



Town Of Milford
OFFICE OF THE SELECTMEN

~ 2011 SELECTMEN'S REPORT ~

In 2011 we were reminded that the more things change the more they stay the same. From completion of our cyclical revaluation of property values (which is required for all towns every 5 years), to an almost two foot deep Halloween snowstorm, to the Jennison Road Bridge receiving a critical rating forcing it to close, we saw a lot of challenges this year. If we look back to previous significant weather anomalies, other dips in the economy, the Great Depression, and yes, even other bridge failures (the old North River Road Bridge for example), we can't help but see that these kinds of troubles have come around before and we worked through them and still came out on top. Though it can be frustrating that the property revaluation took place during a "down" market and adding to that the variable changes in individual property values, we have seen this scenario before too. In this past year the economy has showed some signs of recuperation and with cautious optimism we look toward better times. Through all these tests Milford has, and continues to thrive, in a very positive place.

We have a thriving downtown while we see other towns suffering from decline. We have put ourselves on the map with the Pumpkin Festival, our parades, our beauty, our resilience, our welcoming attitude, our well thought out and inviting business atmosphere, and our comparatively low tax rate. Over these past several years we have gotten past major bumps in the road including greatly reduced revenues, extreme cut backs in state and federal funds, we survived a default budget year, and yet held the line on expenses while providing needed services to the tax payers. Yes, while some may not look outside of the boundaries of Milford, our tax rate remains at the very lowest among other communities similar to our size in New Hampshire. This all is accomplished by the hard work and design of each and every one of you.

An aspect of that hard work allows us to look to the future and say that Milford is on very good footing to maintain its great quality of life. We should be proud that the school of hard knocks has given us the needed skills to come up with a plan that is designed to help us build a strong future - the Capital Improvements Plan or CIP. The CIP has been structured to line up and prioritize the most needed big ticket items and projects and spread their cost out over multiple years in such a way that they will have little to no additional impact to the taxpayer. This leveled out tax impact is achieved by planning the start of newer bonded projects as the expense of older bonded projects is paid off. We all know that bridges, roads and ultimately all infrastructures have a limited life span. With the CIP onboard the town faces these certainties of age in a confident and forthright manner. If we maintain and follow the Plan it will ensure that all our citizens and visitors can travel through and enjoy this community to its utmost. As an extra financial benefit if we are able to sell the industrial portion of the Brox Property we

have the potential to realize significant “front end” cash revenue and then the developers’ new low impact business projects will increase long range tax revenues.

All of this though hinges on the approval of this year’s budget and warrant articles. It is a starting point and the foundation for a well thought out plan coming from the cooperative efforts of so many departments, committees, and commissions. With proper planning and the continuation of the extraordinary support we have seen, we know that the Town is well prepared to “weather the storms” as they come.

The Board is proud of their work to bring all of these efforts together to mold them into one cohesive voice during the past year. With any luck at town vote we will get the ambulance facility that is overdue, a replacement fire truck so we can continue to keep Milford safe, and a new backhoe loader that will help DPW resourcefully perform its work. Also, if we continue to support the CIP it should allow for the opportunity to accomplish goals like the Library expansion, again with only a modest projected increase coming from taxpayers.

I want to take a moment to say thank you to all the employees and volunteers that have helped to make the Board’s job much easier. We realize how often efficient town government is taken for granted and with true appreciation we know that employees will continue their duties vigilantly. I know every member values all of the tireless efforts that go into running the town of Milford and keeping it a great place to live. In this coming year we hope that more citizens will pitch in, get involved, and join a committee or commission.

The Board of Selectmen would like to wish all of you a great 2012 and again thank the town employees, volunteers, committee and commission members, and the citizens for all of your continuing efforts and support. It is much appreciated.

Respectfully, the Milford Board of Selectmen,

Nate Carmen, Chairman

Gary Daniels, Vice Chairman

Kathy Bauer

Tim Finan

Mike Putnam