

Town of Milton
Annual Town Meeting
2024 Warrant
State of New Hampshire

First Session (Deliberative Session)

Nute High School Cafeteria

Saturday February 3rd, 2024

School Session will begin at 9:00 am.

Town Session will begin at 11:30 am.

Second Session (Voting Session)

Nute High School Gymnasium

Tuesday March 12th, 2024

Polls open 8:00 am and close at 7:00 pm

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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 hereby notified that the first session (the deliberative session) of the Annual Town Meeting will be held on Saturday, February 3, 2024, beginning at 11:30 am at the Nute High School Cafeteria. The first session will consist of explanation, discussion, and debate of each of the following warrant articles and will also afford voters who are present the opportunity to propose, debate and adopt amendments to warrant articles, except articles whose wording is prescribed by State law.

Second Session

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 at the first session, will be held on Tuesday, March 12th, 2024, at Nute High School Gymnasium. Polls for voting by official ballot will open at 8:00 am and close at 7:00 pm.

Article 1: Election of Officers

- Board of Selectmen....1 for 3 years
- Budget Committee....2 for 3 years
- Library Trustee.....1 for 3 years
- Moderator.....1 for 2 years
- Planning Board.....2 for 3 years
- Public Works Director...1 for 3 years
- Supervisor of the Checklist...1 for 6 years
- Town Clerk.....1 for 3 years
- Treasurer.....1 for 1 year
- Trustee of the Trust Funds.... 1 for 3 years
- Zoning Board of Adjustment....2 for 3 year

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ARTICLE 2: Zoning-

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 1 as proposed by the Planning Board for the existing Town Zoning Ordinance as follows: revising Article VIII-Wetland Conservation Ordinance by clarifying the process for development applications, defining new terms wetland setbacks and buffers, clarifying the definition of wetland conservation district, clarifying the meaning of isolated wetland areas, adding concise procedural requirements for developers to determine presence of wetland conservation district, clarifying the requirements for plans, manuals, and professionals to be used, laying out specific permitted uses and conditional uses in the district, and clarifying the process to be used to obtain conditional use permits, correcting errors in certain terms, and adding clarifying language to the restoration of violations and the responsibilities of landowners? Copies of the proposed amendment are available for review at the Town Office and will be available the day of the election.

Recommended by the Planning Board (7,0,0)

ARTICLE 3: Zoning-

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 2 as proposed by the Planning Board for the existing Town Zoning Ordinance as follows: Adding a new section to Article VIII-Wetland Conservation Ordinance entitled "Priority Wetlands" that identifies four priority wetland areas from the fifteen significant Milton wetlands of the 2005 Blue Moon Significant Wetlands Study and increases the wetland buffer from 25-ft. to 50-ft. around the perimeter of the said four priority wetland areas, and authorizing a new zoning map entitled Priority Wetland Areas Map? Copies of the proposed amendment and Priority Wetland Areas Map are available for review at the Town Office and will be available the day of the election.

Recommended by the Planning Board (5,2,0)

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Article 4: Operating Budget

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 purposes set forth therein totaling Five Million, Five Hundred Forty-Nine Thousand, Seven Hundred and Sixty-One Dollars (\$5,549,761) Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be Five Million, Six Hundred Fifteen Thousand, Three Hundred Fifty-One Dollars (\$5,615,352) 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 NH 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: \$7.83 per thousand dollars of valuation.

Estimated Tax Impact Town Proposed Default Budget: \$7.96 per thousand dollars of valuation.

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

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

Article 5: Highway and Road Reconstruction Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Hundred Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$360,000) for the purpose of Highway and Road Reconstruction, maintenance, repairs, repaving, and reconstruction of Class IV and V Highways, as recommended in the 2024-2029 Capital Improvements Program. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per NH RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the road work is completed for the 2024/2025 period as determined by Public Works Director or his/her designee, or by December 31, 2025, whichever occurs first. (Majority Vote Required).

Estimated tax impact is \$0.72 per thousand dollars of valuation.

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

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

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Article 6: Bridge Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000) to be placed in the Bridge Capital Reserve Fund, previously established for the purpose of funding future capital expenditures as recommended in the 2024-2029 Capital Improvements Program. (Majority Vote Required).

Estimated tax impact is \$0.30 per thousand dollars of valuation.

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

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

Article 7: Lease/Purchase Two Highway 6 Wheel Dump Trucks

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a long-term lease/purchase agreement in the amount of Five Hundred and Forty Thousand dollars (\$540,000.00) payable over a term of ten (10) years for two (2) Highway Department 6 Wheel Dump Trucks with snowplow equipment and sanders, and to raise and appropriate the sum of Sixty-Eight Thousand Dollars (\$68,000.00) for the First year payment for that purpose. The remaining payments are to be raised by general taxation. This Lease Agreement contains an escape clause. (Majority Vote Required)

Estimated tax impact is \$0.136 per thousand dollars of valuation in year 2024.

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

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

Article 8: Purchase Police Department Taser 10 Less Lethal Weapons

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a long-term lease/purchase agreement in the amount of Forty Three Thousand Eight Hundred Thirty Four dollars (\$43,834.00) payable over a term of five (5) years for eight (8) Taser 10 less lethal weapons and all necessary accessories, and to raise and appropriate the sum of Eight Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty Six Dollars and Sixty Nine cents (\$8,767.00) for the First year payment for that purpose. This lease/purchase agreement contains an escape clause. (Majority Vote Required)

Estimated tax impact is \$0.017 per thousand dollars of valuation.

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

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

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Article 9: Purchase Police Department Axon Body 4 Body Cameras

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a long-term lease/purchase agreement in the amount of Forty-Six Thousand Nine Hundred Eight dollars (\$46,908.00) payable over a term of five (5) years for 8 Axon Body 4 Camera and all necessary accessories, software, download ports, and mounting items and to raise and appropriate the sum of Nine Thousand Three Hundred Eighty-One Dollars (\$9,381.00) for the First year payment for that purpose. This lease/purchase agreement contains an escape clause. (Majority Vote Required)

Estimated tax impact is \$0.02 per thousand dollars of valuation.

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

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

Article 10: Public Safety Radio Communications Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000) to be placed in the Public Safety Radio Communications Capital Reserve Fund, previously established for the purpose of funding future capital expenditures as described in the recommended 2024-2029 Capital Improvements Program. (Majority Vote Required).

Estimated tax impact is \$0.06 per thousand dollars of valuation.

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

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

Article 11: Fire Department Equipment and Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000) to be placed in 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 2024-2029 Capital Improvements Program. (Majority Vote Required).

Estimated tax impact is \$0.03 per thousand dollars of valuation.

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

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

Article 12: Technology Upgrade Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eight Thousand Dollars (\$8,000) to be placed in the Technology Upgrade Capital Reserve Fund, previously established for the purpose of funding future capital expenditures, as recommended in the 2024- 2029 Capital Improvements Program. (Majority Vote Required).

Estimated tax impact is \$0.016 per thousand dollars of valuation.

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

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

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Article 13: Municipal Buildings 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 added to the Municipal Buildings Capital Reserve Fund previously established for the purpose of funding future capital expenditures as described in the recommended 2024-2029 Capital Improvements Program. (Majority Vote Required).

Estimated tax impact is \$0.05 per thousand dollars of valuation.

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

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

Article 14: Invasive Plant Species

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$7,500) to be placed in the "2023 Invasive Plants" Capital Reserve Fund, previously established, for the purpose of funding future capital expenditures as recommended in the 2024-2029 Capital Improvements Program. (Majority Vote Required).

Estimated tax impact is \$0.015 per thousand dollars of valuation.

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

Recommended by the Budget Committee (4-3-0)

Article 15: Appoint Public Works Director

To see if the Town, in accordance with RSA 231:62 will change the form of organization of the Milton Public Works Department from an elected public works director to one where the public works director is appointed by the Board of Selectmen. If approved, the change from elected to appointed public works director would become effective as of one (1) year following this vote, per RSA 669:17-b.

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

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Article 16: 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. If approved, the change from elected to appointed fire chief would become effective as of one (1) year following this vote, per RSA 669:17-b. (Majority Vote Required).

Estimated tax impact is \$0.05 per thousand dollars of valuation.

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

Article 17: Conservation Commission Legal Defense Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) to be placed in the Conservation Commission Legal Defense Capital Reserve Fund, previously established in 2022. (Majority Vote Required).

Estimated tax impact is \$0.01 per thousand dollars of valuation.

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

Recommended by the Budget Committee (5-2-0)

Article 18: Elderly Exemptions

To see if the Town will vote to modify the elderly exemptions from property tax in the Town of Milton based on assessed value, for qualified tax payers to be as follows: for a person 65 to 74 years of age Sixty-Three Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$63,750), for a person 75 to 79 years of age Ninety-Six Thousand Dollars (\$96,000), for a person 80 years or older One Hundred Twenty-Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$127,500). To qualify, the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least three (3) years, own the real estate individually or jointly or if the real estate is owned by such person's spouse, they must have been married for at least five (5) years. In addition, the taxpayer must have an income of not more than Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000) or if married, a combined net income of not more than Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000); and own assets not in excess of Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$75,000), excluding the value of the persons residence. (Majority Vote Required).

Estimated tax impact is \$0.09 per thousand dollars of valuation.

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

Recommended by the Budget Committee (7-0-0)

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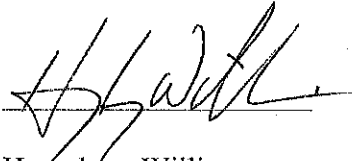
Article #19: School House Donation

To see if the Town will vote to donate the School House, located on Town owned property Map#, Lot #, at no cost to the New Hampshire Farm Museum, for preservation of the building and public education usage. (Majority Vote Require)

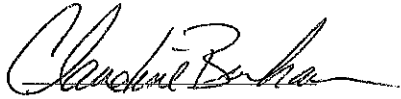
Article #20: Town House Rd Bridge

To see if the Town wishes to continue with the design and build process of the Townhouse Road Bridge, with a current clearance height of 5.5 feet above the water for boats to pass under the designed bridge, and a cost of \$2.7 million dollars. If this project continues, the Town of Milton, NH would be required in the future to raise up to an additional \$200,000 for its portion of the cost. (Majority Vote Required) *Yes-vote is to continue project, No-vote is to drop out of project.*

Board of Selectman,



Humphrey Williams
Chairman



Claudine Burnham
Vice Chairman



Andy Rawson

END OF 2024 WARRANT