



**Town of Milton
First Session
Deliberative Minutes
February 6th 2021**

Mike Beaulieu, Town Moderator Tempore, declared the meeting in session at 9:08 AM. *The Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee called their meetings to order.* The Moderator led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance. He asked for a moment of silence for Herbert Cox, Gloria Rogers, James McNally, Freda Ross, Gloria Driscoll, Michelle Labrecque, Charlene Loeffler, Michael Hibbard, Douglas Lirette, Carrie Raynes, Levina Carette, Estell Yeo, Rena Fortier, David Henderson, Maria Harris, Robert Hildenbrand, Susan Mckenney, Harry Smith, Cecil Morton, Roxann Clark, Madeline Galarneau, Shirley Miles, Dwight Fortier, Bruce Knowlton, Catherine Speidel, William Trainor and all those that have passed.

A total of 33 registered voters were in attendance.

Karen Golab from the Local Government Efficiency Task Force noted that there were 3,600 town wide surveys mailed out on December 31st 2020. The committee has received 370 responses. The results will be given to the Board of Selectmen and listed on the town website.

The Selectmen presented a twenty-year award to Police Chief Richard Krauss.

The Moderator asked if those present would allow those on zoom to speak on any of the articles. The majority were in favor.

The Moderator introduced the following: Board of Selectmen (BOS): Andrew Rawson, Matthew Morrill, and Claudine Burnham; Town Administrator: Ernest Creveling; Town Clerk Michelle Beauchamp; Town Council Christine Fillmore; Budget Committee (BC) Members: Humphrey Williams, Claudine Burnham (BOS Rep), Peg Hurd (School Rep), Justine Bellen (Water Rep)-absent, Larry Brown, Lisa Gautreau, Danielle Marique, Mike Beaulieu, Robert Carrier. Supervisors of the Checklist: Karen Brown and Brittney Leach.

The Moderator noted that there would be a Candidate's Forum for all candidates running for Town Offices on Sunday February 21st, 2021 between 2pm-4pm and that it would be live streamed via the Town's YouTube account and on Zoom.

The Moderator explained the rules of SB-2.

The Moderator noted that there are some persons in the room that are non-residents that are not eligible to vote but may wish to speak to one or more of the articles. Those persons are: Town Council-Christine Fillmore, Town Administrator Ernest Creveling, and Police Chief Richard Krauss.

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

The Moderator noted that the second session, Annual Town Meeting, would be held on Tuesday, March 9th 2021, at the Nute High School Gymnasium 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) Claudine Burnham, Humphrey Williams; Budget Committee – (1 for 1 year); Budget Committee – (2 for 3 years) James (Mike) Beaulieu, Robert P Carrier; Cemetery Trustee – (1 for 3 years) John Katwick, Louise Laplante, Victoria K Finlayson; Library Trustee – (1 for 3 years) Nancy J Drew; Planning Board – (2 for 3 years); Larry Brown, Anthony Gagnon, Kym Libby, Lynette McDougall, Paul Steer; Public Works Director – (1 for 3 years) Andrew Rawson, Patrick Smith; Supervisor of the Checklist – (1 for 6 years) Elizabeth D Baker, Louise Laplante; Treasurer – (1 for 1 year) Mackenzie Campbell, Trustee of the Trust Funds – (1 for 3 years) Marion E Trafton; Zoning Board of Adjustment – (2 for 3 years) Larry Brown, Stan J Nadeau

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

The Moderator read Article 2: Zoning-Zoning Ordinance Amendment, Solar Facilities

Are you in favor of the adoption of the amendment to the existing Town Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Planning Board, as follows: adding a new Article XXII, that establishes a Solar Facilities Ordinance that will accommodate solar energy collection systems and distributed generation resources in appropriate locations throughout Town, while protecting the public's health, safety, and welfare? The Ordinance facilitates the State and National goals of developing clean, safe, renewable energy resources in accordance with the enumerated polices of NH RSA 374-G and 362-F that include national security and economic and environmental sustainability. The Solar Facilities Ordinance will be enacted in accordance with NH RSA 674:17(I)(j) and the purposes outlined in NH RSA 672:1-III-a as amended. (Majority Vote Required)

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

M.Beauchamp 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.*

John Boyd question if this article would impact residents who have existing systems. M.Morrill explained that this is an ordinance which clarifies construction and placement standards for all types of solar facilities projects, including residential, includes provision to help protect abutters' quality of life, and assists municipal staff in understanding how to classify types of projects for permitting. L.Brown stated that an ordinance is prospective, not retrospective and brings the town's ordinances in congruence with the state policy and statute. A.Rawson noted that the town does not have a solar ordinance and this tightens town policies. C.Fillmore added that it would categorize and regulate where a facility can go as well as provide safety measures. L.Brown added that this provides standards and would be a protection for the town and the abutters. Peter Hayward noted that anything in place is grandfathered unless improved at some point.

M.Beauchamp made the motion to close further discussion and restrict reconsideration. M.Morrill 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 read.

The Moderator read Article 3: Operating Budget

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate as an operating budget, Four Million, Six Hundred Thousand, Five Hundred Nineteen Dollars (\$4,600,519), 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, Six Hundred Four Thousand, Six Hundred Eighteen Dollars (\$4,604,618) 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: \$5.86 per thousand dollars of valuation.

Estimated Tax Impact Town Proposed Default Budget: \$5.87 per thousand dollars of valuation.

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

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

M.Beauchamp made the motion to open the warrant article for discussion. A.Rawson seconded the motion. Majority in favor, motion passed. *The Moderator opened the warrant article for discussion.*

C.Burnham explained that the proposed operating budget is \$4,099 less than the default budget. The operating budget is 1.62% higher than last year's adopted budget. The 2020 operating budget appropriation was \$4,527,368. The 2021 proposed operating budget is \$73,151 higher than last year. The tax rate impact is an estimation only. This estimate can change based upon any changes in the Town's assessed value, revenues collected that are either less or more than the estimates utilized at the beginning of the year to estimate the tax impact, and the amount of unassigned fund balance the Selectmen use to set the tax rate at the end of the year.

Proposed Budget Tax Impact Calculation: \$4,600,519 gross budget less estimated revenue of \$1,684,718 = \$2,915,801 budget request net of revenues: \$2,915,801/(\$497,361,649/\$1,000) = tax impact of \$5.8625 per thousand dollars.

Default Budget Tax Impact Calculation = \$4,604,618 gross budget less estimated revenue of \$1,684,718 = 2,919,901 budget request net of revenues: \$2,919,901/(\$497,361,649/\$1,000) = tax impact of \$5.8708 per thousand dollars.

H.Williams noted that the Town Administrator found that the total town revenue of \$1,863,850, was actually \$179,132 higher than the previously calculated amount of \$1,684,718, resulting in the lower Estimated Tax Impact per thousand dollars of valuation. He added that the town came under the proposed tax cap by \$316,733.

H.Williams made the motion to change the Estimated Tax Impact Town Proposed Operating Budget: \$5.50 per thousand dollars of valuation and Estimated Tax Impact Town Proposed Default Budget: \$5.51 per thousand dollars of valuation. D.Marique seconded the motion. Majority in favor, the motion passed.

M.Beauchamp made the motion to close further discussion and restrict reconsideration. 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.

The Moderator read Article 4: Highway and Road Reconstruction Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Fifty-five Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$155,500) for the purpose of Highway and Road Reconstruction, maintenance, repairs, repaving, and reconstruction of Class IV and V Highways, as recommended in the 2021-2026 Capital Improvements Program. It is anticipated that the Town will receive funds in the amount of One Hundred Twenty-nine Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$129,500) from NH Highway Block Grant. 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 2021/2022 period as determined by Public Works Director or his/her designee, or by December 31, 2022 whichever occurs first. (Majority Vote Required).

Estimated tax impact is \$0.051 per thousand dollars of valuation.

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

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

M.Beauchamp 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.*

A.Rawson explained that this article appropriates \$26,000 which equates to a tax impact of slightly over 5 cents directly from taxation and sets aside an estimated amount of \$129,500 from the NH Block Grant the Town received annually for maintenance, repair, repaving, and reconstruction of class IV and V highways. This appropriation includes \$26,000 funded from

taxation, with the remaining offset by a Highway Block Grant from the State of New Hampshire of approximately \$129,500. He added that the town needs to support its infrastructure.

P.Smith made the motion to increase the appropriation for Article 4, Highway and Reconstruction Fund to \$300,000. The estimated tax impact is slightly over 34 cents per thousand. K.Brown seconded the motion.

The Moderator reread the amended article: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000) for the purpose of Highway and Road Reconstruction, maintenance, repairs, repaving, and reconstruction of Class IV and V Highways, as recommended in the 2021-2026 Capital Improvements Program. It is anticipated that the Town will receive funds in the amount of One Hundred Twenty-nine Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$129,500) from NH Highway Block Grant. 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 2021/2022 period as determined by Public Works Director or his/her designee, or by December 31, 2022 whichever occurs first. (Majority Vote Required).

P.Smith noted that previous road reconstruction warrant articles were \$300,000 each year over that last 20 years. He added that last years article failed and put the town behind schedule. It would equate to a tax impact of slightly over .34 cents. He stated that \$155,000 barely gets 1 mile of road paved and we have 54 miles of road, of which 10 miles is dirt.

Kym Libby asked why this was proposed at the lower amount. P.Smith noted that the total revenue had not been calculated and they were trying to stay below the 2% tax cap. H.Williams concurred. It was noted that this has been a separate warrant article since the late 1980's to give the voters the choice to vote for it. H.Williams noted that adding it to the operating budget would increase the chances of not having road maintenance. P.Smith noted that when the project was presented to the Planning Board, it was at \$325,000 in the CIP. That amount was reduced by the Board of Selectmen to meet the 2% tax cap. Glenn Bailey questioned if the wording "as recommended in the CIP" should be removed. E.Creveling clarified that the recommendation from the CIP was \$300,000, but the town could not come over the tax cap and the \$155,00 was at that time the limit. L.Brown noted that the CIP is the PB and it makes recommendations to the Selectmen, who then have the statutory duty to come up with a number.

H.Williams clarified that monies on warrant articles are specified to those particular events. If it were placed in the budget, which is a bottom-line budget, it does not guarantee where the monies are spent. Katherine Ayers stated that she does not believe road maintenance is a capital improvement. Elizabeth Baker added that this article has a grant component, where funds have to be specific to road construction. C.Fillmore stated that the correct time to change this warrant article to be included in the operation budget would be at the Budget Committee level before the budget is introduced. C.Fillmore added that typically in the towns she works with, it is a separate warrant article.

The Moderator moved the amendment. Majority in favor, motion passed.

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 4 on the second session ballot as amended.

The Moderator read Article 5: Employee Retention Plan

To see if the Town will vote to adopt the Employee Retention Plan, which establishes a Grade and Step Plan for classes of employees of the Town of Milton. If approved, any scheduled increases, as laid out in the Plan and approved by the Board of Selectmen, will be incorporated into the operating and default budgets in subsequent years starting with 2022. No funds shall be raised in 2021. (Majority Vote required).

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

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

M.Beauchamp 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.*

C.Burnham explained that this plan establishes a competitive employee retention step plan based upon comparisons of Milton wages for similar positions in a combination of similarly sized municipalities and with those that are our direct competition for labor force in the region. The objective is to establish a competitive, town-wide pay and retention plan to allow the community to reasonably compete for limited labor resources in the region. No taxes to be raised in 2021.

R.Krauss explained that the plan was put together in 2019. In the past, salaries have been done by the department heads and presented to the board. In 2003 the Police Department asked the resident to correct the pay issue in a warrant article. In 2014 the Police Department put forth a retention plan in a warrant article. In 2016 a pay scale was put forth for the Highway Department on a warrant article. In 2014 the Fire Department created a pay scale that was adopted by the Board of Selectmen. He noted that there is no step plan for the rest of the town employees. He added that this plan will allow the Town to compete with other communities. The plan will be reevaluated every 5 years and brought back before the voters or sooner.

R.Krauss explained that in 2022, each employee will be placed one step above where they currently are versus a 2% merit. K.Libby questioned how many department currently have wage plans. It was noted only 3. She questioned what will happen to the current wage plans if this plan adopted. R.Krauss noted that this plan would replace the existing plans. The total increase in wages for 2022 would be \$89,552; which is just over .16 cents per thousand. Thomas McDougall added that it would cover employees and elected officials as well. G.Bailey noted that there is no accommodation if the market goes down. H.Williams noted that the plan will be revisited and public will be able to vote on this again. J.Boyd suggested in such an event, wording could be added in regards to a wage freeze. H.Williams noted that the BOS have that control. A.Rawson stated that there would be no cost of living. R.Krauss noted that for an employee to receive their step they would need to pass a satisfactory evaluation. E.Creveling

noted that there are longevity steps and part timers would receive prorated amounts, except the parttime seasonal employees. C.Burnham stated that this plan will be used as a guideline for the Selectmen and Department Heads. H.Williams noted that this would put a fiscally sound budget in place, employees will not be negotiating pay and the plan it visible.

M.Beauchamp 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 5 on the second session ballot as read.

The Moderator read Article 6: 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 recommended in the 2021-2026 Capital Improvements Program. This sum to come from unassigned fund balance. No amount to be raised from taxation. (Majority Vote Required).

Estimated tax impact is \$0.00 per thousand dollars of valuation.

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

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

M.Beauchamp 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.*

M.Morrill explained that this article will appropriate \$25,000 to the Bridge Capital Reserve Fund, which sets aside money for repairs to Milton Bridges that are solely within the Town of Milton, like the Winding Road Bridge project. The New Hampshire Department of Transportation estimates that project will cost upwards of \$1,080,000, and the Town will need to provide a local match of about \$216,000. As of 12-31-2020, there is a balance of \$77,682 in the Bridge Capital Reserve Fund. Please refer to the Milton CIP

M.Beauchamp made the motion to close further discussion and restrict reconsideration. H.Williams 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 read.

The Moderator read Article 7: Municipal Buildings Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) 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 2021-2026 Capital Improvements Program. This sum to come from unassigned fund balance. No amount to be raised from taxation. (Majority Vote Required).

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

M.Beauchamp 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.*

A.Rawson explained that this article will place \$50,000 dollars into this capital reserve fund primarily for high-cost repair/maintenance items. This fund can help to mitigate the cost of unexpected and expensive occurrences. As of 12-31-2020, there is a balance of \$40,439 in the Municipal Buildings Capital Reserve Fund.

M.Beauchamp made the motion to close further discussion and restrict reconsideration. H.Williams 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 read.

The Moderator read Article 8: Boat Ramp Repair

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) for the repair of the boat ramp at the Town Beach, as recommended in the 2021-2026 Capital Improvements Program. This sum to come from unassigned fund balance. No amount to be raised from taxation. (Majority Vote Required).

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

M.Beauchamp 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.*

A.Rawson explained that this article will appropriate \$5,000 toward the repair of the boat ramp at the Town Beach. There are previously approved funds in the amount of (\$15,000) in the Recreation Capital Reserve Fund, along with funding that has been raised by gate fees in the Recreation Revolving Fund. The initial funding will go towards the necessary permits to begin the project (Wetlands Permit \$10,000) and the (Shoreland Permit \$10,000). Once the permits are in place, the Town will have 5 years (with an additional 5 years if needed) to complete the project. This warrant would cover the cost of those permits out of the Recreation Capital Reserve Fund. Please refer to the Milton CIP. He stated that this is part of Milton's infrastructure and added that the Police do not use it for their boat. Douglas Shute asked if there was a total cost for the boat ramp. A.Rawson stated not yet, but we can move forward with the permitting. He added that it is an economical engine and brings people to Milton to use the lake.

M.Beauchamp made the motion to close further discussion and restrict reconsideration. H.Williams 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 read.

The Moderator read Article 9: 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 recommended in the 2021-2026 Capital Improvements Program. This sum to come from unassigned fund balance. No amount to be raised from taxation. (Majority Vote Required).

Estimated tax impact is \$0.00 per thousand dollars of valuation.

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

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

M.Beauchamp 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.*

C.Burnham explained that this article will provide funding to The Milton Free Public Library to continue renovation and restoration work on "The Little Red Schoolhouse." This funding will be used as matching funds for grants and will allow the library to finish one of the last phases of rehabilitation for the historic building. As of 12-31-2020, there is a balance of \$21,636 in the Milton Free Public Library Capital Reserve Fund. Please refer to the Milton CIP

E.Baker, Director of the Library, noted that the Little Red School House is on the NH Historical Registry. We have been renovating and restoring the building in which were awarded 2 LCHIP grants in the last 5 years. There is still more work to be done and we are hoping for 1 more LCHIP grant to finish the project.

M.Beauchamp made the motion to close further discussion and restrict reconsideration. H.Williams 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: Technology Upgrade Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$1,500) to be placed in the Technology Upgrade Capital Reserve Fund, previously established for the purpose of funding future capital expenditures, as recommended in the 2021-2026 Capital Improvements Program. This sum to come from unassigned fund balance. No amount to be raised from taxation. (Majority Vote Required).

Estimated tax impact is \$0.00 per thousand dollars of valuation.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3,0,0)
Recommended by the Budget Committee (5,2,0)

M.Beauchamp 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.*

M.Morrill explained that this article will provide funding for periodic replacement and upgrades of Town technology. Desktop computers are rotated out every four to five years, depending on obsolescence and the security risks that increase as support is phased out for older operating systems. The server at Town Hall is also covered by this fund, as well as other information technology, communications and security systems. As of 12-31-2020, there is a balance of \$22,620 in the Technology Upgrade Capital Reserve Fund. Please refer to the Milton CIP.

P.Hayward questioned why two Budget Committee members descended. H.Williams noted that he was one of two who dissented and added that money had been encumbered from the 2020 unexpended appropriation to replace the server in 2021.

M.Beauchamp made the motion to close further discussion and restrict reconsideration. H.Williams 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: 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 recommended in the 2021-2026 Capital Improvements Program. This sum to come from unassigned fund balance. No amount to be raised from taxation. (Majority Vote Required).

Estimated tax impact is \$0.00 per thousand dollars of valuation

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

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

M.Beauchamp 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.*

C.Burnham explained that this article will fund additional prioritized data and map layers to Milton's web-based mapping software to provide additional information for residents at home and to facilitate Town staff in assisting customers. Please refer to the Milton CIP.

M.Beauchamp made the motion to close further discussion and restrict reconsideration. H.Williams 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: Eradicate Invasive Plant Species

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) for the purposes of eradicating invasive plant species from Bodies of Water in the Town. This is a special warrant article as recommended in the 2021-2026 Capital Improvements Program and will be a non-lapsing appropriation per NH 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. This sum to come from unassigned fund balance. No amount to be raised from taxation. (Majority Vote Required).

Estimated tax impact is \$0.00 per thousand dollars of valuation.

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

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

M.Beauchamp 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.*

A.Rawson explained that this article will appropriate money to support the Three Ponds Protective Association in its efforts to coordinate treatment efforts to wipe out invasive plant species in Milton Three Ponds, which negatively impact water quality, potentially displace native species, reduce biodiversity, hamper recreational uses, and reduce real estate and aesthetic values. He added the Town of Lebanon and the TPPA contribute funds. The Three Ponds is our largest economical engine and we need to do our best to preserve it.

H.Williams stated that this was a \$10,000 grant in recent years. The treatments taking place have been a very successful program. The cost has been split three ways between TPPA, Milton and Lebanon. He added that boat inspections are very important. He added that TPPA pays for the boat inspections at the beach and Everette's Cove and it has been very successful, but there are other areas where boats are being launched. Water testing is done with the Recreation Department, water/sewer department and UNH.

M.Beauchamp made the motion to close further discussion and restrict reconsideration.

H.Williams 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: Establishment of Independent Capital Improvement Program Committee

Shall the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to establish an independent committee pursuant to NH 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. (Majority Vote Required)
Recommended by the Planning Board (7,0,0)
Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3,0,0)

M.Beauchamp 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.*

M.Morrill explained that this article will remove the Capital Improvement Program process from the Planning Board and create a new committee whose members will focus on developing a sustainable, affordable capital improvement program. The committee's creation will allow the Planning Board more time to commit toward other planning issues as needed. The Planning Board held a public hearing on this proposed warrant article and voted unanimously to recommend it to the Board of Selectmen.

G.Bailey noted that this failed on the ballot last year. A.Rawson stated that they are looking for individuals that specialize in CIP. He added the PB has plenty of duties and there just is not enough time in the day. L.Brown noted that the reason for the CIP is so that major capital expenses for the town can be budgeted without spiking taxes. He added that under State statute, the PB is the default board. C.Fillmore stated that the law allows for two options: either the PB does it or there is a CIP committee appointed by the BOS with terms.

M.Beauchamp made the motion to close further discussion and restrict reconsideration. H.Williams 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 read.

The Moderator read Article 14: Dawson Street & Silver Street Area Drainage Project – Phase 1

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Hundred Forty-nine Thousand, Three Hundred Twenty-nine Dollars (\$349,329.00) for the Dawson Street & Silver Street Area Drainage Project–Phase 1, as designed by Underwood Engineers to excavate and replace/repair the storm water drainage system as phase one of the total project. This appropriation will be offset by One Hundred Twenty-nine Thousand, Seven Hundred Eighteen Dollars (\$129,718.00), which will come from unassigned fund balance. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per NH RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the project is completed or by December 31, 2026, whichever comes first. (Majority Vote Required).

Estimated tax impact is \$0.44 per thousand dollars of valuation.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (2,0,0)

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

M.Beauchamp 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.*

M.Morrill explained that this project will prepare the receiving drainage system for future drainage improvements in accordance with the design for the whole project, which includes sidewalks, municipal parking, new drainage structures and curbing from the intersection of Steeple and Dawson Streets to NH Route 125 and Dawson Streets, One Rod Road and Silver Street back down to the intersection of Silver and Dawson.

Patrick Smith stated that this project consists of revitalization of sidewalks, drainage system and includes off street parking. This would be phase 1 of 3. K.Ayers felt that this would be a natural decay of infrastructure and questioned if this was in the CIP. P.Smith stated that he proposed this to CIP and BOS back in 2019 for \$983,000. He added that it is now about 1.5 million. The BOS will decide how to fund it. P.Smith noted that the project will address pedestrian safety as well. J.Boyers added that it would enhance the park. P.Smith noted that the town will want drainage easements. Anthony Gagnon noted that the longer we wait the more it will cost. L.Brown long term operating expense bond.

M.Beauchamp 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 14 on the second session ballot as read.

The Moderator read Article 15: Amendment of Tax Cap - Use of July Northeast Region Consumer Price Index (CPI)

Shall we amend the tax cap adopted by the Town Meeting, Article 24, on March 10, 2020 to replace the adopted January to January Consumer Price Index percentage increase with a July to July Consumer Price Index percentage increase as follows: “. . . or (b) the percentage by which the US Consumer Price Index – All Urban Consumers of the Northeast, published by the US Bureau of Labor Statistics (the “Index”) as of the month of July of each year increased, if any, over the index for the month of July of the immediately-preceding year.” (3/5 Majority Vote Required) (Ballot Vote).

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

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

M.Beauchamp 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.*

C.Burnham explained that this article amends the Tax Cap to allow for the use of a more practical Consumer Price Index period, which does not conflict with the budget hearing dates required annually prior to the deliberative session. Currently the Tax Cap provision provides for use of the January Northeast Consumer Price Index, which is not published until mid-February, which is too late in the year to be able to analyze whether or not the proposed budget is in compliance with the tax cap. E.Creveling noted that this will clear up any confusion.

M.Beauchamp 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 15 on the second session ballot as read.

The Moderator read Article 16: Posting Casey Road Conservation Land “No Hunting”

To see if the Town will vote to prohibit hunting on the 79-acre town-owned Casey Road Conservation Land at the end of Casey Road (Tax Map 41, Lot 69). A majority vote in favor of a hunting prohibition means that the Town is in favor of posting the property boundaries to prohibit hunting in conformance with NH RSA 635:4. The Board of Selectmen has the delegated authority to manage the property but wishes to abide by the choice of the townspeople. (Majority Vote Required).

M.Beauchamp 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.*

A.Rawson explained that at the recommendation of the Milton Conservation Commission, the Milton Board of Selectmen is asking Town residents to decide if hunting should be allowed or prohibited at the 79-acre Town-owned Casey Road Conservation Land. Although for the purposes of clarity, this warrant article is phrased as a hunting prohibition, both the MCC and BOS remain impartial on the question. There are approximately a dozen residential properties abutting the property, which has about a mile of trails that are open to the public for low impact recreation. A school bus turn-around area at the entrance is intended to allow for future classroom use. To our knowledge, the land has never been posted and hunting has never been prohibited on the parcel, except for one year. On the one hand, during hunting season, schools may curtail educational activities there and people may feel unsafe walking the trails. On the other hand, as a form of outdoor recreation and a potential means of obtaining food, hunting is a traditional use of NH open space.

Spencer Minnon noted the conservation and hunting go hand in hand and presented an amendment to the Moderator. The Moderator read the proposed amended article: To see if the Town will vote to place signs that say “hunting season in progress” at the trailheads on the 79-acre parcel of town-owned Casey Road Conservation Land at the end of Casey Road (Tax Map 43, Lot 69). A majority vote in favor of posting these signs means that the Town is in favor of placing them at trail heads on this parcel. Thus fulfilling their due diligence in conforming to NHRSA 212:34. Gary Burnham seconded the amendment.

K.Golab noted that the committee felt it would be best to allow the residents to make the decision. T.McDougall questioned if the amendment changed the intent of the original article. C.Fillmore noted that amendment cannot introduce a different subject from what was warned, in this case posting against hunting or not posting against hunting. She feels this is the same subject manner. G.Burnham noted that it is a short season. G.Bailey questioned who would pay for the signage. K.Golab noted the CC. K.Ayers noted that there may have been people who were in favor of putting this land into conservation that were hunters. J.Boyd noted that right

now the land is being shared and he questioned if it was fair to restrict one group but not the other group?

The Moderator called for a vote on the amendment. Majority in favor of the amendment, the motion passed.

The Moderator read the proposed amended article: To see if the Town will vote to place signs that say "hunting season in progress" at the trailheads on the 79-acre parcel of town-owned Casey Road Conservation Land at the end of Casey Road (Tax Map 43, Lot 69). A majority vote in favor of posting these signs means that the Town is in favor of placing them at trail heads on this parcel. Thus fulfilling their due diligence in conforming to NHRSA 212:34.

K.Ayers clarified that if the article is voted down, then no signs will be posted and hunting will be allowed. K.Golab clarified that either way, hunting will be allowed. C.Fillmore agreed.

M.Beauchamp made the motion to close further discussion and restrict reconsideration. H.Williams 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: Petition Warrant Article – Paving of Bolan Road

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$140,000.00 per year, over a period of four (4) years, for the incremental paving of the Class V portion of Bolan Road, commencing at the NH Rt 125 entrance and continuing for approximately one and three tenths 1 (1.3) miles, each increment consisting of 1500 feet. The estimated cost of each increment is due to, prior to paving, the necessity to remove the underlying soft soils and establish an adequate roadbed with various layers of appropriately sized aggregate. The condition of this road during spring thaw and during heavy rains is such that it constitutes a safety hazard to residents, their vehicles and their health, emergency vehicles would have difficulty accessing homes and in extreme conditions have to detour via Northeast Pond Road to gain access thus causing lengthy delay in response to emergencies. (Majority Vote Required)
Estimated tax impact is \$0.28 per thousand dollars of valuation.

M.Beauchamp 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.*

It was noted that the petitioner was not in attendance. K.Ayers felt that this was a very large amount of money for a small portion of the Town. T.McDougall questioned if it would cover the cost.

M.Beauchamp made the motion to close further discussion and restrict reconsideration. H.Williams 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.

Adjournment

M.Beauchamp made the motion to adjourn at 1:29PM. D.Marique seconded the motion. Majority in favor, motion passed.

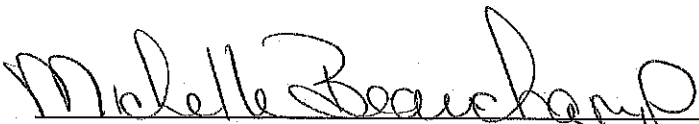
The Moderator declared the First Session of the Town Meeting adjourned.

A true record, attest:



Michelle Beauchamp, Town Clerk Tax Collector

A true copy of record, attest:



Michelle Beauchamp, Town Clerk Tax Collector