felt it was important to have this position in the building.

Kathryn Ayers noted as a taxpayer the timing of this is unfortunate because of the increase in taxes. She questioned how many years the Town has been without an SRO. She added that she went to a high school with a larger school population where they didn't have an officer in the school but did have parents who taught us to be respectful of leaders in the community and to be law-biding. She questioned why a small school system would need additional personnel from the Police Department with no increase in population.

The moderator called for a vote on the amendment. Majority were in favor, motion passed.

Sherri Gaesser noted that she works in the school system and sees the Police Department in the school every day. She noted that it makes her feel safe knowing that the students are safe. She added that when we were in school, the issues were different. We have students that are homeless, some that need more supervision, and more tender loving care. Seeing the officers here makes for a safer environment.

G.Bailey noted that part of the justification was to sustain the DARE program in which studies have been found to be not effective. He believes that there are more incidents in cities.

The moderator called for a vote on the amended article. Five were opposed, majority in favor, motion passed.

T.Gray made the motion to close further discussion. H.Williams seconded the motion. Majority in favor, the motion passed.

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

T.Gray made the motion to restrict reconsideration. R.Thibeault seconded the motion. Majority in favor, the motion passed.

The Moderator read Article 4: Contingency Fund

To see if the Town will vote to establish a contingency fund for the current year for unanticipated expenses that may arise and further to raise and appropriate Forty-one Thousand One Hundred Sixty-six Dollars (\$41,166) to go into the fund, in accordance with RSA 31:98-a. A detailed report of all expenditures from the contingency fund shall be made annually by the Board of Selectmen and published with their report. Any appropriation left in the fund at the end of the year will lapse to the general fund. This appropriation will be funded by transfer from the unassigned fund balance and no additional amount will be raised by taxation. (Majority Vote Required).

Estimated tax impact is \$0.00

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3,0,0)
Recommended the Budget Committee (7,0,0).

T.Gray made the motion to open the warrant article for discussion. H.Williams seconded the motion. Majority in favor, motion passed. *The Moderator opened the warrant article for discussion.*

R.Thibeault made the motion to amend the article by adding this wording after raised by taxation "If this warrant article is approved, then the operating budget will be reduced by \$18,000." E.Hutchings seconded the amendment. The Town Administrator noted that within the budget under debt services there is an \$18,000 appropriation of unanticipated expenses. If this article passes, it could be deducted from the operating fund. He added that it represents four cents per thousand.

Richard Lover questioned if this deduction of \$18,000 would change Article 2 and the tax impact. C.Jacobs noted that it drives down operating budget, but we cannot go back to that Article and there is no reason to. C.Jacobs noted that it would be zero tax impact because it would be monies coming out of monies previously raised. The unassigned fund, savings account and no monies would need to be raised or appropriated. K.Ayers questioned if the Town has ever had a shortfall in the fund and how was it handled. The Town Council noted that the fund allows towns to hold aside money for something unanticipated and not specifically in the budget. She added that it goes back into the unassigned fund if not used and can be used to offset things in future. The Town Administrator noted that the amount comes from ten percent of the operating budget less financing principal and interest charges. K.Ayers questioned what the policy was for dealing with leftover funds at the end of the year. The Town Administrator noted that the Town adopted a policy in 2012, but it was not detailed, only that it would be between five percent and fifteen percent. He added that the BOS at their last meeting discussed narrowing that amount to eight to fourteen percent. The auditors recommend ten percent. He stated that the BOS can use the fund to buy down the tax rate, this year they used \$360,000. Town Council clarified that it is like a savings account. The Department of Revenue Administration strongly recommends keeping a certain percentage. She added that excess can be used to reduce the tax rate, but it would not be drawn down to zero. L.Brown noted that the BOS are in the process of tightening down the use of the fund balance.

Majority were in favor of the amendment, motion passed.

G.Bailey questioned if this was the fund the BOS used when they did not encumber money for the European Niad? The answer was no. G.Bailey questioned if the Town had to follow the DRA recommendation. C.Jacobs noted that it depends on how averse the Town is at risk. It was noted that this would be a question for candidates' night.

K.Brown made the motion to close further discussion. T.Gray seconded the motion. Majority in favor, the motion passed.

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

T.Gray made the motion to restrict reconsideration. K.Brown seconded the motion. Majority in favor, the motion passed.

The Moderator read Article 5: Optional Tax Credit for Service-Connected Disability

Shall the Town vote to adopt RSA 72:35, I-a for an optional tax credit of Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500) on residential property for a service-connected total One Hundred Percent (100%) disability on residential property occupied as the principal place of abode by the disabled person or the surviving spouse? The optional tax credit for service-connected total disability shall replace the standard tax credit in its entirety and shall not be in addition thereto. (Majority Vote Required).

Estimated tax impact is \$0.10 (Ten Cents)

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

Recommended by the Budget Committee (7,0,0).

K.Brown made the motion to open the warrant article for discussion. D.Woods seconded the motion. Majority in favor, motion passed. *The Moderator opened the warrant article for discussion.*

E.Hutchings noted the current tax credit is \$1,400, this would raise it to \$2,000 for 100% disabled veteran and \$500 veteran credit, bringing the total to \$2,500 for 100% disabled veterans.

Virginia Long questioned if it only applied to veterans. E.Hutchings stated yes, veterans only-service connected with military service. C.Jacobs noted that if the state expanded the RSA to include other service-related disability they would be included. P.Hurd noted that currently the RSA is specific to veterans.

R.Thibeault noted that the actual estimated tax impact is four cents per thousand because they are already receiving a portion.

G.Bailey questioned if spouses would also receive the credit. Town Council noted yes that the Town would need to adopt the RSA as written.

T.Gray made the motion to close further discussion. N.Marique seconded the motion. Majority in favor, the motion passed.

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

Discussion continued and the Moderator noted that a vote was taken to close further discussion, and no one had voted in the negative.

K.Ayers made the motion to reopen for further discussion. D.Woods seconded. Four were opposed, majority in favor, motion passed to reopen Article 5.

D.Woods felt that the article should mention the \$1,400 difference and tax impact.

R.Thibeault noted that the four cents is not the true net impact on the tax rate. It is the difference between what is current and what the change would be. Town Council noted that the article has to be written a certain way but recommended explaining the difference in the voter guide.

D.Woods was concerned about the voters that do not read the voter's guide. Lisa Gautreau suggested adding clarification to article. C.Jacobs noted that if the wording is changed, DRA can determine that article is null and void. G.Bailey noted that we don't know the actual number of current veterans and future veterans in Town. Town Council noted that DRA could disallow the article.

H.Williams motioned to add the wording in parenthesis "The current tax credit amount is One Thousand Four Hundred Dollars (\$1,400) for a qualified total one hundred percent (100%) service-connected disability. Approval of Article 5 will replace that amount entirely with the new tax credit in the amount of Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500)", before (Majority vote required). T.Gray seconded. Majority in favor, motion passed. Town Council believes this amendment would be fine.

N.Marique made the motion to add "per thousand" T.Gray seconded. Majority in favor, motion passed.

M.Beauchamp made the motion to close and restrict reconsideration. N.Marique seconded the motion. Majority in favor, the motion passed.

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

The Moderator read Article : 6: Strafford Regional Planning Commission Membership Dues

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty-four Dollars (\$5,764) and to authorize the Town of Milton Selectmen/Administrator/Planner to pay said sum to the Strafford Regional Planning Commission as dues for its fiscal year July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 and thereafter to place the annual dues, as may be adjusted from time to time into to Town operating budget. (Majority Vote Required).

Estimated tax impact is \$0.01 (One Cent)

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

Recommended by the Budget Committee (6,1,0).

R.Thibeault made the motion to open the warrant article for discussion. S.Panish seconded the motion. Majority in favor, motion passed. *The Moderator opened the warrant article for discussion.*

R.Thibeault made the motion to change the wording from "into to Town operating budget" to "into the Town operating budget"; and add the per thousand. N.Marique seconded. Majority in favor, motion passed.

R.Thibeault noted that Milton has not been a dues paying member for years. Strafford Regional Planning Commission provides technical assistance in a number of different programs. He added for developing the ten-year plan for NHDOT projects, assistance in the Brownfields Program, MS4 permit compliance, assistance with grant writing and economic development. Steve Panish noted that membership gives the Town a discount on their services. He added that the Conservation Commission (CC) uses them for quite a few things. He noted that this could reduce the CC budget.

S.Panish made the motion to close further discussion and restrict reconsideration. T.McDougall seconded the motion. Majority in favor, the motion passed.

The Moderator instructed the Clerk to place Warrant Article 6 on the second session ballot as amended.

The Moderator read Article 7: Highway and Road Reconstruction Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$350,000) for the purpose of Highway and Road Reconstruction, maintenance, repairs, repaving, and reconstruction of class IV and V highways. Said amount will be partially offset by revenues from the N.H. Highway Block Grant estimated to be One Hundred Thirty-four Thousand Dollars (\$134,000). This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the road work is completed for the 2020/2021 period as determined by Public Works Director or his/her designee, or by December 31, 2021 whichever occurs first. (Majority Vote Required).

Estimated tax impact is \$0.71 (Seventy-one Cents)
Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3,0,0)
Recommended by the Budget Committee (7,0,0).

N.Marique made the motion to open the warrant article for discussion. T.Gray seconded the motion. Majority in favor, motion passed. *The Moderator opened the warrant article for discussion.*

R.Thibeault motioned to add “per thousand” to the estimated tax impact. T.Gray seconded. Majority in favor, motion passed.

E.Hutchings noted that road construction is important in Town. P.Smith, (Road Agent) noted that the money appropriated for road construction is for the shim and overlay; reconstruction or box cuts; some money can go into bridges if they need to be repaired. He added that the Town has 54 miles of road and we do as much as we can each year. Previously we have been receiving \$290,000 for road construction. It costs between \$103,000-\$105,000 to put 2-inches of hot top on a 1-mile road. This year we would be looking at working on Teneriffe Road, Ford Farm Road, Silver Street, Governors Road and Nutes Road. Current fund balance in the road construction line is \$223,000. It was held to do the Silver Street/Dawson Street drainage, but the project is a million to a million and half dollars. The money was left so we could look for a grant.

K.Ayers questioned why this was a warrant article versus being in the operating budget. C.Jacobs noted that 20 years ago a study was done by a committee to come up with a list of recommendations for road improvement and it was placed in a separate fund because it was a significant amount of money. A default budget could have boxed the road agent out of doing a road improvement that needed to be done in that particular year.

Chip Gehres noted that the reason the Town started using the warrant article was because there was a mistrust of the BOS, by not using the funds for road and using it as slush fund. H.Williams noted that based on \$350,000 the impact would be more like .43 cents per thousand with the grant.

T.Gray made the motion to close further discussion and restrict reconsideration. S.Panish seconded the motion. Majority in favor, the motion passed.

The Moderator instructed the Clerk to place Warrant Article 7 on the second session ballot as amended.

The Moderator read Article 8: Fire Department Equipment and Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000) to be added to the Milton Fire Department Equipment and Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund previously established for the purpose of funding future capital expenditures as described in the recommended 2020-2025 Capital Improvements Program, with adjustments made for capital items alternatively funded. (Majority Vote Required).

Estimated tax impact is \$0.08 (Eight Cents)

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

Recommended by the Budget Committee (3,1,3).

T.Gray made the motion to open the warrant article for discussion. D.Marique seconded the motion. Majority in favor, motion passed. *The Moderator opened the warrant article for discussion.*

R.Thibeault made the motion to amend the article by adding "This appropriation will be funded by transfer from the unassigned fund balance and no additional amount will be raised by taxation. Estimated tax impact is \$0.00." D.Woods seconded.

G.Bailey questioned the vote from the BC. H.Williams noted that he did not believe we should be raising additional tax money, that it should come out of fund balance. N.Marique noted that the current balance of the fund is under \$100,000. R.Thibeault noted that there is enough money in fund balance to fund this warrant article.

Majority were in favor of the amendment, motion passed.

R.Thibeault noted that a lot of this information is in the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and discussed at the Planning Board meetings, who then makes recommendations to the BOS. The

BOS then takes the recommendations and develops the warrant article. The Department Heads present their goals to PB for CIP. K.Ayers asked if sold equipment money goes into the CIP. R.Thibeault noted that it goes into the General Fund. L.Brown noted that each CIP fund has a balance and goal. N.Marique noted that the CIP dictates what can be purchased from each fund. This fund is putting away \$40,000 to get us close to where we need to be.

T.Gray made the motion to close further discussion and restrict reconsideration. K.Brown seconded the motion. Majority in favor, the motion passed.

The Moderator instructed the Clerk to place Warrant Article 8 on the second session ballot as amended.

The Moderator read Article 9: Highway Department Special Equipment Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$20,500) to be added to the Highway Department Special Equipment Capital Reserve Fund previously established for the purpose of funding future capital expenditures as described in the recommended 2020-2025 Capital Improvements Program, with adjustments made as a result of capital items funded by other means. This appropriation will be funded by transfer from the unassigned fund balance and no additional amount will be raised by taxation. (Majority Vote Required).

Estimated tax impact is \$0.00

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

Recommended by the Budget Committee (7,0,0).

R.Thibeault made the motion to open the warrant article for discussion. Amber Woods seconded the motion. Majority in favor, motion passed. *The Moderator opened the warrant article for discussion.*

R.Thibeault noted that this will increase the balance of the capital reserve fund, which is utilized to purchase special equipment like sanders, skid steer, loader, grader, snow blower attachments, etc.

T.Gray made the motion to close further discussion and restrict reconsideration. Sandra Woods seconded the motion. Majority in favor, the motion passed.

The Moderator instructed the Clerk to place Warrant Article 9 on the second session ballot as read.

The Moderator read Article 10: Highway Department Capital Reserve Vehicle Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-three Thousand Dollars (\$23,000) to be added to the Highway Department Capital Reserve Vehicle Fund previously established for the purpose of funding future capital expenditures as described in the recommended 2020-2025 Capital Improvements Program. This appropriation will be funded by transfer from the unassigned fund balance and no additional amount will be raised by taxation. (Majority Vote Required).

Estimated tax impact is \$0.00
Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3,0,0)
Recommended by the Budget Committee (7,0,0).

T.Gray made the motion to open the warrant article for discussion. H.Williams seconded the motion. Majority in favor, motion passed. *The Moderator opened the warrant article for discussion.*

E.Hutchings noted that this will build the balance of fund to potentially enable the purchase a ¾ ton truck to replace a 2011 truck. This pickup would be used for plowing parking lots and short streets, hauling landscaping equipment and building materials as well as other general duties. The current fund balance is \$28,000. J.Katwick noted that the MS 9 form has all the balances.

T.Gray made the motion to close further discussion and restrict reconsideration. Doreen Gray seconded the motion. Majority in favor, the motion passed.

The Moderator instructed the Clerk to place Warrant Article 10 on the second session ballot as read.

The Moderator read Article 11: Municipal Buildings Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000) to be added to the Municipal Buildings Capital Reserve Fund previously established for the purpose of funding future capital expenditures as described in the recommended 2020-2025 Capital Improvements Program, with adjustments made as a result of capital items funded by other means. This appropriation will be funded by transfer from the unassigned fund balance and no additional amount will be raised by taxation. (Majority Vote Required).

Estimated tax impact is \$0.00
Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3,0,0)
Recommended by the Budget Committee (7,0,0).

T.Gray made the motion to open the warrant article for discussion. N.Marique seconded the motion. Majority in favor, motion passed. *The Moderator opened the warrant article for discussion.*

A.Rawson noted that this would be primarily for high cost repair/maintenance items. This fund can help to mitigate the cost of unexpected and expensive occurrences. J.Katwick noted that fund balance is \$38,000. P.Smith noted that we had to replace a \$20,000 furnace this year and another \$15,000 heating system in another building. He added that at some point the roof on Town Hall will need to be done. He noted that we are trying to plan ahead for unexpected failures during the year.

Jonathan Nute questioned if the monies from the old fire station which was sold could be used for some of these items. C.Jacobs noted that the money from the sale could not go in the capital fund, it would go into the general fund.

S.Panish made the motion to close further discussion and restrict reconsideration. T.Gray seconded the motion. Majority in favor, the motion passed.

The Moderator instructed the Clerk to place Warrant Article 11 on the second session ballot as read.

The Moderator read Article 12: Milton Free Public Library Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000) to be placed in the Milton Free Public Library Capital Reserve Fund, previously established for the purpose of funding future capital expenditures as described in the recommended 2020-2025 Capital Improvements Program. This appropriation will be funded by transfer from the unassigned fund balance and no additional amount will be raised by taxation. (Majority Vote Required).

Estimated tax impact is \$0.00

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

Recommended by the Budget Committee (7,0,0).

R.Thibeault made the motion to open the warrant article for discussion. D.Marique seconded the motion. Majority in favor, motion passed. *The Moderator opened the warrant article for discussion.*

R.Thibeault noted that this would continue renovation and restoration work. It will be used as matching funds for grants and will allow the library to finish one of the last phases of rehabilitation of this historic building. The current balance is \$1,500.

T.Gray made the motion to close further discussion and restrict reconsideration. S.Panish seconded the motion. Majority in favor, the motion passed.

The Moderator instructed the Clerk to place Warrant Article 12 on the second session ballot as read.

The Moderator read Article 13: Technology Upgrade Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500) to be placed in the Technology Upgrade Capital Reserve Fund, previously established for the purpose of funding future capital expenditures as described in the recommended 2020-2025 Capital Improvements Program. (Majority Vote Required).

Estimated tax impact is \$0.005 (One Half Cent)

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

Recommended by the Budget Committee (4,3,0).

T.Gray made the motion to open the warrant article for discussion. P.Smith seconded the motion. Majority in favor, motion passed. *The Moderator opened the warrant article for discussion.*

R.Thibeault made the motion to add “This appropriation will be funded by transfer from unassigned fund balance and no additional amount shall be raised by taxation” and change the estimated tax impact to \$0”. P.Smith seconded.

H.Williams clarified the vote of the BC, noting that they wanted to see the funds come from the fund balance not additional taxation.

The Town Administrator noted that technology upgrade would include computers systems, servers, operating systems that are outdated and need to be upgraded, phone system, sound systems, or filming systems. The upgrade would be \$10,000. C.Jacobs noted that the current balance is \$21,000.

Majority in favor, motion passed.

T.Gray made the motion to close further discussion and restrict reconsideration. N.Marique seconded the motion. Majority in favor, the motion passed.

The Moderator instructed the Clerk to place Warrant Article 13 on the second session ballot as amended.

The Moderator read Article 14: Geographic Information System

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500) for the purpose of continued upgrades of the public web-based Geographic Information System (GIS) for the Town as described in the recommended 2020-2025 Capital Improvements Program. (Majority Vote Required).

Estimated tax impact is \$0.005 (One Half Cent)

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

Recommended by the Budget Committee (6,1,0).

R.Thibeault made the motion to open the warrant article for discussion. T.McDougall seconded the motion. Majority in favor, motion passed. *The Moderator opened the warrant article for discussion.*

R.Thibeault made the motion to add “This appropriation will be funded by transfer from unassigned fund balance and no additional amount shall be raised by taxation” and change the estimated tax impact to \$0”. D.Marique seconded. Majority in favor, motion passed. It was noted that the current balance was \$2,712.

L.Brown made the motion to close further discussion and restrict reconsideration. T.McDougall seconded the motion. Majority in favor, the motion passed.

The Moderator instructed the Clerk to place Warrant Article 14 on the second session ballot as amended.

The Moderator read Article 15: Bridge Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) to be placed in the Bridge Capital Reserve Fund, previously established for the purpose of funding future capital expenditures as described in the recommended 2020-2025 Capital Improvements Program, with adjustment made by the Board of Selectmen. This appropriation will be funded by transfer from the unassigned fund balance and no additional amount will be raised by taxation. (Majority Vote Required).

Estimated tax impact is \$0.00

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

Recommended by the Budget Committee (7,0,0).

R.Thibeault made the motion to open the warrant article for discussion. D.Marique seconded the motion. Majority in favor, motion passed. *The Moderator opened the warrant article for discussion.*

R.Thibeault noted that fund would be set aside for repairs to Milton bridge that are solely within the Town of Milton. NH DOT estimates that the Winding Road bridge project will cost upwards of \$1,080,000 and the Town will need to provide a local match of approximately \$216,000. The fund currently has \$50,000.

L.Brown made the motion to close further discussion and restrict reconsideration. N.Marique seconded the motion. Majority in favor, the motion passed.

The Moderator instructed the Clerk to place Warrant Article 15 on the second session ballot as read.

The Moderator read Article 16: Eradicate Invasive Species

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) for the purposes of eradicating invasive plant species from Bodies of Water in the Town. This is a special warrant article as described in the recommended 2019-2024 Capital Improvements Program and will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the invasive plant species eradication from bodies of water in Town is completed or by December 31, 2022, whichever is sooner. (Majority Vote Required).

Estimated tax impact is \$0.02 (Two Cents)

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

Recommended by the Budget Committee (7,0,0).

S.Panish made the motion to open the warrant article for discussion. N.Marique seconded the motion. Majority in favor, motion passed. *The Moderator opened the warrant article for discussion.*

R.Thibeault made the motion to amend the years 2019-2024 to read 2020-2025 and "This appropriation will be funded by transfer from unassigned fund balance and no additional amount shall be raised by taxation" and change the estimated tax impact to \$0". E.Hutchings seconded.

H. Williams noted that as a member of the Three Ponds Protection Association (TPPA) he noted that the State of Maine and NH are all contributing to this. K. Ayers asked if any community has actually eradicated the niade and if this is an annual chemical treatment it should go into the operating budget. H. Williams noted that the areas that have been currently treatment have been eradicated. The treatment in working and we are looking in new areas to treat area.

Wayne Sylvester stated that we have no idea where this plant came from. DEP and Department of Environmental Services (DES) did not have it on their radar. There are other places that have it. We will spend approximately \$42,000 to fight Niade. Herbicide treatments will be done, and divers will be harvesting. Grants have been written to DES & DEP. We have been awarded a DES grants for \$16,250. He believes those funds will gradually decrease. This will be a long-term battle. He added that all it takes is one dirty boat.

Majority were in favor to amend the article, motion passed.

L. Brown made the motion to close further discussion and restrict reconsideration. T. Gray seconded the motion. Majority in favor, the motion passed.

The Moderator instructed the Clerk to place Warrant Article 16 on the second session ballot as amended.

The Moderator read Article 17: Establishment of Independent Capital Improvement Program Committee

Shall the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to establish an independent committee pursuant to RSA 674:5 to prepare and amend the recommended program of municipal Capital Improvement Projects and to make budgetary recommendations to the Board of Selectmen. The Committee, to be known as the Capital Improvement Program Committee, will have five (5) voting members to be appointed by the Board of Selectmen, and shall include at least One (1) member of the Planning Board.

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

T. Gray made the motion to open the warrant article for discussion. L. Brown seconded the motion. Majority in favor, motion passed. *The Moderator opened the warrant article for discussion.*

A. Rawson noted that this will remove the CIP process from the PB and create a new committee whose members will have diverse expertise with finance, planning and capital budgets. This creation will allow the PB more time to commit toward other planning issue needs. R. Thibeault noted that this warrant article is in collaboration with the BOS & PB.

L. Brown made the motion to close further discussion and restrict reconsideration. T. Gray seconded the motion. Majority in favor, the motion passed.

The Moderator instructed the Clerk to place Warrant Article 17 on the second session ballot as read.

The Moderator read Article 18: Elected to Appointed Fire Chief

To see if the Town will vote in accordance with RSA 154:1, IV to change the organization of the fire department from RSA 154:1(c) where the Fire Chief is elected by the legislative body to RSA 154:1(a) where the Fire Chief is appointed by the Board of Selectmen and with the firefighters being appointed by the Fire Chief. When approved, the change from an elected to an appointed Fire Chief would take place no sooner than one (1) year following this vote. (Majority Vote Required).

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

R.Thibeault made the motion to open the warrant article for discussion. D.Marique seconded the motion. Majority in favor, motion passed. *The Moderator opened the warrant article for discussion.*

R.Thibeault noted that the current position of Fire Chief from an elected to appointed by and under the direct authority and supervision of the BOS under NHRSA. Firefighters would be appointed by the Fire Chief. N.Marique noted that it is an antiquated system and a distraction of day to day operations of the Fire Department.

L.Brown made the motion to close further discussion and restrict reconsideration. D.Marique seconded the motion. Majority in favor, the motion passed.

The Moderator instructed the Clerk to place Warrant Article 18 on the second session ballot as read.

The Moderator read Article 19: Town Hall Land or Roof Solar Lease Agreement Ratification

To see if the Town will vote to ratify, pursuant to RSA 41:11-a, a 20-year Land or Roof Lease Agreement ("Lease") dated September 1, 2016, containing two (2) five (5)-year renewal provisions, between the Town and NHSolarGarden.com, LLC ("Tenant") for the purpose of leasing a portion of Town-owned property located at 803 White Mountain Highway located at Tax Map/Lot M32-L30 (the landfill) for annual rent paid at the rate set forth in said Lease, in order to allow for the continued operation of a solar panel array for the generation of electricity for the benefit of the Town pursuant to a Solar Group Net Metering Rebate Sales Agreement ("Agreement") between the Town and NHSolarGarden.com, LLC; the solar array is already in place and has been operating since 2017 but the Lease was inadvertently not sent to Town Meeting for ratification; the Agreement and Lease have since been acquired from NHSolarGarden by Agilitas Energy d/b/a Milton Town Solar LLC. A copy of the Agreement, the Lease, and an associated Payment In Lieu of Taxes agreement ("PILOT") are available for review at the Town Hall. (Majority Vote Required).

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

R.Thibeault made the motion to open the warrant article for discussion. T.Gray seconded the motion. Majority in favor, motion passed. *The Moderator opened the warrant article for discussion.*

Town Council noted that the solar panels have been in place for three or four years. Agilitas has come to extend their agreement. The prior agreement was reviewed, and it was discovered that it was not ratified, it should have happened back in 2017.

H. Williams made the motion to have the title of the article read: Land or Roof Solar Lease Agreement Ratification. R. Thibeault seconded. Majority in favor, motion passed.

L. Brown made the motion to close further discussion and restrict reconsideration. T. Gray seconded the motion. Majority in favor, the motion passed.

The Moderator instructed the Clerk to place Warrant Article 19 on the second session ballot as amended.

The Moderator read Article 20: Town Hall Land or Roof Solar Lease Agreement

AMENDMENT Ratification

To see if the Town will vote to ratify, pursuant to RSA 41:11-a, a "First Amendment to the Land or Roof Lease Agreement" ("Lease Amendment") dated January 23, 2020 between the Town and Milton Town Solar, LLC ("Tenant") which amends the 2016 twenty (20)-year Land or Roof Lease Agreement dated September 1, 2016 to add an additional five (5)-year extension at the option of the Tenant for a total of three (3) five (5)-year renewal provisions and which clarifies that the annual rent amount paid to the Town is Ten Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty-seven Dollars (\$10,757). A copy of the Lease Amendment is available for review at the Town Hall. (Majority Vote Required).

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

H. Williams made the motion to open the warrant article for discussion. P. Smith seconded the motion. Majority in favor, motion passed. *The Moderator opened the warrant article for discussion.*

R. Thibeault made the motion to amend the article by removing the word "Townhall" in the title and add after (\$10,757). "and further to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept a one-time \$20,000 payment to the Town from Milton Town Solar, LLC in exchange for the additional 5-year option extension". H. Williams seconded.

Town Council noted that the payment will go into the general fund and that the annual rent amount would be the same. The Town Administrator noted that the Town buys their energy from the solar array. Town Council added that the Town also benefits in the form of credits to the grid. It was noted the LLC would remove the arrays at their cost.

Town Council noted that if the first warrant article regarding this lease fails, the second warrant article becomes null and void. She added that there is no buy-out clause.

Majority in favor of the amendment, motion passed.

H. Williams made the motion to close further discussion and restrict reconsideration. D. Marique seconded the motion. Majority in favor, the motion passed.

The Moderator instructed the Clerk to place Warrant Article 20 on the second session ballot as amended.

The Moderator read Article 21: Adopt RSA 41:11-a Governing Body Authority to Rent/Lease Town Property for up to Five (5) years

To see if the Town will vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 41:11-a to authorize the Board of Selectmen to rent or lease municipal property for a term of up to five (5) years without further vote or ratification of the town legislative body. Once adopted, this authority shall remain in effect until specifically rescinded by the legislative body at any duly warned meeting provided that the term of any lease entered into prior to the rescission shall remain in effect. (Majority Vote Required).

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

R. Thibeault made the motion to open the warrant article for discussion. T. Gray seconded the motion. Majority in favor, motion passed. *The Moderator opened the warrant article for discussion.*

Town Council noted that currently the BOS is allowed one-year leases; this would allow up to five years.

H. Williams made the motion to close further discussion and restrict reconsideration. T. McDougall seconded the motion. Majority in favor, the motion passed.

The Moderator instructed the Clerk to place Warrant Article 21 on the second session ballot as read.

The Moderator read Article 22: Establishment of Heritage Commission

To see if the Town will vote to establish a Heritage Commission under the authority of RSA 673:1 II, for the proper recognition, use and protection of community historic resources as defined in RSA 674:44-a and authorize the Board of Selectmen to appoint Five (5) Milton residents as members, with one (1) of the five (5) being a member of the Board of Selectmen per RSA 673:4-a, II, and two (2) Milton residents as alternate members, who shall be sworn to the faithful performance of their office by the Town Clerk, to such Heritage Commission, pursuant to the provisions of RSA 673:4-a and with terms pursuant to the provisions of RSA 673:5. The Heritage Commission shall exercise such powers as are set forth at RSA 674:44-b I and II and RSA 674:44-c and RSA 674:44-d, and shall file an annual report of their activities with the Town. (Majority Vote Required).

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

D.Marique made the motion to open the warrant article for discussion. R.Thibeault seconded the motion. Majority in favor, motion passed. *The Moderator opened the warrant article for discussion.*

R.Thibeault noted that the primary duties are to advise and assist other local boards and commissions, including the PB. They are able to accept and expend funds for a non-lapsing heritage fund and to acquire, maintain and manage culturally and historically significant priority. The prime task for the commission would be to complete a historical resource inventory which would be used by decision-makers as a guide of useful information at the beginning stage of an issue. The Town could then make informed decisions with that data. He added that there would be no tax impact with this article. G.Bailey questioned the tax impact if the commission were able to accept and expend funds. R.Thibeault noted that it would need to be a separate warrant article. He added that most of the monies come from fundraising, additional money would need to go in front of voters.

J.Katwick noted that it would be similar to the Townhouse Restoration Committee. He added that the Lockhart Fund could be used for beautification projects and for the care of animals. He stated that the Town Pound would be a good example. He noted that an LChip grant could be applied for with matching funds via fundraising. He added that the Moose Plate Grant could be up to \$10,000, which can only be used on Town owned buildings. There could be bake sales, auctions, yard sales and donations. He added that the BOS could add it to the CIP. He closed with informing those present that the restoration of the Townhouse did not cost one tax penny.

L.Brown made the motion to close further discussion and restrict reconsideration. P.Smith seconded the motion. Majority in favor, the motion passed.

The Moderator instructed the Clerk to place Warrant Article 22 on the second session ballot as read.

The Moderator read Article : 23: Optional Tax Exemption: Solar, Wind Powered, Woodheating Systems (Submitted by Petition)

To see if the Town will vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 72:61 through RSA 72:72 inclusively, which provide for an optional property tax exemption from the property's assessed value, for property tax purposes, for persons owning real property, which is equipped with solar energy systems, wind-powered energy systems or wood heating energy systems intended for use at the immediate site. Such property tax exemption shall be in the amount equal to 100% of the assessed value of qualifying equipment under these statutes. (Majority Vote Required).

Estimated tax impact is \$0.74 (Seventy-four Cents)

Not Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3,0,0)

Not Recommended by the Budget Committee (0,4,3)

H.Williams made the motion to open the warrant article for discussion. S.Panish seconded the motion. Majority in favor, motion passed. *The Moderator opened the warrant article for discussion.*

R.Thibeault made the motion to amend the BOS recommendation: Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (2-1-0). The Moderator noted that the BOS and BC recommendations do not need to be amended on the floor. *The motion failed due to the lack of a second.*

Sandy Blanc noted that in 2016 she installed solar panels. The assessment increased in 2019 for the panels. As of June 2018, DRA listed 135 municipalities of 221 towns and 13 cities who provide this exemption which include: Rochester, Farmington, New Durham, Wolfeboro, Unity, Alton and Wakefield. She noted that she used the sample language from the Office of Energy and Planning. She added that the federal tax rebate was a 30 percent one-time incentive in 2016.

The Town Administrator noted that Assessors have 24 solar panel properties and 2 solar water heaters, which is how they calculated the estimated tax impact. J.Nute noted that the systems would depreciate over time. It was noted that a wood stove would not qualify. G.Bailey noted that the taxes they do not pay is then distributed to the rest of us.

S.Blanc read RSA 72:69 Definition of Woodheating Energy System. – In this subdivision "woodheating energy system" means a wood burning appliance designed to operate as a central heating system to heat the interior of a building. The appliance may burn wood solely or burn wood in combination with another fuel. A central heating system shall include a central appliance to distribute heat by a series of pipes, ducts or similar distribution system throughout a single building or group of buildings. A wood burning appliance shall not include a fireplace, meaning a hearth, fire chamber or similarly prepared place with a chimney intended to be usable in an open configuration whether or not it may also be closed and operated closed; or a wood stove meaning a wood burning appliance designed for space heating purposes which does not operate as a central heating system or as a sole source of heat.

H.Williams noted that he did not recommend this article because the homeowner will gain the value of the systems and not all the residents and did not feel it would be fair. S.Blanc added that it was environmental contribution and residents would benefit if more people got solar.

D.Marique made the motion to close further discussion and restrict reconsideration. K.Brown seconded the motion. Majority in favor, the motion passed.

The Moderator instructed the Clerk to place Warrant Article 23 on the second session ballot as read.

The Moderator read Article 24: Adoption of a Tax Cap (Submitted by Petition)

Shall we adopt the provisions of RSA 32:5-b, and implement a tax cap whereby the governing body (or budget committee) shall not submit a recommended budget that increases the amount to be raised by local taxes, based on the prior fiscal year's actual amount of local taxes raised, by more than the lesser of (a) 2%; or (b) the percentage by which the US Consumer Price Index- All Urban Consumers for the Northeast, published by the US Bureau of Labor Statistics (the "Index") as of the month of January of each year increased, if any, over the Index for the month of January of the immediately-preceding year. (3/5 Majority Vote Required).

Not Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (0,3,0)

Not Recommended by the Budget Committee (0,4,3)

D.Marique made the motion to open the warrant article for discussion. H.Williams seconded the motion. Majority in favor, motion passed. *The Moderator opened the warrant article for discussion.*

H.Williams noted that the BC cut the budget below last year's default budget. L.Gautreau noted that a tax cap would restrict people, the better option is for the taxpayers to get involved. L.Brown noted local tax rates: Dover \$25.19, Rochester \$24.90, Middleton \$23.72; Durham \$27.43, and Milton \$23.56; which means we are running the lowest tax rate. He added that the tax rate in Newcastle \$6.19 with a per capita income of \$92,000, Milton's per capita income \$29,000.

G.Bailey noted that the mill rates are a bit of a shell game, this warrant article addresses the budget. C.Jacobs noted that Somersworth had a 5 percent tax cap, but the actual practice did not work. V.Long noted that the school budget is much more than the Town budget. L.Gautreau recognized the good job the BC did.


H.Williams made the motion to close further discussion and restrict reconsideration. L.Brown seconded the motion. Majority in favor, the motion passed.

The Moderator instructed the Clerk to place Warrant Article 24 on the second session ballot as read.

M.Beauchamp made the motion to adjourn at 12:45PM. H.Williams seconded the motion. Majority in favor, motion passed.


The Moderator declared the First Session of the Town Meeting adjourned.

A true record, attest:



Michelle Beauchamp, Town Clerk Tax Collector

A true copy of record, attest:



Michelle Beauchamp, Town Clerk Tax Collector