

TOWN OF MILTON

FEBRUARY 10TH 2013

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

First Session

The Annual Town Meeting was held on Sunday, February 10th 2013 beginning at 1:00 PM at the Nute High School. A total of 65 voters were in attendance.

Chris Jacobs, Town Moderator, declared the meeting in session at 1:03pm.

Those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance. The Moderator asked for a moment of silence for those departed.

The Moderator introduced those present: Bob Srnec, Robert Bridges and Tom Gray as the Milton Selectmen; Joe Ryan-Town Administrator, Rick Sessler-Town Council; Michelle Beauchamp – Town Clerk; Larry D. Brown, Robert Carrier, Tom Gray, Lue Snyder, Stan Nadeau, Jennifer Crone, Mike Beaulieu as the Budget Committee; Karen Brown and Bob Ferris as Supervisors of the Checklist; Nick Marique - Fire Chief; Pat Smith -Public Works Director; and Mark McGowan -Police Chief.

The Moderator noted that there would be a candidate's forum for all candidates running for School District and Town Offices on Sunday February 17th 2013 at the Emma Ramsey Center beginning at 3pm. The forum will be video recorded and broadcast on the local Metrocast Channel.

The Moderator noted that the names on the ballot would be in alphabetic order following the same procedure the at the Secretary of State uses pursuant to RSA 656:5a.

The Moderator noted that the deliberative session was moved from Saturday the 9th to today the 10th by himself as allowed in the State Statutes. The decision was made this past Thursday to permit all parties to plan due to the snowstorm.

Tom Gray and Bob Bridges, as Board of Selectmen, presented Bob Srnec with a plaque for his years of dedicated service.

The Moderator explained the rules of SB-2 and noted that the second session would be held on Tuesday March 12th, 2013 at the Emma Ramsey Center. The polls for voting by official ballot will be open from 8am to 7pm.

The Moderator noted that the first session of the Annual Town Meeting consists of explanations, discussions and debate of each of the following warrant articles and will afford voters who are

present the opportunity to propose, debate and adopt amendments to warrant articles, except those articles whose wording is prescribed by State law.

The Moderator noted that the second session of the Annual Town Meeting is to elect town officers by official ballot and to vote on all warrant articles as they may have been amended at the first session.

The Moderator read Article 1:

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

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

The Moderator read Article 2:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate Two Million Seven Hundred Thousand Dollars **(\$2,700,000)** for the purpose of constructing a Fire Station in the Town of Milton.

Said sum to be raised by the issuance of serial bond or notes not to exceed Two Million Seven Hundred Thousand Dollars **(\$2,700,000)** under and in compliance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (NH Revised Statutes Annotated Chapter 33:1 et seq., as amended) and to authorize the Town's Board of Selectmen to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes, to determine the rate(s) of interest thereon and to take such other actions as may be necessary to effect the issuance, negotiation, sale and delivery of such Bonds or Notes as shall be in the best interest of the Town of Milton, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept, and pass any vote relating thereto; and further, to raise and appropriate Two Hundred and Twenty Nine Thousand Three Hundred and Thirty One Dollars **(\$229,331)** for the first year's interest payment and Bond Issuance cost on said Bond.

(If passed, this article will require the Town to raise and appropriate Two Hundred and Twenty Nine Thousand Three Hundred and Thirty One Dollars **(\$229,331)** in property taxes, resulting in a tax rate impact of **\$0.63 in FY 14**, Two Hundred and Eighteen Thousand Three Hundred and Sixty Three Dollars **(\$218,363)** in property taxes, resulting in a tax rate impact of **\$0.60 in FY 15**, Two Hundred and Thirteen Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy Five Dollars **(\$213,975)** in property taxes, resulting in a tax rate impact of **\$0.59 in FY 16**, Two Hundred and Nine Thousand Five Hundred and Eighty Eight Dollars **(\$209,588)** in property taxes, resulting in a tax rate impact of **\$0.57 in FY 17**, based upon projected assessed values.

(3/5'S Majority Ballot Vote required)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3-0)

Recommended by the Budget Committee (6-0)

The Moderator opened the warrant article for discussion.

Selectman Bridges briefly discussed the article. Nick Marique, Fire Chief, made a presentation.

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

Tom Gray made the motion to restrict reconsideration. Robert Srnec seconded. Majority in favor, motion passed.

The Moderator read Article 3

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to enter into a long-term lease/purchase agreement in the amount of Four Hundred Thirty Three Thousand Eight Hundred and Twenty Five Dollars (**433,825**) payable over a term of 7 years for three (3) Highway Department 6 Wheel Dump Truck with snowplow equipment and sander, and to raise and appropriate Sixty One Thousand and Nine Hundred and Seventy Five Dollars (**\$61,975**) for the first years payment for that purpose; this article does contain a municipal funding escape clause, if this warrant article passes, then warrant article 5 is null and void.

(Majority Ballot Vote required)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3-0)

Recommended by the Budget Committee (6-0)

The Moderator opened the warrant article for discussion.

Selectman Gray briefly discussed the article. Pat Smith, Road Agent, explained the need for the article.

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

Tom Gray made the motion to restrict reconsideration. Robert Srnec seconded. Majority in favor, motion passed.

The Moderator read Article 4

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 Three Million, Five Hundred Eighteen Thousand, Four Hundred and Four Dollars (**\$3,518,404.00**) Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be Three Million, Four Hundred Thirty Thousand Six Hundred and Sixteen Dollars, (**\$3,430,616.00**) 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 special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only.

(Majority Vote required) (Note: Warrant Article 4, the operating budget does not include special or separate warrant articles.)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3-0)

Recommended by the Budget Committee (6-3)

The Moderator opened the warrant article for discussion.

Selectman Srnec briefly discussed the article. Various Committee Members and Department Heads spoke.

Robert Naeger proposed an amendment: To change the proposed warrant article budget to \$3,247,200. Lisa Stewart seconded. Minority in favor, motion failed.

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

Robert Srnec made the motion to restrict reconsideration. Tom Gray seconded. Majority in favor, motion passed.

The Moderator read Article 5

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Fifty One Thousand Five Hundred and Eighty Three dollars (**\$151,583**) for the purchase of one (1) Highway Department 6 Wheel Dump Truck with snowplow equipment and sander. This Article is contingent on Article 3, if Article 3 passes this Article is null and void.

(Majority Vote required)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3-0)

Not Recommended by the Budget Committee (2-4)

The Moderator opened the warrant article for discussion.

Selectman Gray briefly discussed the article.

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

Tom Gray made the motion to restrict reconsideration. Robert Srnec seconded. Majority in favor, motion passed.

The Moderator read Article 6

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 Highway Department Truck Capital Reserve Fund, previously established.

(Majority Vote required)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3-0)

Recommended by the Budget Committee (5-0)

The Moderator opened the warrant article for discussion.

Selectman Gray briefly discussed the article.

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

Robert Srnec made the motion to restrict reconsideration. Tom Gray seconded. Majority in favor, motion passed.

The Moderator read Article 7

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Ninety Thousand Dollars **(\$290,000)** for Highway and Road reconstruction purposes. Said amount is partially offset by revenues from the Highway Block Grant estimated to be One Hundred Ten Thousand Dollars **(\$110,000.00)**. This is an annual appropriation that provides for the reconstruction of existing roadways. This appropriation will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7 VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31, 2014.

(Majority Vote required)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3-0)

Recommended by the Budget Committee (5-0)

The Moderator opened the warrant article for discussion. Pat Smith, Road Agent, gave a brief explanation.

Selectman Gray briefly discussed the article.

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

Tom Gray made the motion to restrict reconsideration. Robert Srnec seconded. Majority in favor. Motion passed.

The Moderator read Article 8

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 Highway Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund, previously established.

(Majority Vote required)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3-0)

Recommended by the Budget Committee (5-0)

The Moderator opened the warrant article for discussion.

Selectman Gray briefly discussed the article.

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

Robert Srnec made the motion to restrict reconsideration. Cherie Corbett seconded. Majority in favor, motion passed.

The Moderator read Article 9

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars **(\$10,000)** to be placed in the Milton Ambulance Vehicles and Equipment and/or Fire Department Vehicles Capital Reserve Fund, previously established.

(Majority Vote required)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3-0)

Recommended by the Budget Committee (5-0)

The Moderator noted that the current balance of this account is \$12,695.

The Moderator opened the warrant article for discussion.

Selectman Bridges briefly discussed the article. Nick Marique, Fire Chief, gave a brief explanation.

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

Tom Gray made the motion to restrict reconsideration. Robert Bridges seconded. Majority in favor, motion passed.

The Moderator read Article 10

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.

(Majority Vote required)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3-0)

Recommended by the Budget Committee (5-0)

The Moderator noted that the current balance of this account is \$34,529.

The Moderator opened the warrant article for discussion.

Selectman Bridges briefly discussed the article.

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

Tom Gray made the motion to restrict reconsideration. Robert Bridges seconded. Majority in favor, motion passed.

The Moderator read Article 11

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars **(\$10,000)** to be placed in the Milton Fire Department Vehicle Repairs and Improvements Capital Reserve Fund, previously established.

Majority Vote required

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3-0)

Recommended by the Budget Committee (5-0)

The Moderator noted that the current balance of this account is \$41,376.

The Moderator opened the warrant article for discussion. Nick Marique, Fire Chief gave a brief explanation.

Selectman Bridges briefly discussed the article.

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

Cherie Corbett made the motion to restrict reconsideration. David Levin seconded. Majority in favor, motion passed.

The Moderator read Article 12

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Dollars **(\$5,000.00)** to be placed in the Milton Free Public Library Capital Reserve Fund, previously established.

(Majority Vote required)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3-0)

Recommended by the Budget Committee (5-0)

The Moderator noted that the current balance of this account is \$15,711.

The Moderator opened the warrant article for discussion.

Selectman Snec briefly discussed the article.

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

Susann Foster-Brown made the motion to restrict reconsideration. Tom Gray seconded. Majority in favor, motion passed.

The Moderator read Article 13

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) for the purpose of purchasing computers for the Milton Free Public Library.

(Majority Vote required)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3-0)

Recommended by the Budget Committee (5-0)

The Moderator opened the warrant article for discussion.

Selectman Bridges briefly discussed the article. Betsy Baker, Librarian, gave a brief explanation.

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

Larry Brown made the motion to restrict reconsideration. Tom Gray seconded. Majority in favor, motion passed.

The Moderator read Article 14

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) to be placed in the Milton Townhouse Capital Reserve Fund, previously established.

(Majority Vote required)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3-0)

Recommended by the Budget Committee (5-0)

The Moderator noted that the current balance of this account is \$1,509.

The Moderator opened the warrant article for discussion.

Selectman Bridges briefly discussed the article.

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

Tom Gray made the motion to restrict reconsideration. Robert Srncac seconded. Majority in favor, motion passed.

The Moderator read Article 15

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) to be placed in the Milton Recreation Department Capital Reserve Fund, previously established.

(Majority Vote required)

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

The Moderator noted that the current balance of this account is \$35,525.

The Moderator opened the warrant article for discussion.

Selectman Bridges briefly discussed the article.

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

Cherie Corbett made the motion to restrict reconsideration. Tom Gray seconded. Majority in favor, motion passed.

The Moderator read Article 16

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Dollars **(\$5,000)** to be placed in Milton Cemetery Capital Reserve Fund, previously established.

(Majority Vote required)
Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3-0)
Recommended by the Budget Committee (5-0)

The Moderator noted that the current balance of the account was \$15,091.

The Moderator opened the warrant article for discussion.

Selectman Gray briefly discussed the article.

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

Tom Gray made the motion to restrict reconsideration. Larry Brown seconded. Majority in favor, motion passed.

The Moderator read Article 17

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars **(\$10,000)** to be placed in the Milton/Maine Bridges Capital Reserve Account previously established.

(Majority Vote required)
Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3-0)
Recommended by the Budget Committee (5-0)

The Moderator noted that the current balance of this account was \$30,983.

The Moderator opened the warrant article for discussion.

Selectman Bridges briefly discussed the article.

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

Tom Gray made the motion to restrict reconsideration. Leo Lessard seconded. Majority in favor, motion passed.

The Moderator read Article 18

To see if the Town, in accordance with RSA 154:1, IV will change the form of organization of the Milton Fire Department from an Elected Fire Chief to one where the Fire Chief is Appointed by the Board of Selectmen, and with the firefighters being appointed by the Fire Chief. When approved, the change from elected to appointed Fire Chief would take place no sooner than one (1) year following this vote.

(Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3-0)

The Moderator opened the warrant article for discussion.

Selectman Bridges briefly discussed the article. There was a general discussion regarding elected versus appointed.

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

Robert Bridges made the motion to restrict reconsideration. Tom Gray seconded. Majority in favor, motion passed.

The Moderator read Article 19

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, and with the public works employees being appointed by the Board of Selectmen. When approved, the change from elected to appointed Public Works director would take place no sooner than one (1) year following this vote.

(Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3-0)

The Moderator opened the warrant article for discussion.

Selectman Bridges briefly discussed the article. There was a general discussion regarding elected versus appointed.

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

Robert Srnec made the motion to restrict reconsideration. Cherie Corbett seconded. Majority in favor, motion passed.

The Moderator read Article 20

To see if the Town of Milton will vote to discontinue to deposit 50% of the revenues collected pursuant to RSA 79-A (land use change tax) being deposited into the Town of Milton Conservation Fund as previously approved in March 2002 by warrant article 21. If approved 100% of revenues collected pursuant to RSA 79-A will be deposited into the town's general fund.

(Majority Vote required)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3-0)

Not Recommended by the Budget Committee (2-4)

The Moderator opened the warrant article for discussion.

Selectman Bridges briefly discussed the article. Cynthia Wyatt, Conservation Commission Chair, gave a brief explanation of the benefits of the fund.

Cynthia Wyatt made the motion to amend the article to read: "To see if the Town of Milton will vote to decrease the Conservation Fund's share of revenues collected pursuant to RSA 79-A (land use change tax) from 50% to 45%. If approved, 55% of revenues collected pursuant to RSA 79-A will be deposited into the town's general fund. If not approved, the amount deposited into Milton Conservation Fund will continue to be 50% of revenues collected pursuant to RSA 79-A as previously approved by warrant article 21 in March 2002. Michelle Beauchamp seconded. Majority in favor, motion passed.

The Moderator noted that the article has been amended and instructed the Clerk to place Warrant Article 20 on the second session ballot as amended.

David Levin made the motion to restrict reconsideration. Cherie Corbett seconded. Majority in favor, motion passed.

The Moderator read Article 21

To see if the Town of Milton will vote to change the agents to expend on Milton Free Public Library Capital Reserve Fund as previously approved in March 2005 by warrant article 11 from the Library Trustees to the Board of Selectmen. The purpose of the fund is for the library renovations, purchase of furnishings, grounds work and building upgrades and improvements, including the use of the fund as matching funds for grants that might come available.

(Majority Vote required)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3-0)

The Moderator opened the warrant article for discussion.

Selectman Bridges briefly discussed the article. Les Elder and Nancy Johnson, Library Trustees, briefly discussed the warrant article. Attorney Sessler discussed the legality of the warrant article.

Less Elder made the motion to amend the article to read: To see if the Town of Milton will vote to change the agents to expend on Milton Free Public Library Capital Reserve Fund as previously approved in March 2005 by warrant article 11 from the Library Trustees to the Board of Selectmen, if given unanimous approval from the Trustees of the Milton Free Public Library. The purpose of the fund is for the library renovations, purchase of furnishings, grounds work and building upgrades and improvements, including the use of the fund as matching funds for grants that might come available. Nancy Johnson seconded. Majority in favor (22-14), motion passed.

The Moderator noted that the article has been amended and instructed the Clerk to place Warrant Article 21 on the second session ballot as amended.

Cherie Corbett made the motion to restrict reconsideration. Susann Foster-Brown seconded. Majority in favor, motion passed.

The Moderator read Article 22

Shall the Town adopt provisions of RSA 72:37, Exemptions for the Blind, to allow an inhabitant who is legally blind as determined by the blind service program, to be exempt each year on the assessed value, for property tax purposes, of his or her residential real estate to the value of \$15,000.

(Majority Vote required)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3-0)

Recommended by the Budget Committee (5-0)

The Moderator opened the warrant article for discussion.

Selectman Bridges briefly discussed the article.

Tom Gray made the motion to restrict reconsideration. Robert Srnec seconded. Majority in favor, motion passed.

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

Cherie Corbett made the motion to adjourn at 5:30pm. David Levin seconded. All in favor, motion passed. The Moderator declared the meeting adjourned.

A true record, attest:

Michelle Beauchamp
Michelle Beauchamp
Town Clerk/Tax Collector 2/15/13

A true copy of record, attest:

Michelle Beauchamp
Michelle Beauchamp
Town Clerk/Tax Collector 2/15/13