



2020 Milford

Town Voters' Guide

Performance Stage – Keyes Memorial Park (East Entrance)



The construction of the public performance stage at the former Fletcher Superfund Site was completed in 2019 and represents the culmination of a public/private partnership and community investment. The stage was constructed from donated repurposed material from a stone shed structure used at the former Tonella King Quarry on Tonella Road. Each granite stone was artfully moved/cut and carefully reassembled to replicate the look of the original stone shed and create a fully functional, all-purpose venue. We would like to sincerely thank the numerous local individuals and companies involved in completion of this project. All labor, materials, and equipment for the project were kindly donated. We would like to further thank the DeMontigny Family for their generous donation of the structure and opportunity to make this project a reality. The Town is truly fortunate and appreciative of the time, efforts, and continued vested interest of the many individuals/companies involved in the project and in our community. The stage is now set to enjoy the many future performances beginning in 2020!

Milford Town Elections • Tuesday, March 10, 2020 • 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. • Milford Middle School Gym

Milford Town Vote

Tuesday, March 10, 2020 – Polls Open 6:00 am to 8:00 pm
Milford Middle School – 33 Osgood Road

Voting Summary Sheet

Article 1.

Election of Officers

Board of Selectmen - 3 Year Term (vote for two)

Jeffrey D. Johnson

Vanessa L. Sheehan

Mike Thornton

Laura M. Dudziak

David R. Freel

Cemetery Trustee - 3 Year Term (vote for one)

James Whalen

Checklist Supervisor - 6 Year Term (vote for one)

Tim Finan

Moderator - 2 Year Term (vote for one)

Peter Basiliere

Library Trustee - 3 Year Term (vote for two)

Serena Neveu

Lynn R. Coakley

Library Trustee - 2 Year Term (vote for one)

Jennifer Siegrist

Trustees of the Trust Funds -3 year term (vote for one)

Tina M. Philbrick

Water-Wastewater Commissioner - 3 Year Term (vote for one)

Robert Courage

Article 2.

Zoning Questions

Ballot Vote 1.

Floodplain Management Ordinance

Yes

No

Ballot Vote 2.

West Elm Street Gateway District

Yes

No

Ballot Vote 3.

Commerce and Community District

Yes

No

Article 3.

Wadleigh Library Renovation and Expansion Project - \$3,450,000 (\$2,763,000 BOND and \$687,000 Donations)

Yes

No

Article 4.

Milford Emergency Communications Dispatch Center, Infrastructure and Equipment Project - \$2,500,000 BOND

Yes

No

Article 5.

Existing Emergency Communications Dispatch Center Upgrade - \$3,521,048 BOND by Petition

Yes

No

Article 6.

Collection System Capacity Management, Operation and Maintenance Program Development - \$218,305 BOND

Yes

No

Article 7.

Town Operating Budget - \$15,261,695

Yes

No

Article 8.

Water Department Operating Budget - \$1,548,984

Yes

No

Article 9.

Wastewater Department Operating Budget - \$1,999,901

Yes

No

Article 10.

Reconstruction of Town Roads - \$400,000

Yes

No

Article 11.

Bridge Repair and/or Replacement Capital Reserve - \$75,000

Yes

No

Article 12.

Ambulance and Equipment Lease-Purchase - \$45,180 (Annual Lease Payment \$45,180; \$75,000 Paid from Capital Reserves; Total Purchase Price \$296,400)

Yes

No

Article 13.

DPW Vehicles and Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve - \$40,000

Yes

No

Article 14.

Social Services - \$40,000

Yes

No

Article 15.

Non-Emergency Community Transportation Bus Services - \$32,000

Yes

No

Article 16.

Fire Apparatus Replacement Capital Reserve - \$25,000

Yes

No

Article 17.

Town Facilities Renovation and Major Repair Replacement Capital Reserve - \$25,000

Yes

No

Article 18.

Ambulance Vehicle Replacement Capital Reserve - \$25,000

Yes

No

Article 19.

Keyes Park Expansion Committee Project Capital Reserve - \$25,000

Yes

No

Article 20.

Public Works Wheel Bucket Loader Lease-Purchase - \$22,980 (Annual Lease Payment \$22,980; \$80,000 Paid from Capital Reserves; Total Purchase Price (\$145,000)

Yes

No

Article 21.

Police and Fire Department Portable Radio Replacements from The Public Safety Communication Equipment Replacement Capital Reserve - \$22,800

Yes

No

Article 22.

Public Safety Communication Equipment Replacement Capital Reserve - \$20,000

Yes

No

Article 23.

Conservation Land Fund - \$20,000

Yes

No

Article 24.

Assessing Revaluation Capital Reserve - \$15,000

Yes

No

Article 25.

Annual Labor Day Parade Support - \$10,000

Yes

No

Article 26.

Summer Band Concerts Support - \$9,000

Yes

No

Article 27.

Independence Day Celebration Fireworks - \$8,500

Yes

No

Article 28.

Pumpkin Festival Support - \$8,000

Yes

No

Article 29.

Memorial, Veterans & Labor Day Parades and Recognition Support - \$6,500

Yes

No

Article 30.

Veteran's Tax Credit and All Veteran's Tax Credit

Yes

No

Article 31.

Tax Credit for Surviving Spouse of Veteran

Yes

No

Article 32.

Tax Credit for Service Connected Total Disability

Yes

No

Article 33.

Increase the Property Tax Exemption for Elderly

Yes

No

Article 34.

West Milford Tax Increment Financing District Revocation - \$0

Yes

No

Article 35.

Brox Properties Public Infrastructure Improve Fund Revocation - \$0

Yes

No

Article 36.

Sports Betting - \$0

Yes

No

Article 37.

Nashua Street Pedestrian Safety and Sidewalk Improvement Project - \$750,000 (State pays \$600,400; Town Pays \$150,000), by Petition

Yes

No

Article 38.

Osgood Road, Melendy Road, and Armory Road Pedestrian Safety Sidewalk and Bicycle Land Project - \$763,000 (State pays \$610,400; Town pays \$152,600) by Petition

Yes

No

Article 39.

New Municipal and Transportation Capital Reserve Fund paid for by an Additional Auto Registration Fee, By Petition - \$0

Yes

No

Article 40.

New Hampshire Resolution to take Action on Climate Pollution, By Petition - \$0

Yes

No

Article 41.

New Hampshire Resolution for Fair Redistricting, By Petition - \$0

Yes

No

COMPLETE THIS SUMMARY SHEET AND USE IT AS A GUIDE WHEN YOU VOTE ON MARCH 10TH
REMINDER – VOTING IS IN THE MILFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL GYMNASIUM

Town of Milford Warrant Officials
2019 – 2020

- Board of Selectmen

Gary Daniels, Chairman

Paul Dargie, Vice Chairman

Mike Putnam

Laura Dudziak

Chris Labonte
- Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners

Robert Courage, Chairman

Mike Putnam, Vice Chairman

Dale White
- Budget Advisory Committee

Chris Pank, Chairman

Karen Mitchell

Wade Campbell

Robert Courage

Paul Bartolomucci

Peggy Seward

Claudia Lemaire

George Skuse

Jason Cillo

2020 Town Meeting
Warrant & Financials

To the inhabitants of the Town of Milford in the County of Hillsborough, in the State of New Hampshire, qualified to vote in Town affairs:

You are hereby notified that the Budget & Bond Hearing Meeting of the Town of Milford will be held, in accordance with “Senate Bill 2” (RSA 40:13), in said Milford, on Monday, the Thirteenth (13th) day of January 2020, in the Milford Town Hall Board of Selectmen’s Meeting room at six-thirty o’clock (6:30 p.m.) in the evening to discuss bond and budget hearing articles to be presented at the Deliberative Session.

ARTICLE 1 – ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Board of Selectmen - 3 Year Term (vote for two)

Jeffrey D. Johnson
Vanessa L. Sheehan
Mike Thornton
Laura M. Dudziak
David R. Freel

Cemetery Trustee - 3 Year Term (vote for one)

Jim Whalen

Library Trustee - 3 Year Term (vote for two)

Serena Neveu
Lynn Coakley

Library Trustee - 2 Year Term (vote for one)

Jennifer Siegrist

Moderator – 2 Year Term (vote for one)

Peter Basiliere

Supervisor of the Checklist – 6 Year Term (vote for one)

Tim Finan

Trustees of the Trust Funds - 3 Year Term (vote for one)

Tina Philbrick

Water-Wastewater Commissioner - 3 Year Term (vote for one)

Robert Courage

ARTICLE 2 – BALLOT VOTE – ZONING CHANGES

The Planning Board SUPPORTS all Amendments:

Ballot Vote No. 1

1. Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment #1 as proposed by the Milford Planning Board for the Town of Milford Zoning Ordinance as follows:

AMENDMENT #1: Amend Article VI Section 6.03 Floodplain Management Ordinance in its entirety to comply with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and National Flood Insurance Program Act of 1968 (P.L. 90-488, as amended) and general administrative changes throughout the article.

TOPICAL DESCRIPTION: The proposed amendments revise the floodplain ordinance to comply with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and National Flood Insurance Program Act of 1968 (P.L. 90-488, as amended) to remain in compliance with the minimum federal and state standards to be able to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program and allow property owners the ability to purchase flood insurance through the NFIP. The amendments further seek to revise the format and definitions to more clearly identify the regulations and make them more understandable to both community officials and property owners. The amendments propose to further clarify and update the general administration and process for permitting and enforcing within the regulatory floodplain. Lastly, the amendments reorganize and further clarify the general standards for floodplain management. **The Planning Board supports Amendment #1 by a unanimous vote of 5-0.**

Ballot Title: Floodplain Management Ordinance

Ballot Vote No. 2

2. Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment #2 as proposed by the Milford Planning Board for the Town of Milford Zoning Ordinance as follows:

AMENDMENT #2: Amend Article VI. Overlay District, Section 6.07.0 West Elm Street Gateway District by extending the overlay district to include the properties located at Map 13, Lot 3 (621 Elm Street), Map 13, Lot 4 (605 Elm Street), and Map 13, Lot 5 (589 Elm Street) on north side of Elm Street. The amendment shall replace the current Commerce and Community District Overlay designation for the referenced properties with the West Elm Street Gateway District overlay.

And in connection therewith, Amend Section 6.07.5 District Boundaries by inserting the following underlined text to read as follows:

“The West Elm Street Gateway District consists of a significant portion of Elm Street and Route 101, from the Granite Town Plaza to the Wilton Town Line. It is bounded to the north by the Souhegan River until the fork at Wilton Road and Elm Street, where it is then bounded by North River Road and Wilton Road. The study area is bounded to the south by Elm Street and both sides of Old Wilton Road, and Route 101. The southern boundary also includes Meadowbrook Drive, Scarborough Lane and two large parcels just south of Route 101 and west of Savage Road.

The area is fully depicted on the map entitled “West Elm Street Gateway District Boundaries”.

And in connection therewith, amend the Town of Milford Zoning Map and “West Elm Street Gateway District Boundaries” map to include the three additional parcels identified above within the boundaries of the West Elm Street Gateway District.

TOPICAL DESCRIPTION: The proposed amendments eliminate the current Commerce and Community District zoning overlay designation and extends the overlay West Elm Street Gateway District to add three additional parcels to encourage industrial-commercial development or redevelopment to compliment Milford’s community character and enhance access management in the area of Elm Street, Old Wilton Road, and part of Route 101 in West Milford. The amendment also further clarifies the boundaries of the West Elm Street Gateway District by updating the official Town of Milford Zoning Map and “West Elm Street Gateway District Boundaries” to include the three identified parcels. **The Planning Board supports Amendment #2 by a unanimous vote of 5-0.**

Ballot Title: West Elm Street Gateway District

Ballot Vote No. 3

3. Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment #3 as proposed by the Milford Planning Board for the Town of Milford Zoning Ordinance as follows:

AMENDMENT #3: Amend Article VI. Overlay District, Section 6.06.0 Commerce and Community District by deleting said section in its entirety and renumbering subsequent sections of the Zoning Ordinance accordingly. And, in connection therewith, amend the Town of Milford Zoning Map by eliminating the Commerce and Community Overlay District in its entirety.

TOPICAL DESCRIPTION: The proposed amendments seek to remove the Commerce and Community Overlay District in response to the changing economic conditions and the community’s long term vision and uses for the former BROX properties and surrounding land abutting the Elm Street, Old Wilton Road, Perry Road, Route 101 corridor. The amendment also further revises the official Town of Milford Zoning Map by eliminating the reference and boundaries of the Overlay District. **The Planning Board supports Amendment #3 by a unanimous vote of 5-0.**

Ballot Title: Commerce and Community District

Warrant Article/Ballot Question Position Summary

Warrant Article #	Pre and Post Deliberative Proposed Vote Tallies for 2020 Warrant Articles	2020 Proposed Amount	BOS Post-Deliberative Vote	Water Commissioners Vote	BAC Post-Deliberative Vote	BOS Majority Report Author	BOS Minority Report Author
			02/01/20	02/01/20	02/01/20		
3	Wadleigh Library Renovation & Expansion Project - \$3,450,000 (\$2,763,000 BOND and \$687,000 DONATIONS)	\$2,763,000	Opposed (3-2)	N/A	Support (7-2)	Gary Daniels	Laura Dudziak
4	Milford Emergency Communications Dispatch BOND	\$2,400,000	Support (3-2)	N/A	Support (9-0)	Gary Daniels	Chris Labonte
5	Existing Emergency Communications Dispatch Center Upgrade BOND, BY PETITION	\$3,521,048	Opposed (3-2)	N/A	Opposed (8-0-1)	Gary Daniels	Chris Labonte
6	Collective System Capacity Mgmt, Operation & Maintenance Program BOND	\$218,305	N/A	Support (3-0)	Support (8-0-1)		
7	Town Operating Budget	\$15,261,695	Support (4-1)	N/A	Support (8-0-1)	Gary Daniels	Chris Labonte
8	Water Department Operating Budget	\$1,548,984	N/A	Support (3-0)	Support (8-0-1)		
9	Wastewater Department Operating Budget	\$1,999,901	N/A	Support (3-0)	Support (8-0-1)		
10	Reconstruction of Town Roads	\$400,000	Support (4-1)	N/A	Support (9-0)	Paul Dargie	Gary Daniels
11	Bridge Repair and/or Replacement Capital Reserve	\$75,000	Support (4-1)	N/A	Support (6-3)	Mike Putnam	Chris Labonte
12	Ambulance & Equipment Lease-Purchase - \$45,180 (Annual Lease Payment \$45,180: \$75,000 Paid from Capital Reserves; Total Purchase Price \$296,400)	\$45,180	Support (5-0)	N/A	Support (9-0)	Laura Dudziak	
13	DPW Vehicles and Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve	\$40,000	Support (5-0)	N/A	Support (9-0)	Mike Putnam	
14	Social Services	\$40,000	Support (5-0)	N/A	Support (9-0)	Laura Dudziak	
15	Non-Emergency Community Transportation Bus Services (Blue Bus)	\$32,000	Support (5-0)	N/A	Support (9-0)	Laura Dudziak	
16	Fire Apparatus Replacement Capital Reserve	\$25,000	Support (5-0)	N/A	Support (9-0)	Mike Putnam	
17	Town Facilities Renovation and Major Repair Replacement Capital Reserve	\$25,000	Support (5-0)	N/A	Support (9-0)	Mike Putnam	
18	Ambulance Vehicle Replacement Capital Reserve	\$25,000	Support (4-1)	N/A	Support (8-1)	Mike Putnam	Chris Labonte
19	Keyes Park Expansion Committee Project Capital Reserve	\$25,000	Support (3-2)	N/A	Support (9-0)	Mike Putnam	Gary Daniels
20	Public Works Wheel Bucket Loader Lease-Purchase - \$22,980 (Annual Lease Payment \$22,980: \$80,000 Paid from Capital Reserves; Total Purchase Price \$145,000)	\$22,980	Support (4-1)	N/A	Support (9-0)	Laura Dudziak	Chris Labonte
21	Police and Fire Department Portable Radio Replacements from the Public Safety Communication Equipment Replacement Capital Reserve Fund	\$22,800	Support (5-0)	N/A	Support (9-0)	Mike Putnam	
22	Public Safety Communication Equipment Replacement Capital Reserve	\$20,000	Support (5-0)	N/A	Support (7-2)	Mike Putnam	
23	Conservation Land Fund	\$20,000	Support (3-2)	N/A	Support (9-0)	Laura Dudziak	Gary Daniels
24	Assessing Revaluation Capital Reserve	\$15,000	Support (5-0)	N/A	Support (9-0)	Mike Putnam	
25	Annual Labor Day Parade Support	\$10,000	Support (5-0)	N/A	Support (9-0)	Mike Putnam	
26	Summer Band Concerts	\$9,000	Support (5-0)	N/A	Support (9-0)	Mike Putnam	
27	Independence Day Celebration Fireworks	\$8,500	Support (3-2)	N/A	Support (6-3)	Laura Dudziak	Gary Daniels
28	Pumpkin Festival Support	\$8,000	Support (5-0)	N/A	Support (9-0)	Mike Putnam	
29	Memorial, Veterans & Labor Day Parades and Recognition Support	\$6,500	Support (5-0)	N/A	Support (9-0)	Mike Putnam	
30	Veteran's Tax Credit and All Veteran's Tax Credit (increase from \$300 to \$400)		Support (4-0-1)	N/A	Support (8-0-1)	Laura Dudziak	Gary Daniels-abstention

Warrant Article/Ballot Question Position Summary - Continued

31	Tax Credit For Surviving Spouse of Veteran (increase from \$700 to \$800)		Support (5-0)	N/A	Support (9-0)	Laura Dudziak	
32	Tax Credit for Service Connected Total Disability (increase from \$1,400 to \$1,500)		Support (5-0)	N/A	Support (9-0)	Laura Dudziak	
33	Increase The Property Tax Exemption for Elderly (varies)		Support (5-0)	N/A	Support (9-0)	Laura Dudziak	
34	West Milford Tax Increment Financing District Revocation	\$0	Support (5-0)	N/A	Support (9-0)	Laura Dudziak	
35	BROX Properties Public Infrastructure Improvement Fund Revocation	\$0	Support (5-0)	N/A	Support (9-0)	Laura Dudziak	
36	Sports Betting	\$0	Support (5-0)	N/A	Opposed (7-2)	Paul Dargie	
37	Nashua Street Pedestrian Safety and Sidewalk Improvement Project, BY PETITION	\$150,000	Opposed (3-2)	N/A	Support (9-0)	Gary Daniels	Paul Dargie
38	Osgood Road, Melendy Road, and Armory Road Pedestrian Safety Sidewalk and Bicycle Lane Project, BY PETITION	\$152,600	Opposed (3-2)	N/A	Support (9-0)	Gary Daniels	Paul Dargie
39	New Municipal and Transportation Capital Reserve Fund Paid by an Additional Auto Registration Fee, BY PETITION	\$0	Opposed (4-1)	N/A	Opposed (9-0)	Gary Daniels	Paul Dargie
40	New Hampshire Resolution to Take Action on Climate Pollution, BY PETITION	\$0	Opposed (3-2)	N/A	Opposed (9-0)	Gary Daniels	Paul Dargie
41	New Hampshire Resolution for Fair Redistricting, BY PETITION	\$0	Opposed (3-2)	N/A	Opposed (9-0)	Gary Daniels	Paul Dargie
N/A = Not applicable N/P = No position S= Support O = Oppose							

Budget Advisory Committee Report 2020

The Milford Budget Advisory Committee (BAC) is comprised of nine citizens of Milford appointed by the Town Moderator. The Budget Advisory Committee was created in 1974 by a town vote to serve two primary purposes: 1) to advise the Board of Selectmen and Town Administrator on budgetary matters as they prepare the operating budget and warrant articles, and 2) to develop positions of support or non-support for the proposed budget and warrant articles, which are presented at the Deliberative Session and included in the Voters' Guide published prior to the town vote. The members of this year's committee are: Chris Pank (Chair), Peggy Seward (Vice Chair), Karen Mitchell (Secretary), George Skuse (Vice Secretary), Paul Bartolomucci, Wade Campbell, Jason Cillo, Bob Courage and Claudia Lemaire.

In order to fulfill our dual roles, the BAC met with the Board of Selectmen, Town Administrator, Department Heads, Conservation Commission, Water and Sewer Commissioners, the School Budget Committee, and members of the community. The committee objectively reviewed the proposed operating budget and warrant articles, and after careful consideration, developed positions of support or non-support for each. Throughout our review process any questions about budget items were presented to Department Heads or the Town Administrator for clarification. All answers and any additional information requested were provided to the committee.

WADLEIGH LIBRARY RENOVATION AND EXPANSION PROJECT – \$3,450,000 (\$2,763,000 BOND and \$687,000 DONATIONS)

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the gross project budget sum of \$3,450,000 for the repair, renovation, and expansion of the William Y. Wadleigh Memorial Library building and to authorize the Selectmen to raise this appropriation by accepting a donation from Library Trustee Trust Funds in the amount of \$500,000 as well as additional funds raised – a minimum of **\$187,000** - and borrowing not more than \$2,763,000 in bonds, bond anticipation notes, or notes therefore in accordance with the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33). Further, to authorize the Selectmen to issue and negotiate such bonds, bond anticipation notes, or notes and to determine conditions and the rate of interest thereon, with such funding to be repaid from general taxation,

and to authorize the Selectmen and/or Library Trustees to contract for and expend any Federal or State aid that may be available for this purchase, and to authorize the Selectmen and/or Library Trustees to issue and negotiate bonds or notes with a term not to exceed 20 years and to determine the rate of interest and other conditions in their judgment. This is a Special Warrant Article in accordance with RSA 32. Note: As this is for issuance of long-term debt, this vote requires, under State law, 3/5 affirmative vote to pass. The Board of Library Trustees supports this Article (7-0). This Article has no tax impact in 2020 however; beginning in 2021 this article has an estimated tax impact of \$13.29 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000.

The Board of Selectmen DO NOT SUPPORT this Warrant Article (2-3)

Majority Report - Although there are many strong arguments for this proposed project, the majority does not feel it can support a multi-million dollar capital project at the same time we are requesting \$2,400,000 to resolve our emergency communication dispatch problems, believing that the passage of both articles (dispatch and library) would place too much of a tax burden on the electorate in a single year. In terms of priority, the health and safety benefits associated with resolving the communication problems with our emergency services (Ambulance, Fire, Police, Public Works) far outweigh the library article. While acknowledging that repairs are needed at the library, it's important to understand that communication dispatch also plays a critical role in emergencies that occur at the library (i.e. active shooter), and therefore it is crucial that we have an emergency service communication system that is operable, stable and reliable. This project would remain in the Capital Improvement Plan and would be revaluated next year.

Minority Report - This article was proposed by the Wadleigh Library Trustees in order to obtain the funds to complete necessary renovations to the existing building and for a small expansion. The library has not been renovated sine 1986 despite the increase in population. The renovations will provide more space for programming, parking, bathrooms and upgraded utilities. The Trustees have raised approximately \$687,000 for this project.

The Budget Advisory Committee SUPPORTS this Warrant Article (7-2)

Majority Report - This proposed Library Project has been planned well and presents a design for staff efficiency and patron and staff safety. It also updates the facility to address present computer and technical developments. The multiple repairs needed address building and roof water leaks, seepage of water with resulting mold, obsolete electrical panels and hanging electrical wires, decaying patched plumbing, etc. These are listed on the Library Town Website. There are plans for additional bathrooms including a family one, a teen area, and adjustable meeting room space. Most important of all, presently there is no sprinkler system for fire suppression. This is a safety issue that affects patrons and staff, but also jeopardizes the historical books of Milford that are housed there. It seems cost effective to do repair, renovation, and new construction at the same time, not piecemeal.

Minority Report - The minority vote to not support Article 3 with regards to the Wadleigh Library renovation and expansion project. The minority is in the position that a warrant article for renovations and repairs (not including the expansion) would be more appropriate and much more feasible. Estimations of just repairs and renovations would be 2/3 of the project cost (\$3,450,000) as reported by the library trustees and current donations would reduce this number even further. The minority does firmly believe the library desperately needs repair and mechanical updates; however an expansion is not at this time financially prudent when looking at the overall current and upcoming financial needs of the Town.

TOPICAL DESCRIPTION

Explanation: After three years of community research and input, the Library Trustees are presenting a library “Expanovation” plan which keeps the library on its current site, maintains most of the original building and will cost the community less than \$3 million. The taxpayer cost of this project is \$2.76 million. The total project cost of \$3.45 million is offset by a \$500,000 gift from the Morris K. Webster Trust Fund and a minimum of \$187,000 in fundraising revenues to date. The cost has been further reduced by nearly \$604,400 in Library Trustee expenditures towards the project over the past nine years; purchases include asbestos abatement, ceiling repair and insulation removal, new stairs and railings, moveable shelving to allow greater meeting space, LED lighting throughout the building, conversion of staff space into a meeting room, razing/landscaping, and architectural and consultant services.

It was 25 years ago when the Library Board of Trustees first submitted a library expansion proposal to the town's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Committee. The CIP has recommended a library project for funding 19 different times and for varying reasons the project has been postponed 15 times. The original library building is 69 years old; the addition is 34 years old. The facility has been deteriorating and has had increasingly expensive repair and maintenance costs. WML is a heavily used Town building and yet it fails to meet current Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements and does not have a fire sprinkler system. The Trustees have worked hard to come up with the most cost-effective solution to meet ever more pressing needs identified in community surveys, focus groups, a strategic planning process and a space needs analysis. Highlights include expanded Children's and Teen Departments, small, quiet study rooms, more restrooms, more handicapped parking spaces and a dedicated programming room. This design also provides a facility which is vastly more efficient to operate, staff, secure and maintain for years to come. It calls for a 3,009 square foot addition and a renovation of the current structure. The library would remain open throughout construction. Every year that passes, the cost to this project will increase. The rate of inflation for construction is estimated to be 3%. Assuming the same rate of inflation, if this project is postponed again until 2021, the cost increase can be estimated to include an additional \$103,500. **The Library Board of Trustees supports this article 7-0.**

WARRANT ARTICLE 4 – MILFORD EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS DISPATCH CENTER, INFRASTRUCTURE AND EQUIPMENT PROJECT - \$2,400,000 BOND

Shall the town vote to raise and appropriate, an amount not to exceed \$2,400,000 for upgrades and replacement of the emergency services dispatch center and related infrastructure/equipment? This article adopts the recommendation of the consultant engaged to study dispatch operations as approved by voters in March 2019. The project establishes a Milford Emergency Communications Dispatch Center replacing MACC Base and allows connectivity by neighboring towns if they choose to participate and borrowing not more than \$2,400,000 in bonds, bond anticipation notes, or notes therefore in accordance with the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33), the

article further authorizes the Selectmen to issue and negotiate bonds or notes with a term not to exceed 15 years and to determine the rate of interest and other conditions in their judgment. This is a Special Warrant Article in accordance with RSA 32. Note: As this is for the issuance of long-term debt, this vote under state law requires a 3/5 affirmative vote to pass. The article has no tax impact in 2020 however; beginning in 2021 this article has an estimated tax impact of \$14.49 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000.

The Board of Selectmen SUPPORT this Warrant Article (3-2)

Majority Report - At the 2019 Annual Meeting voters approved \$85,000 to hire a consultant to (a) study probable solutions, (b) make recommendations to the Board that would result in Milford's emergency services (Ambulance, Fire, Police, Public Works) being able to have at least 95% communication coverage throughout town, including being able to communicate into buildings, and (c) assist in preparing a Request For Proposal (RFP) to accept bids for the equipment needed to achieve the approved solution. Because the study was to include not only a Milford-only option, but also a regional possibility, multiple meetings were held with the Select Boards of Mont Vernon and Wilton, with whom we currently share a MACC Base partnership through an Inter-Municipal Agreement (IMA).

In September 2019, CTA Consultants, LLC (CTA), a Lynchburg, Virginia company which has specialized in mission critical 911 Communications Center and Radio System evaluation/assessments and design, RFP development, vendor selection/negotiations activities and implementation oversight for over 35 years, was approved by the Board to conduct the study. On December 16, 2019, CTA presented its 241-page findings to the Board, the Boards of Mont Vernon and Wilton, as well as to interested residents in a public meeting at Town Hall. The CTA Assessment Report is accessible on the Town website.

After numerous subsequent discussions, a majority of the Board recommends to voters, the top-rated proposal recommended by CTA, believing that this solution offers Milford residents the most benefit in a complete solution. If Warrant Article 4 is approved, CTA will assist Selectmen in developing an RFP to acquire the needed equipment to implement the recommended solution and finally fix and modernize our emergency communication systems, bringing stability and reliability of Milford's emergency communications to a level of service expected by residents, while leaving open the possibility of a regional solution with neighboring towns.

Minority Report - The minority feels that the current regional dispatch service (MACC BASE) is the most advantageous for Milford. Warrant article 4 requires a \$400,000 addition to the police station and a 175' tower to be placed in the downtown. Member towns to MACC BASE have voiced they are not interested in becoming a customer of Milford. Approving warrant article 4 would mean the Milford taxpayers would have to pay the full cost of the \$2.4 million plus interest bond and 100% of the operating cost. The minority feels there are too many unknown variables, the sustainability fund and the possible addition of union costs related to the new employees.

The Budget Advisory Committee SUPPORTS this Warrant Article (9-0)

Majority Report - The BAC feels that the presentation of the new stand-alone communications center analysis by CTA gives the town of Milford a solid safety communication complex for our town's first responders with the chance for growth. The Majority feel it's the best viable option for our town and feels it would be in the town's best interest to pass it this year given the information provided. More details regarding the report can be found at:

https://www.milford.nh.gov/sites/milfordnh/files/news/executive_summary_final_911_communications_dispatch_center_and_radio_needs_assessment.pdf

TOPICAL DESCRIPTION

Explanation: Voters requested and approved \$85,000 in March 2019 to have independent consultant group conduct an in-depth feasibility study for a Milford-only dispatch center, a Milford-run regional dispatch center or a regional dispatch center run by the Milford Area Communication Center (MACC Base).

- Three vendors submitted proposals for review and evaluation.
- CTA Consultants LLC of Lynchburg, VA was selected to perform this study in September 2019 and started their study on October 7, 2019.

- CTA made recommendations after studying and interviewing emergency services personnel from Milford, Wilton, Mont Vernon and Lyndeborough,
- Their 241-page comprehensive report was delivered to the Milford Board of Selectmen and residents on December 16, 2019. Representatives from Wilton, Mont Vernon, Lyndeborough and MACC Base attended this meeting.
- CTA's top recommendation is a Milford-only dispatch solution with a dispatch center at the Milford Police Department (MPD).
 - A VHF P25 Conventional Radio System is proposed as the best fit for Milford. A central tower located at MPD will provide 95% coverage for Milford. AT&T with their First Net project has a strong interest in constructing this tower (at no cost to the town). If this option is not accepted there will be a 100 foot monopole antenna to replace the 60 foot antenna already in place at the Police Department.
 - Capital cost as presented in Warrant Article 4 is \$2,400,000.
 - Milford will own the dispatch center and all equipment located within the town.
 - Annual operating cost for Milford only dispatch is \$550,000. This is in line with our share of MACC Base annual operating cost of \$529,054 a difference of \$20,946.
 - The Town of Milford has Finance and Human Resource departments already in place to support dispatch at no additional administrative cost.
- CTA's second recommendation is a regional solution if other towns want to participate in this solution. The regional dispatch center would be located at MPD and managed by the Town of Milford with regional input.
 - Neighboring towns would have to upgrade their own equipment under this article and they would have ownership of their town's infrastructure.
- A MACC Base solution was not recommended by CTA as a result of their study with all member towns of MACC Base.
 - Milford town departments work very well together without the "political" issues apparent at MACC Base. All department heads support Article 4 as the best comprehensive plan for the Town.
- CTA has completed its study and provided a comprehensive 241-page report that recommends leaving MACC Base to create a Town of Milford communications center.

Please **VOTE YES on Article 4**. The members of your emergency services need to be safe everyday as they work to serve the Town of Milford. They deserve and appreciate your support!

WARRANT ARTICLE 5 – EXISTING EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS DISPATCH CENTER UPGRADE - \$3,521,048 BOND BY PETITION

This is a Petition Warrant Article. Shall the town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,521,048 for the comprehensive upgrades and renovations to the current regionalized MACC Base Emergency Dispatch Center? Under this warrant article, Milford will appropriate their portion of the Inter-Municipal Agreement, at 71.2938% of \$4,938,800 required for the renovation and upgrades to the current MACC Base infrastructure and external radio equipment, and in accordance with the CTA study having a budgetary estimate as an alternative to Warrant Article #4. This article is entirely conditional on the Towns of Mont Vernon and Wilton also approving a warrant appropriation authorizing their Select Boards to pay the respective shares of each of their allocations as well as the governing board of MACC Base conducting and approving this capital expenditure in the manner provided for in the Inter-Municipal Agreement governing the procedures applicable to such an appropriation and expenditure. In accordance with the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33), this article further authorizes the Selectmen to issue and negotiate bonds or notes with a term not to exceed 15 years and to determine the rate of interest and other conditions in their judgement. This is a Special Warrant Article in accordance with RSA 32. Note: as this is for issuance of long-term debt, this vote under state law requires a 3/5 affirmative vote to pass. **The article has no tax impact in 2020 however; beginning in 2021 this article has an estimated tax impact of \$21.27 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000.**

The Board of Selectmen DO NOT SUPPORT this Warrant Article (2-3)

Majority Report - There are numerous problems with this petition article:

- (1) The Inter-Municipal Agreement (IMA) states "The operating budget, including any proposed capital expenditures, shall be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Governing Board provided, however, that any capital expenditure requiring the expenditure of more than TEN THOUSAND (\$10,000.00) DOLLARS for any single item shall require a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the Governing Board for approval.....". The Governing Board took no action on a capital expenditure of this nature before approving the 2020 budget prior to their December 1st deadline.
- (2) This article only covers Milford's share (71.2938%). Wilton and Mont Vernon would have to pass similar articles to be valid and cover 100% of the \$1,660,000. To our knowledge, Wilton and Mont Vernon do not have warrants of this nature.
- (3) We know that \$1,660,000 is not a total system solution.
- (4) This article is asking Milford taxpayers to raise and appropriate funds and Milford Selectmen to negotiate bond terms for a MACC Base Emergency Dispatch Center. Legally, Milford Selectmen are not given this authority simply because a petition warrant passes. This authority could only be given by the MACC Base Board of Governors.
- (5) If both Warrant Article 4 and Warrant Article 5 pass, then this would have a negative effect on the town's ability to bond, and taxpayers would be responsible for conflicting bonds.

Minority Report - MACC Base has been providing professional and affordable regional dispatch services for the town of Milford and surrounding communities for over 30 years. By supporting this warrant article, Milford would continue to be regional and pay only a portion (approx. 71%) of operating and upgrade costs, not all the whole cost. MACC base has existing tower sites, so it would not need an additional 175 foot tower in the downtown. MACC Base has a budget that is thoroughly reviewed by member towns. Over many years MACC Base has proposed upgrades to the system in which member towns have supported. Regional dispatch services have been known to be beneficial to the communities they serve.

At the deliberative session an amendment was made to change the totals of this article. It was then explained that all radios would be replaced. The amendment was approved with 55 in favor and 27 against, with the majority of the emergency personnel present in favor of the change.

The Budget Advisory Committee DOES NOT SUPPORT this Warrant Article (0-8-1)

Majority Report - The Budget Advisory Committee has deep concerns that the proposal brought forth does **NOT** have the recommended research and current or complete financial data to support the future needs of Milford's Emergency Dispatch Center. In March of 2019, Milford voters approved to fund a comprehensive study completed by outside consultants that addressed how to improve and upgrade Milford emergency communications. In this study, it was highly recommended that emergency communications dispatch be relocated to the Milford Police station IN ADDITION to the technical upgrades. The Budget Advisory Committee feels it would be a great disservice to Milford to **NOT** take the recommendations of this study and keep dispatch at Milford Town hall.

Minority Report - Either Warrant 4 or Warrant 5 will fund solutions to the Town of Milford's Emergency Services dispatch needs. A choice must be made. Warrant 4 costs includes construction of an addition to the Police Dept. an approx. 175-foot tower next to the PD, infrastructure, and the purchase of new radios (mobile and portables) and pagers. This cost would be for a Milford Only system with Milford covering 100% of cost and hopefully regional Towns will join us as customers.

Warrant Article 5 is to keep MACC Base currently located in the upstairs of the Town Hall, and contract with the other towns of Wilton, Mont Vernon, and Lyndeborough for a Regional dispatch system. The estimated cost for equipment upgrade was increased by vote at the Deliberative Session to include equipment and towers, and also radios and pagers. Milford's cost will be approximately 71% of total cost under the present Regional Contract. It is time to upgrade Milford Emergency Services radio coverage. Citizens must decide to fund one of these two projects now.

TOPICAL DESCRIPTION

Explanation: Under this warrant article, and in accordance with the Intermunicipal Agreement

(IMA), Milford will need to fund 71% (\$3,521,058) of the total \$ 4,938,800 as its portion of the requirements for renovating and upgrading the current Milford Area Communications Center (MACC Base) infrastructure and external radio equipment. This figure is taken from the CTA study upon which Warrant Article #4 is based. This \$3,521,058 does not include, however, the additional cost of bringing ALL of Town Hall (not just MACC base space) into at least 40% compliance with current National Fire Protection Act (NFPA) 1221 code guidelines. Town Hall is currently grandfathered from this requirement, but would lose that status with this system and renovation upgrade, and no analysis has been done to determine that cost.

Keeping MACC at Town Hall would be the driving force for requiring that Town Hall be brought into at least 40% compliance with current code requirements, therefore it should be expected that 29% of that upgrade cost would be borne by MACC-member towns Mont Vernon and Wilton. Therefore, Article 5 is contingent not only on the towns of Mont Vernon and Wilton presenting their share of the \$4,938,800 to voters, but also agreeing to pay for 29% of the Milford Town Hall upgrade to code requirements. Additionally, the MACC Base Board of Governors would have to approve the Capital Item as required in the IMA, which can't be done in 2020 because the MACC budget has been finalized.

The Reasons for the Change to the Original Petitioned Article 5

We want to provide information about Article 5 and why this should not be supported. Command Staff of Milford Police, Fire, Ambulance and DPW approve these comments.

• Complete Cost vs. Partial Upgrade

- Warrant Article 5 was presented by petition at Deliberative Session on Saturday, February 1, 2020 and amended from \$1,180,000 as Milford's share to \$3,521,058, reflecting the regional cost for the upgrade as estimated in the CTA study.
- What was not considered in the \$3,521,058 was the cost to renovate ALL of Town Hall to bring it into compliance with at least 40% of NFPA 1221.
- Warrant Article 5 as originally petitioned would have been the start of MACC Base requesting a multi-million dollar project to be completed as regional system upgrades over the course of several years, which would require annual Milford funding.
- Last year voters requested a more detailed plan for a project of this size and cost.
- Article 5, as originally petitioned, and represents everything the Board of Selectmen, the Budget Advisory Committee and the citizens of Milford voted to change from last year's communications warrant article.
- Article 5 was presented as a sole source vendor and had estimated costs that did not follow any RFP (Request For Proposal) guidelines or any consultant's report.
- Article 5 was never approved by the Board of Governors at MACC Base as required by the IMA.
- No plan was ever shown to the Selectmen or the Budget Advisory Committee as to how this money would be spent.
- MACC Base has never identified the true cost of a regional upgrade.
- The current equipment and systems have reached the end of their useful life and much of the equipment is no longer supported, including consoles purchased only five years ago.

Facility Upgrade Costs

- National Fire Protection Association guidelines (NFPA 1221) would require that 40% of ALL of Town Hall be brought up to current day code requirements (not just the MACC Base space). Currently Town Hall is grandfathered from these requirements, but renovations would change that grandfathered status.
- Though no analysis has been done, the cost to meet this requirement in our historic Town Hall is expected to be significant, and therefore prohibitive.
- Warrant Article 4 includes NFPA 1221 upgrades at the Milford Police Department (MPD).

Ownership

- Even though Milford would pay 71% of the cost for capital equipment purchases, all equipment would be owned by MACC Base. Milford would be locked into a long term, five plus year IMA

or forfeit any asset ownership.

- The two smaller member towns contribute 29%, but have 50% voting rights. This frequently results in decision deadlock, blocking ideas to keep MACC Base manageable and progressing with the times.
- MACC Base Management is ineffective and inadequate, particularly in Finance and Human Resources oversight.
 - According to the IMA, any surplus is to be returned proportionally to the member towns on an annual basis. Surplus on 12/31/18 was \$242,814, accumulated over multiple years. MACC Base management and their accountant initially proposed refunding the IMA required surplus to member towns of only \$14,823. Fortunately, Milford detected and corrected this dereliction of responsibility.
- Politics – Unfortunately many of the “political” issues are self-inflicted. Over the past few years, we have noted the following examples:
 - As the IMA was set to expire on December 31, 2018, the MACC Base Director “informed” MPD command staff that unless Milford signed the “new” IMA proposed by Wilton and Mont Vernon, Milford would be without dispatch service effective January 1, 2019. This completely ignored the renewal clause in the existing IMA. Eventually, a 2-year extension of the current IMA was signed.
 - The “new” proposed IMA would have reduced Milford's voting rights in the operations of MACC Base even though we would continue to pay 71% of the cost.
 - A former chair of the MACC Base Board of Governors stated in an email that the other towns should “stick it to Milford”.
 - Other member towns have stated that this is a Milford problem and we need to solve our problem.

The Milford Police, Fire, Ambulance and Public Works Command Staff ask you to **VOTE NO on Article 5.** It is more expensive. It is not a smart investment of your tax dollars. It is not the best comprehensive emergency communications solution.

ADDITIONAL TOPICAL DESCRIPTION SUBMITTED: This warrant article provides funding for Milford's portion of the upgrade to MACC Base regional dispatch system, including radios, as stated in the CTA study.

WARRANT ARTICLE 6 - COLLECTION SYSTEM CAPACITY MANAGEMENT, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT - \$218,305 BOND

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$218,305 for the purpose of automation improvements for the wastewater treatment facility, in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the Selectmen to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes to determine the rate of interest and other conditions in their judgement? The Automation improvements will replace aging and outdated controls to ensure uninterrupted essential operations and to develop a sewer collection system management plan. Note: As this is for issuance of long term debt, this vote requires, under State law, 3/5 affirmative vote to pass. This is a Special Warrant Article in accordance with RSA 32. This warrant article is paid for by the wastewater user fees.

The Board of Commissioners SUPPORT this Warrant Article (3-0)

Majority Report - The Automation improvements will replace aging and outdated controls to ensure uninterrupted essential operations at the WWTF. The CMOM program development will create the sewer collection system management plan as required by regulatory agencies.

The Budget Advisory Committee SUPPORTS this Warrant Article (8-0-1)

Majority Report - This bond provides for replacement of automated controls (installed in 1998) that operate and monitor the Wastewater Treatment Facility plant operations. This includes replacing an aging electrical motor control center. It provides funding to develop a capacity management operation and maintenance plan/program of the wastewater collection system. This is required by the EPA/NHDES.

WARRANT ARTICLE 7 - TOWN OPERATING BUDGET - \$15,261,695

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth in the budget for the purposes set forth herein, totaling \$15,261,695? Should this Article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$15,271,749 which is the same as last year with certain adjustments required by previous actions 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. This operating budget warrant article does not include appropriations contained in ANY other Warrant Article. This article has an estimated tax impact of \$0.046 over the 2019 Budget or (\$4.60 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000).

The Board of Selectmen SUPPORT this Warrant Article (4-1)

Majority Report - The 2020 Operating Budget is \$10,054 less than the Default Budget, with an increase of \$497,522 or 3.4% from the 2019 budget. The primary drivers of the increase in the 2020 budget are:

• Health Insurance -	\$187,108 (18%)
• Wage Increases -	\$106,181
• AFSCME Contact -	\$47,251 (4%)
• Teamsters Contact -	\$12,266 (2.5%)
• Other Town Employees -	\$46,664 (2%)
• Workers Compensation -	\$70,583
• MS4 (Stormwater) Compliance -	\$44,000
• Voter Registration/Elections (four elections in 2020) -	\$43,425

The majority is very mindful of cost impacts to the taxpayers and thanks the Town Administrator and Department Heads for working closely and making the necessary adjustments to present to the Board a budget that is reasonable, yet addresses the needs of the town.

Minority Report - The minority does not support the 2020 proposed town operating budget. The minority is not in support of the additional positions and additional expenditures proposed in this budget as some reflect only a partial year cost. The minority would like to see line items that are typically not spent, either taken out or explained where they were used. The minority feels that the town budget could be more carefully reviewed and analyzed to be certain we are being fiscally responsible with taxpayer money.

The Budget Advisory Committee SUPPORTS this Warrant Article (8-0-1)

Majority Report - The BAC voted unanimously for the 2020 town Operating Budget of \$15,261,695. It is the feeling of this committee that the municipal portion of the rate has been prudently managed. This year's rate of \$5.42 per thousand dollars of valuation is 46 cents less than last year's rate of \$5.88. The Town departments have been under considerable pressure to keep costs down for several years now. If the operating budget does not pass, the default budget is \$10K more than the proposed 2020 operating budget.

Abstention - The abstention is due to a conflict of interest.

	2019	2019	2020		
	ACTUAL (Note 2)	ADOPTED	PROPOSED	CHANGE	CHANGE
PURPOSE OF APPROPRIATION	AS OF 01/27/2020	BUDGET	BUDGET	\$	%
	(unaudited)				
Administration, includes Legal	\$ 260,288	\$ 268,283	\$ 284,288	\$ 16,005	6.0%
Ambulance	\$ 912,642	\$ 879,295	\$ 915,955	36,660	4.2%
Assessing	\$ 113,812	\$ 105,704	\$ 115,616	9,912	9.4%
Community Development	\$ 361,157	\$ 399,620	\$ 420,844	21,224	5.3%
Community Media	\$ 14,314	\$ 16,419	\$ 13,262	(3,157)	-19.2%
Conservation	\$ 24,695	\$ 24,695	\$ 24,695	-	0.0%
Elections, Registrations & Vital Statistics	\$ 162,733	\$ 168,981	\$ 218,538	49,557	29.3%
Finance & Tax Collection	\$ 354,042	\$ 359,353	\$ 350,322	(9,031)	-2.5%
Employee Benefits & Insurance (Note 1)	\$ 2,827,690	\$ 2,917,009	\$ 3,206,897	289,888	9.9%
Debt Service	\$ 1,324,725	\$ 1,324,991	\$ 1,311,174	(13,817)	-1.0%
Fire & Emergency Management	\$ 614,889	\$ 671,400	\$ 651,286	(20,114)	-3.0%
Human Resources	\$ 71,495	\$ 72,250	\$ 76,007	3,757	5.2%
Information Systems	\$ 343,584	\$ 347,304	\$ 346,940	(364)	-0.1%
Library	\$ 820,102	\$ 810,952	\$ 832,054	21,102	2.6%
Other Public Safety, includes MACC Base	\$ 682,615	\$ 682,965	\$ 700,734	17,769	2.6%
Police	\$ 2,414,558	\$ 2,400,378	\$ 2,455,554	55,176	2.3%
Public Works	\$ 2,995,108	\$ 3,023,715	\$ 3,041,835	18,120	0.6%
Recreation	\$ 130,012	\$ 130,132	\$ 135,815	5,683	4.4%
Welfare Admin. & Direct Assistance	\$ 153,812	\$ 160,727	\$ 159,879	(848)	-0.5%
TOTAL OPERATING BUDGET	\$ 14,582,273	\$ 14,764,173	\$ 15,261,695	\$ 497,522	3.4%
Note 1: All employee benefit costs are accounted for in this department and are not allocated to corresponding departments.					
Note 2: 2019 actual numbers are not finalized and are reported as of 01/27/2020. Year end adjustments are outstanding.					

WARRANT ARTICLE 8 - WATER DEPARTMENT OPERATING BUDGET - \$1,548,984

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum \$1,548,984 to operate and maintain the Water Department, said appropriation to be offset by income received from the water user charges, or take any other action relative thereto? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$1,541,987, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous actions 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. This warrant article is paid for by the water user fees.

The Board of Commissioners SUPPORT this Warrant Article (3-0)

Majority Report - The proposed Water Department Operating Budget reflects an increase of 1.4% to the 2019 Operating Budget, or an increase of \$80,756. The Water Department oversees the town wells, 57 miles of water pipe, over 3,500 customers, 503 hydrants as well as numerous service calls.

The Budget Advisory Committee SUPPORTS this Warrant Article (8-0-1)

Majority Report - The operating budget is funded by water user fees. This funding provides for the operation and maintenance of the water system, serving 3,589 customers.

WARRANT ARTICLE 9 - WASTEWATER DEPARTMENT OPERATING BUDGET - \$1,999,901

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,999,901 to operate and maintain the Wastewater Treatment Facility and the Sanitary Sewer Collection System, said appropriation to be offset by income received from wastewater user charges, or take any other action relative thereto? Should this Article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$2,027,262 which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous actions 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. This warrant article is paid for by the wastewater user fees.

The Board of Commissioners SUPPORT this Warrant Article (3-0)

Majority Report - The proposed Sewer Department Operating Budget reflects a decrease of 7.5% to the 2019 Operating Budget, or a decrease of \$13,372. The Sewer Department maintains approximately 40 miles of sewer main, 1,200 manholes, and oversees 5.5 miles of sewer interceptor between the Wilton town line and the wastewater treatment facility in east Milford.

The Budget Advisory Committee SUPPORTS this Warrant Article (8-0-1)

Majority Report - This budget is funded by sewer user fees. This funding provides for the operations and maintenance of the Wastewater Treatment Facility and the sewer collection system, serving 2,827 customers.

WARRANT ARTICLE 10 - RECONSTRUCTION OF TOWN ROADS - \$400,000

Shall the town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$400,000 to reconstruct roads as detailed using Cartegraph Data by the Department of Public Works. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI. This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$24.71 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000.

The Board of Selectmen SUPPORT this Warrant Article (4-1)

Majority Report - For many years the town has funded road repairs at roughly \$300,000 per year, which is about what we receive from the state. This level of funding is nowhere near what is needed to properly maintain the roads in town, and the condition of our roads had continued to decline each year due to this low level of spending. Recognizing this fact, three years ago we borrowed \$2,000,000 on a bond to increase our road repair activity to try to get ahead somewhat on our average road condition level. This money was spent at about \$650,000 per year for the last three years to supplement the normal funding, resulting in average road spending of almost \$1,000,000 per year for the past three years. This increased spending has resulted in a significant improvement in our road conditions, at the penalty of paying interest on the money that was borrowed. The majority of the Board of Selectmen believes that we need to keep our road repair and reconstruction spending at a higher level than we were previously spending to avoid falling behind again on our overall level of repairs, but that we should do it without borrowing and paying

interest for what should be a normal annual expense. The \$400,000 on this article when added to the over \$300,000 in the regular budget will allow for over \$700,000 of road repairs in this budget cycle, which is less than what we have spent on average over the past three years, but it is closer to what is needed to maintain our roads on an ongoing basis.

Minority Report - While not denying that roads need to continue to be repaired, the minority feels that this additional \$400,000 would place too much of a tax burden on residents in the same year that the Board is asking for \$2,400,000 to fix our emergency communication dispatch problems, identified by the Board as its highest priority. There is \$300,000 in the operating budget to continue to repair the worst roads, as identified by DPW's Cartograph software. This year, concentration should be on fixing our emergency communications, with reconstruction of town roads secondary to that initiative.

The Budget Advisory Committee SUPPORTS this Warrant Article (9-0)

Majority Report - This appropriation would enable the Town to continue implementing planned improvements to roads recommended in the 2015 engineering study. Drainage, chip seal and asphalt resurfacing is planned to be accomplished on 3.48 miles of roads with this funding.

WARRANT ARTICLE 11 - BRIDGE REPAIR AND/OR REPLACEMENT CAPITAL RESERVE - \$75,000

Shall the town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$75,000 to be placed in the Bridge Replacement Capital Reserve Fund? This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$4.63 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000.

The Board of Selectmen SUPPORT this Warrant Article (4-1)

Majority Report - Roads, Bridges and infrastructure present a constant repair and maintenance task for the town. Although we have made significant progress repairing our culverts and bridges, we still have several that need repair or replacement. This article will continue to fund the capital reserve to keep making progress on these bridge projects. The Selectmen feel that it is imperative to continue making the necessary repairs to these bridges by funding the capital reserve. This Capital Reserve account has a balance of \$608,240.

Minority Report - The minority feels that the board is asking voters to support too many high priority items this year. DPW has stated that there is enough money in the current capital reserve fund for the necessary repairs for the next few years as the Mason Road Bridge got delayed from 2024 until 2028. Therefore, the minority feels the other items take higher priority and this will help reduce the impact on the taxpayers.

The Budget Advisory Committee SUPPORTS this Warrant Article (6-3)

Majority - The majority supports increasing this fund as we feel it is important to always maintain a level that allows us to handle unexpected repairs quickly and efficiently as well as planning for known replacements and repairs in the coming years. Adding to the fund each year is a smart economic move and could help insulate the town from having to bond large amounts in the future.

Minority - Currently, the capital reserve fund balance for bridge replacement/repair is at a healthy balance of \$608,240. DPW has planned work of engineering and culverts for \$165,000 in 2020 and \$65,000 in 2021. The minority believes AT THIS TIME that the balance is sufficient and does not need an additional \$75,000 as there are more pressing project requests elsewhere in the Warrant.

WARRANT ARTICLE 12 - AMBULANCE AND EQUIPMENT LEASE-PURCHASE - \$45,180 (Annual Lease Payment \$45,180: \$75,000 Paid From Capital Reserves; Total Purchase Price \$296,400)

Shall the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a 5-year lease/purchase agreement, subject to a fiscal funding clause, which will protect the Town in the event of non-appropriation, for the purpose of lease-purchasing one ambulance with the appropriate equipment for Ambulance Department operation to replace the current 2001 LifeLine ambulance and to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$45,180** for the first year's payment for this purpose. The Total price of this vehicle is \$296,400. Approval of this warrant article will further authorize the expenditure of \$75,000 from the Ambulance Capital Reserve Fund to arrive at the net/lease/purchase amount of **\$221,400**. This is a Special Warrant Article in accordance with RSA 32. This Article has an

estimated tax impact of \$2.79 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000.

The Board of Selectmen SUPPORT this Warrant Article (5-0)

Majority Report - Approval of this article would allow the replacement of the 2001 ambulance used to provide advanced life support to Milford residents and visitors. The current ambulance is 19 years old and does not support the expanded medical capabilities that can be provided by the department. Replacing this ambulance will address equipment capability shortcomings while supporting the ambulance use rotation to maximize ambulance life cycle.

The Budget Advisory Committee SUPPORTS this Warrant Article (9-0)

Majority Report - This would replace the 2001 Lifeline ambulance (which would be sold). The \$45,180 would pay the first year's payment and \$75K would be expended from the corresponding capital reserve fund and in the following years payments would be included in the operating budget. The passing of this article would put us back on the rotation of much needed emergency equipment.

WARRANT ARTICLE 13 - DPW VEHICLES AND HEAVY EQUIPMENT CAPITAL RESERVE - \$40,000

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$40,000 to be placed in the DPW Vehicles and Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve Fund? Expenditures from this fund will require a vote at town meeting. The \$40,000 adds to the DPW Vehicles and Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve approved by voters in 2018. This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$2.47 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000.

The Board of Selectmen SUPPORT this Warrant Article (5-0)

Majority Report - Continuing to build on a capital reserve account for DPW vehicles and Heavy Equipment is necessary and will lower the impact to the tax rate when a new vehicle or piece of heavy equipment is purchased. The funds will continue to accrue until a replacement is needed and can only be used for the replacement of a DPW vehicle or piece of heavy equipment. This will save the town money in interest charges. This Capital Reserve account currently has a balance of \$80,289.26.

The Budget Advisory Committee SUPPORTS this Warrant Article (9-0)

Majority Report - The purpose is to appropriate funds each year, allowing funds to accumulate. When a piece of heavy equipment is in need of replacement, funds may be withdrawn from this account to be applied to the purchase /lease. The current balance of this fund is \$80,289.26..

WARRANT ARTICLE 14 - SOCIAL SERVICES - \$40,000

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$40,000 for the purpose of providing funding to Social Service agencies for Milford residents as proposed by the Social Services Committee and submitted to the Board of Selectmen? This is a Special Warrant Article in accordance with RSA 32. This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$2.47 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000.

The Board of Selectmen SUPPORT this Warrant Article (5-0)

Majority Report - Presently there are twelve (12) agencies that provide assistance to Milford residents. The services offered by these organizations provide an invaluable benefit to Milford residents in need, thus reducing the amount the Town of Milford spends on welfare to qualifying residents.

The Budget Advisory Committee SUPPORTS this Warrant Article (9-0)

Majority Report - In these economic times, our citizens continue to need assistance. The funds are allocated to (12) different agencies that provide various resources to our citizens. Without these resources, the overall burden would likely increase in excess of the amount requested.

WARRANT ARTICLE 15 - NON-EMERGENCY COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION BUS SERVICES – \$32,000

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$32,000 for the purpose of providing the Town's share of funding to the Souhegan Valley Transportation Collaborative (SVTC) in order to continue operating a regional, non-emergency, wheelchair-accessible transportation service

providing rides within the designated service area to seniors, people with disabilities, and the general public? This is a Special Warrant Article in accordance with RSA 32. This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$1.98 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000.

The Board of Selectmen SUPPORT this Warrant Article (5-0)

Majority Report - The Board unanimously supports Article 24. Souhegan Valley Transportation Collaborative continues to provide affordable, wheelchair-accessible transportation for non-emergency healthcare appointments and other essential activities. This is an invaluable service to the Town of Milford as well as surrounding communities which greatly benefits the town's elderly and disabled population giving them a sense of independence.

The Budget Advisory Committee SUPPORTS this Warrant Article (9-0)

Majority Report - The Souhegan Valley Transportation Collaborative (SVTC) provides a valuable service to the community by providing transport for medical appointments and other necessities to seniors, people with disabilities and the general public.

WARRANT ARTICLE 16 - FIRE APPARATUS REPLACEMENT CAPITAL RESERVE - \$25,000

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 to be placed in the Fire Apparatus Replacement Capital Reserve Fund? Expenditures from this fund will require a vote at town meeting. The \$25,000 adds to the Fire Apparatus Replacement Capital Reserve approved by voters in 2017. This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$1.54 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000.

The Board of Selectmen SUPPORT this Warrant Article (5-0)

Majority Report - The intent of this reserve fund is to offset the cost of a new piece of apparatus when it is needed. Continuing to fund this capital reserve will save us interest cost on a future lease or bond. This Capital Reserve account currently has a balance of \$75,347.11.

The Budget Advisory Committee SUPPORTS this Warrant Article (9-0)

Majority Report - This previously established fund is for the purchase of fire apparatus needed in the future. It would not necessarily fund the entire cost of future purchases but would allow for a larger down payment toward a future lease purchase of equipment. The current balance of this fund is \$75,347.11.

WARRANT ARTICLE 17 - TOWN FACILITIES RENOVATION AND MAJOR REPAIR REPLACEMENT CAPITAL RESERVE - \$25,000

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 to be placed in the Town Facilities Renovation and Major Repair Replacement Capital Reserve Fund? Expenditures from this fund will require a vote at town meeting. The \$25,000 adds to the Town Facilities Renovation and Major Repair Replacement Capital Reserve approved by voters in 2017. This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$1.54 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000.

The Board of Selectmen SUPPORT this Warrant Article (5-0)

Majority Report - The Board of Selectmen unanimously support Article 17. By voting annually to fund this account, the costs incurred to conduct necessary repairs and replacements are spread out over time. This Capital Reserve account currently has a balance of \$75,347.11

The Budget Advisory Committee SUPPORTS this Warrant Article (9-0)

Majority Report - This previously established fund would allow the town to continue the process of setting aside funds to be used for future renovations and repairs of town buildings. These set aside funds are not expected to completely pay for all future needs but would be used as down payments against large expenditures thereby leveling future budgets as Milford works to maintain important town buildings. The current balance of this fund is \$75,347.11.

WARRANT ARTICLE 18 - AMBULANCE VEHICLE REPLACEMENT CAPITAL RESERVE - \$25,000

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 to be placed in the Ambulance Vehicle Replacement Capital Reserve Fund? Expenditures from this fund will require a vote at town meeting. The \$25,000 adds to the Ambulance Vehicle Replacement Capital Reserve approved by voters in 2017. This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$1.54 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000.

The Board of Selectmen SUPPORT this Warrant Article (4-1)

Majority Report - This article continues the funding of a capital reserve account dedicated for the purchase of an ambulance. This account can be used to lower the impact on taxes when a replacement ambulance is purchased. Ambulances can cost up to \$300,000, so this account might be used as a down payment for our next purchase. This Capital Reserve account currently has a balance of \$75,347.11

Minority Report - The minority feels that the board is asking voters to support too many high priority items this year and this capital reserve could be held off for a year.

The Budget Advisory Committee SUPPORTS this Warrant Article (8-1)

Majority - This previously established fund would allow for the appropriation to be used towards ambulance vehicle replacement. It would not fund the entire purchase price of the vehicle but allow for a lesser amount of bond at the time of purchase. The current balance of this fund is \$75,347.11. If the warrant to purchase a new ambulance passes (warrant article 12), this total fund balance will be used towards the purchase/lease of the new ambulance.

Minority – The minority feels that in a year we are pulling funds from this capital reserve fund to purchase a new ambulance, we should not also be asking for the funds to put back into the fund itself. The purpose of the capital reserve funds is to reduce the taxpayer cost in a given year. Asking for additional funding for a capital reserve fund in the same year as spending it would not serve the purpose of the fund.

WARRANT ARTICLE 19 - KEYES PARK EXPANSION COMMITTEE PROJECT CAPITAL RESERVE - \$25,000

Shall the town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 to be placed in the Keyes Park Expansion Committee Project Capital Reserve Fund? The purpose of this fund is for the design, development and construction of improvements to Keyes Memorial Park, as outlined in the Keyes Memorial Park Expansion Committee Report, (December 20, 2016 and as amended). The Board of Selectmen has authority to expend from this fund. The \$25,000 adds to the Keyes Park Expansion Committee Project Capital Reserve approved by voters in 2017. This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$1.54 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000.

The Board of Selectmen SUPPORT this Warrant Article (3-2)

Majority Report - This article continues the funding of a capital reserve account dedicated to improvements at Keyes Park. The Keyes Park Expansion Committee developed a master plan for the site a few years ago after the former Permatach facility was purchased and added to the site. The committee continues to meet, and they are working to refine the plans to match the long-term needs of the community. This Capital Reserve account currently has a balance of \$0

Minority Report - While the Board of Selectmen has adopted a policy of using capital reserve accounts to deter spikes in future financial requests for some capital items, the Board is asking voters to fund over \$200,000 in capital reserve requests this year for future items it considers critical. The minority of the Board opposes this article for the following reasons: (1) it is not a critical item, and (2) because of the amount of funding the Board has requested for critical, higher priority items, such as Emergency Communications Dispatch (\$2,400,000).

The Budget Advisory Committee SUPPORTS this Warrant Article (9-0)

Majority Report - This previously established fund allows for the appropriation to be used toward the Keyes Park Expansion Committee Project Capital Reserve Fund approved by votes. This project will update and expand Keyes Park including the Town parcel of land previously known as 127 Elm Street, which is adjacent to Keyes Park.

The Keyes Park Expansion Committee Project report, accepted by the Board of Selectmen in July 2017, identifies three phases of improvements over a number of years. These funds would not necessarily fund all three phases of the project but would allow for the implementation of identified phases.

Last year funds were used to properly survey all three parcels of land and officially incorporate them into Keys Memorial Park Complex. This year funds will be used to contract for a study of community needs and an analysis of the feasibility of renovation or removal and replacement of the old 127 Elm St. building. The full Keyes Park Expansion Committee Project Report can be found

on the town web site <https://www.milford.nh.gov/keyes-memorial-park-expansion-committee>
The current balance of this fund is \$0.

WARRANT ARTICLE 20 - PUBLIC WORKS WHEEL BUCKET LOADER LEASE-PURCHASE - \$22,980 (Annual Lease Payment \$22,980; \$80,000 Paid From Capital Reserves; Total Purchase Price (\$145,000))

Shall the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a 3-year lease/purchase agreement, subject to a fiscal funding clause, which will protect the Town in the event of non-appropriation, for the purpose of lease/purchasing one Caterpillar (or similar) Wheel Bucket Loader and to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$22,980** for the first year's payment for this purpose. The total purchase price of this vehicle is \$145,000. Approval of this warrant article will further authorize the expenditure of \$80,000 from the DPW Vehicles and Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve to arrive at the net/lease/purchase amount of **\$65,000**. This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$1.42 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000.

The Board of Selectmen SUPPORT this Warrant Article (4-1)

Majority Report - Approval of this article will allow for the lease-purchase of a bucket loader. This will eliminate the need for a winter rental, which took the place of a 1996 Kobleco loader, and reduce annual operating costs by \$15,000. The cost savings to the town over a 15-year period would be \$102,635.00.

Minority Report - The minority feels that with all the other items the board is asking the voters to support this year the loader is not a priority. We have a 2018 Backhoe that can complete necessary jobs, as well as approximately \$18,000 in the budget for loader rental. In recent years we have done substantial repairs to our current loader and it is very good working condition. The minority feels other items take higher priority and this will help minimize the increase on the taxpayers.

The Budget Advisory Committee SUPPORTS this Warrant Article (9-0)

Majority Report - Lease purchasing this unit will eliminate the need to rent a loader during the winter months at a cost of \$15,000. It will also benefit the Department of Public Works throughout the year in the maintaining of highways.

TOPICAL DESCRIPTION

Explanation: This article will replace the 6 month / year winter rental loader by purchasing a town owned loader. This will give DPW 12 months/year of usage and will save taxpayers \$102,635.00 over 15 years of ownership.

WARRANT ARTICLE 21 - POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENT PORTABLE RADIO REPLACEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT CAPITAL RESERVE - \$22,800

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$22,800 to replace Portable Radios for the Police and Fire Departments with \$22,800 to come from the Public Safety Communication Equipment Replacement Capital Reserve. This Article does not have a tax impact.

The Board of Selectmen SUPPORT this Warrant Article (5-0)

Majority Report - There are several portable radios amongst emergency services that have reached their end of life and are unable to be repaired. Approval of this warrant article will allow emergency services to have fully functioning portable radios for all shifts. Radios can be bought with the Public Safety Communication Equipment Replacement Capital Reserve funds. Use of this fund requires voters' approval. This warrant article does not have any affiliation with MACC Base or the CTA Study.

The Budget Advisory Committee SUPPORTS this Warrant Article (9-0)

Majority Report - The warrant article is an excellent example of how Capital Reserve Funds ("savings accounts") can be built up and used for specific items when needed. Because the money has previously been put aside, there is no cost to the Town this year and no impact/cost on the tax rate.

WARRANT ARTICLE 22 - PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT CAPITAL RESERVE - \$20,000

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 to be placed in the Public Safety Communication Equipment Capital Reserve Fund? This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$1.23 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000.

The Board of Selectmen SUPPORT this Warrant Article (5-0)

Majority Report - The intent of this capital reserve is to fund the cost of future purchases of critical safety communication equipment. Purchases would include replacement of pagers and radios, both portable and vehicular, for Ambulance, DPW, Emergency Management, Fire, and Police. This Capital Reserve account currently has a balance of \$80,409.58.

The Budget Advisory Committee SUPPORTS this Warrant Article (7-2)

Majority - The majority feels that it is important to continue the yearly contribution to this fund in order to lessen the impact of unexpected equipment failures or new equipment purchases. While currently Warrant Article 21 does call for a withdrawal of \$22,800 from this fund, we should stay in the practice of adding to the fund to ensure that other future expenses are adequately funded.

Minority – Warrant article #21 is using \$22,800 from this Capital Reserve Fund for the purchase of portable radios leaving a balance of \$80,409.59.. The balance in the Fund is sufficient AT THIS TIME without needing this \$20,000 for the coming year. The Town Departments are currently examining and planning any future needs.

WARRANT ARTICLE 23 – CONSERVATION LAND FUND - \$20,000

Shall the town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 for the purpose of adding it to the conservation fund created in accordance with RSA 36-A, said land fund being allowed to accumulate from year to year and to be available for the acquisition of property, conservation easements and other RSA 36-A allowable purposes? Contribution furthers the protection of the town's natural resources. This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$1.23 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000.

The Board of Selectmen SUPPORT this Warrant Article (3-2)

Majority Report - This article was proposed by the Conservation Commission in order to increase the funds in the Conservation Land Fund. These funds continue to build a base and enable the Conservation Commission to work with other organizations in the event prime properties become available and assist landowners with easements. By voting to support this article, you are helping to protect the town's natural resources.

Minority Report - The minority of the Board are opposed to this funding request this year. When the request was made, the Board was told that there was about \$120,000 in the Conservation Land Fund and that the Commission wanted to raise that balance closer to \$150,000. As of 12/31/19, the Conservation Commission had \$200,323 in the Conservation Land Fund (including \$76,900 in Rail Trail funds), \$18,253 in the Town Forest Fund, \$2,587 in the Nees Bequest Fund and \$3,819 in the Accumulative Fund, for a total Conservation Fund balance of \$224,982. For this reason, the minority does not support this article this year.

The Budget Advisory Committee SUPPORTS this Warrant Article (9-0)

Majority Report - In 2018, the BAC unanimously voted to recommend a desired minimum balance of \$150,000 be kept in the Conservation Land Fund. Presently, there is a balance of \$121,000. Since Milford does not provide funding through the Land Use Tax, the Conservation Commission depends on taxpayer funding to purchase lands that become available for public use so that Town's natural resources can be protected. Fundraising and grant applications will still be pursued. The required public hearing and approval by the Board of Selectmen prior to expenditure will allow input and decision making during the year with quick action when suitable land becomes available and purchase opportunities may not be lost.

TOPICAL DESCRIPTION

Explanation: An additional \$20,000 continues to build a base of funds: 1) to work with other organizations in the event that prime properties become available, 2) to work with landowners needing assistance in placing an easement on a property, or 3) to enable a quick responsive

action by the Conservation Commission. The Conservation Fund has a balance of \$120,000. The 2020 Budget Advisory Committee recommended that a minimum of \$150,000 be held in this fund. The American Farmland Trust found that the cost of services for open spaces and working farms and forests are about half the cost of services for residential properties. This Fund request has been repeatedly supported by the town residents.

WARRANT ARTICLE 24 - ASSESSING REVALUATION CAPITAL RESERVE - \$15,000

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000 to be placed in the Assessing Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund? This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$0.93 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000.

The Board of Selectmen SUPPORT this Warrant Article (5-0)

Majority Report - This article continues the funding of a capital reserve dedicated to assessing revaluation expenses. We are required by law to do a formal reappraisal for all property every five years. This funding approximates the average annual cost of reappraisal, so this is an attempt to have level annual payments towards reassessment rather than having a large individual payment every five years and to avoid the spike in taxes when that would occur. This Capital Reserve account currently has a balance of \$45,208.27.

The Budget Advisory Committee DOES NOT SUPPORT this Warrant Article (0-9)

Majority Report - Each town is required by State Statue to assess all property every five (5) years to guarantee that each parcel is updated to its current value. This previously established fund would allow the town to reduce the tax impact during the year that the required assessments take place. The current balance of this fund is \$45,208.27. The BAC is not supporting this article this year as this past year's revaluation costs were not pulled from this capital reserve fund. We feel that amount would cover this year's request for funds towards the upcoming reassessment.

WARRANT ARTICLE 25 - ANNUAL LABOR DAY PARADE SUPPORT - \$10,000

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 for the purpose of funding bands, musicians and other allied expenses directly attributed to the annual Labor Day Parade? This is a Special Warrant Article in accordance with RSA 32. This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$0.62 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000.

The Board of Selectmen SUPPORT this Warrant Article (5-0)

Majority Report - This warrant article partially funds the cost of the annual Labor Day parade, including the cost of bands and other costs. This high visibility parade is the largest Labor Day parade in the state and has been held in Milford for 72 years. This signature event brings revenues to local businesses and showcases the best of Milford to the attendees. The ending balance in this account for 2019 is \$12,992.50.

The Budget Advisory Committee SUPPORTS this Warrant Article (9-0)

Majority Report - We believe we should continue to help fund this parade which has been an annual event in Milford. The parade is one of the favorite activities provided to the citizens of Milford and has been attended by hundreds of people each year for the past 75 years since its inception in 1945 by Governor Charles M. Dale to honor the workers of New Hampshire.

WARRANT ARTICLE 26 - SUMMER BAND CONCERTS SUPPORT - \$9,000

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$9,000 for the purpose of holding the annual summer evening Band Concerts (bands, sound system, crossing detail)? This is a Special Warrant Article in accordance with RSA 32. This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$0.56 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000.

The Board of Selectmen SUPPORT this Warrant Article (5-0)

Majority Report - These band concerts are an example of why Milford is such a great place to live. The concerts are held in Emerson Park next to the post office or in Town Hall when there is bad weather. Listening to the various types of music on the banks of the Souhegan River is a wonderful experience that is suitable for people of all ages, including the many seniors that live nearby.

The Budget Advisory Committee SUPPORTS this Warrant Article (9-0)

Majority Report - The BAC feels that the summer band concerts provide culture and entertainment for all ages and are one of the many activities that make Milford a highly desirable place to live.

WARRANT ARTICLE 27 - INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION FIREWORKS - \$8,500

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$8,500 for the purpose of providing the Independence Day celebration fireworks display at a time and location to be determined by the Board of Selectmen? This is a Special Warrant Article in accordance with RSA 32. This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$0.53 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000.

The Board of Selectmen SUPPORT this Warrant Article (3-2)

Majority Report - By voting to support this article, voters will ensure that they are able to continue to enjoy the fireworks display on the Fourth of July. Fireworks have become a staple of the Fourth of July celebration in Milford. Families gather at both Keyes Field and MCAA fields to enjoy the festivities and to also have the opportunity to support youth athletics in town by purchasing from the concession stands.

Minority Report - The budget is up 3.4% (though it is below the default budget) and numerous critical warrant articles seek your hard-earned dollars, but this is not a critical warrant article. This year we have some unusually high requests, critical to the health and safety of Milford residents, and this activity, if desired, could be funded in a different manner. The minority did not view this as a high priority and felt the money could be better used in support of one of the core functions of government.

The Budget Advisory Committee SUPPORTS this Warrant Article (6-3)

Majority - This appropriation would be used to cover the direct cost of the Independence Day Celebration fireworks display. Fireworks have been the culminating activity to a day-long celebration in recognition of the birth of our nation. This activity helps Milford residents of all ages express our pride and patriotism for our great country. In past years funding for this event has received the support of a majority of voters.

Minority - The minority believes that fireworks are the lowest priority item on the Warrant in a year of more pressing needs. Past Fourth of July activities were memorable and truly enjoyable with or without fireworks. Safety coverage by the Police, Fire, Ambulance and DPW for all events that day is already included in the Town Operating Budget. This Warrant Article is only for the actual fireworks.

WARRANT ARTICLE 28 - PUMPKIN FESTIVAL SUPPORT - \$8,000

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$8,000 for purposes of Pumpkin Festival support by Public Works, Police, Fire, and Ambulance Departments? This is a Special Warrant Article in accordance with RSA 32. This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$0.49 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000.

The Board of Selectmen SUPPORT this Warrant Article (5-0)

Majority Report - The Granite Town Festivities Committee did a wonderful job organizing our 30th Annual Pumpkin Festival. Hundreds of volunteer hours go into making this a spectacular 3-day community event with music and activities for all ages. An estimated 35,000 visitors attended the 2019 Pumpkin Festival. The huge success of the festival was due to the collaboration of several Milford volunteer committees, The Granite Town Festivities Committee, The Milford Rotary Club, and the Milford Lions Club along with several town departments, over 23 local businesses, and hundreds of volunteers. The Pumpkin Festival lowered the cost of the previous warrant article by \$15,000. The \$8,000 will cover the cost of the extra man hours for the Department of Public Works, Police, Ambulance and Fire Department. The Granite Town Festivities Committee hopes to be self-sustaining after this year. The remaining balance in The Granite Town Festivities Committee's account for 2019 is \$41,435.21.

The Budget Advisory Committee SUPPORTS this Warrant Article (9-0)

Majority Report - The BAC feels this is a prime event to showcase what the town has to offer and "puts Milford on the map". The past two years the Granite Town Festivities Committee has done an exceptional job in organizing the festival with an all-volunteer group. The committee is working at making this event completely self-funded, and have reduced the warrant from \$23,000 to \$8,000. This is a true town event supporting local nonprofits and businesses alike.

WARRANT ARTICLE 29 - MEMORIAL, VETERANS & LABOR DAY PARADES AND RECOGNITION SUPPORT - \$6,500

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$6,500 for the purpose of town support relative to the observance of Memorial, Veterans and Labor Day Parades? These funds shall be used to cover parade costs incurred by Public Works, Police Department and other Town departments, and to purchase flags to be placed on the graves of veterans on Memorial Day. Departmental support costs and materials associated with the provision of these services will be charged against this appropriation. This is a Special Warrant Article in accordance with RSA 32. This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$0.40 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000.

The Board of Selectmen SUPPORT this Warrant Article (5-0)

Majority Report - These funds cover the cost of town department expenses needed to properly support the Memorial Day, Labor Day, and Veterans Day parades that are held each year. These funds also cover the cost of flags for veterans in our cemeteries on Memorial Day. The three parades allow us to honor those who have served and/or made sacrifices to make our country better. They promote community involvement and allow our current groups and organizations to be recognized.

The Budget Advisory Committee SUPPORTS this Warrant Article (9-0)

Majority Report - These parades are well attended and popular with the community. Costs for safety coverage and clean up by Police, DPW and other Town Departments are included as well as the purchase of flags placed on veteran's graves for Memorial Day.

WARRANT ARTICLE 30 - VETERAN'S TAX CREDIT AND ALL VETERAN'S TAX CREDIT

Shall the town, pursuant to RSA 72:27-a, vote to increase the Optional Veteran's Tax Credit (RSA 72:28) and the All Veteran's Tax Credit (RSA 72:38-b) from \$300 to \$400. RSA 72:28 I. The standard veterans' tax credit shall be \$50.

II. The optional veterans' tax credit, upon adoption by a city or town pursuant to RSA 72:27-a, shall be an amount from \$51 up to \$750. The optional veterans' tax credit shall replace the standard veterans' tax credit in its entirety and shall not be in addition thereto.

RSA 72:28-b II. The credit granted under this section shall be the same as the amount of the standard or optional veterans' tax credit in effect in the town or city under RSA 72:28. This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$3.33 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000.

The Board of Selectmen SUPPORT this Warrant Article (4-0-1)

Majority Report - This warrant article recognizes the commitment and contribution of our Veterans by providing a small increase in tax relief. It has been more than 10 years since there was any increase applied and it is felt that this increase shows our appreciation for our Veterans who have given so much for us.

Board of Selectmen's Abstention Report - As a veteran, Selectmen Daniels declared a conflict of interest and abstained from voting on this article.

The Budget Advisory Committee SUPPORTS this Warrant Article (8-0-1)

Majority Report - The BAC unanimously voted yes on the Veteran Tax Credit. This credit for veterans within the town would be raised from \$300 to \$400. It is our position to help those who served this country.

Abstention - There is one abstention because a member of the BAC is a veteran and voting to support this warrant article would be inappropriate because passage could be of a direct financial benefit to the member.

WARRANT ARTICLE 31 - TAX CREDIT FOR SURVIVING SPOUSE OF VETERAN

Shall the town, pursuant to RSA 72:27-a, vote to increase the tax credit for the Surviving Spouse of a veteran who was killed or died while on active duty (RSA 72:29-a) from \$700 to \$800.

72:29-1 II. ... the surviving spouse of any person who was killed or died while on active duty in the armed forces of the United States or any of the armed forces of any of the governments associated with the United States in the wars, conflicts or armed conflicts, or combat zones set forth in RSA 72:28, shall receive a tax credit in the amount from \$701 up to \$2,000 for the taxes

due upon the surviving spouse's real and personal property, whether residential or not, in the same municipality where the surviving spouse is a resident.

The Board of Selectmen SUPPORT this Warrant Article (5-0)

Majority Report - This warrant article recognizes the commitment and contribution of our Veterans by providing a small increase in tax relief for their surviving spouse. This credit applies to the spouse of a service member killed while on duty. It has been more than 10 years since there was any increase applied and it is felt that this increase shows our appreciation to the families of those who gave the ultimate sacrifice defending our country.

The Budget Advisory Committee SUPPORTS this Warrant Article (9-0)

Majority Report - The BAC unanimously voted yes on the Tax credit for surviving spouse of a veteran. This credit for veterans within the town would be raised from \$700 to \$800. It is our position to help those who served this country as well as their surviving spouses of those who were killed or dies on active duty.

WARRANT ARTICLE 32 - TAX CREDIT FOR SERVICE CONNECTED TOTAL DISABILITY

Shall the Town, pursuant to RSA 72:27-a, vote to increase the tax credit for veteran's who have total and permanent service-connected disability (RSA 72:35) from \$1400 to \$1500.

RSA 72:25 I-a. The optional tax credit for service-connected total disability, upon adoption by a city or town pursuant to RSA 72:27-a, shall be an amount from \$701 up to \$2,000. The optional tax credit for service-connected total disability shall replace the standard tax credit in its entirety and shall not be in addition thereto.

The Board of Selectmen SUPPORT this Warrant Article (5-0)

Majority Report - This warrant article recognizes the commitment and contribution of our Veterans by providing a small increase in tax relief for the veteran who has been wounded while on duty. It has been more than 10 years since there was any increase applied and it is felt that this increase shows our appreciation for their service.

The Budget Advisory Committee SUPPORTS this Warrant Article (9-0)

Majority Report - The BAC unanimously voted yes on article 31. This article would allow for the tax credit for veterans who have total and permanent service-connected disability to be increased from \$1400 to \$1500. Again, it is our position to help those who served this country.

WARRANT ARTICLE 33 - INCREASE THE PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FOR ELDERLY - \$0

Shall the Town, pursuant to RSA 72:27-a, vote to modify the elderly exemption from property tax based on assessed value for qualified taxpayers to be as follows: for persons 65 years of age up to 75 years - \$83,000; for a person 75 years of age up to 80 - \$124,000; for persons over 80 year of age - \$165,000; and to modify the maximum asset limit for both individual and married persons to \$100,000 (excluding the value of the person(s) residence). To qualify, the person must satisfy all of the conditions of RSA 72:39-a&b that pertain to eligibility for this exemption as well as those contained in any other applicable statute including without limitation, that they demonstrate that they have been a New Hampshire resident for at least 3 consecutive years, that they own the real estate individually or jointly, of if the real estate is owned by such persons spouse, that they must have been married to each other for at least 5 years, and that they reside at the property as their primary residence. In addition, the taxpayer must have a net income in each applicable age group of not more than \$38,600, or if married, a combined net income of not more than \$46,000.

Note: The recommended increase (20% over current limits in each of three age categories) in the exemption amount categories is an offset of the 2019 assessed value statistical update where the average home assessed value increase was 19.6%. The recommended increase in asset limits (from \$85,000 to \$100,000) is to increase the cushion for unanticipated expenses. There is no recommended increase for the current income limits. The resultant increase in tax rates due to these changes cannot be determined.

The Board of Selectmen SUPPORT this Warrant Article (5-0)

Majority Report - The elderly exemption amounts are reviewed whenever there has been a re-valuation or broad property valuation update to help maintain a consistent level of property tax assistance for those on limited incomes. This exemption applies a 20% increase in the exemption

amount to be applied to the value of the primary residence of the recipient. A 20% increase is recommended as it represents the average increase in value that occurred in the valuation update of 2019, even though some property values have increased by more than that amount. The intent of the increased exemption amount is a simple parity, in line with the previous year's exemption amount.

This Warrant Article also recommends a slight increase for total asset limits from \$85,000 to \$100,000. The \$85,000 limit has not increased in over 10 years, while incidental expenses i.e.: medical, home repair, utilities have continued to increase for our elderly who are on extremely limited incomes. This helps the recipient to have a small reserve for unanticipated expenses that may occur.

The Budget Advisory Committee SUPPORTS this Warrant Article (9-0)

Majority Report - As local property taxes have increased to support committee needs it has become difficult for many elderly residents, especially those on fixed incomes to maintain their homes. This article would allow for the update and modification of the current elderly property tax exemption based on assessed value and for those seniors who are within the age and income brackets identified in the article. These modifications are important to help seniors maintain their residences in the Town of Milford.

WARRANT ARTICLE 34 - WEST MILFORD TAX INCREMENT FINANCING DISTRICT REVOCATION - \$0

Shall the town vote, pursuant to RSA 162:K, to dissolve the West Milford Tax Increment Financing District comprised of Tax Map 38, Lots 4, 5, 5-1, 9, 11, 12, 13 and 14 (the so-called BROX industrial property owned by the Town of Milford) and Map 7, Lot 16-1 and Map 38 Lot 6 (two parcels owned by Hendrix Wire & Cable Inc.), and to further dissolve the Advisory Board for said District, in accordance with RSA 162:K:14, or take other action relative thereto. This Article has no tax impact.

The Board of Selectmen SUPPORT this Warrant Article (5-0)

Majority Report - This Article seeks to revoke the West Milford Tax Increment Financing District. Milford Voters approved the creation of the West Milford Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District in 2006 to provide financing for public improvements (sewer, water, roads, sidewalks, etc.) within the Brox Industrial Properties and abutting privately owned industrial properties. The intent of West Milford TIF District was to attract industrial and commercial development within the area and encourage viable economic development. Unfortunately, the TIF District has languished due to the lack of interest in the industrial properties within the District and has not resulted in the anticipated development/redevelopment opportunities for the Town since its creation. As such, the Board of Selectmen believes that the West Milford Tax Increment Financing District is no longer warranted at this time and should be revoked.

The Budget Advisory Committee SUPPORTS this Warrant Article (9-0)

Majority Report - The TIF District was formed in the past to attract businesses and construction in the West End of Milford, especially along Route 101A. It was managed by an Advisory Board appointed by the Board of Selectmen and was provided technical & administrative support by the Community Development Department. The Board of Selectmen feel that the TIF District is not needed now. There is an Economic Development Advisory Committee for all of Milford consisting of citizens, a BOS representative, a Conservation Commission Representative, a Planning Board Representative and the Community Development Director working for the whole Town.

WARRANT ARTICLE 35 - BROX PROPERTIES PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT FUND REVOCATION - \$0

Shall the town vote, pursuant to RSA 31:19-a, to revoke the BROX Properties Public Infrastructure Improvement Fund established in 2012 to defray costs of construction for municipal infrastructure improvements in the form of highway improvements and/or the provision of municipal water and sewer facilities servicing the so-called BROX Industrial Properties owned by the Town of Milford identified as Tax Map 38, Lots 4, 5, 5-1, 9, 11, 12, 13 and 14, located in the West Milford Tax Increment Financing District. Said fund contains a \$0 balance. This Article has no tax impact.

The Board of Selectmen SUPPORT this Warrant Article (5-0)

Majority Report - This Article seeks to revoke the Brox Properties Public Infrastructure Improvement Fund. Milford voters approved the creation of the Fund in 2012 to create an expendable trust fund to provide funding for the construction for municipal infrastructure improvements for the industrial properties within the West Milford Tax Increment Financing District. The Fund has been inactive and unfunded since its inception. The Brox Properties Public Infrastructure Improvement Fund is directly associated with the West Milford Tax Increment Financing District. With the proposed revocation of the TIF District, the Fund is no longer warranted and as such, should be revoked.

The Budget Advisory Committee SUPPORTS this Warrant Article (9-0)

Majority Report - This fund is being removed with a balance of \$0 (zero dollars). The Board of Selectmen feels that the need to install infrastructure of sewer, water, electricity, roads, etc. for new public projects on Brox land is no longer needed.

WARRANT ARTICLE 36 – SPORTS BETTING - \$0

Shall the town allow the operation of sports book retail locations within the Town of Milford? This Article has no tax impact.

The Board of Selectmen SUPPORT this Warrant Article (5-0)

Majority Report - In the 2019 session of the New Hampshire General Court, a bill was passed and signed by the Governor that allowed sports betting to occur in New Hampshire. The bill authorized online betting, which is now in place and is being offered by Draftkings.com sportsbook. The bill also authorized the creation of up to 10 retail sports book betting locations at various sites around the state. The individual municipalities that will be awarded these establishments have to first authorize the location of a sports book in their municipality by a vote like this warrant article. This is the same process that was used to allow for Keno to be offered, and which is now available at multiple locations in town. While it is unlikely that a retail sports book will be set up in Milford since we are not an ideal location like some other municipalities (i.e. larger cities, right on the border near highways, or geographically diverse), there is a chance that we would be awarded one if there are only a few municipalities that authorize their use. It is expected that a sports book retail operation would be a vibrant business that would improve the economy of the town. There are no costs to the town for this warrant article as the cost to set up a sports book (if one is awarded) would be paid for entirely by the business offering the sports book operation.

The Budget Advisory Committee DOES NOT SUPPORT this Warrant Article (2-7)

Majority - The majority voted against the article to allow sports betting in the town of Milford. It is this position of the majority that sports betting would bring a negative environment to the town.

Minority - The minority support this article because it would authorize the town to license a sports betting facility should one be interested in opening in Milford at some point in the future. There is no tax related cost impact to the taxpayer and such establishments would likely contribute to the town tax base via property tax and other fees, helping to defray property tax rates to homeowners and other residents.

WARRANT ARTICLE 37 - NASHUA STREET PEDESTRIAN SAFETY and SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENT PROJECT - \$750,500 (State pays \$600,400; Town pays \$150,100), BY PETITION

This is a Petition Warrant Article. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$750,500 with \$150,100 to be raised by general taxation and \$600,400 from the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) Program for the engineering, potential right-of-way acquisition, and construction of approximately 3,500 linear feet of new five-foot (5') wide sidewalk, to include, but not limited to, vertical granite curbing, associated drainage improvements, crosswalk markings, and repaving, along the southerly and northerly sides of Nashua Street beginning from 486 Nashua Street (Near Cahill Place, Map 32, Lot 4-C) to 586 Nashua Street (Near Lorden Plaza, Map 44, Lot 6) and to the existing sidewalk network at the corner of Capron Road and Nashua Street? This reimbursement program provides an 80% federal funding/20% local matching funds opportunity. This is a Special Warrant Article in accordance with RSA 32. This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$9.38 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000.

The Board of Selectmen DO NOT SUPPORT this Warrant Article (2-3)

Majority Report - Cities and towns are responsible by law for ensuring that public sidewalks are passable. This means that the town would take on the liability of ensuring that the sidewalk

is free of snow in the winter and would need to appropriate necessary funds yearly to maintain the sidewalk to keep it safe (free from cracks and breaks) for pedestrians. This article uses a Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Improvement Program grant to fund 80% of the project, but the town would need to fund the other 20% (\$150,100). This is just the initial cost to build the sidewalk. Going forward, Milford residents would be responsible for funding the on-going maintenance of this sidewalk (plowing and repairs) to keep the town free of liability. Between Article 38 and Article 39, there is an additional 7500' (1.42 miles) of sidewalk that would need to be plowed each snowstorm and repaired as needed. This will have an impact on DPW time and resources, including accelerated wear and tear on sidewalk plows (we just purchased another one last year for \$155,000). Should this article pass, residents should expect an increase in future DPW budgets to cover this additional work. Furthermore, CMAQ grants have traditionally provided continual funding for these types of projects. For these reasons, the majority does not support this article this year.

Minority Report - This article provides the 20% matching funds (\$150,100) that are needed to build about 3,500 linear feet of sidewalks on Nashua Street on the east side of town in various sections between Cahill Place and Lorden Plaza. This project is one of the main components of the Milford Pedestrian, Bicycle, Trail & Recreation Connectivity Plan. This project has been in the Capital Improvements Plan for over a decade pending the awarding of the 80% funding. We were recently awarded the funding, and it will expire if this project is not approved this year. The state funding is highly competitive, and it is unlikely that we would get it again if we do not agree to it this year.

The Budget Advisory Committee SUPPORTS this Warrant Article (9-0)

Majority Report - This article was originally supported by Milford Capital Improvement Committee but removed from the originally submitted articles by the Board of Selectmen. This project would construct long needed sidewalks along the southerly and northerly sides of Nashua Street beginning from 486 Nashua St. (near Cahill Place) to 586 Nashua Street (near Shaw's at Lorden Plaza). Milford Community Development Office wrote a competitive grant to secure these Federal Funds through the State of New Hampshire. These funds are not available every year and this may be the Town's only opportunity to have the State fund 80% of this project. This is a long-needed safety project for residents who must currently walk in the street along this portion of Nashua Street. This project was ranked number one (highest priority) by the CIP Citizens Advisory Committee for Capital Improvements for 2020.

TOPICAL DESCRIPTION

Explanation: The purpose of Warrant Article #37 is to improve pedestrian safety and access along the Town's primary commercial and multi-family Nashua Street corridor. The project will allow the established single and multi-family residential neighborhoods safe access to goods and services and creates the final segment linking Milford's downtown. The project is a vital part of the Town's long-term goal to improve pedestrian safety, traffic management, and has been prioritized through local and regional planning efforts, initiatives, and studies for more than a decade.

The Town of Milford was extremely fortunate to be awarded funding during the 2019-2020 cycle. Until recently, the Community Development Office and Town have been unsuccessful in their efforts to secure funding for the project over the past 10 years. The funding cycle for the CMAQ program occurs every two years. However, the CMAQ program is not always funded or fully funded. When funds are made available, the CMAQ program is an exceedingly competitive and selective process. Given the number of qualified/eligible projects within New Hampshire and limited funds during each cycle, the probability of being awarded the CMAQ funds is minimal.

WARRANT ARTICLE 38- OSGOOD ROAD, MELENDY ROAD, AND ARMORY ROAD PEDESTRIAN SAFETY SIDEWALK AND BICYCLE LANE PROJECT - \$763,000 (State pays \$610,400; Town pays \$152,600), BY PETITION

This is a Petition Warrant Article. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$763,000, with \$152,600 to be raised by general taxation and \$610,400 from the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) Program) for the engineering of, potential right-of-way acquisition of, and construction of approximately 4,000 linear feet a new five-foot (5') wide sidewalk with vertical granite curbing, a dedicated striped bicycle lane, and pedestrian

walkway, to include, but not limited to associated drainage improvements, crosswalk markings, and repaving, along Osgood Road, Mason Road, Melendy Road, and Armory Road, with pedestrian improvement project beginning at the intersection of West Street and Osgood Road and continuing southwest along Osgood Road past Adams Field, Osgood Pond, and Mason Road to the intersection of Osgood Road, Melendy Road and Armory Road, and continuing eastward along Armory Road to the intersection with the Granite Town Rail Trail? This reimbursement program provides an 80% federal funding/20% local matching funds opportunity. This is a Special Warrant Article in accordance with RSA 32. This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$9.53 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000.

The Board of Selectmen DO NOT SUPPORT this Warrant Article (2-3)

Majority Report - Cities and towns are responsible by law for ensuring that public sidewalks are passable. This means that the town would take on the liability of ensuring that the sidewalk is free of snow in the winter and would need to appropriate necessary funds yearly to maintain the sidewalk to keep it safe (free from cracks and breaks) for pedestrians. This article uses a Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Improvement Program grant to fund 80% of the project, but the town would need to fund the other 20% (\$152,600). This is just the initial cost to build the sidewalk. Going forward, Milford residents would be responsible for funding the on-going maintenance of this sidewalk (plowing and repairs) to keep the town free of liability. Between Article 38 and Article 39, there is an additional 7,500' (1.42 miles) of sidewalk that would need to be plowed each snowstorm and repaired as needed. This will have an impact on DPW time and resources, including accelerated wear and tear on sidewalk plows (we just purchased another one last year for \$155,000). In addition, passage of this article would negatively impact the roadside parking area now used for events at Adams Field, further contributing to Milford's parking shortage. Should this article pass, residents should expect an increase in future DPW budgets to cover this additional work. Furthermore, CMAQ grants have traditionally provided continual funding for these types of projects. For these reasons, the majority does not support this article this year.

Minority Report - This article provides the 20% matching funds (\$152,600) that are needed to build about 4,000 linear feet of sidewalks and related improvements along Osgood Road, Mason Road, Melendy Road, and Armory Road in the area near Adams Field and Osgood Pond which are heavily used by students. This project is one of the main components of the Milford Pedestrian, Bicycle, Trail & Recreation Connectivity Plan. This project has been in the Capital Improvements Plan for over a decade pending the awarding of the 80% funding. We were recently awarded the funding, and it will expire if this project is not approved this year. The state funding is highly competitive, and it is unlikely that we would get it again if we do not agree to it this year.

The Budget Advisory Committee SUPPORTS this Warrant Article (9-0)

Majority Report - This article was originally supported by Milford Capital Improvement Committee but was also removed from the originally submitted articles by the Board of Selectmen. This pedestrian improvement project would construct long needed sidewalks beginning at intersection of West Street and Osgood Road, along Osgood Road to Adams Field, Osgood Pond, and Hazel Adams Burns Park, Leisure Acres mobile home park, and along Armory Road to its intersection with the Granite Town Rail-Trail. This location is heavily traveled by motorized vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists and includes a walking route from a high-density mobile home park to the High and Middle Schools. In addition, students walk along these roads to their practice field at Adams Park. Milford Community Development Office wrote a competitive grant to secure these Federal Funds through the State of New Hampshire. These funds are not available every year and this may be the Town's only opportunity to have the State fund 80% of this project. This project was ranked number two (highest priority) by the CIP Citizens Advisory Committee for Capital Improvements for 2020.

TOPICAL DESCRIPTION

Explanation: Osgood Road, in this location, serves as a primary connector roadway leading to downtown Milford from primarily mixed density residential and commercial uses. The Osgood Road is the primary route for students to both the High School and Middle School and Adams Field and Osgood Pond for sports and recreation activities. Adams Field, in particular, is heavily scheduled for practices and athletic events.

The purpose of Warrant Article #38 is to provide a dedicated safe pedestrian and bicycle route along a heavily traveled vehicular corridor and create connectivity/access to the Milford Middle and High Schools, Town facilities, and recreational opportunities. Currently, there is no sidewalk or designated pedestrian/bicycle route along these stretches of roadways. The project improvements also create an essential connection to the well utilized three mile stretch of the Granite Town Rail Trail in Milford. The project represents an integral part of the Town's long-term goal to improve pedestrian safety, traffic management, and connectivity and has been prioritized through local and regional planning efforts, initiatives, and studies for more than two decades.

The Town of Milford was extremely fortunate to be awarded funding during the 2019-2020 cycle. Until recently, the Community Development Office and Town have been unsuccessful in their efforts to secure funding for the project for more than decade. The funding cycle for the CMAQ program occurs every two years. However, the CMAQ program is not always funded or fully funded. When funds are made available, the CMAQ program is an exceedingly competitive and selective process. Given the number of qualified/eligible projects within New Hampshire and limited funds during each cycle, the probability of being awarded the CMAQ funds is minimal.

WARRANT ARTICLE 39 - NEW MUNICIPAL AND TRANSPORTATION CAPITAL RESERVE FUND PAID FOR BY AN ADDITIONAL AUTO REGISTRATION FEE, BY PETITION- \$0

This is a Petition Warrant Article. Shall the Town vote to adopt the provisions of NH RSA 261:153 (VI) to levy an additional motor vehicle registration fee in the amount of five dollars (\$5.00) per registration to be used to support a municipal and transportation improvement fund, and to further provide that with the adoption of this article the town shall create a Capital Reserve Fund pursuant to RSA Chapter 35 to receive these funds, and further that the Capital Reserve Fund shall be known as the Municipal and Transportation Capital Reserve Fund, said reserve fund to be used to fund, wholly or in part, improvements in the local or regional transportation system including roads, bridges, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, parking and intermodal facilities, electric vehicle charging stations, and for operating and capital costs of public transportation only, and to further name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend this Capital Reserve Fund. The funds may be used for engineering, right-of-way acquisition, and construction costs of transportation facilities, including electric vehicle charging stations, and for operating and capital costs of public transportation only. The funds may be used as matching funds for state or federal funds allocated for local or regional transportation improvements. Such funds shall not be used to offset any other non-transportation appropriations made by the municipality. This additional motor vehicle registration fee shall be collected starting with motor vehicle registration permits obtained on or after May 1, 2020. This Article has no tax impact.

The Board of Selectmen DO NOT SUPPORT this Warrant Article (1-4)

Majority Report - This is a new \$5 tax placed upon automobile owners to pay for, what are in some instances, transportation-associated initiatives currently funded by all. While the claim is made that this may lower property taxes, the important word is "many", as it ultimately depends on how many vehicles one has to register and more importantly, how the Board of Selectmen decide to spend the money. The Board, in fact, could use the money not as a replacement for expenses already being incurred, but to fund some other transportation-associated initiative that does not now exist that would ultimately require more DPW time and resources, necessitating an increase in your property taxes. Voters should reject this unfair tax, which targets only automobile owners.

Minority Report - This article implements a new \$5 per vehicle registration fee that will be deposited into a capital reserve fund that is managed by the Board of Selectmen. This reserve fund can only be used for certain transportation-related costs such as roads, bridges, public transportation, sidewalks, parking, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and electric vehicle charging stations. The funds can also be used for matching funds for transportation improvements. This fee will generate a total of roughly \$90,000 per year. If the funds are used to pay for items that are currently being paid for by property taxes, then this will result in a decrease in property taxes of about \$5 per \$100,000 valuation. If the funds are not used to pay for items that are not currently being paid for by property taxes, then there will be no change to property taxes. There are roughly 35 municipalities around the state that have implemented this fee to improve transportation projects.

The Budget Advisory Committee DOES NOT SUPPORT this Warrant Article (0-9)

Majority Report - The Budget Advisory Committee does **not** support Article 39, New Municipal and Transportation Capital Reserve Fund paid for by an additional auto registration fee, by petition. The majority feels this is an additional tax trying to be adopted and could be put toward too many options listed in the warrant, rather than for one specific purpose. We feel this is somewhat misleading to the taxpayer as to which option the money raised would go to each year.

WARRANT ARTICLE 40 – NEW HAMPSHIRE RESOLUTION TO TAKE ACTION ON CLIMATE POLLUTION, BY PETITION- \$0

This is a Petition Warrant Article. We the town of Milford hereby call upon our State and Federal elected representatives to enact carbon-pricing legislation to protect New Hampshire from the cost and environmental risks of continued climate inaction. To protect households, we support a Carbon Fee and Dividend approach that charges fossil fuel producers for their carbon pollution and rebates the money collected to all residents on an equal basis. Enacting a Carbon Cash-Back program decreases long-term fossil-fuel dependence, aids in the economic transition for energy consumers, and keeps local energy dollars in New Hampshire's economy. Carbon Cash-Back has been championed by US economists (Jan 17, 2019 WSJ) as the most effective and fair way to deliver rapid reductions in harmful carbon emissions at the scale required for our safety. **This Article has no tax impact.**

The Board of Selectmen DO NOT SUPPORT this Warrant Article (2-3)

Majority Report - The legislature is already addressing climate change and has the ability to continue that effort without implementing policies that would significantly result in increased gas prices. Governor Sununu reauthorized New Hampshire's participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative to lower carbon emissions. He vetoed expensive subsidies for biomass plants that emit significant amounts of carbon emissions. The wood products industry might be popular, but it is not a source of clean energy. In fact, these are the very CO2 emissions that contribute to climate change. The Governor refused to have New Hampshire join a state version of the Paris Climate Accord because it contained environmental standards on climate change that were less stringent than New Hampshire's current laws. He has been a leader in developing offshore wind as a green energy source in New Hampshire. On solar energy, he was successful in passing a program last year that harnessed solar energy to help seniors and low-income residents to lower their electric bills. This year he is proposing a net metering program that promotes solar energy but does not stick electric ratepayers with the tab for a massive subsidy to big corporate solar developers. We would do well to let the legislature do its research and debate the merits of climate change solutions with supporting a petition that does not even identify the price of the initiative that petitioners are asking us to support.

Minority Report - Carbon-pricing is the most effective and fair method to deliver rapid reductions in harmful carbon emissions. A majority vote in favor of this article will result in a message being sent to our state and federal elected representatives encouraging them to support a carbon cash-back pricing system to take positive action on reducing the effects of climate change.

The Budget Advisory Committee DOES NOT SUPPORT this Warrant Article (0-9)

Majority Report - This is a fee attached to the purchase of gasoline for cars and fuel oil for heating homes and businesses. It seems to be a "penalty" for using those, when it is not always affordable or feasible to switch to alternative energy sources. It is true that solar, electric, atomic, etc. alternatives need to be addressed as the future use of fossil fuels needs to be diminished. Education and assistance would be helpful for each household to evaluate their needs. We all need to address climate change as well and realize how we can lessen its impact on the future.

WARRANT ARTICLE 41 – NEW HAMPSHIRE RESOLUTION FOR FAIR REDISTRICTING, BY PETITION- \$0

This is a Petition Warrant Article. To see if the town will urge that the New Hampshire General Court, which is obligated to redraw the maps of political districts within the state following the 2020 census, will do so in a manner that ensures fair and effective representation of New Hampshire voters. That in order to fulfill this obligation the New Hampshire General Court shall appoint an independent redistricting commission that draws the new district maps in a way that does not rely on partisan data such as election results or party registration or favor particular

political parties or candidates. This Article has no tax impact.

The Board of Selectmen DO NOT SUPPORT this Warrant Article (2-3)

Majority Report - This petition comes as a result of House Bill 706, vetoed by Governor Sununu in the 2019 session. In his veto message, the Governor states, "The New Hampshire Constitution directs the legislature to determine legislative and Executive Council districts. The drafters of our Constitution were wise to vest such authority in the people's elected representatives who are accountable to the voters every two years. The members of the commission proposed by House Bill 706 would be unelected and unaccountable to the voters. Legislators should not abrogate their responsibility to the voters and delegate authority to an unelected and unaccountable commission selected by political party bosses. We should all be proud that issues of gerrymandering are extremely rare in New Hampshire. Our current redistricting process is fair and representative of the people of our State. While I do not question the sincerity of the legislators who support House Bill 706, one of the partisan out-of-state organizations pushing for this legislation states that its mission is to "favorably position Democrats for the redistricting process." This is very concerning and undermines House Bill 706's stated goal of creating "fair" electoral districts. For the reasons stated above, I have vetoed House Bill 706."

Regardless of the worries of the leaders of NH's political parties as to which political party will control the legislature at the time that the next census is taken and when redistricting must subsequently be undertaken, it's important to not lose faith with what our founders had in mind for self-governance. Those who wrote, and those who approved our constitution way back in 1783, put their faith in the people, through their exclusive choice of representatives to the General Court, to determine how the state ought to be managed in their interest. Neither the Judiciary, nor the Governor, nor anything like an "Independent Redistricting Commission," ought to ever be permitted to limit, in any way, shape, or form, the people's right to govern themselves.

Minority Report - New Hampshire will be redistricted in 2021 after the results of the 2020 census are known. Under current law, the political parties in the majority in 2021 will generate the new electoral districts in the state. Based on the redistricting that occurred after the previous censuses, it is likely that unless the law is changed that this time it will again be highly partisan with extreme gerrymandering. A majority vote in favor of this article will result in a message being sent to our elected representatives in the General Court that they should appoint an independent non-partisan commission to create the new districts instead of using the current process. This non-partisan method should result in districts that do not favor one party over the others and will ensure that the voters choose their politicians instead of the politicians choosing their voters.

The Budget Advisory Committee DOES NOT SUPPORT this Warrant Article (0-9)

Majority Report - The Budget Advisory Committee does not support this article and feels more information should have been presented regarding why this article should be considered.

2020 Town Officer Candidate Profiles

All candidates were presented the opportunity to submit profiles including a two-hundred and fifty (250) word statement on any topic they choose. Pictures are optional.

SELECTMEN – 3 Year Term (vote for two)

Laura Dudziak – Incumbent

No picture provided

OFFICE SOUGHT: Board of Selectmen
ADDRESS: 10 Millbrook Drive, Milford, NH 03055
CONTACT: ldudziak1275@gmail.com
RESIDENCY: 32 years
OCCUPATION: Attorney
EDUCATION: Juris Doctor, UNH School of Law (formerly Franklin Pierce Law Center) (2003), Notre Dame College, BA, Business Administration (1998), Milford Area Senior High School (1988)
AFFILIATIONS: New Hampshire Bar Association: 2003 – present
Nashua Bar Association: 2003 - present
Milford Board of Selectmen: 2017 – present
Town of Milford Planning Board: 2019 – present
Jaiden’s Angel Foundation Board of Directors: 2009 – present

I have been a resident of the Town of Milford for 32 years. Presently, I reside with my children, Mason, age 17, Molly, age 10 and our dog, Olive. I am employed as an attorney which requires that I advocate for and negotiate on behalf of my clients to achieve the best resolutions to difficult problems. Believing these skills would be an asset to the Town of Milford and wanting to become more involved in my community, I ran for the Board of Selectmen in 2017. I believe the Board has accomplished a lot over the last 3 years, including contracting with CTA Consultants, LLC to complete a comprehensive communications dispatch center and radio needs assessment, according to the wishes of the voters at the 2019 deliberative session. As a result of the study, we were able to put forth Warrant Article 4 which, if it passes, will ensure that our public safety personnel have the equipment necessary to protect themselves and better serve the citizens of Milford.

I understand the concern of the taxpayers with respect to rising tax rates and spending. I also believe that we must continue to invest in necessary infrastructure and equipment so that Milford can continue to offer the invaluable services that make our town a great place to live.

Vanessa Sheehan

OFFICE SOUGHT: Board of Selectmen
ADDRESS: 70 Amherst St. Milford, NH 03055
CONTACT: vanessasheehanforselectman@gmail.com or 603-320-6111
FAMILY: Married to John Sheehan, 1 child
RESIDENCY: 46-year Milford resident
OCCUPATION: Finance
EDUCATION: Associate of Business Science majoring in Communications from Hesser College Manchester, NH (1995), Milford Area Senior High School (1992)



I am a lifelong Milford resident with family & business roots in town going back generations. I have a sincere love for our wonderful town. As I have seen Milford grow and change over the years, what remains the same is Milford’s unique charm and strong community.

As your Selectman, I would work to ensure that we do not lose those qualities we value so much. Part of that challenge is ensuring that property taxes are kept reasonable. As a fiscal conservative, I will work to make that a priority and seek efficiencies in town operations to keep our taxes down. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have. Respectfully, I would appreciate your vote on March 10th!

Mike Thornton

OFFICE SOUGHT: Board of Selectmen
ADDRESS: 561 North River Road, Milford, NH 03055
CONTACT: mikelt.org 603-249-6666
FAMILY: Married to Liz Thornton, 2 daughters
RESIDENCY: 22 years, Milford resident
OCCUPATION: Retired
EDUCATION: Bachelors of Science, Business Administration, Franklin University, Columbus, Ohio
Operations Research/Program Management.
Veteran, Marine Corps Vietnam Service.
AFFILIATIONS: 7 Year member of the Zoning Board of Adjustments, 8 years on the Milford, Amherst, Mont Vernon, Lyndeborough (CERT) Community Emergency Response Teams



I am a strong proponent for Small, Affordable, Local government, fully accountable to the People who fund the Community. As a Board of Selectman I wish to be able to invest myself more fully in the service of our Town and for the folks who support our beautiful community with their taxes, work, and spirited participation. I am fiscally responsible and accountable and want to assure that all of our needs are met as locally as practical, on schedule, within budget, and keeping with local sensibilities.

David Freel

OFFICE SOUGHT: Board of Selectmen
ADDRESS: 130 Stable Road
CONTACT: Dfreel@comcast.net
OCCUPATION: Electrical Contractor
EDUCATION: NH Electrical Trades Apprenticeship Program NHTC, Milford Area Senior High School and Nashua High School Electrical Trades Program.
AFFILIATIONS: Nashua Home Builders Association, Manchester Power House BNI and Milford Girls Varsity Tennis Coach for three seasons.



I’ve been a resident of Milford for over 30 of my almost 49 years. I’ve seen many changes over the years and I believe we live in one of the nicest towns I have had the privilege to visit and work in. I will bring the communication skills, work ethic, and drive to help make our community the best that it can be. I look forward to working closely with my fellow Board members and community to Keep Milford Growing and be the best Town it can be for the residents, yet stay fiscally responsible while doing so.

Jeff Johnson

OFFICE SOUGHT: Board of Selectmen
ADDRESS: 44 Wallingford Rd., Milford, NH 03055
CONTACT: jeffj13@gmail.com
RESIDENCY: 16+ years, Milford resident
OCCUPATION: Chief Engineer
EDUCATION: BS: Electrical Engineering, University of Rhode Island.
MS: Computer Engineering UMASS Lowell



I’ve lived in Milford for over 16 years, and had three children graduate through the Milford schools. I’ve seen the town develop and wrestle with growth over this time, and felt that since that chapter was complete; it was time to start a new one. As an engineer, problem solving is my way of life, and I have been exposed to many problems, be it technical, managerial, or cost. In every case, there is a balance to be made when making well thought decisions that support an end goal and vision. I am compelled to run since I feel I can utilize the skills I have acquired through my education and career for the greater good. I would appreciate the opportunity to serve our community and bring fresh ideas and a new perspective to the Board.

2020 Town Officer Candidate Profiles - Continued

LIBRARY TRUSTEE – 3 Year Term (vote for two)

Lynn Coakley

OFFICE SOUGHT: Library Trustee, 3 year term
ADDRESS: 322 Nashua Street
CONTACT: lynn.r.coakley@gmail.com
RESIDENCY: 10 years in Milford, 30 years in Milford area
OCCUPATION: Compliance Analyst for Alerus
Retirement and Benefits
EDUCATION: Bachelor's Degree in Small Business Management.
Professional certifications and continuing education
AFFILIATIONS: Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Milford, current chair of the Trustees of the Endowment, past President, Vice President, Treasurer, Finance Committee Chair.



I am a graduate of MASH (class of 1992) and have lived in the greater Milford area since 1988. I have served on the Wadleigh Memorial Library Board of Trustees for three years, the last two as Treasurer. I want to continue to help the library fulfill its mission of providing informational, educational and recreational resources and services to the Milford Community. I am convinced that the institution of the public library is not just an invaluable link to our past, but is also at the forefront of our move to the future. The programs and services provided by the Wadleigh Memorial Library are part of what makes Milford such a great place to live for people of all ages.

LIBRARY TRUSTEE – 2 Year Term (vote for one)

Jennifer Siegrist

OFFICE SOUGHT: Library Trustee, 2 year term
RESIDENCY: Milford resident since 2003
CONTACT: jenni.creative@gmail.com
OCCUPATION: Small business owner of a graphic design studio in Milford
BA – English/Pre-Law/Business
– Boston University.
Intensive Immersion Russian Language
– Harvard University.
Art, Design & Media – Massachusetts College of Art (MassArt)



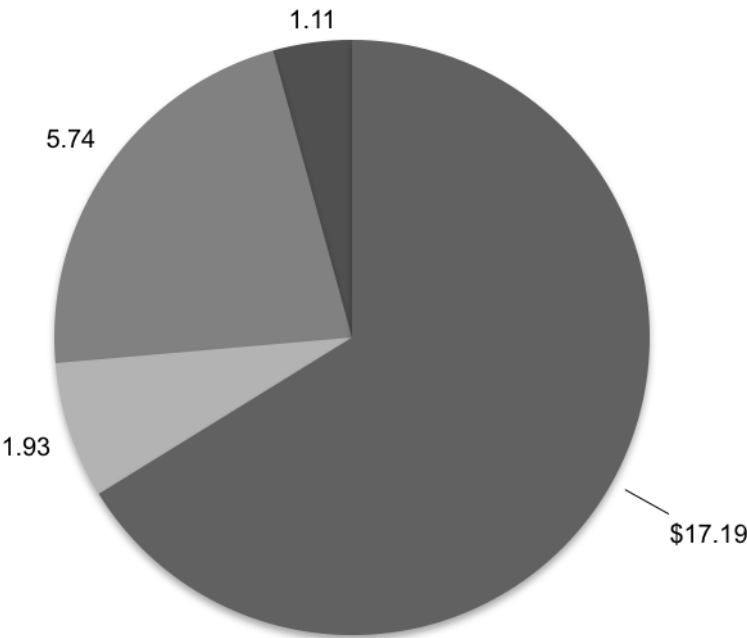
My husband and I built our home here in Milford in 2003 and over the past 17 years have lived here raising our family. Our two children attend school in the Milford School District.

I believe that civic involvement is essential to our democratic system and over the past years our family has regularly volunteered to assist in supporting many of the things that make our community such a wonderful place; the Milford Pumpkin Festival, sports, educational events and fund raising for the schools, volunteering with local elections and supporting the Community Dinners at SHARE. We love this town and all it has to offer and recognize the library is an intrinsically important part of our Milford community.

Supporting an institution that is welcoming and offers instruction, guidance, knowledge, gatherings, refuge, entertainment and support to anyone, all helps to build strong community ties that benefit everyone in our town. Considering that more than 95% of all books and other written materials still have yet to be digitized and made accessible on the Internet, libraries and librarians remain a crucial lifeline to knowledge and all types of information.

I would be honored to receive your vote and serve on the Wadleigh Memorial Library Board of Trustees in the promotion of their noble mission.

2019 Property Tax Rate \$ 25.97



Rate Breakdown	
Local School	\$17.19
State School	\$1.93
Town	\$5.74
County	\$1.11
	\$25.97

2020 Milford

School Voters' Guide



Milford Town Elections • Tuesday, March 10, 2020 • 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. • Milford Middle School Gym

2020 School District
Ballot Summary

Question 1
Operating Budget

1. Shall the Milford School District 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 **\$43,322,305?** Should this article be defeated, the operating budget shall be **\$42,911,974** which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Milford School District 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. **School Board recommends (vote 5-0); Budget Advisory Committee: recommends (vote 5-2).** Estimated Tax Impact: Proposed: \$0.28, Default: \$0.03 (Majority Vote Required)

The anticipated tax impact for a home valued at \$100,000 is \$28.00
The anticipated tax impact for a home valued at \$200,000 is \$56.00
The anticipated tax impact for a home valued at \$300,000 is \$84.00

EXPLANATION: Please see more detailed information on the following pages.

SCHOOL BOARD: We SUPPORT (School Board vote 5-0).

School Board Explanation:

The School Board unanimously supports the proposed budget. The budget contains expenditures that directly align with the strategic plan that the district has adopted. The Budget includes an increase of an elementary physical education/wellness teacher, an additional full time nurse to provide needed support and back up to all of the district's school buildings, an additional elementary teacher to keep classroom sizes down to a manageable level, an additional kindergarten classroom tutor, and a half time preschool teacher to support the expanding preschool program.

The proposed budget includes the continued funding of professional development for district staff; and the expansion of curriculum resources to support the continued roll out of the new math and reading programs to additional grades. Partial funding of track repairs, Chromebook cycle purchases, culinary program classroom upgrades and the purchase of a new lathe for the ATC program.

The Board supports these proposed costs and supports that they are in alignment with the Strategic Plan that was developed last year and adopted by the District. Additionally, the increase in the budget proposed is less than half the amount of additional revenue expected to be received from the state for one-time education funding.

BUDGET COMMITTEE: We SUPPORT (Budget Advisory Committee vote 5-2).

Budget Committee Explanation:

A majority of the committee SUPPORTS the school board's proposed Operating Budget for several important reasons:

- It includes investment in curriculum, professional development for teachers and staff, and urgent facilities repairs that have been under-funded for many years and are necessary to improve student outcomes.
- It supports the priorities outlined in the new Strategic Plan that was developed last year by a committee of community members, teachers, students and administrators.
- It is a reduction of \$275,000 from the original budget proposal, and is only 0.95% higher than the default budget.

A minority of the SBAC did not support the Board's proposed budget as we felt that in our review of the budget there were reductions that could be made without impacting direct services to students. Our recommended reduction of \$215,000 in a \$43 million budget is less than one-half of one percent. This could easily be managed through reductions in non-direct student services and savings from staff turnover.

We also believe that this amount can be justified as the proposed budget saw a reduction in debt service of approximately \$620,000 due principally to the final payment this year of the Heron Pond bond. The Board is proposing to use \$400,000 of this decrease to reinvest in infrastructure with their facilities expenditure trust fund. We believe that the taxpayers deserve to share in the benefit of the payoff of the Heron Pond school. Our recommended \$215,000 reduction returns to the taxpayers the savings no longer needed for debt service.

Question 2
Establishment of a Facilities Maintenance
Expendable Trust

2. Shall the Milford School District vote to establish a Facilities Maintenance Expendable Trust per RSA 198:20-c, V for the purpose of covering expenditures for necessary facilities repair, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$400,000 to be placed in this fund, and further to name the Milford School Board as agents to expend from the fund. This sum is to come from general taxation. **School Board: recommends (vote 5-0); Budget Advisory Committee: recommends (vote 5-2).** Estimated Tax Impact: \$0.25 (Majority Vote Required)

SCHOOL BOARD: We SUPPORT (School Board vote 5-0).

School Board Explanation:

The School Board unanimously supports this warrant article. Monies in the Facilities Maintenance Expendable Trust can only be spent for the purpose of facilities repairs and allows the board to address issues as they arise. These funds cannot be spent without first holding a public hearing to discuss the necessary expenditures. This trust, earns revenue, and once established can be added to annually or not, the voters will have the ability to decide that. The School District facilities are aging and in need of repair. The funding of this trust will begin the process of addressing these facility needs.

BUDGET COMMITTEE: We SUPPORT (Budget Advisory Committee vote 5-2).

Budget Committee Explanation:

A majority of the committee SUPPORTS the creation of the Capital Maintenance Expendable Trust, per RSA 198:20-c, V, for several important reasons:

- Milford's aging school facilities have recently required emergency repairs due to a roof failure, boiler failures and other facilities failures resulting from long-deferred maintenance of our aging buildings. The creation of this trust provides a less-disruptive way to pay for unbudgeted emergency repair needs as they arise. It also allows the district to save gradually for anticipated capital maintenance expenses over time, rather than having a large budget increase in a single year to replace high-cost items that are at the end of their life.
- This trust can be used only to pay for necessary facilities repairs and cannot be diverted to other items, as could be the case if the funds were included in the district's operating budget.
- Funds in this trust will earn interest. Taxpayers will have the option to add funds to this trust over time, which will potentially reduce or eliminate the need to issue bonds and can save taxpayers money.
- This trust increases transparency by requiring the School Board to hold a public hearing specifying how the funds will be used before any funds may be withdrawn.

Question 3
Establishment of a Special Education
Expendable Trust Fund

3. Shall the Milford School District vote to establish a Special Education Expendable Trust Fund per RSA 198:20-c, V for the purpose of covering emergency expenditures arising in the area of Special Education, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$200,000 to be placed in this fund, and further to name the Milford School Board as agents to expend from the fund. This sum is to come from general taxation. **School Board: recommends (vote 5-0); Budget Advisory Committee: recommends (vote 7-0).** Estimated Tax Impact: \$0.12 (Majority Vote Required)

SCHOOL BOARD: We SUPPORT (School Board vote 5-0).

School Board Explanation:

The School Board unanimously supports the creation of this Special Education Expendable Trust. Discussion has taken place a number of times over the years to have a vehicle established to address the unanticipated special education needs that are difficult to budget for. This Trust, once established, will earn revenue, and can only be used for the purpose of supporting special education costs. A public hearing will be held to explain the reason for the request, prior to any monies being withdrawn from the trust.

The School Board has not put forth the contingency warrant this year and has instead opted to create the Facilities Maintenance and Special Education Expendable Trusts to limit the uses of the monies approved.

BUDGET COMMITTEE: We SUPPORT (Budget Advisory Committee Vote (7-0))

Budget Committee Explanation:

The committee unanimously SUPPORTS the creation of the Special Education Expendable Trust, per RSA 198:20-c, V, for several important reasons:

- In recent years the Milford School District has paid significant tuition expenses for students that require out-of-district services. These expenses can be unanticipated, and the District must pay for them in order to comply with students' Individual Education Plans (IEPs) as mandated by law. The creation of this trust provides a less-disruptive way to pay for unbudgeted special education expenses as they arise.
- Unlike the contingency fund that voters have approved in previous years for the same amount (\$200,000), and which could be used for any expense as determined by the School Board, this trust can be used only to pay for special education expenses.
- Funds in this trust will earn interest. Taxpayers will have the option to add funds to this trust over time.



MILFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
2020-2021 PROPOSED BUDGET

	2019-2020	2020-2021	INCREASE/ (DECREASE)	PERCENTAGE (%)
Operating Budget	\$ 42,134,551			
CBA Warrant Articles	\$ 533,807			
Total Operating Expenses	\$ 42,668,358			
Other Warrant Articles	\$ 200,000			
Total Operating Budget	\$ 42,868,358	\$ 43,322,305	\$ 453,947	1.06%
Other Warrant Articles		\$ 600,000		
Total Appropriation:		\$ 43,922,305		
Revenue:	\$ 12,324,032	\$ 13,056,608	\$ 732,576	5.94%
Tax Assessment	\$ 30,544,326	\$ 30,865,697	\$ 321,371	1.05%
Tax Rate	\$19.12	\$19.32	\$0.20	1.05%
Enrollment (K-12) Oct 1st	2313	2257	-56	-2.42%

Major Changes From Prior Year

Salaries and Benefits: **\$838,358 overall**

Salaries and benefits make up about 80% of the operating budget. This includes the cost of any new positions as well as the savings from position changes, as reflected below:

• **Non-Affiliated Staff and Other: \$54,371**

The non-affiliated staff group is comprised of positions that are not associated with a bargaining unit. These positions include all secretarial staff, SAU support staff, athletic coaches, advisors, co-curricular advisors, technology staff, crossing guards, elected officials, training & PD stipends, and SAU administrators. This number includes the cost of wage-driven benefit increases, increased sports stipends and dental benefits and slight decreases in health premiums.

• **Negotiated Agreements: \$758,358**

The District has four bargaining units; Administrators (Principals and Directors), Milford Teachers’ Association (MTA), Milford Educational Support Staff Association (MESSA-aides and associates), and Milford Educational Personnel Association (MEPA-buildings and grounds personnel). This number includes the cost of health insurance, Dental Insurance, New Hampshire Retirement, and other wage.driven benefit increases.

Included in the “Negotiated Agreements” above \$758,358:

1. New and Expanded Positions: \$368,000

New Positions include an added physical education/wellness teacher to be added to Jacques Elementary full time increasing the allocation from a .55 FTE position to a 1 FTE position and

increasing the Heron Pond allocation from 1.45 FTE positions to 2 FTE positions. An increase of the music program staffing from 1.5 to 2 FTE at Heron Pond. An additional FTE elementary teacher to help keep class sizes down and a FTE equivalent nurse position to act as a floater servicing all schools especially during known busy times, and to cover absences. An added .5 FTE preschool teaching position is being proposed to bring the total preschool teachers to 2.5 FTE. Lastly an added part time classroom assistant is being proposed for Jacques Elementary School.

2. Position Reductions/Reclassification: (\$402,722)

Due to declining enrollment in the high school a reduction of 1 FTE Math teacher is being proposed. A reduction of a Family and Consumer Science position (due to attrition) and a Culinary position (due to attrition). These responsibilities will be reworked in the scheduling of students and staff. A reduction of a full time Speech Path Language Associate (SPLA), the reduction of two full time Program associates to part -time, reduction of two library associates to part time and a reduction of two regular education instructional assistants to part time are being proposed.

3. Other Salaries & Benefits \$749,245

The Milford Teachers Association have a 2% cost of living adjustment and step advancement by contract this year. The Milford Administrative Group have a 1.75% increase by contract. The Milford Educational Personnel Association (MEPA) Buildings and Grounds staff have a 1.5% cost of living adjustment and step advancement contract this year and the Milford Education Support Staff Association (MESSA) continue to negotiate a successor agreement as such, no wage increases for the group are included in the Operating Budget.

Operating Budget- Other Items

Debt Service - Principal & Interest	Object Codes 830 and 910	(\$607,721)
Textbooks, Workbooks, Media, Software (excluding IT}	Object Codes 641-650	\$74,507
Transportation	Object Codes 51 0-515	\$21,519
Repair & Maintenance (excluding IT)	Object Code 430	\$5,296
Information Technology	Object Codes 321, 330,430, 650, 738	\$74,350
School Board Services (Contracted Services, Contingency, Negotiations, Legal, Audit & other fees)	Object Codes 330, 381, 383, 810, 840	(\$142,000)
Property & Liability and Workers Comp Insurance	Object Codes 260 and 520	\$68,431
Electricity, Natural Gas, Oil, Vehicle Fuel	Object Codes 622 to 626	\$96,788
Tuition Non-Public	Object Code 563	\$57,078
New Equipment & Furniture	Object Codes 731-734	\$51,997
Replacement Equipment (excluding IT)	Object Codes 735-738	\$36,248

MILFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT 2020/21 BUDGET DEFAULT TAX IMPACT ANALYSIS - ESTIMATED				
Item	Actual 2019/2020		Default 2020/2021	
	\$ Amount	Tax Impact	\$ Amount	Tax Impact
Operating Budget (Includes New/Expanded/Reduced/Eliminated Positions Recommended by Superintendent)	\$42,868,358		\$42,911,974	
Less: Estimated Revenues	-\$12,324,032		-\$13,056,608	(no excess fund bal. reflect)
State Property tax	-\$3,037,778		-\$3,037,778	
Total to be Raised by Taxes	\$27,506,548	\$17.19	\$26,817,588	\$16.76
State Property Tax	\$3,037,778	\$1.93	\$3,037,778	\$1.93
Local Property Tax Estimate	\$30,544,326	\$19.12	\$29,855,366	\$18.69
Warrant Articles proposed March 2020:				
Establish an Expendable Trust Fund for Special Education Costs			\$ 200,000	\$0.12
Establish an Expendable Trust Fund for Capital Maintenance Projects			\$ 400,000	\$0.25
Petition Warrant Articles:			0	\$0.00
Sub Total Warrant Articles:			600,000	\$0.37
TOTAL ASSESSMENT	\$ 30,544,326		\$ 30,455,366	
PROPERTY TAX IMPACT		19.12		19.06
Tax Rate Increase			(\$0.06)	-0.31%
Milford Net Assessed Valuation 19/20 (with utilities)	1,600,185,432			
Milford Net Assessed Valuation 19/20 (without utilities)	1,575,615,032			
FY20 Department of Revenue education tax warrant for tax year 2020	3,037,778			
Milford Net Assessed Valuation 20/21 (with utilities)	1,600,185,432		16,002	1 cent Tax Rate Impact
Milford Net Assessed Valuation 20/21 (without utilities)	1,575,615,032		80,009	5 cent Tax Rate Impact
FY20 Department of Revenue education tax warrant for tax year 2020	3,037,778		160,019	10 cent Tax Rate Impact
			800,093	50 cent Tax Rate Impact
			1,600,185	1 dollar Tax Rate Impact



School Board Candidates

Jennifer Siegrist

School Clerk Candidate

OFFICE SOUGHT: School District Clerk
RESIDENCY: Milford resident since 2003
CONTACT: jenni.creative@gmail.com
OCCUPATION: Small business owner of a graphic design studio in Milford.

EDUCATION: BA – English/Pre-Law/Business
– Boston University,
Intensive Immersion Russian Language
– Harvard University
Art, Design & Media
– Massachusetts College of Art (MassArt)



BIO: My husband and I built our home here in Milford in 2003 and over the past 17 years have lived here raising our family. Our two children attend school in the Milford School District.

I believe that civic involvement and volunteering is essential to our democratic system and over the past years our family has regularly volunteered to assist in supporting many of the things that make our community such a wonderful place; the Milford Pumpkin Festival, sports, educational events and fund raising for the schools, volunteering with local elections and supporting the Community Dinners at SHARE. We love this town and all it has to offer!

I recognize our school district as a foundational catalyst to boost our town’s future growth and success and I would be honored to receive your vote to represent you.

Michael McLean

Hello Fellow Milford Residents,

I would like to take a moment of your time to introduce myself. My name is Mike McLean, and I am a candidate for the Milford School Board. I am also a proud father and husband. My wife, Jennifer, and I have been married for 15 years. We have two boys, ages 13 and 11, who are very active in football and baseball. Sports are a huge part of our family and so is the community! Last year, I took on the role as Milford Jr Spartans Football Director because I wanted to better the sports experiences of not only my children but also the children of my community. I find great joy in seeing kids in the sports program grow and succeed through hard work and dedication.



I have decided to run for the school board because all of our kids deserve an advocate. They deserve to have someone fighting for them everyday. The New Hampshire School Board Association states “Schools exist to provide appropriate educational opportunities for our children. With this in mind it is vital to maintain the principle that all board decisions and actions of individual board members should be prioritized by what is best for students and what enhances student achievement.” I believe in this statement and I will do everything I can to make sure that the students will get the best chance to have a great education. The Milford community has the ability and opportunity to be a top 10 school in the state of New Hampshire. If we can band together and put in the same hard work and dedication, we could achieve those goals.

If I am lucky enough to be voted on to the Milford School Board, believe that your trust in me will not be misplaced. I can guarantee that there will always be communication, honesty and dedication from me. Communication is one of my favorite core values. I would be available to meet with our community to have open discussions frequently. I try to go to local coffee shops on weekends and I would make sure to let it be known I am going, that way anyone can join me and we can talk about updates, questions, concerns, or feedback. Communication is a two way street and communication from our community is vital to our school board’s success. I would visit schools and discuss what is going on regularly to ensure we maintain strong relationships.

I look forward to helping bring our community together in support of our kids. One thing I can be sure of, is that we can never go wrong by putting students first. I hope to earn your support, and know that you can always reach out to me with any questions or concerns, and you will always get an honest response because you deserve it, your kids deserve it, and our community deserves it.

Respectfully,
Michael McLean



2020 School District Ballot Summary Sheet

(Fill out and take with you to the polls)

Choose TWO (2) Members of the School Board for the ensuing three years.

- ☐ Michael McLean
- ☐ Joseph Vitulli
- ☐ David Wilson
- ☐ Richard Wood
- ☐ Judith Zaino
- ☐ Write In _____

Choose ONE (1) School District Moderator for the ensuing two years.

- ☐ Peter Basiliere - incumbent
- ☐ Write In _____

Choose ONE (1) School District Treasurer for the ensuing two years.

- ☐ Rosemarie Evans - incumbent
- ☐ Write In _____

Choose ONE (1) School District Clerk for the ensuing two years.

- ☐ Joan Dargie
- ☐ Jennifer Siegrist
- ☐ Write In _____

- Question 1. Operating Budget
☐ Yes ☐ No
- Question 2. Establishment of a Facilities Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund
☐ Yes ☐ No
- Question 3. Establishment of a Special Education Expendable Trust Fund
☐ Yes ☐ No

School Board Candidates - Continued

Richard Wood

Dear Milford Citizens, Students and Staff of the Milford School District,

With much respect I am asking for your vote of support to continue as a member of the Milford School Board. I am a dedicated, hardworking, collaborative, open, and honest person who voluntarily stepped into the School Board role in September during one of the most divisive and tumultuous times in our district's history. Since my appointment, I have worked tirelessly with my fellow board members. I possess a demonstrated knowledge of process, being well researched and prepared on the issues for every meeting with a laser focused on providing the best opportunities for all our community's children to achieve their own full potential in learning to achievement of their goals! I firmly believe the recently adopted strategic plan positions the district for the transition needed to create or expand pathways and opportunities necessary for all students to achieve their greatest potential in whatever path they choose.

A little about my family and I. My wife Theresa and I are natives of New Hampshire, and have been Milford residents since January 1998. Our two daughters Emily and Meghan both are proud graduates of the Milford School District and are working on the completion of their respective degrees pursuing their passions. With 35 years of public safety experience, I have been servicing my community in one capacity or another for decades. I am currently employed as the Director of Life Safety and Emergency Preparedness at the University of Massachusetts Lowell where I am responsible for Life Safety & Code Compliance, Emergency Preparedness, and Emergency Medical Services for the campus community in excess of 20,000 people.

I respectfully request your consideration on March 10th to provide me with your vote and allow me to continue working for you to institute positive changes in our schools. Thank you!

Professional Credentials:

Bachelor Science 1998, Associates Applied Science 1995, Certified Instructional Trainer, Certified Fire Protection Specialist, Certified Building Official, Certified Fire Marshal, FEMA Master Continuity Practitioner.

Community Service:

- Milford School Budget Advisory Committee, 8 years (2 as Chairman)
- Milford Joint Services (town/school) Review Committee
- West Area representative for the NH State Referee Committee (Soccer)

Professional Service:

- NH Fire Prevention Society: President 2007-2012, Treasurer 2012-2017
- ICC-Ad-Hoc Committee on Building Safety & Security, 2018-2019
- ICC-Commercial Fire Alarm Exam Development Committee 2013-2019
- Vice Chair, International Existing Building Code Committee, 2012-2017
- Vice Chair, ECIC Code Interpretation Committee, 2012-2017

Relevant Professional Experience:

- Consultant: Code Technical, Training, and Curriculum Development SME
- Contract Instructor: FEMA-US Fire Administration, International Code Council
- Court Qualified Expert Witness, Federal & State Courts
- Former NH Licensed Sign Language Interpreter

Thank You!



Judith Zaino

My husband of 41 years, Bart, and I have been residents of Milford for 32 years. Our children, Greg and Emily, were the products of the Milford School District. We currently have a grandson at Heron Pond. As a parent and grandparent, I have only the highest regard for the teachers and staff of the school system and have been pleased with the quality and calibre of education. We have loved being part of the Milford community of family and friends and are committed to the schools and community life for which we care so much. From the parades to the fireworks to the Pumpkin Festival, this is a real community that has offered the warmth of the old fashioned American Dream and a commitment to what the future holds as well.

As an educator for more than 20 years, I feel that I have insight and experience to offer. I would like to bring my commitment to education from the classroom to the Milford community. As a Milford School Board member, I would like to continue to give the students of Milford a challenging, rigorous and appropriate education that will prepare them for the evolving demands of the 21st century. We need to focus on student achievement and data driven decision making to benefit all of our students so that every student in this district reaches their fullest potential.

We also need to foster community engagement and encourage the input of all stakeholders to meet and set goals and priorities while maintaining fiscal responsibility. Allocating resources needs to weigh the benefits and costs and recognize competing needs and positions. The students of Milford need a school board that will stand behind them and empower them to reach their full potential, whatever that may be. I feel that this is a critical time in our town's educational development so that we can continue to address the needs of our students. As a newly retired educator, I have the time to successfully commit to and engage in the Milford School Board.

Education:

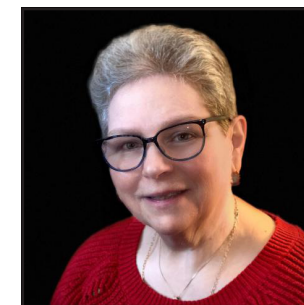
- BA in History, UNH
- M.Ed., UNH

Board Experience:

- NH Council for the Social Studies, Board of Directors
- NH Social Studies Teacher Certification Board
- Executive Board of the MTA
- Board of Trustees and Board of Deacons, The First Congregational Church of Milford
- Executive Board of American Red Cross, Northeastern CT Chapter

Professional Experience:

- Director of Academic Studies, MHS 2015 - 2019
- Social Studies Teacher, MHS 1997 - 2015



School Board Candidates - Continued

David Wilson

David Wilson – Candidate for Milford School Board

I am a twenty-year resident of Milford with my wife Kathie of 23 Years and two children, Jacob a Senior and Kaleigh, a Sophomore. Kathie is a Teacher in Special Education in the Londonderry School District and will soon complete her Doctorate in Education with a focus on Curriculum and Instruction. As a family we have experienced the best of many opportunities available through the help and dedication of our Educators, Support staff and Administration. I am running for a seat on the School Board so I can work for you, the citizens of Milford to ensure your students and their Education Staff and Supports have the best possible academic and employment options available starting day one. I have worked for over 20 years in personal finance helping people plan and provide for their futures and for their loved ones. This has provided me the skill will and determination to address the district's needs and restore Milford's collective reputation for providing a first class, 21 Century Education. I have dedicated much time and effort to become familiar with the financial side of our school district's finances and the immediate attention the facilities are in need of from working on the School Budget Advisory Committee for the past two years.

I have had ongoing and successful involvement with the District's Educational and Administrative Staff, in part by participating in the Strategic Plan process which encompasses our community and district's goals. I am well known as a champion for and sponsoring initiatives that focus on Community Engagement. I am proud of our Town, the Schools, the Students and Educational Staff and will always be a strong voice for reaffirming and reinforcing the abilities of our district. I look forward to working for you and with you for our kids and their futures. Thank you for your consideration!

Community Service:

- Milford School Budget Advisory Committee — 2018 to present,
- Coach, Milford Special Olympics Basketball – 2015 to 2019
- Milford School District Strategic Plan and Curriculum Steering Committee. 2018, 2019
- Principal Hiring Committee 2019
- Vice President Milford Football and Cheer Booster and Volunteer, 2018 to present.
- MHS Engineering Program Advisory Committee 2019,2020

Education:

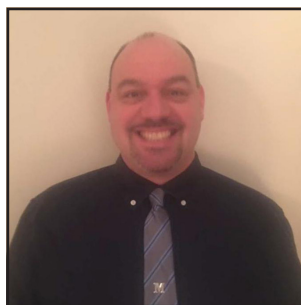
- Master's degree Candidate: Accounting and Finance, SNHU Manchester, NH
- Bachelor's Degree in Business Management, Johnson and Wales, Providence, RI

Service Experience:

- Served 20 Years in Personal Finance, Education and Financial Planning
- SIFMA Foundation for Finance Education, Local Teacher and Student Programs

Affiliations:

- FINRA Registered Financial Representative CRD #4655869
- Certified Trust and Financial Advisor (CTFA) Designee: Cannon Financial Institute



Joseph Vitulli

Joseph and his wife moved to Milford from Nashua in 2004 based on the reputation of the town's public schools and wonderful small-town feel. His son is a member of Milford's Boy Scouts Troop 407 and a Freshman attending both Project Drive and Milford High School. Joseph is an Assistant Scout Master with Troop 407 and has been a Fourth-Grade teacher in Brookline for the past 21 years.

Joseph earned a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education in 1996 from Plymouth State University. He taught First Grade, Third Grade and Sixth Grade in northern NH prior to becoming a Fourth-Grade teacher in Brookline. At Brookline he has been a volunteer judge for First Robotics and coached the Hollis-Brookline High School Boys Tennis team. At Brookline, he has served on several curriculum committees as well as volunteering to pilot new math programs for the district. He is currently serving as the treasurer for the Brookline Teacher's Association and will earn his master's degree in Education from Southern New Hampshire University in March 2020.

Joseph has served on Superintendent and Principal search committees for the Hollis-Brookline School District. He has represented his teacher's union several times in contract negotiations, including being the lead negotiator.

From 1978-1991 Joseph proudly served his country in the United States Marines Corps.

Candidate Statement

I have had the great privilege to have served my country and then work with children in the education field for the last 24 years. I hope to continue to support student learning and achievement as a member of the Milford School Board and ensure that Milford Public Schools continues to provide a safe and encouraging environment to our children. I want to meet the high expectations of the Milford community while building on our tradition of excellence in preparing our children for success.

These past few years, we all have witnessed the challenges that the district has faced and how our remarkable community always comes together to meet those challenges head-on, to ensure that our children are provided with a world-class education.

I thank the dedicated parents, talented faculty and staff who place a high value on providing a rigorous academic curriculum in addition to the arts, athletics, and other extracurricular activities that support the development of the whole child in the educational process.

Through my Marine Corps leadership experiences and educational background, I have seen the importance of a trusting and collaborating team approach that focuses their energy and attention on providing opportunity and growth for every student.

Milford is a community that needs to be defined by more than just what our students achieve, but also by what we refuse to let happen.

Together, we must refuse to let anything get in our way as we strive to accomplish these three critical "E" goals; "Establishing and nurturing a culturally aware and responsive community that meeting the needs of all of our students;" "Educate everyone while developing and implementing an inclusive and safe culture in our school community;" and finally

"Eliminating any barriers to learning while maintaining a clear collaborating and trusting relationship between school board, school staff, and the community."

This will not be easy and I foresee many challenges along the way. The motto "Milford Strong" says to me that we will continue to work together, prioritize our students and our schools, as we continue to be the district where people will move to because Milford provides a safe and challenging educational experience. "Milford Strong" means to me, Milford will develop strong and caring individuals and future leaders.

The responsibility entrusted with providing a child's education is something no one should take lightly. If elected, I will work tirelessly to uphold that trust and responsibility to provide the best possible educational experience for every student in Milford's Schools.

