



**Town of Milton
First Session
Deliberative Minutes
February 5th 2022**

Chris Jacobs, Town Moderator, declared the meeting in session at 11:50AM. *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 Thomas Gray, Marilyn Pike, Robert Naeger and all those that have passed.

A total of 41 registered voters were in attendance.

The Moderator introduced the following: Board of Selectmen (BOS): Andrew Rawson, Matthew Morrill, and Claudine Burnham; Town Clerk Michelle Beauchamp; Town Council Christine Fillmore; Budget Committee (BC) Members: Humphrey Williams, Claudine Burnham (BOS Rep), Margaret Hurd (School Rep), Larry Brown, Laura Turgeon, Lisa Gautreau, James (Mike) Beaulieu, Robert Carrier and Billy Walden (Water District Rep), who was not present. Supervisors of the Checklist: Karen Brown, Elizabeth Baker and Brittney Leach-Campbell.

The Moderator noted that there would be a Candidate's Forum for all candidates running for School & Town Offices on Tuesday February 22nd, 2022, in the Selectmen's Chambers between 5pm-8pm and added that it would be live streamed via the Town's YouTube account.

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: Council-Christine Fillmore, Attorney Huddy Grandy and Police Chief Richard Krauss.

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

The Moderator noted that the second session, Annual Town Meeting, would be held on Tuesday, March 8th, 2022, 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) Budget Committee – (2 for 3 years); Cemetery Trustee – (1 for 1 year); (1 for 3 years); Fire Chief – (1 for 3 years); Library Trustee – (1 for 3 years); Moderator – (1 for 2 years); Planning Board – (2 for 3 years); Supervisor of the Checklist – (1 for 6 years); Town Clerk/Tax Collector - (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 years)

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

The Moderator read 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: adding a new Article XXIII, to establish a Gateway Business Overlay District Ordinance that pursuant to RSA 674:21, I(h) and (j) which will provide an environment that encourages efficient and attractive commercial development along southern NH Rte. 125 that is the main gateway to the village? The ordinance facilitates development with high quality designed landscaping, low impact development, and village character building design. (Majority vote required). Recommended by the Planning Board (6-0-0)

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 noted that the Gateway Business Overlay District (GBOD) is intended to allow for commercial development of the main gateway to the Town of Milton primarily along southern NH Rte. 125. Please refer to the map. The purpose of the GBOD is to enhance the economic vitality, business diversity, accessibility, and visual appeal of the southern entrance to the village in a manner that is consistent with the landscape and architecture of the Town's agricultural tradition with a vibrant mixed-use gateway area. The intent of the GBOD is to provide incentives for appropriate business uses in a manner that involves quality landscaping design, high level quality in buildings and architecture, and site design which considers the context of community character, and flexibility on the part of the Town to achieve the design suggested in the plans submitted. It was noted that the underlying zoning would remain the same.

L.Brown noted that this overlay will assist in bringing business into the Town, maintain the vitality and does not impact an existing use.

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

A.Rawson 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: 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: To update the Official Zoning Map of the Town of Milton by moving the Commercial-Residential zoning district boundary to the rear property

boundary of road frontage lots that are currently located in the Commercial-Residential district instead of the zone boundary located 200-ft. away from and parallel to the road right of way, thereby eliminating split zoned lots? (Majority vote required). Recommended by the Planning Board (6-0-0)

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

M. Morrill noted that this is a proposal to expand the Commercial-Residential (CR) zoning district boundary to the rear property boundary of road frontage lots that are in that district along the highway (primarily NH Rte. 125) instead of a contrived boundary line located arbitrarily 200-ft. away from and parallel to the road right of way (front property line) on each of those lots. Please refer to the map. Voting for this proposal puts each one of these lots completely in one zoning district instead of being split between two zoning districts with different rules for the allowed land uses. Split zoned lots are unfair to property owners who often find it difficult to use their land the way they wish. They can impede commercial uses in Town along the highway. This proposal is a fix for the practice of laying out zoning districts in the past that used boundaries based on dimensions from things like road centerlines or right of way lines other than property boundaries. Doing this results in split zoned lots. This proposal eliminates all these split zoned lots along the highway. Since in our zoning ordinance, uses that are not allowed in one district cannot bleed over into the next district that has stricter requirements, and since this applies to these split zoned lots, property owners are treated unfairly if they wish to change the use or in future sell their property. The split zone condition can severely limit what owners can legally do on their lot, and therefore may have the effect of reducing the value of the property if an owner decides to sell in the future. But if a split zoned lot owner wishes to never sell their property, this zone boundary change will have no effect on their property because residential uses are allowed by right in both zones. The proposal does not include any changes to the allowed uses or any changes to the ordinance at all other than the boundary change.

Judith Lover noted that the property in this zone along the lake would become commercial property. The Moderator noted that Shoreline Protection Act has buffers in place, and that the Wetlands Bureau has control as well. He added that most of the land is currently commercial/residential.

L. Brown 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 read.

The Moderator read 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 Four Million, Seven Hundred Twenty-Three Thousand, Nine Hundred Ninety-One Dollars (\$4,723,991). Should this article be defeated, the default budget

shall be Four Million, Seven Hundred Seventy-Four Thousand, Nine Hundred Fifty-Three Dollars (\$4,774,953) 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: \$5.60 per thousand dollars of valuation. Estimated Tax Impact Town Proposed Default Budget: \$5.70 per thousand dollars of valuation. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3-0-0); Recommended by the Budget Committee (8-0-0)

H.Williams 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 noted that the Budget Committee reevaluated each Department line by line over that last six months and analyzing average expenses over the last 5 years. H.Williams noted that the Budget Committee has used a spreadsheet to track past cost analysis. In addition, the committee reviewed contract expenditures.

Nicholas Marique 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 4 on the second session ballot as read.

The Moderator read Article 5: 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, as recommended in the 2022-2027 Capital Improvements Program. It is anticipated that the Town will receive funds in the amount of One Hundred Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$130,000) from NH Highway Block Grant with the remainder to be raised by taxation. 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 2022/2023 period as determined by Public Works Director or his/her designee, or by December 31, 2023 whichever occurs first. (Majority vote required). Estimated tax impact is \$0.43 per thousand dollars of valuation. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3-0-0); Recommended by the Budget Committee (8-0-0)

H.Williams 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.*

A.Rawson noted that this article is to take care of the town infrastructure. Patrick Smith noted that this fund is for the maintenance of roads and culverts throughout town and is separate from the Dawson Street/Silver Street Drainage Project. The Moderator noted that as fiscal agents of the Town, the Board of Selectmen could vote to put this fund towards the drainage project.

H. Williams made the motion to close further discussion and restrict reconsideration. L. Turgeon 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: Dawson Street & Silver Street Area Drainage Project – Phase 2

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Six Hundred Eleven Thousand Dollars (\$611,000) for the Dawson Street and Silver Street Area Drainage Project Phase 2, as designed by Underwood Engineers to excavate and relapse / repair the stormwater drainage system and sidewalks as phase two of the total project. Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000) of this total to come from the unassigned fund balance. To further authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept and expend Two Hundred Eighty Thousand Dollars (\$280,000) from the American Rescue Plan Act administered as part of the Clean Water State Revolving Fund for a Stormwater Infrastructure Project with a Planning Component by the NH Department of Environmental Services for this purpose. The remainder to be raised by general taxation. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per NH RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the project is completed or by December 31, 2024 whichever occurs first. This article is separate from and does not include the appropriation proposed in Article 7. (Majority vote required). Estimated tax impact is \$0.26 per thousand dollars of valuation. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3-0-0); Recommended by the Budget Committee (3-5-0)

L. Turgeon 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 noted that the Selectmen would take \$200,000 out of the fund balance, use the \$280,000 rescue grant and raise the rest of it in taxes. He noted that peoples' basements and yards were being washed out and culverts collapsing. The project would fix sidewalks.

P. Smith noted that this project would put in a series of catch basins and complete Silver Street. It finishes the drainage, paves the road, and widens sidewalks making them more accessible. He added that this is stormwater management. He noted that the project is eligible for \$500,000 of federal money, meaning \$280,000 from the grant and \$220,000 as a possible loan.

Dennis Woods inquired about the parking area previously proposed. P. Smith noted that Silver Street needs to be completed first, Dawson Street would be phase 3 for drainage and sidewalks; municipal parking, a safer intersection on Rte 125 and pedestrian access would be phase 4.

John Boyd expressed concern that the article may not pass with the Budget Committee vote to not recommend this article and questioned if there was a contingency plan.

H. Williams noted that he had expressed that this should have been a bond so that it could have been spread out over time and be more cost effective. He added that the \$280,000 was presented to the Budget Committee as a grant loan. The Committee felt a bond was the better way to go and therefore voted the way they did. Article 7 is the contingency plan should this Article 6 fail, this would allow the Town to put some money away and go after the grant. P. Smith noted that Phase 1 will be completed in Spring if this article fails.

P.Smith noted that he has gone for bonds before, which requires 3/5 vote, and it fails miserably. C.Burnham noted that by breaking down the project in phases, we were able to accomplish the emergency plan this year. She added that a bond would have interest and is not necessarily less expensive. She noted that Pat, the Selectmen, Town Administrator and the engineer worked on the best solution to lessen the tax burden for the taxpayers.

C.Jacobs noted that as the Town Administrator he would recommend the Selectmen put the project out to bid in March. He does not believe this project would get a favorable bond rate. He added that future grant money would not be able to be used for the bond.

H.Williams noted that the Budget Committee vote was not just about the bond issue, but also the .26 per thousand dollars of valuation over and above the taxes already paid on the money being used from the Unassigned Fund. J.Boyd again expressed concern on the weight the vote of the Budget Committee carries. H.Williams asked the Committee if they wished to revisit the vote given the information presented. Attorney Fillimore noted that in order for the Budget Committee to change its vote on recommendation, is if there were a significant change in the article. D.Woods agreed that the Budget Committee's vote could jeopardize this Article. A.Rawson noted that the \$280,000 grant would be given to another Town. H.Williams noted that when this article was presented to the Committee, we were informed that this was a grant loan.

H.Williams made the motion to amend the article: Two Hundred Thousand One Dollars (\$200,001) of this total to come from the unassigned fund balance. M.Beauchamp seconded.

The Moderator reread the article.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Six Hundred Eleven Thousand Dollars (\$611,000) for the Dawson Street and Silver Street Area Drainage Project Phase 2, as designed by Underwood Engineers to excavate and relapse/repair the stormwater drainage system and sidewalks as phase two of the total project. Two Hundred Thousand and One Dollars (\$200,001) of this total to come from the unassigned fund balance. To further authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept and expend Two Hundred Eighty Thousand Dollars (\$280,000) from the American Rescue Plan Act administered as part of the Clean Water State Revolving Fund for a Stormwater Infrastructure Project with a Planning Component by the NH Department of Environmental Services for this purpose. The remainder to be raised by general taxation. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per NH RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the project is completed or by December 31, 2024, whichever occurs first. This article is separate from and does not include the appropriation proposed in Article 7. (Majority vote required)
Estimated tax impact is \$0.26 per thousand dollars of valuation.

Majority in favor. The Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee were all in favor of the amendment. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3-0-0); Recommended by the Budget Committee (8-0-0)

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 6 on the second session ballot as amended.

The Moderator read Article 7: Establish Dawson Street & Silver Street Area Drainage Project – Phase 2 and 3 Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of designing, engineering, permitting, bidding, constructing, and maintaining the Dawson Street and Silver Street Area Drainage Project Phase 2 and 3 and to raise and appropriate the sum of Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$60,000) to be placed in this fund for the purpose of funding future capital expenditures as described in the recommended 2022-2027 Capital Improvements Program. This sum is to come from the unassigned fund balance and no amount is to be raised from taxation. Further to name the Selectmen as agents to expend from this fund. This article is separate from and does not include the appropriation proposed in Article 6. (Majority vote required) Estimated tax impact is \$0.00 per thousand dollars of valuation. Recommended by Board of Selectmen (3-0-0); Recommended by Budget Committee (8-0-0)

H.Williams 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.*

M.Morrill noted that this article is the contingency plan if article 6 fails; if both articles pass, then this would set money aside for phase 3 & 4. H.Williams and the Moderator had a brief discussion regarding federal funds. L.Turgeon questioned if wording could be added to this article reflecting that if article 6 passes, article 7 will not take effect. The Town Attorney stated yes. A.Rawson noted that this project would need additional phases and suggested that the Town start preparing itself. K.Libby suggested changing the wording to only establish a capital reserve fund for potential future Dawson/Silver Street projects. C.Burnham noted that the monies would be coming from the Unassigned Fund Balance, which is the money remaining from the prior year budget. She added that the DRA sets the recommended balance (5-13%) for this fund. The Moderator noted that purpose of these articles is to give the voters the opportunity to decide which projects the unassigned fund balance monies will be spent, to better the town, school or infrastructure.

H.Williams made the motion to add the following at the end of the article: Should Article 6 pass, Article 7 will not take effect. L.Turgeon seconded. J.Boyd expressed concern on how the voters will vote comparing \$60,000 to \$200,000 the way it will be worded. He noted that they may become confused on what is needed to finish the project and what is needed in the future. The Moderator noted that people may go back to Article 6 and scribble out the original vote. K.Libby noted that if Article 6 fails and Article 7 passes, it will not give the Town enough money to finish the project. She suggested the Article 7 be reworded to just establish the fund and remove phase 2 &3. The Moderator called for a vote on the proposed amendment. Majority not in favor of the proposed amendment, motion failed.

J.Lover made the motion to amend the article to read phase 2, 3 and 4. J.Boyd suggested drainage project future phases. J.Lover amended her motion to read: Establish Dawson Street & Silver Street Area Future Drainage Project Phases Capital Reserve Fund and to remove the words Phase 2 and 3. M.Morrill seconded.

The Moderator reread the article. Establish Dawson Street & Silver Street Area Future Drainage Project Phases Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of designing, engineering, permitting, bidding, constructing, and maintaining the Dawson Street and Silver Street Area Drainage Projects and to raise and appropriate the sum of Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$60,000) to be placed in this fund for the purpose of funding future capital expenditures as described in the recommended 2022-2027 Capital Improvements Program. This sum is to come from the unassigned fund balance and no amount is to be raised from taxation. Further to name the Selectmen as agents to expend from this fund. This article is separate from and does not include the appropriation proposed in Article 6.

Majority in favor, motion passed.

M.Morrill 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 amended.

The Moderator read Article 8: Establish Public Safety Radio Communications Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of designing, engineering, permitting, bidding, constructing, purchasing and installing fixed radios, hand-held radios, repeaters and antenna systems for public safety purposes and to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000) to be placed in this fund for the purpose of funding future capital expenditures as described in the recommended 2022-2027 Capital Improvements Program. This sum is to come from the unassigned fund balance and no amount is to be raised from taxation. Further to name the Selectmen as agents to expend from this fund. (Majority vote required) Estimated tax impact is \$0.00 per thousand dollars of valuation. Recommended by Board of Selectmen (3-0-0); Recommended by Budget Committee (8-0-0)

H.Williams 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.*

The Moderator noted that this fund would be more encompassing for Fire, Ambulance, Police, Public Works and Emergency Responders. N.Marique noted that technology is changing

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: Ambulance Vehicles and Equipment and / or Fire Department 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 Ambulance Vehicles and Equipment and / or Fire Department Capital Reserve Fund, previously established, for the purpose of funding future capital expenditures as recommended in the 2022-2027 Capital Improvements Program. This sum to come from unassigned fund balance. No amount to be raised from taxation. Further to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept and expend such monies as they become available from the Federal and State Governments for this purpose. (Majority vote required) Estimated tax impact is \$0.00 per thousand dollars of valuation. Recommended by Board of Selectmen (3-0-0) Recommended by Budget Committee (8-0-0)

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

N.Marique made the motion to change the name of the Capital Reserve Fund to read: Fire Department Apparatus/Equipment Capital Reserve Fund established in 1997. Attorney Fillimore did not feel this motion can be done. A.Rawson seconded. Attorney Fillimore noted that DRA will look at the amendment and determine that it was not the original purpose. She added that a warrant article can be created for next year to close the capital reserve fund and move the funds into the other fund. The Moderator noted that for legal reasons there is no motion.

H.Williams made the motion to close further discussion and restrict reconsideration. L.Turgeon 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: Replacement of Town Street and Parking Lot Lighting

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into an agreement with Affinity LED Light, LLC of Dover and Portsmouth, NH to replace all Town owned street and parking lot lights with energy efficient LED fixtures and to raise and appropriate Thirty-Eight Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty-Nine Dollars (\$38,859). It is anticipated that the Town will receive funds in the amount of Ten Thousand Five Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$10,550) from Eversource Energy Efficiency Incentive once the new LED fixtures are installed. This sum of Twenty-Eight Thousand Three Hundred Nine Dollars (\$28,309) to come from the 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 (8-0-0)

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

The Moderator noted that this article could reduce the street lighting bill in half. It is a one-time upfront cost. The Town would own the light fixtures with a 10-year warranty. It was calculated as a 3 ½ year buy back. It was noted that the Town pays a flat rate not a usage fee.

M.Morrill 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: Highway Truck Capital Reserve Fund.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$75,000) to be placed in the Highway Truck Capital Reserve Fund, previously established in 1997. This sum to come from the 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 (8-0-0)

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

P.Smith noted that 2023 would be the first year to purchase a truck. He added that by putting money away now, it will ease the tax burden in 2023. The Moderator noted that the current fund balance is \$29,835. A.Rawson noted that it would cost about \$190,000 to outfit a truck. He noted that the trucks are aging, one of the trucks is from 2012 and not in the best shape.

M.Morrill made the motion to close further discussion and restrict reconsideration. M.Hurd 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: 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 2022-2027 Capital Improvements Program. This sum to come from the 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 (8-0-0)

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

The Moderator noted that the current fund balance was \$78,940. P.Smith noted that this fund would be used for the Winding Hill Bridge which is red listed for 2026. The Town will be required to have 20% of the funds for this bridge replacement.

H.Williams made the motion to close further discussion and restrict reconsideration. M.Hurd 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: Milton Recreation Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) to be placed in the Recreation Department Capital Reserve Fund, previously established, in 2007, for the purpose of replacing the boat ramp at the Town Beach, as recommended in the 2022-2027 Capital Improvements Program. This sum to come from the 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 (8-0-0)

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

A.Rawson noted that the engineering phases for the new boat ramp has been started. Either this Fall or next Spring we should have a new boat ramp. The current ramp is in disrepair, and this is part of Milton's infrastructure that brings business to the Town. The Moderator noted the current fund balance was \$19,950. He added that the engineering contract is \$20,000 and the wetland permits could cost \$3,000 -\$5,000.

H.Williams made the motion to close further discussion and restrict reconsideration. D.Woods 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: 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 2022-2027 Capital Improvements Program. This sum to come from the 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 (8-0-0)

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

E.Baker, Library Director, noted that this is a historic building. There has been historic perseveration work done and there is still more to do. The current fund balance is \$21,986. She is currently gathering quotes and has been working with Land and Community Investment Preservation (LCHIP). We are working on writing a historical report. Renovation would include plaster work, the roof, windows and iron work on top of the tower.

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 14 on the second session ballot as read.

The Moderator read Article 15: Eradicate Invasive Plant 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 recommended in the 2022-2027 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, 2023, whichever is sooner. This sum to come from the 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 (8-0-0)

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

A.Rawson noted that Three Ponds Protective Association (TPPA) spent \$50,000 last year. He believes this year it will cost \$65,000. TPPA has been able to receive grants from New Hampshire and Maine. H.Williams noted that this includes more than just the Three Ponds, it includes all bodies of water in Town. R.Lover inspection. H.Williams noted TPPA has provided funding to the Recreation Department for the inspection of boats going in and leaving at the Town Beach. He added that discussions have occurred with the new owners of the campground and marina to ensure inspections are being done there as well. Areas that have been treated have been successful. A Rawson noted the TPPA received \$35,000 in grants last year.

H.Williams made the motion to close further discussion and restrict reconsideration. M.Hurd 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: Historical Building – Milton Mills

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the acquisition of the land and building currently owned and occupied by the Milton Historical Society at 56 Main Street, Milton Mills, for a purchase price of One Dollar (\$1), and to appropriate the sum of One Dollar (\$1) for this purpose; and further, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to lease the building back to the Milton Historical Society for a term of twenty (20) years with potential renewal terms of ten (10) years each on such terms and conditions as the Board of Selectmen deems proper. (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 (8-0-0)

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

The Moderator noted that the Historical Society reached out to the Town to see if the Town would reassume taking the building over. He noted that the membership of society does not cover the insurance for the building. The society would like to continue operating in the building; but would like to have the town take on the upkeep, insurance and long-term maintenance. The Moderator noted that the alternative is that the society to sell it to the open market, but it would need an up-to-date septic system. It was noted that it currently does not have water.

Sandra Woods, Historical Society member, noted that the annual insurance is \$1,400 per year and electrical \$250 per year; which currently can not be covered by membership dues collected or fundraising events. The plan is to have the building open to the public once a month for a few hours with speaking events. She noted that the society was able to put a new roof on the building. A. Rawson noted that the building is located on the Scenic Byway. Katheryn Ayers noted that having the building owned by the Town increases the possibilities for grants.

M. Hurd 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 read.

The Moderator read Article 17: : Establish Police Tasers Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of purchasing tasers for the police to replace the models currently used by the department and to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Thousand Three Hundred Dollars (\$3,300) to be placed in this fund for the purpose of funding future capital expenditures as described in the recommended 2022-2027 Capital Improvements Program. This sum is to come from the unassigned fund balance and no amount is to be raised from taxation. Further to name the Selectmen as agents to expend from this fund. (Majority vote required) Estimated tax impact is \$0.00 per thousand dollars of valuation. Recommended by Board of Selectmen (3-0-0) Recommended by Budget Committee (8-0- 0)

M.Hurd made the motion to open the warrant article for discussion. L.Turgeon seconded the motion. Majority in favor, motion passed. *The Moderator opened the warrant article for discussion.*

Richard Krauss noted that this fund is being created so that when the current tasers expire in 5 years, the Town will not need to raise \$15,000 to \$16,000 on a one-time warrant article. The money will already be put aside.

M.Hurd made the motion to close further discussion and restrict reconsideration. L.Turgeon 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: Conservation Commission Legal Defense Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to establish a Town of Milton Conservation Legal Defense Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of accruing sufficient funds to defend town-held conservation easements and fee-owned conservation land against violations, and to raise and appropriate the sum of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000) to be placed in this fund. This sum to come from the unassigned fund balance. No additional amount is to be raised from taxation. Further to name the Conservation Commission as agents to expend from this fund. (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 (8-0-0)

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

H.Williams noted that the estimated tax impact should be zero if the funds are coming from the unassigned fund balance. Attorney Fillmore noted that there does not need to be a motion for this correction.

H.Williams noted that currently there is a line item for this purpose in the budget for \$1,000 but will not be in future years. He added that by building the fund, they will be prepared for a legal suit. The Moderator noted that they are looking to build the fund to \$4,000. He explained that it could be used for a trespass suit.

H.Williams made the motion to close further discussion and restrict reconsideration. L.Turgeon 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: Appoint Selectmen as the Cemetery Trustees

To see if the Town will vote to delegate the duties and responsibilities of the Cemetery Trustees to the Board of Selectmen pursuant to RSA 289:6, II-a. (Majority vote required) Recommended

by Board of Selectmen (3-0-0)

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

C.Burnham noted that this is a formality due to the lack of volunteers. It has become a burden for one person to handle.

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

The Moderator read Article 20: Tax Exemption for Solar, Wind and Wood Energy 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 woodheating energy systems intended for the 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 \$0.08 per thousand dollars of valuation. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3-0-0) Recommended by the Budget Committee (8-0-0)

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

The Moderator noted that he spoke with the Assessor. The Assessor reviewed the Town records and determined that there would be \$34,000 worth of these systems installed. This is an exemption that would need to be applied for an annual basis and Assessing would determine the proportional abatement.

S.Blanc noted that she authored this article. She agreed that people would need to apply before April 15th each year. She reviewed the RSA's and explained that the system would not need to be off grid or sole source. She noted that there are 135 communities that have adopted this exemption. She hopes that people are encouraged to have clean energy alternatives She questioned if there should be an estimated tax impact noted. There was a general discussion on who would benefit from this exemption. J.Boyd noted that the exemption is an incentive for the town and individual and is designed to be a tax neutral policy; neither an increase for the homeowner nor a decrease in revenue for the town.

The Moderator noted that the estimated tax impact statement can be removed from the article since it is just a shift in revenue. The general consensus of the Selectmen and Budget Committee was to remove the statement.

L.Turgeon 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 20 on the second session ballot as read.

The Moderator read Article 21: Voting and Counting Methods (Submitted by Petition)

All voting shall be by paper ballot; and all ballots shall be hand counted only, rather than by use of optical scanning or any other types of programmable electronic counting devices (Majority vote required)

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

Discussion:

R.Lover made the motion to add “The Moderator should consider implementing the following procedure: That” to the beginning of the article. J.Lover seconded the motion.

The Moderator reread the article. The Moderator should consider implementing the following procedure: That all voting shall be by paper ballot; and all ballots shall be hand counted only, rather than by use of optical scanning or any other types of programmable electronic counting devices.

Donald Diamant discussed machine errors/voter discrepancies across the State and stated that this was the purpose of the article. C.Burnham noted that the voting machines were introduced on a trial basis and was not meant to be long term. She stated that the article is not saying there are problems with Milton’s machines nor does it suggest that there was any voting fraud in Milton. She added that the article is meant to support and continue voting integrity in Milton. Karen Diamant noted that the amendment gives the moderator discretion and changes the intent of the article. P.Hayward, State Representative, noted that he served on the Election Law Committee and noted the machine discrepancies being discussed were not caused by the machines. It was noted that the State does not require training or certification for the volunteers. There was a general discussion on the cost and time.

The Moderator reread the article with the amendment. The Moderator took a hand count: 14 were in favor of the amendment, 13 were not in favor of the amendment, majority in favor, motion passed.

L.Turgeon made the motion to close further discussion and restrict reconsideration. D.Woods 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 amended.

Adjournment

M.Morrill made the motion to adjourn at 5:20PM. 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