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APPROVED
MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S
BUDGET & BOND PUBLIC HEARING
18 January 2010

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PRESENT: Tim Finan, Chairman
Gary L. Daniels, Vice Chairman
Mike Putnam, Member
Kathy Bauer, Member
Nate Carmen, Member
Guy Scaife, Town Administrator
Darlene J. Bouffard, Recording Secretary
Department Heads & Senior Staff
Members of the Public

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BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Gil Archambault-Vice Chairman
Trudy Morgan
Bill Fitzpatrick
Didi Carter
Chuck Morrison-Chairman
Peggy Seward
Jolie Whitten

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WATER COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Walter Murray-Chairman
Robert Courage
Mike Putnam (Selectman)

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CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Finan opened the hearing at 6:31 p.m. All were invited to join in the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Finan introduced members of the Board of Selectmen and staff.

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Chairman Finan introduced Chuck Morrison, Chairman of the Budget Advisory Committee, who then introduced the Budget Advisory Committee members who were present. Chairman Finan introduced Walter Murray, Chairman of the Water Commissioners, who then introduced the other Water Commissioners.

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Chairman Finan indicated that tonight's hearing is for the Town Budget and Bond Hearing, but the entire warrant will be covered in order for the public to voice their opinions on all items. The Bond Hearing was opened at 6:35 p.m. Chairman Finan explained if any members of the public wish to comment or have questions, they should please use a microphone in order to be heard on the PEG Access Live broadcast.

BOND HEARING

ARRA Borrowing Issue - Sewer Upgrade Project - \$1,199,690

Water Commissioner Courage read the Article as follows:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Million, One Hundred Ninety-nine Thousand, Six Hundred and Ninety (\$1,199,690) Dollars (gross budget) for the costs of designing, engineering, purchasing, installing equipment related to, and constructing a Septage Receiving Facility at the Milford Wastewater Treatment Facility, for the purpose of facilitating the more efficient processing of septage at said facility; and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$1,199,690 in bonds, bond anticipation notes, or notes therefore in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33); and, further, to authorize the Selectmen to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the conditions and the rate of interest thereon; to further authorize the Selectmen to offset a portion of said appropriation by applying for, contracting for and expending American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, (ARRA), funds in the amount of \$599,845, with the balance to be raised by the issuance of said bonds or notes, and to further authorize the Selectmen to contract for and expend

1 any additional aid or grants that may be available for this project and to further authorize interest
2 earned on this bond to be utilized to pay costs associated with this project, it being further understood
3 that any debt service or other costs associated with this project will be paid from the Septage Revenue
4 Enterprise Fund, if the balance therein is sufficient, otherwise from other revenues available to the
5 Sewer Commission in accordance with RSA 149:1-7; and to authorize the Selectmen and Sewer
6 Commissioners to take all other action necessary to carry out and complete this project. This is a Spe-
7 cial Warrant Article in accordance with RSA 32.
8

9 **Note:** As this is for issuance of long-term debt, this vote requires, under State law, sixty (60%)
10 percent affirmative vote to pass. This appropriation will be offset by revenues from sewer user
11 fees.

12
13 Commissioner Courage explained this article indicating that this is to expand the current facility in order to meet
14 State requirements. This will be a 20 year bond with 50% forgiveness so the town would pay half the cost. Dave
15 Boucher, Assistant Superintendent of Wastewater Facility, reiterated Mr. Courage’s explanation, noting the facility
16 runs on a permit which allows us to dump into the Souhegan River. This new system would allow us to remove
17 additional copper from the sewage. This facility would be built on the Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF)
18 property. The current process is inefficient because the tanks are small, which means they have to be emptied more
19 frequently; the new facility would have a removal system built into the design. The liquid would be treated in the
20 process before it goes into the river. This is something Milford needs in order to meet the current State limits. Bob
21 Courage indicated the estimated cost of this project is \$1,199,691 for which Wilton has a 14.89% capacity at the
22 facility. This expanded facility will give Milford extra capacity and could bring in extra septage from other com-
23 munities. That is only an option; Milford currently has a problem with Milford and Wilton septage, this is going to
24 address that problem, adding other communities is only an option which could bring in additional revenue. This
25 should be pursued this year to take advantage of the federal funding; if it is not supported, EPA can exercise their
26 system of non-compliance which has mandatory fines; the WWTF is currently in violation.
27

28 Peter Basiliere, resident, asked why there is so much copper? Dave Boucher explained it is mostly from copper
29 plumbing; also people with septic tanks are included and they do not have erosion control in their well water so
30 more copper concentration is there. Mr. Basiliere asked about the numbers, noting they do not come out to 50%
31 funding. Dave Boucher said the State does not pay interest so the amount is less. Bob Courage explained the
32 amount is not specifically the amount of the grant. Mr. Basiliere asked what guarantee is there that 50% will be
33 forgiven? Commissioner Murray indicated there would be a contract through the State that would identify it. Mr.
34 Basiliere asked about rate impact, asking if this will impact users? Mr. Courage indicated septage users would be
35 paying this bond however, it is all part of the sewer fund. Septage money goes into the sewer fund and will offset
36 the cost. Mr. Murray said there will be no impact this year. But next year, Mr. Basiliere asked if the revenues will
37 offset the town’s share of the project. Mr. Courage said the current septage funds received could pay for this facili-
38 ty but if more revenue is received, it will more than pay for it. Mr. Basiliere asked if in 2011 there will be no rate
39 increase to water users? Mr. Courage said that is correct, but there will be an increase to sewer users. Jack Sheehy
40 explained that the cost sheet identifies half the principal, so they will pay half of the principal of the loan, but not
41 the interest; the town will be paying principal and interest.
42

43 Peg Seward, Budget Advisory Committee member, asked if it is a cost to sewer users or septage? Mr. Courage ex-
44 plained the septage receiving funds go into the sewer user fund; it will be paid for out of the sewer fund.
45

46 Commissioner Courage asked if there were any further public questions or comments and saw none.
47
48

49 **Fire Department / Ambulance Service Land Purchase Bond - \$850,000**

50
51 Chairman Finan read the Article as follows:
52

53 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eight Hundred and Fifty Thou-
54 sand (\$850,000) Dollars to purchase four (4) lots adjacent to the existing downtown fire station so
55 as to allow for future development of a joint fire / emergency management / ambulance service
56 facility and to authorize the Selectmen to raise this appropriation by borrowing not more than
57 \$850,000 in bonds, bond anticipation notes, or notes therefore in accordance with the Municipal

1 Finance Act, (RSA 33) and, further, to authorize the Selectmen to issue and negotiate such
2 bonds, bond anticipation notes, or notes and to determine conditions and the rate of interest
3 thereon, such funding to be repaid from general taxation, and to authorize the Selectmen to con-
4 tract for and expend any Federal or State aid that may be available for this purchase, and to au-
5 thorize the Selectmen to take all other necessary action to carry out this project. This is a Special
6 Article in accordance with RSA 32. This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$0.060 cents
7 commencing in 2011.

8
9 **Note:** As this is for issuance of long-term debt, this vote requires, under State law, sixty (60%)
10 percent affirmative vote to pass.

11
12 This site was chosen based on it being a location that assured no loss in emergency response
13 time, it leverages the operational and financial benefits of a single building, and it is the lowest-
14 cost option of all options evaluated and presented by the Facilities Committee.

15
16 Chairman Finan explained that about 18 months ago, the Board of Selectman asked the Facilities Committee to eva-
17 luate the facility needs of the town. The recommendation of the Facilities Committee was that the Fire and Ambul-
18 ance service as well as Town Hall are overcrowded and expansion at town hall would be beneficial. The Committee
19 provided a great report and came back with a number of options to address those needs. A public hearing was held
20 where the Board of Selectman reviewed and talked about the different options and found that the most cost effective
21 solution, which also met the desire to not impact the response time for Fire and Ambulance at all would be to build
22 a combined facility on the land adjacent to the current Fire facility. This warrant article bond would give the Board
23 of Selectman authority to negotiate with the land owners of those properties. The negotiations are continuing and
24 await town vote on this bond. Leighton White noted as a taxpayer, this is the best time to do this, he thinks it would
25 be the most economical time in history to purchase these properties. There were no further questions or comments.

26
27 There being no further questions on bonds presented, Chairman Finan closed the bond portion of the public hearing
28 at 7:15 p.m.

29
30 Chairman Finan opened the budget portion of the hearing at 7:15 p.m.

31 BUDGET HEARING

32 **Operating Budget - \$11,432,062**

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36 Chairman Finan read the Warrant Article as follows:

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38 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, as an operating budget not including appropri-
39 ations by Special Warrant Articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on
40 the budget in an amount totaling Eleven Million, Four Hundred Thirty-two Thousand, and Sixty-two
41 (\$11,432,062) Dollars. Should this Article be defeated, the operating budget shall be Eleven Million,
42 Two Hundred Ninety-three Thousand, Nine Hundred and Fifty-nine (\$11,293,959) Dollars which is the
43 same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous actions of the Town, or by law, or the
44 governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13 X and XVI, to take up
45 the issue of a revised operating budget only. This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$4.167.

46
47 **Note:** The proposed Operating Budget reflects a decrease of 1.4% to the 2009 Operating Budg-
48 et, or a decrease of \$121,217.

49 2010 Non-CIP Capital Outlay for Vehicles Included in Operating Budget

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52
53 • Police Department – replacement of 2 Police Cruisers (\$52,603)
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- 55
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APPROVED MINUTES OF BUDGET & BOND PUBLIC HEARING – 01/18/10

1 Chairman Finan explained that 2009 was a very difficult year for everyone; the town saved money in the budget and
2 was challenged with revenues since it lost the State aid from Meals & Rooms Tax of about \$220,000. This revenue
3 was budgeted for and then was taken away in July; additionally the State contribution was lowered from 35% to
4 30%. The town was looking at a \$400,000 decrease in revenues. By tightening its belt, and keeping expenses low,
5 the town was able to lower that to about \$140,000. Many of these savings were carried over into the 2010 budget,
6 which reflects a decrease of 1.4% from the 2009 operating budget.
7

8 Town Administrator Guy Scaife reviewed the budget and noted he appreciates the Department Heads and employ-
9 ees for doing a good job in the past year, which was challenging, by controlling expenses. The town reacted
10 very early in the year and kept expenses down. The 2010 budget is down 1.4% under the 2009 budget. Two years
11 ago, we knew things were getting tough and began managing the budget even better. There were numerous ways
12 that expenses were reduced. Every day we gain productivity from DPW employees using the new Cemetery Build-
13 ing; by not having them go back and forth to the DPW facility. The Tax Collector worked diligently with the public
14 during tough times and got notifications out promptly for late taxes to prevent liens. The Town Clerk took on ser-
15 vices from the State to register larger vehicles and distribute plates and is also implementing Tuesday evening hours
16 4:30-6:30 to assist the public. These are all direct ways to assist the public. The Library and Recreation Depart-
17 ments have served the public more than ever in this economy. Over 200,000 people went through the doors of the
18 Library in 2009; Recreation pool passes were up 11%; Pavillion use went from 125 users to 855 users in 2009. The
19 number of Recreation programs offered went up 47% and usage went up 56%. People stayed home and used the
20 Library and Recreation facilities more in 2009. This was done, and the budget was still managed, while not risking
21 long term needs. Last year we knew we were heading into difficult economic times. There was a 3% merit increase
22 for staff in 2009 and the staff knew increases would not be significant in 2010. This year, this budget is presented
23 with a zero rate increase. All employees will receive zero increase in 2010. A second issue was benefits that most
24 of the public felt was upside down. The sick time buy out benefit has been in existence about 20 years and if em-
25 ployees did not use sick time, the buy out was 50% of that time. The Board of Selectman lowered that by 25%, then
26 came up with another approach to handle this by exchanging the sick time for vacation time at a reduced amount.
27 The sick time buy out is now gone for most employees and sick days have gone from 15 to 8.
28

29 Town Administrator Guy Scaife explained the increases to the budget items, by department.
30

31 Chairman Finan asked if there were questions or comments from the public.
32

33 Peter Basiliere, Spaulding Street, asked about anticipated revenue for 2010. Guy Scaife said he did not bring that
34 information, but anticipates it being about \$250,000 less than the 2009 budget, but \$140,000 above the 2009 ac-
35 tuals. The Town was able to sell two properties in 2009 which offset the decrease in revenues. Interest income is
36 also down as well as vehicle registrations and Recycling. Mr. Basiliere questioned the presentation of numbers,
37 indicating the budget is actually up if debt service is included and feels the numbers presented are disingenuous.
38 Guy Scaife has presented the data the same way it has been done for years so as to ensure consistency of format.
39 Guy Scaife said if Mr. Basiliere thinks it is disingenuous, then he apologizes, but he has presented the data the way
40 it has always been presented.
41

42 Faye Richey, Ball Hill Road, asked about Fund Balance and how it is used. Guy Scaife said it was recommended
43 that \$75,000 of Fund Balance be used to offset the tax rate. The DRA makes a recommendation of what range the
44 town should stay in, which is between 5-10%. Milford's Fund Balance is for the Town and School. The town must
45 have a rainy day fund. Last year we brought Fund Balance down to about 5%. We think we can still contribute
46 \$75,000 this year. We had a year without horrendous surprises; we accommodated some surprises but there were
47 not any significant ice storms, for example. A piece of town property was sold in December and one is under con-
48 tract to be sold in February. The land had no use to the town and did not collect any tax revenue. With those sales,
49 we should be able to add to Fund Balance. Additionally a tax abatement came in for \$33,000 that was not antic-
50 ipated. As the economy improves, the Fund Balance should also increase with additional revenues coming in;
51 therefore the town should stay in that 5% range for a while.
52

53 There were no further questions.

Water Department Operating Budget - \$1,361,466

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55
56 Water Commissioner Courage read the Water and Wastewater Treatment Budget Warrant Articles as follows:

1
2 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Million, Three Hundred Sixty-one
3 Thousand, Four Hundred and Sixty-six (\$1,361,466) Dollars to operate and maintain the Water De-
4 partment, said appropriation to be offset by income received from the water user charges, or take any
5 other action relative thereto. This is a Special Warrant Article in accordance with RSA 32 and is paid
6 for by the water user fees.
7

8 **Note:** The proposed Water Department Operating Budget reflects an increase of 1.9% to the
9 2009 Operating Budget, or an increase of \$25,869. Said increase is largely due to increased
10 chemical and utility costs.
11

12 Water Commissioner Courage explained that the increase in the Water Department Operating Budget is for increas-
13 es in chemical costs and rehabilitation costs which are now complete. The Curtis Well control facility electrical
14 work is complete; in the past if power was lost, we could not operate but instead used Pennichuck for power; this
15 facility improvement will allow us (with the new generator) to run our own facility and only use Pennichuck for
16 supply if the need is there. The Water Department is also looking into developing an additional well site in Milford
17 on the Trombly property. Preliminary testing has been done and water quality samples have been taken. The town
18 is still in negotiations with the land owner; in order to get ground water with a permit from DES, the town is re-
19 quired to do comprehensive studies on the river, review contamination sites west of this location as well as east of
20 this location. USGS will do a study under a grant, for which Milford's share would be about \$55,000, however the
21 land owner does not want to sell the land, he wants to lease it to the town. Currently the town is working on this
22 with the landowner and hopefully can come up with something that is fair to him and to the town. The money is in
23 the budget to do the study if it works out.
24

25 Gil Archambault, Budget Advisory Committee, indicated that the Savage Well was bought by Hitchiner sometime
26 in the 1980's; the town no longer owns Savage Well; there has been some confusion on this.
27

28 Bob Willette noted at the time of purchase, there was an agreement that they would sell the wells back to the town
29 at some point.
30

31 There were no further questions.

32 ***Wastewater Treatment Operating Budget - \$1,692,112***

33
34 Commissioner Courage read the Warrant Article as follows:
35

36 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Million, Six Hundred Ninety-two
37 Thousand, One Hundred and Twelve (\$1,692,112) Dollars to operate and maintain the Wastewater
38 Treatment Facility and the Sanitary Sewer Collection System, said appropriation to be offset by income
39 received from wastewater user charges, or take any other action relative thereto. This is a Special
40 Warrant Article in accordance with RSA 32 and is paid for by the wastewater user fees.
41

42 **Note:** The proposed Wastewater Treatment Operating Budget reflects a decrease of 0.193% to
43 the 2009 Operating Budget, or a decrease of \$3,200.
44

45 Commissioner Courage explained the WWTF has made some changes in operations including the sewer administra-
46 tion being reduced by 9.5%, and employee benefits went up. A \$40,000 expense in protective coating was ex-
47 pended for all buildings; a sewer camera was purchased in order to see what a problem might be in the pipes. The
48 last payment was made on a twenty year bond for the sewer lines on Summer, Falconer and Mayflower Streets. The
49 last bond on the Treatment Plan was paid in 2009. Only one bond is outstanding for the outfall diffuser; a bucket
50 loader was purchased in 2009.
51

52 There were no further questions
53

54 Chairman Finan closed the budget hearing at 8:00 p.m., moving on to the Warrant Article presentation.
55
56

Route 101A / Route 13 / Oval Improvements Grant - \$155,000

Chairman Finan read the Warrant Article as follows:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seven Hundred Seventy-five Thousand (\$775,000) Dollars (\$155,000 to be raised by general taxation and \$620,000 from Federal Grant) for engineering of, potential right-of-way acquisition for, and construction of improvements to Route 101A, Route 13, and The Oval, including but not limited to vehicular and pedestrian safety enhancements in the downtown area of Milford generally described as that area bordered by the Nashua Street / Tonella Road intersection; the South Street / Prospect Street / Lincoln Street intersections; the Elm Street / Cottage Street intersection; and the Mont Vernon Street / Amherst Street / Grove Street intersections. Said safety enhancements shall be based on completed and ongoing traffic studies within the Town, and shall include, but may not be limited to, sidewalks, crosswalks, utility relocation and undergrounding, paving, parking, and access management. The amount of One Hundred Fifty Five Thousand (\$155,000) Dollars is 50% of the Town's required remaining match of \$310,000 to obtain the full Federal transportation earmarked funding of Two Million, Eight Hundred Thousand (\$2,800,000) Dollars. This is a Special Article in accordance with RSA 32. This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$0.098 cents

Note: In 2006 the Town was awarded \$3,500,000 Federal Highway Administration Section 1702 – Designated Project to be administered through the New Hampshire Department of Transportation. Of the \$3,500,000 the Town is required to provide a 20% match, or \$700,000. In 2006 the Town appropriated \$80,000 of the required match and in 2008 and 2009, the Town appropriated an additional \$155,000 each year for a total match commitment made through 2009 of \$390,000. The remaining match commitment is \$310,000 to be divided \$155,000 in 2010 and \$155,000 in 2011. After the 2010 appropriation, the Town's match will total \$545,000 and the remaining match requirement will be \$155,000.

Chairman Finan opened the floor for questions or comments and saw none.

Osgood Road Sidewalk / Bicycle Lane Project – Phase II - \$73,500

Chairman Finan read the Warrant Article as follows:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Hundred Sixty-Seven Thousand and Five Hundred (\$367,500) Dollars (\$73,500 be raised by general taxation and \$294,000 from Federal Transportation Enhancement (TE) Grant) for the construction of approximately 1,700 linear feet of five (5) foot wide asphalt sidewalk, curbing, drainage improvements, and adjacent striped bicycle lane from the intersection of West Street and Osgood Road southwesterly to Adams Field and Hazel Adams Burns Park located adjacent to Osgood Pond. This will be a Special Article in accordance with RSA 32. This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$0.046 cents.

Note: If the project does not receive federal grant monies, the request for \$73,500.00 (20% matching funds) will be withdrawn.

Chairman Finan explained this article is for a Transportation Enhancement (TE) Grant which has an 80/20 match; if the town does not support this article, the request will be withdrawn.

Chairman Finan opened the floor for questions or comments and saw none.

Granite Town Rail Trail - \$53,210

Chairman Finan read the Warrant Article as follows:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Sixty-six Thousand and Fifty (\$266,050) Dollars (\$53,210 to be raised by general taxation and \$212,840 from Federal Transportation Enhancement (TE) Grant) for the improvement of the Granite Town Rail Trail:

1 resurfacing nearly 3 miles, creating a pedestrian tunnel under the Melendy Road crossing, and
 2 extending the trail to the Oval thus completing another link to a town and region-wide trail system.
 3 This will be a Special Article in accordance with RSA 32. This Article has an estimated tax impact
 4 of \$0.034 cents.
 5

6 **Note:** If the project does not receive federal grant monies, the request for \$53,210 (20% match-
 7 ing funds) will be withdrawn.
 8

9 Chairman Finan explained this article is for a Transportation Enhancement (TE) Grant which has an 80/20 match; if
 10 the town does not support this article, the request will be withdrawn.
 11

12 Chairman Finan opened the floor for questions or comments. Janet Langdell, asked if the request will be withdrawn
 13 if it is not supported by voters? Chairman Finan said that is correct. Janet Langdell indicated the town needs to
 14 support this or it will lose the grant funding.
 15

16 There were no further questions or comments.
 17

18 **Teamsters Union Collective Bargaining Agreement - \$24,040**
 19

20 Chairman Finan turned this union contract presentation over to Town Administrator Guy Scaife.
 21

22 Town Administrator Guy Scaife explained there are two union contracts that are at different stages. The Teamsters
 23 contract is negotiated and has come to an agreement. This Warrant Article is a result of the agreement. About 23
 24 people are included with a few water utility employees, all administrative staff at the police station and all of DPW.
 25 Last year at town meeting, there was agreement on the contract with them. Last year the contract failed when pre-
 26 sented to the voters. They came back to the table and were cooperative and willing to negotiate. The sick time buy
 27 out was agreed to. Guy Scaife endorses this Teamsters contract.
 28
 29

30 To see if the Town will vote to approve the cost items included in the Teamsters Collective Bargaining
 31 Agreement (CBA) reached between the Board of Selectmen and the International Brotherhood of
 32 Teamsters, Local 633 for contract years 2009, 2010, and 2011 (1 April – 31 March) which calls for the
 33 following increases in salaries, benefits, new cost items and other costs attributable to this Agreement,
 34 and to further raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-four Thousand and Forty (\$24,040) Dollars for
 35 fiscal years 2009 and 2010. Said sum represents the additional costs over those of the current appro-
 36 priation at current staffing levels paid in the expiring Agreement. Upon approval of this Article, said
 37 cost allocation is to be transferred to the General Operating Budgets of the appropriate departments,
 38 or take any other action relative thereto. \$17,842 is to be raised by general taxation and \$6,198 is to
 39 be raised by Water & Sewer User Fees. This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$0.011 cents.

40 **COST ITEMS FROM GENERAL OPERATING BUDGET**

	2009 Retroactive	2010	2011 Estimated
45 Wages & Overtime	\$6,632	\$8,335	\$21,024
46 Fringe Benefits	\$1,274	\$1,601	\$ 4,279
48			
49 Totals	\$7,906	\$9,936	\$25,303

50 **COST ITEMS FROM WATER & SEWER USER FUNDS**

	2009 Retroactive	2010	2011 Estimated
55 Wages & Overtime	\$2,361	\$2,838	\$7,059
56 Fringe Benefits	\$ 454	\$ 545	\$1,557
57			

Totals	\$2,815	\$3,383	\$8,616
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NOTE:

The contract calls for the following cost items:
 04/01/2009 – 1.5% across the board wage increase
 04/01/2010 – 0% wage increase
 04/01/2011 – 0 – 3.0% wage increase based on performance

AFSCME Union Collective Bargaining Agreement - \$49,829

Town Administrator Guy Scaife explained the AFSCME contract is still in negotiations. This includes a portion of the police department (17 people). They did not come to terms last year; a negotiator and mediator came in and were unsuccessful. Last year there was no article brought before the voters for the AFSCME contract. A fact finder was assigned and got both sides of the story and came back rendering a recommendation. That recommendation must be brought to the voters by law. It does not require Board of Selectman or BAC approval. The fact finder would not open the sick time policy issue. The town has appealed to the union to consider joining the town with the new sick time policy. Guy Scaife believes it is time for all employees to be treated the same on benefits and salaries. The sick time benefit was broken and now it is being fixed. It was put out as an option to employees and 72% of employees took the new policy in 2009. The Teamsters union was also open to that option in 2009.

To see if the Town will vote to approve the cost items included in the Police Officers' Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) reached between the Board of Selectmen and Local 3657 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) for contract years 2009, 2010, and 2011 (1 April – 31 March) which calls for the following increases in salaries, benefits, new cost items and other costs attributable to this Agreement, and to further raise and appropriate the sum of Forty-nine Thousand, Eight Hundred and Twenty-nine (\$49,829) Dollars for fiscal years 2009 and 2010. Said sum represents the additional costs over those of the current appropriation at current staffing levels paid in the expiring Agreement. Upon approval of this Article, said cost allocation is to be transferred to the General Operating Budgets of the appropriate departments, or take any other action relative thereto. This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$0.03 cents.

COST ITEMS

	2009 <u>Retroactive</u>	2010	2011 <u>Estimated</u>
Wages & Overtime	\$14,320	\$28,282	\$46,356
Fringe Benefits	\$ 2,340	\$ 4,887	\$11,412
<hr/>			
Totals	\$16,660	\$33,169	\$55,768

NOTE:

The contract calls for the following cost items:
 ➤ 04/01/2009 – 1.5% across the board wage increase
 ➤ 10/01/2009 – 1.5% across the board wage increase
 ➤ 04/01/2010 – 0% wage increase
 ➤ 04/01/2011 – 2.5% across the board wage increase

Guy Scaife does not support this AFSCME contract. He asked for questions or comments on either contract.

Peter Basiliere asked if there is an AFSCME agreement at this time. Guy Scaife said there is not. This is the fact finder's recommendation; the law mandates that it be brought to the voters. Peter Basiliere asked if Guy Scaife is recommending that voters not accept this recommendation. Guy Scaife said yes and thinks it is time to be on the same benefits page as the other employees. Janet Langdell, Elm Street, asked of the 17 people in the AFSCME contract, what group of employees is that. Guy Scaife said it is the patrolmen, it does not include the captain, sergeants, prosecutor, chief, or administrative staff.

1
2 Guy Scaife noted that the police do a very good job, we have a fine organization; the disagreement is that we should
3 treat all employees the same; one class of employee should not be treated differently than the others.
4

5 There were no further questions.
6

7 **Non-Emergency Community Transportation Bus Service - \$37,137**
8

9 Chairman Finan read the Warrant Article as follows:
10

11 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty-seven Thousand, One Hundred
12 and Thirty-seven (\$37,137) Dollars for the purpose of providing the Town's share of funding to the
13 Souhegan Valley Transportation Collaborative (SVTC) in order to continue operating a regional, non-
14 emergency, wheelchair-accessible transportation service providing rides within the designated service
15 area to seniors, people with disabilities, and the general public, or take any other action relative there-
16 to. This is a Special Article in accordance with RSA 32. This Article has an estimated tax impact of
17 \$0.023 cents.
18

19 Chairman Finan indicated this article is to continue on with the bus program. Chairman Finan opened the floor for
20 questions or comments.
21

22 Michael Homala asked for the number of rides taken by Milford people over the past year. Chairman Finan asked
23 that Janet Langdell address that question.
24

25 Janet Langdell, Chairperson of SVTC, responded that since October 2008, there have been 1,415 rides; of that, 64%
26 were Milford residents. 74% of the riders were seniors and 34% of the riders were non-seniors from Milford.
27

28 **Social Services - \$35,000**
29

30 Chairman Finan read the Warrant Article as follows:
31

32 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty-five Thousand (\$35,000) Dollars
33 for the purpose of providing funding to Social Service agencies for Milford residents or take any other
34 action relative thereto. This is a Special Article in accordance with RSA 32. This Article has an esti-
35 mated tax impact of \$0.022 cents.

36 **Note:** funding for this Article is at the same level as approved in 2008 and 2009.
37

38 Chairman Finan opened the floor for questions or comments and saw none.
39

40 **General Frank E. Kaley Park - \$25,000**
41

42 Chairman Finan read the Warrant Article as follows:
43

44 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate up to the maximum amount of Twenty-five Thou-
45 sand (\$25,000) Dollars; the amount of said appropriation that the Selectmen are hereby authorized to
46 expend shall be only such amount as the Recreation Commission can secure in matching private gifts
47 or contributions on or before 12/31/10 or this appropriation will lapse, or take any other action relative
48 thereto. Additionally, the Selectmen are authorized to receive and expend any amounts of said private
49 matching contributions for this project for the phase II construction and improvements at General Frank
50 E. Kaley Park, including, but not limited to, completion of large open space field, field irrigation, park-
51 ing, and additional park amenities. This Warrant Article seeks to encourage organizations to donate
52 funds by matching their contributions dollar for dollar. This is a Special Article in accordance with RSA
53 32. This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$0.016 cents.

54 Chairman Finan indicated this request came from the Recreation Commission to complete Phase II of Kaley Park.
55

56 Chairman Finan opened the floor for questions or comments and saw none.
57
58

Pumpkin Festival, Holiday Decorations and Plantings - \$15,000

Chairman Finan read the Warrant Article as follows:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifteen Thousand (\$15,000) Dollars for purposes of Pumpkin Festival support by Public Works, Police, Fire, and Ambulance Departments; purchase and planting of flowers for the Oval and Stone Bridge areas; purchase of lights, garland, etc. for holiday decorations; or take any other action relative thereto. This is a Special Article in accordance with RSA 32. This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$0.009 cents.

Tracey Bardsley, DO-IT Director, indicated in 2009 the Warrant Article was for \$20,000 but was lowered to \$15,000 at the Deliberative Session. This year the request will remain \$15,000.

Chairman Finan opened the floor for questions or comments and saw none.

DO-IT Operating Budget Support - \$15,000

Chairman Finan read the Warrant Article as follows:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifteen Thousand (\$15,000) Dollars for the purpose of continued partial funding for community and economic development programs in and around downtown administered by the Milford Downtown Ongoing Improvement Team (DO-IT), or take any other action relative thereto. By request of DO-IT. This is a Special Warrant Article in accordance with RSA 32. This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$0.009 cents.

Tracey Bardsley, DO-IT Director, indicated in 2009 the Warrant Article was cut to \$10,000 and this year the request is for \$15,000.

Chairman Finan opened the floor for questions or comments and saw none.

Conservation Land Fund - \$15,000

Chairman Finan read the article as follows:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000.00 (Fifteen Thousand Dollars) to add to the Conservation Land 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 36A purposes, or take any other action relative thereto. This is a Special Warrant Article in accordance with RSA 32. This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$0.009 cents.

Note: The Conservation Commission, as announced at a public hearing on Jan. 14th, will be expending up to \$70,000 of the Conservation Land Fund to purchase the Sherburne lot on Boynton Hill, Lot 45-20. If this planned purchase proves to be unsuccessful, this Article will not be funded.

[Moneys from this Fund for land or easement acquisition can only be expended by the Conservation Commission after a public hearing and approval of the Board of Selectmen.]

Chairman Finan opened the floor for questions or comments and saw none.

Fire Works - \$8,500

Chairman Finan read the article as follows:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eight Thousand, Five Hundred (\$8,500) Dollars for the purpose of providing a 4th of July type fireworks display and associated support functions (traffic control, crossing details, etc.) at a time and location to be determined by the Board of Selectmen, or take any other action relative thereto. This is a Special Article in accordance with RSA 32. This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$0.005 cents.

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Chairman Finan opened the floor for questions or comments and saw none.

Summer Band Concerts - \$9,000

Chairman Finan read the Warrant Article as follows:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Nine Thousand (\$9,000) Dollars for the purpose of holding the traditional summer evening Band Concerts (\$6,000 bands, \$2,000 sound system, \$1,000 crossing detail), or take any other action relative thereto. This is a Special Article in accordance with RSA 32. This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$0.006 cents.

Chairman Finan opened the floor for questions or comments and saw none.

Memorial, Veterans & Labor Day Parade Town Support - \$6,000

Chairman Finan read the Warrant Article as follows:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Six Thousand (\$6,000) Dollars for Town support to the Memorial, Veterans and Labor Day Parades by Public Works, Police Department and other Town departments. Departmental support costs and materials associated with the provision of these services will be charged against this appropriation. This is a Special Article in accordance with RSA 32. This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$0.004 cents.

Gil Archambault indicated that this funding does not cover the cost for any bands or support for the VFW or American Legion, this article strictly supports the public works, police, and other town departments coverage during the parades.

Chairman Finan opened the floor for questions or comments and saw none.

Chairman Finan indicated the public hearing for the 2010 Bond & Budget was complete and the hearing was closed at 8:35 p.m.

Chairman, Tim Finan

Member, Mike Putnam

Vice Chairman, Gary L. Daniels

Member, Kathy Bauer

Member, Nate Carmen