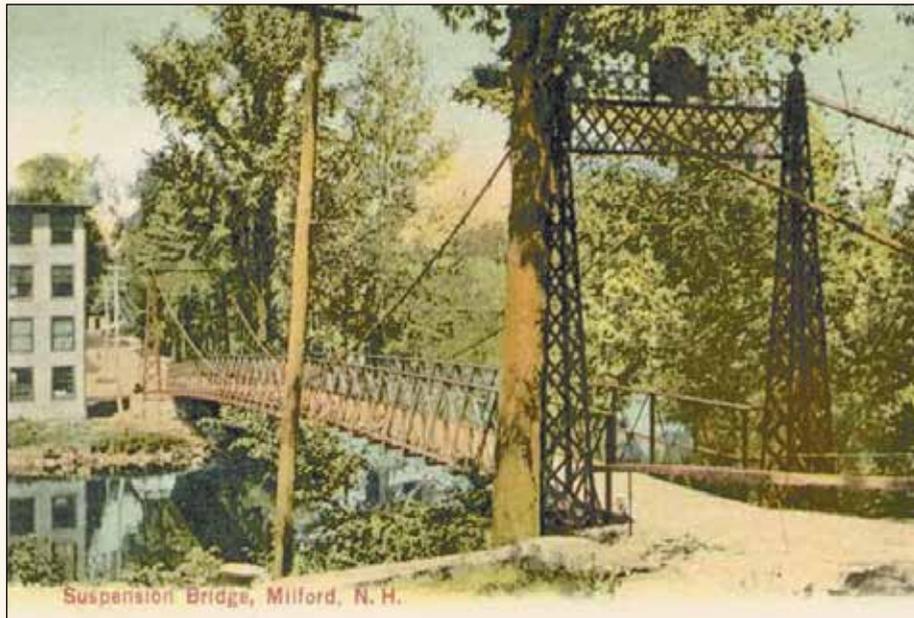




# 2016 MILFORD Town Voters' Guide

## History of the Swing Bridge

The first pedestrian bridge was built by mill owners in 1850 to allow their workers to get to Milford's textile and furniture mills. The original wooden footbridge was known to sway heavily under the foot traffic of mill workers crossing over it as they walked to and from work and home twice daily. In 1869 the river swept that bridge away, and a second pedestrian bridge was constructed. The second bridge was heavily damaged in an ice storm. Several years later John McLane, the owner of McLane Mills approached the Board of Selectmen and offered up money to build a replacement bridge. Refurbished by the town in 1975, this beautiful and historical iron suspension bridge is now showing its age, with heavy use and environmental conditions contributing to the need for its full restoration



Suspension Bridge, Milford, N. H.

The Swing Bridge, built in 1889, the successor to two wooden footbridges connecting Bridge and Souhegan Streets.

The current engineering estimate of total restoration of the Swing Bridge will be \$500,000 according to Hoyle, Tanner and Associates, an engineering firm who did an extensive study of the bridge this past summer. Milford town officials and a group of concerned citizens, (including the Heritage Commission, Historical Society, the Conservation Commission and the Milford Improvement Team) want to prevent the Swing Bridge from falling to a similar fate as became of another historic span across the Souhegan River this past summer, when the historic Green Bridge (known to many as the Jones Crossing Bridge) had to be demolished and hauled away.

### How the Swing Bridge can be saved!

Town officials have begun the process of coordinating all state funds available for this project, including working closely with the New Hampshire Department of Transportation and Nashua Regional Planning Commission. Our best estimate is that 80% of this project will be eligible to be paid for with Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) funds from the Federal Highway Administration. In addition to the TAP program, the bridge would be a strong candidate for the L-CHIP grant, but at least 1/2 of the 20% needs to come from other grant sources and private donors.

### Here's how to donate:

Make checks payable to the Town of Milford, c/o Tina Philbrick, 1 Union Square, Milford, NH 03055. Note "Save the Swing Bridge" in the memo on the check. NOTE: These funds are non-lapsing, and if not used, all monies must be returned to donors. All donations will go into the Milford Heritage Commission Fund held by the town. All donations are tax deductible.

# Milford Town Vote

## Voting Summary Sheet

**Tuesday, March 8, 2016**  
**Polls Open 6:00 am to 8:00 pm**

**Milford Middle School – 33 Osgood Road**

### Article 1. Election of Officers

- Board of Selectmen - 3 Year Term (vote for one) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Christopher Skinner   
 Kevin Federico
- Cemetery Trustee - 3 Year Term (vote for one) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Steve Trombly
- Library Trustee - 3 Year Term (vote for two) \_\_\_\_\_  
 David Rysdam   
 Judy Gross
- Town Clerk - 3 Year Term (vote for one) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Bobbie Schelberg   
 Nancy Deslauriers   
 Joan Dargie
- Moderator - 2 Year Term (vote for one) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Denise Hennesey   
 Peter Basiliere
- Trustee of Trust Funds - 3 Year Term (vote for one) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Janet Spalding
- Supervisor of the Checklist - 6 Year Term (vote for one) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Polly Cote
- Water-Wastewater Commissioner - 3 Year Term (vote for one) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dale A. White

### Article 2. Zoning Questions

- Ballot Vote 1.** Open Space and Conservation District Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
- Ballot Vote 2.** Home Occupations Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
- Ballot Vote 3.** Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

- Article 3.** Library Building Project - BOND - \$5,618,000 Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
- Article 4.** Storm Sewer Video Inspection - BOND - \$216,000 Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
- Article 5.** Wastewater UV Disinfection Replacement - BOND - \$950,000 Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
- Article 6.** Town Operating Budget - \$13,993,310 Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
- Article 7.** Water Department Operating Budget - \$1,393,395 Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
- Article 8.** Wastewater Treatment Operating Budget - \$1,913,465 Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
- Article 9.** Bridge Replacement Capital Reserve - \$350,000 Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

- Article 10.** Sidewalk Tractor Plow with Sander 5 year Lease/Purchase \$34,400 (Annual Payment \$34,400/Total Price \$162,000) Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
- Article 11.** Dump Truck (8 cyl) 5 Year Lease/Purchase \$35,800 (Annual Payment \$35,800/Total Price \$168,600) Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
- Article 12.** Tractor/Backhoe/Loader - 5 year Lease/Purchase \$25,000 (Annual Payment \$25,000/Total Price \$117,500) Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
- Article 13.** Kinder Morgan Pipeline Legal Fees - \$40,000 Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
- Article 14.** Social Services - \$35,000 Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
- Article 15.** Non-Emergency Community Transportation Bus Services - \$27,700 Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
- Article 16.** Architect Fees for Fire Department Expansion Project - \$25,000 Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
- Article 17.** Conservation Land Funds - \$20,000 Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
- Article 18.** Pumpkin Festival, Holiday Decorations and Plantings - \$23,000 Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
- Article 19.** Summer Band Concerts - \$9,000 Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
- Article 20.** Fireworks - \$8,500 Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
- Article 21.** Funding of the Annual Labor Day Parade (Bands and Musicians) - \$6,000 Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
- Article 22.** Memorial, Veterans & Labor Day Parades & Recognition - Town Support -\$6,000. Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
- Article 23.** Gravel Pit Reclamation/Restoration & Sale or Other Disposition of Resources \$0. Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
- Article 24.** Modify Solar Exemption - \$0 Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
- Article 25.** Adjustment to Exemption Amount for Elderly Exemption - \$0 Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
- Article 26.** Discontinuance of Linden Street Extension - \$0 Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
- Article 27.** Discontinuance of a Portion of Scarborough Lane - \$0 Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
- Article 28.** Hitchiner Town Forest Conservation Easement - \$0 Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
- Article 29.** Open Space Access - \$0 Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
- Article 30.** Pipeline Authorization Consent - \$0 by Petition Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
- Article 31.** Sale of a Portion of the BROX Property - \$0 by Petition Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
- Article 32.** NH Resolution to get big money out of politics - \$0 by Petition Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_



Your 2016 Voters' Guide comes to you at NO COST to the Town of Milford thanks to our sponsors. Please join us in thanking them for their generosity and community spirit!

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# Town of Milford Warrant Officials 2015 – 2016

## Board of Selectmen

Mark Fougere, Chairman  
Kevin Federico, Vice-Chairman  
Gary Daniels  
Kathy Bauer  
Mike Putnam

## Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners

Mike Putnam, Chairman  
Dale White, Vice-Chairman  
Bob Courage

## Budget Advisory Committee

Matt Lydon, Chairman  
Jim Roccio, Vice Chair  
Karen Mitchell, Secretary  
Cara Barlow  
Paul Bartolomucci  
Bert Becker  
Chris Pank  
Robert Courage  
Peggy Seward

# 2016 Town Meeting Warrant and 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 Annual Meeting of the Town of Milford will be held, in accordance with RSA 40:13, in said Milford, with the first session (also known as "Deliberative Session") at the Milford Town Hall Auditorium on Saturday, January 30, 2016, at 9:00 am, to transact all business other than voting, and on Tuesday, March 8, 2016, at the Milford Middle School Gymnasium, for the second session (also known as "Town Vote") for voting by official ballot at the polls on all matters in the warrant as well as officers and other matters to be voted on. The polls will be open on March 8, 2016 at 6:00 a.m. and will not close earlier than 8:00 p.m.

## ARTICLE 1 – ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Selectmen - 3 year term, vote for one  
Christopher Skinner  
Kevin Federico

Library Trustee- 3 year term, vote for two  
David Rysdam  
Judy Gross

Town Moderator - 2 year term, vote for one  
Denise Hennesey  
Pete Basiliere

Supervisor of the Checklist - 6 year term,  
vote for one  
Polly S. Cote

Cemetery Trustee - 3 year term, vote for one  
Stephen Trombly

Town Clerk - 3 year term, vote for one  
Bobbi Schelberg  
Nancy Deslauriers  
Joan Dargie

Trustee of Trust Funds -3 year term, vote for one  
Janet Spalding

Water-Wastewater Commissioner- 3 year term,  
vote for one  
Dale A.White

## ARTICLE 2 – ZONING CHANGES

To vote on Planning Board proposed zoning changes and amendments.

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 the Zoning Ordinance, Article VI Overlay Districts, Section 6.04.0 Open Space and Conservation District by replacing it in its entirety with revised language and renumbering sections accordingly.

Topical Description of Proposed Amendment: The proposed amendments replace and insert new language to further clarify the protection of natural and cultural resources, scenic views, and the Town's rural character through the creation and design of open space. In addition, the amendments insert new section, Section 6.04.5 Review Process to align the review process of Open Space Subdivision with the Milford Development Regulations. The Planning Board supports Amendment #1 by a unanimous vote 7-0.

Ballot Title: Open Space and Conservation District

### 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 the Zoning Ordinance, Article X, Administrative Relief, Section 10.02.3.A.3. by deleting the subsection and replacing in its entirety with a revised maximum square foot area for a home occupation and Article IV Definitions, Section 4.01.0 by inserting a definition for Floor Area, Gross.

Topical Description of Proposed Amendment: The proposed amendments replace the exist-

ing Special Exception requirement for a Home Occupation involving the calculation of the maximum square foot area and adds a new definition, "Floor Area, Gross". The purpose is to further clarify and improve the administration, review, and enforcement of a Home Occupation and streamline the Zoning Ordinance. The proposed amendments were brought forth by the Planning Board and Board of Adjustment. The Planning Board supports Amendment #2 by a unanimous vote 4-0.

Ballot Title: Home Occupations

### 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 the Zoning Ordinance, Article IV Definitions, Section 4.01.0 by modifying the definition of an Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU), Article X Administrative Relief, Section 10.02.6.A.1.c by modifying the calculation for the maximum square foot area of an Accessory Dwelling Unit, and Article IV Definitions, Section 4.01.0 by inserting a definition for Floor Area, Gross.

Topical Description of Proposed Amendment: The proposed amendments further clarify the definition of an Accessory Dwelling Unit; modify the existing Special Exception requirement involving the calculation of the maximum square foot area by replacing the term "total space" with the term "gross floor area", and adds new definition, "Floor Area, Gross". The purpose is to clarify and improve the administration and review of an Accessory Dwelling Unit and streamline the Zoning Ordinance. The proposed amendments were brought forth by the Planning Board and Board of Adjustment. The Planning Board supports Amendment #3 by a unanimous vote 4-0.

Ballot Title: Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs)

# Warrant Article/Ballot Question Position Summary

Article #	Title	2016 Proposed Amount	Board of Selectmen's Article Positions*	Board of Water and Sewer Committee's Article Positions*	Budget Advisory Committee's Article Positions*
3	Library Addition (BOND)	\$5,618,000	OPPOSE: (1-4)	N/A	SUPPORT: (7-2)
4	Storm Water Video Inspection (BOND)	\$216,000	SUPPORT: (5-0)	N/A	SUPPORT: (9-0)
5	UV Disinfection Replacement	\$950,000	N/A	SUPPORT: (3-0)	SUPPORT: (8-0-1)
6	Town Operating Budget	\$13,993,310	SUPPORT: (4-1)	N/A	SUPPORT: (7-2)
7	Water Department Operating Budget	\$1,393,395	N/A	SUPPORT: (3-0)	SUPPORT: (8-0-1)
8	Wastewater Treatment Operating Budget	\$1,913,465	N/A	SUPPORT: (3-0)	SUPPORT: (8-0-1)
9	Bridge Replacement Capital Reserve	\$350,000	SUPPORT: (4-1)	N/A	SUPPORT: (6-3)
10	Sidewalk Tractor Plow	\$34,400	SUPPORT: (3-2)	N/A	SUPPORT: (9-0)
11	8CY Dump Truck	\$35,800	SUPPORT: (3-2)	N/A	SUPPORT: (9-0)
12	Tractor-Backhoe-Loader	\$25,000	SUPPORT: (4-1)	N/A	SUPPORT: (9-0)
13	Kinder Morgan Pipe Line Legal Fees	\$40,000	SUPPORT: (5-0)	N/A	SUPPORT: (9-0)
14	Social Services	\$35,000	SUPPORT: (5-0)	N/A	SUPPORT: (9-0)
15	Bus Service	\$27,700	SUPPORT: (5-0)	N/A	SUPPORT: (9-0)
16	Architect Fees for Fire Department Expansion Project	\$25,000	SUPPORT: (4-1)	N/A	SUPPORT: (9-0)
17	Conservation Land Fund	\$20,000	OPPOSE: (1-4)	N/A	SUPPORT: (8-1)
18	Pumpkin Festival Holiday Decorations and Plantings	\$23,000	SUPPORT: (5-0)	N/A	SUPPORT: (6-3)
19	Band Concerts	\$9,000	SUPPORT: (5-0)	N/A	SUPPORT: (9-0)
20	Fireworks	\$8,500	SUPPORT: (3-2)	N/A	SUPPORT: (6-3)
21	Labor Day Parade (Bands and Musicians)	\$6,000	SUPPORT: (5-0)	N/A	SUPPORT: (9-0)
22	Memorial, Veteran & Labor Day Parades & Recognition	\$6,000	SUPPORT: (5-0)	N/A	SUPPORT: (9-0)
23	Gravel Pit Reclamation/Restoration & Sale or Other Disposition of Resources	N/A	SUPPORT: (5-0)	N/A	SUPPORT: (7-2)
24	Modify Solar Exemption	N/A	SUPPORT: (5-0)	N/A	SUPPORT: (9-0)
25	Adjustment of Elderly Exemption	N/A	SUPPORT: (5-0)	N/A	SUPPORT: (9-0)
26	Discontinuance of Linden St. Ext.	N/A	SUPPORT: (5-0)	N/A	SUPPORT: (9-0)
27	Discontinuance of a Portion of Scarborough Ln.	N/A	SUPPORT: (5-0)	N/A	SUPPORT: (9-0)
28	Hitchiner Town Forest Conservation Easement	N/A	OPPOSE: (2-3)	N/A	SUPPORT: (9-0)
29	Open Space Access	N/A	SUPPORT: (5-0)	N/A	SUPPORT: (9-0)
30	Pipeline Authorization Consent by Petition	N/A	N/P	N/A	N/P
31	Vote for Proposed Sale of Brox by Petition	N/A	OPPOSE: (0-5)	N/A	N/P
32	NH Resolution to get big money out of politics by Petition	N/P	N/P	N/A	N/P

\*Notes: The numbers in parentheses after the words "SUPPORT" or "OPPOSE" indicate the number of support votes, followed by the number of opposition votes, followed by the number of abstained votes, if applicable (i.e., "5-0" would indicate that there were 5 votes of

support and 0 votes of opposition and "3-1-1" would indicate that there were 3 votes of support, 1 vote of opposition, and 1 vote that was abstained).

# Budget Advisory Committee Report

## INTRODUCTION

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: Matt Lydon (Chair), Jim Roccio (Vice Chair), Karen Mitchell (Secretary), Cara Barlow, Paul Bartolomucci, Bert Becker, Chris Pank, Robert Courage and Peggy Seward.

In order to fulfill our dual roles, the BAC met with the Board of Selectmen, Town Administrator, Department Heads, Library Trustees, Souhegan Valley Transportation Collaborative (SVTC), 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.

## WARRANT ARTICLE 3 - LIBRARY BUILDING PROJECT - BOND - \$5,618,000

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the gross project budget sum of Five Million Six Hundred Eighteen Thousand (\$5,618,000) Dollars for the construction and equipping of a new library building and expanded parking lot, associated site work, demolition of existing library building and other structures 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 \$10,000 - and borrowing not more than \$5,108,000 in

bonds, bond anticipation notes, or notes therefore in accordance with the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and, 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 take all other necessary action to carry out this project, said actions to include anything necessary to prepare said land so that it would be available for the construction of such a facility and expanded parking lot including due diligence, site assessments and demolition of existing structures? 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, sixty percent (60%) affirmative vote to pass. The Board of Library Trustees supports this Article (7-0).

*This Article has an estimated tax impact beginning 2017 of \$0.329 or (\$32.90 on a home value of \$100,000).*

THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN DOES NOT SUPPORT THIS ARTICLE (1-4)

**Board of Selectmen's Majority Report** - Selectmen Daniels, Federico, Fougere, and Putnam do not support this article.

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 this time. New assessments continue to lag, reducing new tax revenue to the town. Although the project would not have a tax impact in 2016, it would in future years, and 32 cents on the tax rate the first year. This project will remain in the Capital Improvement Plan and will be reevaluated next year.

**Board of Selectmen's Minority Report** – Selectmen Bauer supports this article.

The proposed expansion and renovations are drastically needed for the library. The original building was built in 1950 and the most recent addition in 1986. The town population then was

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12,000. Now it exceeds 15,000. The library has greatly expanded its services since then and is highly used. The proposed changes can be viewed online or at the Town Hall lobby or the library.

THE BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE SUPPORTS THIS ARTICLE (7-2)

#### **Majority Report**

The majority supports the library project for a number of reasons – the addition would provide appropriate space for library collections, programming and computers, it would maintain the library presence as an anchor on the Milford Oval, it would enlarge the library parking lot, providing parking for library patrons and possibly for those patronizing Oval businesses, and would increase foot traffic on the Oval, supporting the vitality of our town center. Libraries are important for economic development and are a sign of community health. Wadleigh Memorial Library supports lifelong self-directed learning for Milford residents, and is the only local entity that bridges the digital divide between those who have computers and Internet access and those who don't. The public computers and corresponding support the Library offers grow more important each year as job applications, IRS filings, NH court filings and more move from paper to online forms.

#### **Minority Report**

The minority acknowledges that the existing Library is in need of renovation or replacement; however the tax impact of this project at this time is just too much. Not including this article, if all budgets and warrant articles for the Town are approved by the voters, the projected Town only tax rate increase is 5.8%. This would be in addition to 16.5% growth in the Town Operating Budget between 2012 and 2015, the proposed School renovation bond and budget and in 2016 the scheduled 5 year revaluation of all homes and property. This rate of increase is not sustainable. The tax impact of this particular project would affect the tax rate starting in 2017 and will only exacerbate this already unsustainable trend. In addition, members of the Committee suggest phasing the project, to be funded over a few years, and to address critical repairs now.

THE BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES SUPPORTS THIS ARTICLE (7-0)

#### TOPICAL DESCRIPTION

Explanation: The taxpayer cost of this project is \$5.1 million. The total project cost of \$5.6 million is offset by a \$500,000 gift from the Morris K. Webster Trust Fund and a minimum of \$10,000 in fundraising revenues. The cost was further reduced by nearly \$500,000 in Library Trustee expenditures towards the project over the last several years; purchases include adjacent properties, furnishings, razing/landscaping, architectural and consultant services.

It was 20 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 16 different times and for varying reasons the project has been postponed 15 times. The original library building is 65 years old; the addition is 30 years old. The facility is rapidly deteriorating and has increasingly expensive repair and maintenance costs. It is the most heavily used building outside of the schools and yet it fails to meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements and is 57% smaller than the average NH public library (square feet per capita). 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; a larger, flexible meeting room space with after-hours use; a technology/business center; and greatly expanded parking. This design also provides a facility which is vastly more efficient to operate, staff, secure and maintain for years to come. It calls for an 8100 square foot addition and a rebuild of the current structure to be completed in three phases. The library would remain open throughout construction. Every year that passes, the cost increases. The rate of inflation for construction is estimated to be 3% and thus this project is \$160,000 higher than last year. Assuming the same rate of inflation, if postponed again until 2017, the cost increase can be estimated at an additional \$169,000.

#### **WARRANT ARTICLE 4 - STORM SEWER VIDEO INSPECTION - BOND - \$216,000**

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Sixteen Thousand (\$216,000) Dollars to perform an inspection of the Town's Stormwater System with the assistance of video observation equipment, and to authorize the Selectmen to raise this appropriation by borrowing not more than \$142,800 in bonds, bond anticipation notes, or notes therefore in accordance with the Municipal Finance Act, (RSA 33) and, 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, it being further understood that the anticipated source of \$142,800 of said funding will be a loan from the State Revolving Fund, with the further understanding that the Board of Selectmen are authorized to enter into an agreement with the State of New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services to accept 33.9% or \$73,200 forgiveness of the project cost upon completion of the project? Information thus obtained will be assessed and incorporated within the Town's Asset Management System to assist with planning for future repairs and maintenance decisions. Federal stormwater permit requirements, in addition, necessitate an evaluation of discharges to the stormwater system which can be performed more efficiently and cost-effectively with data obtained from this program. 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, sixty percent (60%) affirmative vote to pass.

*This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$0.025 or (\$2.50 on a home value of \$100,000).*

THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN SUPPORTS THIS ARTICLE (5-0)

**Board of Selectmen's Majority Report** - Selectmen Bauer, Daniels, Federico, Fougere, and Putnam unanimously support this article.

This warrant article will fund inspection work, creating a video inspection record of the current storm water system. This work is necessary to complete a required state filing (MS-4 Storm Water Management Plan). The majority of the 48 miles of system are over 50 years old, and, in need of inspection. This process will give the town an accurate and complete report, enabling the DPW to establish a maintenance and preventative maintenance plan for cleaning and repair. By completing this work in as project, we can take advantage of state monies. A 33.9% forgiveness from the State of New Hampshire will save the Milford taxpayers roughly \$73,200.

THE BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE SUPPORTS THIS ARTICLE (9-0)

#### **Majority Report**

Video inspection of approximately 30 miles of Milford's storm water sewers will identify existing and imminent failure spots, allowing for more complete prioritized sewer and street repair with less emergency expense and interruption. The future planned improvements needed would allow the Town to be proactive in addressing them before the Town is required to comply with future State and Federal Mandates. This project will be funded with a low-interest loan from a State of NH Revolving Fund that provides for 33.9% forgiveness of the loan upon completion of the project. This grant funding may not be available in the future. This is a timely expenditure that our Town needs to take advantage of.

#### **WARRANT ARTICLE 5 – WASTEWATER UV DISINFECTION REPLACEMENT – BOND - \$950,000**

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Nine Hundred Fifty Thousand (\$950,000) Dollars (to replace the current 1991 UltraViolet Disinfection System) and to authorize the Selectmen to raise this appropriation by borrowing not more than \$950,000 in bonds, bond anticipation notes, or notes therefore in accordance with the Municipal Finance Act, (RSA 33) and, 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, such funding to be repaid from income received from wastewater users provided that such bonds or notes shall be the general obligation of the Town and to authorize the Water and Sewer Commissioners and or the Board of Selectmen to contract for and expend any Federal or State aid that may be available for this project and to take all other necessary actions to carry out this project? This critical process disinfects treated wastewater prior to discharging into the Souhegan River. 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, sixty percent (60%) affirmative vote to pass. This is a Special Warrant Article in accordance with RSA 32.

*This warrant article has no tax impact and revenues from wastewater user fees will offset this appropriation.*

THE WATER AND WASTEWATER COMMISSIONERS UNANIMOUSLY SUPPORT THIS ARTICLE (3-0)

THE BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE SUPPORTS THIS ARTICLE (8-0-1) (1 abstain)

#### **Majority Report**

This Article proposes the replacement of the existing 1991 Ultra Violet Disinfection System used

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to treat waste water effluent prior to discharging into the Souhegan River. The proposed article will have no tax impact to the town budget and will be paid for by the wastewater user fees.

### **WARRANT ARTICLE 6 - TOWN OPERATING BUDGET - \$13,993,310**

Shall the Town 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 in an amount totaling Thirteen Million, Nine Hundred Ninety Three Thousand, Three Hundred Ten (\$13,993,310) Dollars? Should this Article be defeated, the operating budget shall be Thirteen Million, Eight Hundred Four Thousand, Four Hundred Eleven (\$13,804,411) Dollars 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 is a Special Warrant Article in accordance with RSA 32.

*This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$0.245 over the 2015 Budget (\$24.50 on a home value of \$100,000).*

#### THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN SUPPORTS THIS ARTICLE (4-1)

**Board of Selectmen's Majority Report** - Selectmen Bauer, Federico, Fougere, and Putnam support this article.

The BOS continues to face budget challenges due to cost increases and the lack of increased tax revenues from new assessments. This year's operating budget is an increase of 2.3%, or \$318,000. The \$318,000 increase consists of additional monies for paving (\$100,000), insurance/benefits, a merit based raise not to exceed 3%, new equipment, a town wide revaluation required under state law, extra voting days, and a contract with a collection service for the Ambulance Department. The majority is very mindful of cost impacts to the taxpayers and numerous cuts were made to each department budget. Past year budgets have been very lean and the majority feels this budget is reasonable.

**Board of Selectmen's Minority Report** – Selectmen Daniels does not support this article.

While cognizant that the passage of capital expenditures over the past few years have significantly increased the 2016 default budget, the minority feels that more could have been done to reduce the proposed 2016 operating budget to a level equal to or lower than the default budget using alternative methods of cost savings than are traditionally used. Even after voters adopted the default budget in 2015, the town ended the year with about a \$200,000 surplus. The minority feels it is the duty of the Select Board, in developing the budget, to balance the needs of the town with the ability of taxpayers to cover the cost, and that this budget places too heavy of a burden on taxpayers, many of whom are already struggling to pay their taxes in an economy that has not fully recovered. The cost of the peoples' government should not exceed the ability of the taxpayer to comfortably support it.

The minority opposes the budget, in part, for the following reasons:

- The Town is not living within its means

- Revenue has been somewhat stagnant
- Expenses exceed expected revenue, forcing an increase in property taxes to make up the difference, which in turn results in a greater tax burden for taxpayers
- Milford has the second highest tax rate among our surrounding towns
- While our employees do a good job, salary increases of 3.0% are proposed at the same time the Consumer Price Index for the Northeast Region, as of November 2015, reflected regional prices (inflation) up only 0.3 % over the year. In addition, Social Security recipients are seeing no cost of living increase this year.
- Alternative programs should be considered (even if on a trial basis) to control costs and achieve desired results, as opposed to automatically defaulting to the higher-costing status quo methods.

#### THE BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE SUPPORTS THIS ARTICLE (7-2)

##### **Majority Report**

The majority believes the proposed 2.3% increase in the Town Operating Budget is preferable to the Default Budget. A large portion of the increase over last year's budget is the result of warrant article items that were approved by voters in previous years and added to our debt service. Town departments are under considerable pressure to keep costs down. It is important to allow flexibility in the Town Budget to address items such as snow removal and road repairs.

The majority recommends if unexpended funds appear at the end of the fiscal year that they be placed into a capital reserve fund or other restricted fund for future building needs such as library or fire station.

##### **Minority Report**

The minority does not support the proposed Town Operating Budget, and believes it would be fiscally prudent to use the Default Budget. With a debt service of almost 1 million dollars to be paid this year and many Town needs in our near future, it is felt that this year all departments must be extra judicious in their spending without eliminating necessities, hence, easing the financial burden on the taxpayer. The 2015 Tax Rate was \$7.19 per \$1,000 valuation. In review of historical data of budgeted vs. actual incurred cost, the BAC has noted a trend of under spending the budget (-3.56% 2011)(-2.46% 2012)(-1.25% 2013)(-1.32% 2014)(2015 is pending). The proposed 2016 Operating Budget is 2.3% over the 2015 Adopted Budget. The proposed Default Budget is \$188,899 or 1.35% below the proposed budget. Given the historic trend of under spending the prior year's budget, the minority believes the Default Budget should be sufficient to meet the Town's obligations. Additionally, the Budget Advisory Committee has noted a propensity to transfer funds between various departments. For additional transparency, the minority suggests a more transparent budgeting approach and use of a contingency line item for funding and tracking of unanticipated expenses.

As well, in 2015, a year of working with an Approved Default Budget by the citizens, the Town was able to purchase unanticipated equipment/

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vehicles, grant a 2% pay raise to all employees effective 7/1/2015, and encumber funds for purchases originally scheduled for the Proposed 2016 Budget.

#### TOPICAL DESCRIPTION

Explanation: The proposed operating budget builds on a productive year. Some of the major projects completed in 2015 included critical roof repairs at the fire station, two bridges replaced, Route 13/Emerson Road

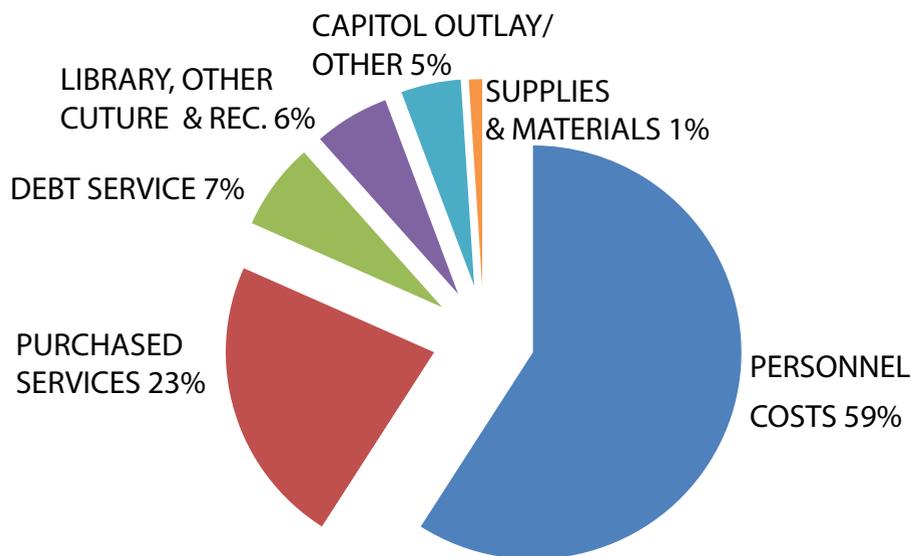
intersection completed, upgrades at Keyes Park, Fletcher Superfund site clean-up started, 127 Elm Street purchased, rebuilt plow trucks and converted PD vehicle for paramedic use, and secured a \$150,000 grant for Osgood Pond reclamation. The 2016 Budget is 2.3% more than the 2015 Budget. That is the lowest percentage increase in the past five years. Staff is appreciative of the support for the 2016 Budget from the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Advisory Committee. It is a good plan that is fiscally responsible and provides good value for taxpayers.

	2015	2015	2016		
	ACTUAL (Note 2)	ADOPTED	PROPOSED	CHANGE	CHANGE
PURPOSE OF APPROPRIATION	AS OF 01/12/2016	BUDGET	BUDGET	\$	%
	(unaudited)				
Administration, includes Legal	\$ 274,971	\$ 294,906	\$ 288,173	\$ (6,733)	-2.3%
Ambulance	732,286	688,828	782,385	93,557	13.6%
Assessing	154,342	159,590	224,288	64,698	40.5%
Community Development	455,905	448,898	393,580	(55,318)	-12.3%
Community Media	12,028	18,350	15,159	(3,191)	-17.4%
Conservation	24,554	24,554	25,332	778	3.2%
Elections, Registrations & Vital Statistics	141,543	137,731	166,829	29,098	21.1%
Finance & Tax Collection	332,890	316,960	316,252	(708)	-0.2%
Employee Benefits & Insurance (Note 1)	2,727,718	2,723,396	2,857,782	134,386	4.9%
Debt Service	1,061,385	1,065,068	951,908	(113,160)	-10.6%
Fire & Emergency Management	552,126	558,923	577,025	18,102	3.2%
Human Resources	66,338	70,690	65,126	(5,564)	-7.9%
Information Systems	314,586	306,173	311,781	5,608	1.8%
Library	754,336	754,336	766,364	12,028	1.6%
Other Public Safety, includes MACC Base	708,719	710,101	674,834	(35,267)	-5.0%
Police	2,231,706	2,196,160	2,234,589	38,429	1.7%
Public Works	2,895,238	2,901,591	3,039,550	137,959	4.8%
Recreation	116,329	122,125	124,785	2,660	2.2%
Welfare Admin. & Direct Assistance	164,305	176,838	177,568	730	0.4%
<b>TOTAL OPERATING BUDGET</b>	<b>\$ 13,721,305</b>	<b>\$ 13,675,218</b>	<b>\$ 13,993,310</b>	<b>\$ 318,092</b>	<b>2.3%</b>

Note 1: All employee benefit costs are accounted for in this department and are not allocated to corresponding departments.

Note 2: 2015 actual numbers are not finalized and are reported as of 01/12/2016. Year end adjustments are still outstanding.

# OPERATING BUDGET BY EXPENSE CATEGORY



## WARRANT ARTICLE 7 - WATER DEPARTMENT OPERATING BUDGET - \$1,393,395

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Million, Three Hundred Ninety Three Thousand, Three Hundred Ninety Five (\$1,393,395) Dollars 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 operating budget shall be One Million Four Hundred Seventeen Thousand, Three Hundred Nine (\$1,417,309) Dollars 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 is a Special Warrant Article in accordance with RSA 3. and is paid for by the water user fees.

*This warrant article has no tax impact and revenues from water user fees will offset this appropriation.*

THE WATER AND WASTEWATER COMMISSIONERS UNANIMOUSLY SUPPORT THIS ARTICLE (3-0)

THE BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE SUPPORTS THIS ARTICLE (8-0-1) (1 abstain)

### Majority Report

This budget reflects an increase of 0.8% increase over the prior year. This is funded entirely by water user fees with no tax impact to the town budget.

## WARRANT ARTICLE 8 - WASTEWATER TREATMENT OPERATING BUDGET - \$1,913,465

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Million, Nine Hundred Thirteen Thousand, Four Hundred Sixty Five (\$1,913,465) Dollars 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 operating budget shall be One Million, Nine Hundred Twenty Thousand, Six Hundred Sixteen (\$1,920,616) Dollars 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 is a Special Warrant Article in accordance with RSA 32.

*This warrant article has no tax impact and revenues from water user fees will offset this appropriation.*

THE WATER AND WASTEWATER COMMISSIONERS UNANIMOUSLY SUPPORT THIS ARTICLE (3-0)

THE BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE SUPPORTS THIS ARTICLE (8-0-1) (1 abstain)

### Majority Report

This budget reflects an increase of 0.9% over the prior year. This is entirely funded by sewer user fees with no tax impact to the town budget.

## WARRANT ARTICLE 9 - BRIDGE REPLACEMENT CAPITAL RESERVE - \$350,000

Shall the town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Hundred Fifty Thousand (\$350,000) Dollars to be placed in the Bridge Replacement Capital Reserve Fund? This fund was identified in the May 2014 Hoyle, Tanner Associates, Inc. study that identified needed rehabilitation for 18 town bridges. The \$350,000 builds upon the Bridge Replacement Capital Reserve approved by voters in 2015. Currently nine bridges have been identified by the Department of Public Works as high priority projects for either replacement or repair in place. This will be a Special Warrant Article in accordance with RSA 32.

*This article has an estimated tax impact of \$0.270 or (\$27.00 on a home value of \$100,000).*

THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN SUPPORTS THIS ARTICLE (4-1)

**Board of Selectmen's Majority Report** - Selectmen Bauer, Federico, Fougere, and Putnam support this article.

The Department of Public Works continues to make substantial progress in addressing the 13 bridges in town that have been listed in "need of repair" by the State of New Hampshire. In 2015 the DPW was able to complete work on the following three bridges, Jennison Road, Jones Road, and Savage Road. The town was also able to complete engineering assessments on the Swing Bridge. With the amount of bridges "Red Listed" and listed "in need of repair". The Selectman feel that it is imperative to keep the bridge repair work moving forward by continuing to fund the capital reserve.

**Board of Selectmen's Minority Report** - Selectmen Daniels does not support this article.

The proposed amount doubles what was requested in 2015 for this capital reserve. Because of the extent in which spending requests exceed our revenue, the minority recommends reducing this article to \$200,000.

THE BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE SUPPORTS THIS ARTICLE (6-3)

### Majority Report

The Capital Reserve Fund would continue the process begun last year to repair nine bridges that have been identified by the Department of Public Works as high priority projects for replacement or repair. 2016 plans are for no bridge replacements, but for engineering plans for the replacement of two Mason Road failed culverts. Guardrail work on North River Road is also planned. For new bridge construction, beginning in 2023 the State may contribute 80% of the cost.

### Minority Report

The Capital Reserve Fund was funded with \$125,000 in 2014 and \$175,000 in 2015. Repair of Savage Road Bridge and Jennison Road Bridge and removal of the Green Bridge have depleted the fund down to approximately \$137,000. The minority feels that a reduced funding request in 2016, when no bridge repairs are planned for, would replenish the fund adequately and allow planning for future years' work.

### TOPICAL DESCRIPTION

Explanation: The Town completed the following bridge work in 2015 utilizing Bridge Capital Reserve Funds:

- ✧ Green (Jones Crossing) Bridge removed
- ✧ Jennison Road Bridge replaced
- ✧ Savage Road Bridge replaced

Bridge work is a critically important for the Town to avoid state imposed weight limits or other restrictions. The following have been identified as priority projects for future capital reserve funding:

- ✓ Guardrail Repair
- ✓ Mason Road Bridge (Tucker Brook)
- ✓ Mason Road Bridge (Great Brook)
- ✓ Joslin Road Bridge (Hartshorn Brook)

Guardrail work and engineering studies will be completed in 2016 so we can replace metal culverts installed in the 1980's that are deteriorating and at the end of their useful life. The Capital



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### **WARRANT ARTICLE 10 - SIDEWALK TRACTOR PLOW WITH SANDER – 5-YEAR LEASE/PURCHASE - \$34,400 (Annual Payment \$34,400/Total Purchase Price \$162,000)**

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 that will protect the Town in the event of non-appropriation, for the purpose of lease/purchasing a sidewalk tractor plow with sander (it will replace the 2000 "Holder" tractor plow with sander that has exceeded its useful life by five years), and to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty Four Thousand Four Hundred (\$34,400) Dollars for the first year's payment for this purpose? The total purchase price of this vehicle is One Hundred Sixty Two Thousand (\$162,000) Dollars. If this article passes, future years' payments will be included in the operating budget. This is a Special Warrant Article in accordance with RSA 32.

*This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$0.027 or (\$2.70 on a home value of \$100,000).*

THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN SUPPORTS THIS ARTICLE (3-2)

**Board of Selectmen's Majority Report** - Selectmen Bauer, Federico, and Fougere support this article.

The majority recognizes that although the proposed article is very expensive, few reliable alternatives exist. At this time, the town only has one operating sidewalk plow for the town's 13.62 miles of sidewalk. Given the narrow nature of many of our sidewalks, the plow is even more expensive than other options. Given the density of our downtown neighborhoods, the need for many children to walk to school, the need to have sidewalks cleared in a timely manner is imperative.

**Board of Selectmen's Minority Report** - Selectmen Daniels and Putnam do not support this article.

The minority feels that the existing tractor plow should be able to go through 2016 given the mild winter we have had so far. The minority also feels that the Public Works Department should look into purchasing a refurbished sidewalk tractor plow with sander next year which would provide substantial savings to the town.

THE BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE SUPPORTS THIS ARTICLE (9-0)

#### Majority Report

If approved, funding will replace a machine that is sixteen years old, currently inoperable, and in need of extensive repairs. This unit, in combination with the 2013 sidewalk tractor plow, would be used to plow snow from the Town's thirteen miles of sidewalks, and represents a safety issue for both young and old to ensure safe walking for all citizens of the community. The unit is scheduled for replacement in the 2016 Capital Improvement Plan.

### **WARRANT ARTICLE 11 - DUMP TRUCK (8 CUBIC YARD) – 5-YEAR LEASE/PURCHASE - \$35,800 (Annual Payment \$35,800/Total Purchase Price \$168,600)**

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 a dump truck (8 cubic yard), with the appropriate equipment for highway department operation (it will replace the 2000 Sterling dump truck which will be 16 years old upon replacement), and to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty Five Thousand Eight Hundred (\$35,800) Dollars for the first year's payment for this purpose? The total purchase price of this vehicle is One Hundred Sixty Eight Thousand Six Hundred (\$168,600) Dollars. If this article passes, future years' payments will be included in the operating budget. This is a Special Warrant Article in accordance with RSA 32.

*This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$0.028 or (\$2.80 on a home value of \$100,000).*

THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN SUPPORTS THIS ARTICLE (3-2)

**Board of Selectmen's Majority Report** - Selectmen Bauer, Federico and Fougere support this article.

This request will replace a vital piece of equipment in order for the Public Works Department to

successfully complete its required work. This article will replace the 2000 Sterling dump truck which will be 16 years old upon replacement. The current truck is no longer cost effective to continually repair. This is a scheduled replacement listed in the Capital Improvement Plan.

**Board of Selectmen's Minority Report** - Selectmen Daniels and Putnam do not support this article.

Significant money for capital equipment is being requested. Passage of this article will further increase the debt on capital equipment leases, where principal alone has increased 90% over the past two years from \$178,338 to \$338,775.

THE BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE SUPPORTS THIS ARTICLE (9-0)

#### **Majority Report**

If approved, funding will replace a machine that is 16 years old and is scheduled for replacement in the 2016 Capital Improvement Plan.

### **WARRANT ARTICLE 12 – TRACTOR/BACKHOE/LOADER – 5-YEAR LEASE/PURCHASE - \$25,000 (Annual Payment \$25,000/Total Purchase Price \$117,500)**

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 a tractor/backhoe/loader, with the appropriate equipment for highway department operation (it will replace the 2001 tractor loader backhoe) and to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Five Thousand (\$25,000) Dollars for the first year's payment for this purpose? The total purchase price of this vehicle is One Hundred Seventeen Thousand Five Hundred (\$117,500) Dollars. If this article passes, future years' payments will be included in the operating budget. This is a Special Warrant Article in accordance with RSA 32.

*This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$0.019 or (\$1.90 on a home value of \$100,000).*

THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN SUPPORTS THIS ARTICLE (4-1)

**Board of Selectmen's Majority Report** - Selectmen Bauer, Federico, Fougere, and Putnam support this article.

This existing piece of equipment is very old (2001) with mounting repairs costs which equal the original cost of the backhoe when purchased; it has reached the end of its life cycle and needs to be replaced. Spending additional valuable tax dollars to continue prop this piece of equipment up is unwise and foolish.

**Board of Selectmen's Minority Report** - Selectmen Daniels does not support this article.

Significant money for capital equipment is being requested. Passage of this article will further increase the debt on capital equipment leases, where principal alone has increased 90% over the past two years from \$178,338 to \$338,775.

THE BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE SUPPORTS THIS ARTICLE (9-0)

#### **Majority Report**

If approved, funding will replace a tractor/backhoe/loader that is 15 years old which is currently used at the Solid Waste Facility and which has over sixteen thousand hours of use. Repairs over the past five years have amounted to \$61,183. This unit is scheduled for replacement in the 2016 Capital Improvement Plan.

### **WARRANT ARTICLE 13 - KINDER MORGAN PIPELINE LEGAL FEES - \$40,000**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Forty Thousand (\$40,000) Dollars to be expended at the discretion of the Board of Selectmen in opposition to the proposed Northeast Energy Direct high pressure gas pipeline and/or to minimize the impact thereof on the land and people of the Town, including, but not limited to, expenditures for legal representation and consultants, land use planning and consultation, public information purposes, administrative and court filing fees, participation in multi-town coalitions, and any and all other expenses reasonably related to opposing said pipeline project and/or mitigating the effects thereof? This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until December 31, 2017.

*This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$0.031 or (\$3.10 on a home value of \$100,000).*

THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN SUPPORTS THIS ARTICLE (5-0)

**Board of Selectmen's Majority Report** - Selectmen Bauer, Daniels, Federico, Fougere, and

Putnam unanimously support this article.

The Board of Selectmen unanimously opposes the Kinder Morgan pipeline crossing Milford property. It would be disruptive, potentially dangerous and would give no benefit to the town of Milford. The Board of Selectmen supports the request for \$40,000. We must have legal counsel to defend this position.

THE BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE SUPPORTS THIS ARTICLE (9-0)

#### **Majority Report**

By joining a coalition of several towns in opposition to this pipeline, the legal fees would be spread out among the towns affected by the pipeline. It appears that the Kinder Morgan pipeline issue will be a long drawn-out battle, and it is in the best interest of the Milford taxpayers to pool our resources with the other towns and keep the impact of the legal fees to Milford at a minimum rather than trying to mount an opposition to the pipeline on our own. As of 01/20/16, another area town has already expended \$104,221 in related costs to oppose the pipeline.

### **WARRANT ARTICLE 14 - SOCIAL SERVICES - \$35,000**

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty Five Thousand (\$35,000) Dollars for the purpose of providing funding to Social Service agencies for Milford residents or take any other action relative thereto 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 \$0.027 or (\$2.70 on a home value of \$100,000).*

THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN SUPPORTS THIS ARTICLE (5-0)

Board of Selectmen's Majority Report - Selectmen Bauer, Daniels, Federico, Fougere, and Putnam unanimously support this article.

Ten agencies provide immeasurable assistance to Milford citizens, thus greatly reducing the amount of welfare dollars that the town is obligated to pay for citizens who qualify.

THE BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE SUPPORTS THIS ARTICLE (9-0)

#### **Majority Report**

The Budget Advisory Committee believes that in these economic times, our citizens continue to need assistance. These funds are allocated to 10 different agencies this year as decided upon by a committee to provide various resources to our citizens. Without these resources, the Town could possibly have to fund the full cost of those services.

### **WARRANT ARTICLE 15 - NON-EMERGENCY COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION BUS SERVICES - \$27,700**

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Seven Thousand Seven Hundred, (\$27,700) Dollars 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, 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 \$0.021 or (\$2.10 on a home value of \$100,000).*

THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN SUPPORTS THIS ARTICLE (5-0)

**Board of Selectmen's Majority Report** - Selectmen Bauer, Daniels, Federico, Fougere, and Putnam unanimously support this article.

The Souhegan Valley Transportation Collaborative (SVTC) or "Blue Bus" continues to provide an invaluable service to the Town of Milford and its surrounding communities. The \$27,700 reflects Milford's portion of the cost. Without this service our communities senior and disabled population would have extreme difficulty finding appropriate transportation to get to local area resources that they need to access.

THE BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE SUPPORTS THIS ARTICLE (9-0)

#### **Majority Report**

The Budget Advisory Committee continues to believe that the Souhegan Valley Transportation Collaborative (SVTC) provides a valuable service to the community. It provides transport for medical appointments and for other necessities to our residents.

### **WARRANT ARTICLE 16 – ARCHITECT FEES FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT EXPANSION PROJECT - \$25,000**

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Five Thousand, (\$25,000) Dollars for the purpose of hiring an architect to review the upgrades needed to the downtown fire station? The Town's Capital Improvement Plan proposes upgrades/repairs to the fire station that include: electrical upgrades, building renovations, space efficiency improvements, and additional parking. This is a Special Warrant Article in accordance with RSA 32.

*This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$0.019 or (\$1.90 on a home value of \$100,000).*

THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN SUPPORTS THIS ARTICLE (4-1)

**Board of Selectmen's Majority Report** - Selectmen Bauer, Federico, Fougere and Putnam support this article.

The Fire Department building was built in 1974 and has had very few repairs done to it other than a new roof this year. The Town's Capital Improvement Plan proposes upgrades/repairs to the fire station that include: electrical upgrades, building renovations, space efficiency improvements, and additional parking. The building upgrades and renovations will help us to protect the expensive new and old equipment that we have spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on. By approving this article, we have the flexibility to move forward in a prudent, methodical manner that will best serve the interests of the taxpayers.

**Board of Selectmen's Minority Report** - Selectmen Daniels does not support this article.

The Board of Selectmen has not discussed whether or not these upgrades will be done next year, nor has it assigned a priority to this project. Because these decisions have not been made, and because expense requests far exceed our revenue, the minority feels it is more fiscally prudent to determine the viability and priority of this project before spending what limited funds we have on architect fees.

THE BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE SUPPORTS THIS ARTICLE (9-0)

#### **Majority Report**

The current fire station built in 1974 needs major renovation including electrical code upgrades, facility renovation and expansion, and parking lot expansion. The Fire Chief has emphasized the need for architectural and engineering plans so work can proceed efficiently.

### **WARRANT ARTICLE 17 - CONSERVATION LANDS FUND - \$20,000**

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Thousand (\$20,000) Dollars for the purpose of adding it to the Conservation Lands Fund created in accordance with RSA 36-A, said lands 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, or take any other action relative thereto? Contributions further the protection of the town's natural resources. This is a Special Warrant Article in accordance with RSA 32.

*This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$0.015 or (\$1.50 on a home value of \$100,000).*

THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN DOES NOT SUPPORT THIS ARTICLE (1-4)

**Board of Selectmen's Majority Report** - Selectmen Daniels, Federico, Fougere and Putnam do not support this article.

Although the majority supports conservation efforts, given the continued budget challenges facing the town, we feel that we cannot support this expense. There are numerous projects and needs that the Selectmen are deferring in order to keep tax impacts to a minimum; all requests for funding cannot be honored.

Board of Selectmen's Minority Report - Selectmen Bauer supports this article.

The Milford Conservation Commission is asking the town for \$20,000 to add to their existing Land Fund. The balance of this fund is currently \$53,146 and needs to be added to each year for purchase of easements and property when available for town preservation.

THE BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE SUPPORTS THIS ARTICLE (8-1)

#### **Majority Report**

Only 7% of the 16,000 acres of Town land is presently protected by Conservation Land. These parcels preserve wildlife habitats, rural water supplies, improve air quality, provide trails for

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recreational activities, and preserve natural beauty.

Having money available in the Land Fund allows the Town to take action quickly when suitable land becomes available. The Land Fund currently has approximately a \$50,000 balance. Since Milford does not provide funding through the land use tax, the Conservation Commission depends on taxpayer funding to purchase lands that come available for public use. The required public notice and approval by the BOS prior to expenditure will secure that opportunities may not be lost. Fundraising and grant applications will still be pursued. Protecting an area avoids development of housing that may require additional town services (such as roads, fire, police, schools) that could consequently increase future property taxes. Currently the Commission is looking at two parcels of land totaling about 55 acres that may become available.

#### TOPICAL DESCRIPTION

Explanation: The Conservation Land Fund has a balance of \$53,146. An additional \$20,000 continues to build a base of funds to use to work with other organizations in the event that prime properties become available or to work with landowners needing assistance in placing an easement on a property. The Land Fund has repeatedly been supported by the town residents. The Budget Advisory Committee recommended in the past that a minimum of \$75,000 should be held in this fund for quick responsive action by the Conservation Commission. According to the Business and Industry Association of NH Economic Plan (2013), every \$1 invested in land conservation returns \$11 in economic value of natural goods and services. In the study of 11 communities in NH, the American Farmland Trust found that open spaces and working farms and forests require \$.56 in services for every \$1 paid in taxes while residential lands require an average \$1.12 in services.

### **WARRANT ARTICLE 18 - PUMPKIN FESTIVAL, HOLIDAY DECORATIONS AND PLANTINGS - \$23,000**

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Three Thousand (\$23,000) Dollars for purposes of Pumpkin Festival support by Public Works, Police, Fire, and Ambulance Departments; with the remaining balance for the purchase and planting of flowers for the Oval and Stone Bridge areas; purchase of lights, garland, etc. for holiday decorations; or to 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 \$0.018 or (\$1.80 on a home value of \$100,000).*

THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN SUPPORTS THIS ARTICLE (5-0)

**Board of Selectmen's Majority Report** - Selectmen Bauer, Daniels, Federico, Fougere, and Putnam unanimously support this article.

The Milford Improvement Team (MIT) will be organizing our 26th Annual Pumpkin Festival for 2016. Hundreds of volunteer hours go into making this a spectacular a three-day community event with music and activities for all ages. The event puts Milford "on the map". Over 35,000 visitors attended the 2015 Pumpkin Festival. The huge success of the festival was due to the collaboration of MIT with several town departments, over 25 local businesses, and hundreds of volunteers. Forty non-profit community based groups participated in 2015 with fundraising and awareness activities that benefit Milford in countless ways. This money supports funding for extra man-hours for the Departments of Public Works, Police, Ambulance and Fire.

THE BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE SUPPORTS THIS ARTICLE (6-3)

#### **Majority Report**

The Pumpkin Festival is an annual event that has been supported by the community. This event garners publicity in various local and regional news outlets and draws attendance from residents of other towns in the region. The Article does not fund the entire cost of the Pumpkin Festival; rather it pays the cost of the support provided by Public Works, Police, Fire, and Ambulance Depts.

#### **Minority Report**

In recent years, the approved funds have been completely used to cover the expenses for extra man-hours/support by DPW, Police, Fire, and Ambulance. Additionally, the detail expenses have run anywhere from \$2000-\$4000 over this amount, and the Town has contributed more than was approved towards paying the overage. The minority believes that the warrant article would be more appropriately represented by wording that this funding only covers DPW, police, fire, and ambulance details. Some of the minority also believes it may be possible for the Pumpkin Festival to be self-sustaining and profitable after 25+ years running in the Town of Milford.

### **WARRANT ARTICLE 19 - SUMMER BAND CONCERTS - \$9,000**

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Nine Thousand (\$9,000) Dollars for the purpose of holding the annual summer evening band concerts (bands, sound system, crossing detail), 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 \$0.007 or (\$0.70 on a home value of \$100,000).*

THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN SUPPORTS THIS ARTICLE (5-0)

**Board of Selectmen's Majority Report** - Selectmen Bauer, Daniels, Federico, Fougere, and Putnam unanimously support this article.

These concerts provide an opportunity to get out and enjoy an evening of music and community involvement along the Souhegan River. These concerts are also an on-going and long standing tradition that has been part of Milford's character and charm. These concerts take place in Emerson Park, a downtown location close to many residents, including a number of senior housing complexes.

THE BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE SUPPORTS THIS ARTICLE (9-0)

#### **Majority Report**

The concerts provide culture and entertainment for all ages and is one of the many activities that make Milford a highly desirable place to live. This funding request has not increased since 2004, yet continues to provide 9 concerts.

### **WARRANT ARTICLE 20 - FIREWORKS - \$8,500**

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eight Thousand Five Hundred (\$8,500) Dollars for the purpose of providing the Independence Day celebration fireworks display at a time and location to be determined by the Board of Selectmen, 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 \$0.007 or (\$0.70 on a home value of \$100,000).*

THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN SUPPORTS THIS ARTICLE (3-2)

**Board of Selectmen's Majority Report** - Selectmen Bauer, Fougere, and Federico support this article.

Milford has always been a very special place to live. It is activities such as the July 4th fireworks that have always brought the community together to create traditions that last for generations. Particularly in uncertain economic times, when people tend to stay home rather than take vacations, it is necessary to continue to support activities that people can enjoy here in Milford. The majority feels that this is an important aspect of Milford's community character and that voters should have the opportunity to make a decision on this warrant article.

**Board of Selectmen's Minority Report** - Selectmen Daniels and Putnam do not support this article.

This article has increase 89% since 2012, when the cost was \$4,500. In trying to keep your property taxes down, the minority sought to present to voters a budget and warrant articles that contained cost, yet provided the services expected, and viewed this activity as something that, if desired, could be funded in a different manner. This activity was, in fact, rejected by taxpayers in 2010 and self-funded in 2011. The Recreation Department successfully substituted a bonfire event.

THE BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE SUPPORTS THIS ARTICLE (6-3)

#### **Majority Report**

Fireworks are the culminating activity to a day-long celebration in recognition of the birth of our nation. This activity helps community members of all ages to express our pride and patriotism for our great country.

#### **Minority Report**

Fireworks are the lowest priority item on the warrant in a year of more pressing needs and a tax rate increase. Past Fourth of July activities and bonfire at Keyes Field were memorable with or without fireworks. Safety coverage by police, fire, ambulance, and DPW for any event held that day are already included in the Town Operating Budget. This Article is only for fireworks. Please be advised that Keyes Field may have altered access and parking this year due to the EPA Cleanup Site work on Elm Street.

## **WARRANT ARTICLE 21 - FUNDING OF THE ANNUAL LABOR DAY PARADE – \$6,000**

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Six Thousand (\$6,000) Dollars 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 \$0.005 or (\$0.50 on a home value of \$100,000).*

THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN SUPPORTS THIS ARTICLE (5-0)

**Board of Selectmen's Majority Report** - Selectmen Bauer, Daniels, Federico, Fougere, and Putnam unanimously support this article.

This warrant is to fund the bands for the Labor Day parade. The VFW has expressed that they can't afford to fund the entire parade. It has been a tradition in town for 69 years and is the largest Labor Day parade in the state. It brings a lot of revenue to the local businesses and offers the opportunity for area businesses and organizations to showcase their services and activities. We feel that it should be continued.

THE BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE SUPPORTS THIS ARTICLE (9-0)

### **Majority Report**

The Milford Labor Day Parade has been in existence since 1945. Originally established as a tribute to the strength, prosperity, and well-being of our country by the American workers, it has continued to be a favorite of residents in the Souhegan Valley. Traditionally bands, floats, antique cars, politicians, and the honoring of community organizations, sports teams, and local activities have spotlighted the end of the summer.

## **WARRANT ARTICLE 22 - MEMORIAL, VETERANS & LABOR DAY PARADES AND RECOGNITION - TOWN SUPPORT - \$6,000**

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Six Thousand (\$6,000) Dollars for the purpose of town support relative to the observance of Memorial, Veterans and Labor Day? 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 \$0.005 or (\$0.50 on a home value of \$100,000).*

THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN SUPPORTS THIS ARTICLE (5-0)

**Board of Selectmen's Majority Report** - Selectmen Bauer, Daniels, Federico, Fougere, and Putnam unanimously support this article.

The Memorial, Veterans' Day and Labor Day Parades are a way of honoring those who have made our way of life possible through their service and sacrifice. We also support the article in hopes that their actions and their stories will be passed on to future generations and that we never forget those who served, and those who gave all. We support the Labor Day Parade to not only promote community involvement, but also because it presents an opportunity for people to identify the numerous volunteer organizations and services that contribute to Milford's character and way of life. Milford's parades are a long standing and vital component of our community spirit that has been enjoyed by generations of residents through the years. These funds cover the cost for emergency services and DPW expenses associated with these events.

THE BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE SUPPORTS THIS ARTICLE (9-0)

### **Majority Report**

These events are well attended and popular with the community. The Article pays the cost of Public Works, Police, and other Town Department details for the safety of the attendees.

## **WARRANT ARTICLE 23 – GRAVEL PIT RECLAMATION/RESTORATION & SALE OR OTHER DISPOSITION OF RESOURCES - \$0**

Shall the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to reclaim/restore/revegetate a majority of the existing fully excavated gravel pit area and sell or otherwise dispose of any existing mineral interests, earth materials or other natural resources located on that portion of the town owned property that is commonly known as the BROX property, that is currently zoned Residential "R", (said property currently zoned as Residential "R" being known solely as Tax Map 38, Lot 58, on



such terms and conditions, as the Selectmen deem appropriate for such sale or other disposition and generally consistent with the Brox Property Community Land Master Plan (August 2014), the 2014 Brox Community Lands Mining Feasibility Study produced by Fieldstone Land Consultants and the associated Resources Plan map, dated January 4, 2016. Material excavation, for sale and town use, will take place in the Marketable Gravel Resource Area (approximately 43 acres). Materials in Town Gravel Resource Area (approximately 17 acres) shall be reserved in perpetuity for future town use. All revenue received from the sale of such materials shall be deposited in the General Fund. This authorization shall NOT permit any such sale or other disposition to allow for the transfer of an interest in such materials unless the same is, by its terms, limited to a period of not more than six (6) years in duration. This authorization to the Board of Selectmen will expire 20 years after approval. The Milford Planning Board will review the proposed plan. Any agreement entered into by the Selectmen relative to the sale or other disposition of said materials shall contain language which shall require the compliance with any statutes, land use codes or their regulations which governs such activity. Each year the Annual Town Report will contain a BROX Property Report of the scope, the progress, the associated Town expenditures and the revenue amount placed into the general fund for that year.

*This article has no tax impact.*

#### THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN SUPPORTS THIS ARTICLE (5-0)

*Board of Selectmen's Majority Report* - Selectmen Bauer, Daniels, Federico, Fougere, and Putnam unanimously support this article.

In order to increase town revenue, this is a reauthorization article to allow the Selectmen to proceed to sell excess gravel resources that exist at the Brox Community Lands property; the original authorization expired in 2013. The lack of new tax revenue continues to be anemic, increasing a mere \$30,000 per year over the last four years. One of the many benefits to the community that were advocated when the Brox property was purchased was the potential to sell sand and gravel material from the site to help offset the \$1.9 million dollar purchase cost. Supporting this article will:

- Reclaim/restore 17 acres of old gravel pit, which is presently unusable for recreation.
- Generate needed town revenue estimated to range from \$780,000 - \$1,000,000.
- Generate new revenue, deposited into General Fund, will offset costs for roads, bridges, etc.
- Preserve 60 year + supply of material for future town use (175,000 cubic yards).
- Maintain 50% of the area as open space.
- Limit excavation to one area of the property.
- Be consistent with Community Lands Master Plan.
- Prepare land for future town uses/needs.
- Maintain property for all residents, not just a few.

#### THE BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE SUPPORTS THIS ARTICLE (7-2)

##### **Majority Report**

The majority supports this article as it would give the Selectmen authority to negotiate with contractors about removing materials from a delineated 43 acre parcel on the Brox property. The sale of resources is expected to provide future additional Town revenue.

##### **Minority Report**

The minority has concerns that the projected revenue is fictional at this point as stated values for the sand/gravel material does not include whether the Town or the contracted operator would pay the expenses for surveying, permits, wetland delineation and mapping every 5 years, further engineering, removal of contaminated materials, removal of ledge and boulders, disposal of stumps, shoring, excavation tax, reclamation and reseeding. Also the operator would be asked to do the reclamation and restoring work on the gravel pit at his expense. The only RFP response with most of these included mentions that the town could receive approx. \$0.50 cubic yard. The Marketable Gravel Resource Area must include enough sand/gravel for the DPW to use now for edging and asphalt paving of our roads and for snow and ice removal. The plan is to have 175,000 cu.yds available for future Town needs, but only 125,000 cu.yds is projected to be available from the Town Gravel Resource Area which is not being processed in the near future.

If town increased revenue is a goal, it seems that the Industrial Section of the BROX property should be marketed, and retaining the sand/gravel on its present site could be a selling point for industry interested in construction as materials would be available and close by.

It is further recommended that the Annual Town Report contain a BROX Property Report of the progress, town expenditures supporting this project, and revenue generated into the general fund, so citizens can be aware of progress towards completion of this project.

The recently updated State Wildlife Action Plan and the Natural Resource Inventory of March 2015 should be included in the planning to protect our conservation interests. Also the Conservation Commission should review the proposed plan prior to implementation.

#### **WARRANT ARTICLE 24 - MODIFY SOLAR EXEMPTION – \$0**

Shall the town elect to modify, in accordance with RSA 72:62 the Solar Energy Systems Exemption, approved in 1976, to be applied as exemption for the assessed value applied to the solar energy system located on real property which is equipped with a solar energy system as defined in RSA 72:61, with a maximum exemption amount not to exceed \$10,000? Currently the exemption has been applied as the amount of the cost of the solar energy system, which is in excess of its contributory value and outside the parameters of statute.

*This Article has no tax impact*

#### THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN SUPPORTS THIS ARTICLE (5-0)

**Board of Selectmen's Majority Report** - Selectmen Bauer, Daniels, Federico, Fougere, and Putnam unanimously support this article.

The Solar Exemption Warrant article seeks to correct the wording in the local option exemption. Currently, Milford's exemption allows for the full cost of the solar array. Some arrays are very costly, but the amount of value they add to the property may not equal the cost to install. Based on the cost, some exemptions would be \$5,000 and some exemptions would be \$80,000 or more that would be exempted from taxation; each property would be different. At this time, the data indicates that a solar array would add approximately \$10,000 to the value of a home. The proposed wording is intended to match the exemption amount with the value a solar array adds to a home. An exemption for the added value of the solar array is the intent of the state legislation. The proposed Solar Exemption Warrant Article seeks to correct the wording for the local exemption to meet the legislative intent, to make the exemption consistent for all properties with a solar array, and to remove any additional and unintended burden from all other taxpayers.

#### THE BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE SUPPORTS THIS ARTICLE (9-0)

##### **Majority Report**

In the early days of solar power the installation costs were much greater than today. The US Dept. of Energy outlined incentive programs to allow towns to encourage residents to install alternative energy systems by providing guidelines for tax exemptions. Presently the Milford exemption, only for solar, is based on 100% of installation cost being removed from taxed property value. The proposed exemption will only remove the value of the solar system from taxed property value. Presently there is also no maximum amount of the exemption specified. The Article's specified changes would level the playing field for all taxpayers and be within the intent of the statute.

#### **WARRANT ARTICLE 25 - ADJUSTMENT TO EXEMPTION AMOUNT FOR ELDERLY EXEMPTION - \$0**

Shall the town, pursuant to RSA 72:39-a and 72:39-b, modify the elderly exemptions from property tax in the Town of Milford, based on assessed value for the qualified taxpayers, to be as follows: for a person 65 years of age up to 75 years \$69,000; for a person 75 years of age up to 80 years - \$103,000; for a person 80 years of age or older \$137,000? To qualify, the applicant must satisfy all the conditions of RSA 72:39-a and 72:39-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 or, if the real estate is owned by such person's spouse, that they must have been married to each other for at least five years and that they reside on the property. In addition, the taxpayer must have an income in each applicable age group of not more than \$38,600 if single, or if married, a combined income of not more than \$46,000; and own net assets of not more than \$85,000, excluding the value of the person's primary residence.

*This Article has no tax impact.*

#### THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN SUPPORTS THIS ARTICLE (5-0)

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**Board of Selectmen's Majority Report** - Selectmen Bauer, Daniels, Federico, Fougere, and Putnam unanimously support this article.

Tax exemptions for the elderly are based on age and income conditions. The Board of Selectmen unanimously supports this warrant article.

THE BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE SUPPORTS THIS ARTICLE (9-0)

#### **Majority Report**

This adjustment allows the qualified elderly citizens of the Town to maintain status quo in their taxes. The qualifications are set by statute and are quite stringent. It does not appear there will be a spike in qualified citizens, but with the upcoming re-valuation of homes and property scheduled in 2016, the proposed increase in exemption can coincide with any possible increase in assessed value and tax rate.

#### **WARRANT ARTICLE 26 – DISCONTINUANCE OF LINDEN STREET EXTENSION – \$0**

Shall the town, pursuant to the authority in RSA 231:43, vote to discontinue and abandon only that portion of the Linden Street Extension laid out by the Board of Selectmen on August 22, 1914, pursuant to a petition filed on July 22, 1914, which connects the north line of Riverview Street to a point 10 feet from the south bank of the Souhegan River, so that any right which the Town has in and to said portion of said roadway as a consequence of the vote on said petition is extinguished? The intent of this article is to insure that title to the fee interest in the land under said roadway be hereafter unencumbered by any right of the general public to use said portion of said extension as a public highway. This vote shall NOT be construed to alter, in any way, the legal status of any other portion of the Linden Street Extension nor is it intended to nor shall it be interpreted to effect any easements or other interests which the Town may have over any part of said extension relating to the maintenance of sewer, water or other utilities.

*This Article has no tax impact.*

THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN SUPPORTS THIS ARTICLE (5-0)

**Board of Selectmen's Majority Report** - Selectmen Bauer, Daniels, Federico, Fougere, and Putnam unanimously support this article.

This portion of town road was never constructed and bisects a residences property. The "paper" road is not needed and the town has reserved appropriate legal rights for existing utilities that exist.

THE BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE SUPPORTS THIS ARTICLE (9-0)

#### **Majority Report**

This Warrant Article discontinues a portion of the Linden Street Extension that is essentially a private driveway and limits public use of the extension.

#### **WARRANT ARTICLE 27 – DISCONTINUANCE OF A PORTION OF SCARBOROUGH LANE - \$0**

Shall the town, pursuant to the RSA 231:43, vote to discontinue that portion of Scarborough Lane, so called, consisting of the westernmost portion of the existing cul-de-sac located at the terminus of Scarborough Lane as the same as depicted on the subdivision plan recorded in the Hillsborough County Registry of Deeds as plan #38585, and to authorize the Selectmen to execute any documents necessary to implement this action and to convey any interest that the Town may have in said portion of said cul-de-sac to the owner(s) of Tax Map 6 Lot 42-5, said premises being shown on said plan? The intention is to remove from public servitude that portion of the depicted cul-de-sac upon the Town acceptance of the extension of Scarborough Lane as depicted on said Plan.

*This Article has no tax impact.*

THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN SUPPORTS THIS ARTICLE (5-0)

Board of Selectmen's Majority Report - Selectmen Bauer, Daniels, Federico, Fougere, and Putnam unanimously support this article.

With the recent extension of Scarborough Lane, this area of the existing street and right of way is no longer needed. The property will be deeded back to the adjacent property owners.

THE BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE SUPPORTS THIS ARTICLE (9-0)

#### **Majority Report**

This Warrant Article discontinues the existing cul-de-sac located at the end of Scarborough Lane and enables the Board of Selectmen to transfer ownership interests to a private entity.

#### **WARRANT ARTICLE 28 – HITCHINER TOWN FOREST CONSERVATION EASEMENT – \$0**

Shall the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to transfer or convey such property rights in the below described parcel of town owned land as may be necessary so that the same shall be subject to a conservation easement, in perpetuity, the particular terms of the easement to be determined by the Board of Selectmen, with the concurrence of the Conservation Commission, said authorization to include the authority to execute any and all deeds, documents or other instruments in the name of the Town that may be necessary to accomplish the foregoing? It is understood that the intent of this article is to cause the conservation easement to be held by a "qualified organization," as defined in section 170(h)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, existing for the purchase of or holding of property interests or facilitating transactions relative thereto when such purchase carries out the purpose of RSA 36-A, said organization as determined by the Board of Selectmen with the concurrence of the Conservation Commission. The property to which this authorization, if approved, will apply is land known as Map 42 Lot 2, which property is commonly known as the Hitchiner Town Forest, the same having been acquired by the Town of Milford by deed of Hitchiner Manufacturing Co., Inc., dated November 25, 1985 and recorded in the Hillsborough County Registry of Deeds at Book 3421, Page 0526.

*This Article has no tax impact.*

THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN DOES NOT SUPPORT THIS ARTICLE (2-3)

**Board of Selectmen's Majority Report** - Selectmen Daniels, Federico and Putnam do not support this article.

The majority feels that this land, given to the Town by Hitchiner Manufacturing Company, should not be subject to a conservation easement in perpetuity, but for a period of 25 years, at which time the residents of Milford at that time may then choose to renew the easement or take a different course of action. Current residents may desire to use this land for conservation during our lifetime, but by making this property subject to a conservation easement in perpetuity we take away the right of future generations to decide how they would like to use the property. By making the easement renewable every 25 years, future generations maintain the freedom to decide for themselves the best use of this land, rather than it being forever subject to the will of the voters in 2016.

**Board of Selectmen's Minority Report** - Selectmen Bauer and Fougere support this article

The minority of the Board of Selectmen supports the Conservation Commission's plans to create a conservation easement to the Hitchiner Town Forest.

THE BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE SUPPORTS THIS ARTICLE (9-0)

#### **Majority Report**

All Town Forests provide recreation opportunities for the Town. Easements link existing conservation lands. Easements support timber management plans that provide income from selective cutting at planned intervals suited to the existing timber species allowing the forest to thrive. Perpetual easements foster planned timber harvests and endangered species habitat development.

#### TOPICAL DESCRIPTION

Explanation: The Hitchiner property was given to the town in 1986 and designated as a town forest by town vote in 1987. The intent and purpose of this Conservation Easement is to: (i) protect the property, and its conservation values, in perpetuity, in a natural, forested, and open condition; (ii) promote the conservation of forests, wetlands, natural watercourses, and wildlife thereon; (iii) protect and enhance the value of abutting and neighboring natural resources, open spaces, and conservation areas; (iv) permit silvicultural management activities on the property subject to the existing Forest Management Plan, and (v) permit recreational, scientific, and educational activities on the property. The property, including without limitation any body of water or stream thereon, shall continue to be used predominantly in an undeveloped and natural condition, and shall not be used for residential, industrial, or commercial uses.

Present and future generations of our community will enjoy not only the scenic beauty of Hitchiner Town Forest, but the community will have prime ingredients for healthy living: clean air and water, healthy forest for hiking and relaxation, and diversity of wildlife and habitats.

**WARRANT ARTICLE 29 – OPEN SPACE ACCESS – \$0**

Shall the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen, at the request of the Conservation Commission, to convey a non-exclusive easement to Christopher Brown and Sarah Brown across a portion of Open Space Lot 3-5 as shown on Hillsborough County Registry of Deeds Plan #34931 for the purpose of access/egress by foot, vehicle, utilities or otherwise, to Map 3 Lot 6, said easement to be no greater than 15 feet in width and will extend from Falcon Ridge Drive, easterly from a point between Lots 3-5-5 and 3-5-6, to the western boundary of Map 3 Lot 6? In exchange for the use of the Open Space, the Browns will give to the Town an eight (8) acre conservation easement with a Trail Right of Way (ROW) for the hiking/snowmobile trail that crosses their property. Provided, nevertheless, that this authorization shall be null and void unless this conveyance is also approved by the Milford Conservation Commission, Board of Selectmen, the Charitable Trust Division of the NH Attorney General's office and the NH Superior Court, if necessary, with such approvals to be obtained and the matter concluded no later than March 31, 2018.

*This Article has no tax impact.*

THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN SUPPORTS THIS ARTICLE (5-0)

**Board of Selectmen's Majority Report** - Selectmen Bauer, Daniels, Federico, Fougere, and Putnam unanimously support this article.

The Board of Selectmen unanimously grants the Conservation Commission's request to convey a non-exclusive easement to Christopher and Sara Brown across a portion of Open Space Lot 3-5 as shown on Hillsborough County Registry of Deeds. In exchange the Browns will give the Town an eight acre conservation easement on their land.

THE BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE SUPPORTS THIS ARTICLE (9-0)

**Majority Report**

The easement will allow the current and future owners of this lot to build a driveway without blasting through rock ledge. The land owners will give the Town an eight acre conservation easement with a Trail Right of Way. This is a win-win proposition for both parties.

**TOPICAL DESCRIPTION**

Explanation: The Browns would like to cross the existing 25' Open Space access for the purpose of building a gravel driveway to their abutting lot. The Brown lot has the required frontage on North River Road, but the grade is very steep. The construction of a driveway on this steep slope has potential to cause greater impact to the environment than a driveway across the open space. The Browns have requested permission to use the 25' Open Space access for their 15' gravel driveway, leaving sufficient room for hikers to access the Open Space. The Town will acquire an eight (8) acre conservation easement with a Trail Right of Way (ROW) for the hiking/snowmobile trail that crosses their property and connects with other Open Space. This section of trail is part of a longer trail that runs across private property from the Souhegan River Trail to Whiting Hill trails in Wilton. This trail is identified in the Conservation Commission's long range goal to extend the town-wide trail network to include every neighborhood.

**WARRANT ARTICLE 30 – PIPELINE AUTHORIZATION CONSENT - \$0 – By Petition**

Shall the voters of the Town of Milford New Hampshire consent to the construction of the North

East Direct, Gas Pipeline project being imposed by Tennessee Gas Pipeline LLC, a Kinder Morgan Company?

*This Article has no tax impact.*

THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN DOES NOT TAKE A POSITION ON THIS WARRANT ARTICLE

THE BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE DOES NOT TAKE A POSITION ON THIS WARRANT ARTICLE

**WARRANT ARTICLE 31 – SALE OF A PORTION OF THE BROX PROPERTY - \$0 - By Petition**

Shall the town vote for the proposed sale of town-owned, lots 38-9, 38-11, 38-12, 38-13 and 38-14 named in the Purchase and Sale Agreement entered into July 9, 2015 between the Town of Milford (seller) and Monadnock Economic Development Corporation (buyer) even though an agreement no longer exists?

*This Article has no tax impact.*

THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN DOES NOT SUPPORT THIS ARTICLE (0-5)

Board of Selectmen's Majority Report - Selectmen Bauer, Daniels, Federico, Fougere, and Putnam do not support this article.

This Article is needless given that the planned sale of industrial land has been withdrawn and is no longer relevant.

THE BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE DOES NOT TAKE A POSITION ON THIS WARRANT ARTICLE

**WARRANT ARTICLE 32 – NEW HAMPSHIRE RESOLUTION TO GET BIG MONEY OUT OF POLITICS - \$0 - By Petition**

Shall the town vote to urge:

That the next President and Congress fight big money politics and restore government of, by, and for the people by championing the (1) Ban Super PAC's and overturn Citizens United, (2) Expose secret donors and require full transparency, (3) Ban bribes from big-money lobbyists and government contractors, (4) Establish small-donor, citizen-funded elections, (5) End gerrymandering and modernize voter registration, and (6) Close loopholes and enforce campaign finance laws?

That the New Hampshire State Legislature support concrete legislation to enact the "We the People" agenda.

That the record of the vote approving this article shall be transmitted by written notice from the selectmen to the NH congressional delegates and to New Hampshire's state legislators, and to the President of the United States informing them of the instruction from their constituents within 30 days of the vote.

*This Article has no tax impact.*

THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN DOES NOT TAKE A POSITION ON THIS WARRANT ARTICLE

THE BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE DOES NOT TAKE A POSITION ON THIS WARRANT ARTICLE

# 2016 Town Officer Candidate Profiles

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

**Selectmen – 3 Year Term (vote for one)****Kevin Federico**

OFFICE SOUGHT: **Board of Selectmen**  
 ADDRESS: 146 Westchester Drive, Milford  
 CONTACT INFO: kfederico@msn.com  
 RESIDENCY: I have lived in Milford for 16 years  
 FAMILY: Married with three children 21, 17 and 12  
 EDUCATION: Northeastern University Paramedic Technology 2002 MA-EMTP  
 Southern New Hampshire University (IT Management) 2018  
 OCCUPATION: Technology Coordinator, Weare School District

POLITICAL HISTORY: Ambulance Service Study Committee 2005  
 Milford School Budget Committee, 2009 – 2011  
 Milford Selectman 2013 – 2016  
 AFFILIATIONS: Volunteer EMT-1 Milford Ambulance Service 1992 – 1998  
 Member, Milford Community Athletic Association 2005 – 2011  
 President, Milford Community Athletic Association 2008 – 2011

Our community continues to grow while still maintaining its personality and charm as a small town. For the last three years I have had the privilege to serve as your Selectman. It has been both a challenging and rewarding experience. I believe I have a clear understanding of the issues that are important to our citizens, and I am always willing to listen to new ideas. I'd like to ask for your vote so I may continue to serve as your Selectman.



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JimWPH@gmail.com

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## 2016 Town Officer Candidate Profiles continued

### Library Trustee – 3 year Term (vote for two)

#### Judy Gross

**OFFICE SOUGHT:** Library Trustee  
**ADDRESS:** 49 McGettigan Road, Milford  
**CONTACT INFO:** judygross1@comcast.net  
**RESIDENCY:** I have lived in Milford for 22 years  
**FAMILY:** Married with two precious cats.  
**EDUCATION:** Master's in Education, Associates in Occupational Therapy  
**OCCUPATION:** Currently work in occupational therapy doing geriatric rehabilitation. Prior work includes yoga/meditation instruction and many years in Corporate America!  
**EXPERIENCE:** Have served on Milford's Conservation Commission, the DO-IT Board; also volunteered for Merrimack Hospice, American Red Cross and Nature Conservancy.

### Town Clerk – 3 year Term (vote for one)

#### Bobbi Schelberg

**OFFICE SOUGHT:** Town Clerk  
**ADDRESS:** 186 Whitten Road, Milford  
**CONTACT INFO:** bschelberg@msn.com  
**RESIDENCY:** I have lived in Milford since 1993  
**FAMILY:** Married for 29 years, two children, a daughter-in-law plus two grandsons.  
**EDUCATION:** Alvirne High School graduate and attended Rivier College  
**OCCUPATION:** Administrative Assistant with the City of Nashua  
**EXPERIENCE:** Vital Records and Election Clerk for the City of Nashua for seven years. Responsibilities included generating birth, death and marriage certificates, adoption record and legal name changes, plus court ordered amendments. Additional duties included dog licensing and issuing taxi licenses. Election duties included registering new voters, scanning in election results, working polls – assist checking in voters, registering new voters and completing registration forms. For Milford, I was a Supervisor of the Checklist from April 2003 through March 2013, with the last three years as Chairperson of the Supervisor of the Checklist. Responsible for the maintenance and accurate updating to the State of New Hampshire maintained voter registration list as well as scanning in election results.



I believe my background and experience in the Nashua City Clerk's office and as a Checklist Supervisor provides me with an understanding of election procedures and the numerous and important Town Clerk responsibilities while offering residents a qualified candidate who can assume Town Clerk duties immediately. I will implement extended hours for the convenience of residents. If you feel I am the right candidate for you, please consider voting for me, Bobbi Schelberg on Election Day - March 8th. Remember everyone's vote counts!

#### Nancy Deslauriers

**OFFICE SOUGHT:** Town Clerk  
**ADDRESS:** 71 Christine Drive, Milford  
**CONTACT INFO:** nancyd72#comcast.net  
**FAMILY:** Two adult sons one married and owns his own flooring company, one is on the Nashua Fire Department and I have one grandson.  
**EXPERIENCE:** Over 18 years in Municipal Government experience in City/Town Offices in Nashua and Merrimack. Certified by the State of New Hampshire for: Motor Vehicle Registration, Boat Registration, Dog Licensing, Vital Records: Births, Deaths and Marriages, Voter Registration. Past Municipal Experience in: Accounts Payable, Property Tax Collections



I am a dedicated, efficient and work hard to advocate for the residents. I am a problem solver and

creative thinker, looking to bring new ideas to increase efficiency and effectiveness for the residents of Milford. I am willing to listen to the cares and concerns of all Milford residents. New Ideas moving forward include: One check system for motor vehicle registration and plates, Debit card payment processing, Set up rabies clinic in town for shots and dog licensing in one stop,.

#### Joan Dargie

**OFFICE SOUGHT:** Town Clerk  
**ADDRESS:** 136 Prospect Street, Milford  
**CONTACT INFO:** joandargie@aol.com  
**RESIDENCY:** 25 Years in Milford  
**FAMILY:** Married to Paul with 3 children, Jenna, Jillian and Michael  
**EDUCATION:** B.S. Industrial Technology U Mass Lowell, B.S. Operations Management U Mass Lowell  
**OCCUPATION:** Project Coordinator Cabot Corp and Owner of Consigning for Goods  
**EXPERIENCE:** Milford School District Clerk for 12 years.

I assisted the Town Clerk for the last 12+ years on every election. I enjoy the responsibility of that position. I am currently on the Zoning Board, Trustee of the Trust Funds and I'm also an alternate on the Recreation commission. I am fluent with excel, word, visio, power point, lotus notes, etc. I am familiar with the state RSAs that govern the town clerk responsibilities.

### Town Moderator – 2 year Term (vote for one)

#### Denise Hennesey

**OFFICE SOUGHT:** Moderator  
**ADDRESS:** 77 Elm Street, Milford  
**CONTACT INFO:** denisehennesey60@yahoo.com  
**RESIDENCY:** I have lived in Milford for 15 years  
**OCCUPATION:** Retired  
**EXPERIENCE:** Finger print technical for AFIS, Cash investor for Putnam Investments and served my country for 3 years in AMERICORPS AND VISTA.



I want to be the Town Moderator because I want to be able to keep the Town of Milford as good as it is and help advocate for the citizens' rights.

#### Peter Basiliere

**OFFICE SOUGHT:** Town Moderator  
**ADDRESS:** 32 Spaulding Street, Milford  
**CONTACT INFO:** 673-3439  
**RESIDENCY:** I have lived in Milford 35 years  
**FAMILY:** (Gail), three children, four grandchildren  
**EDUCATION:** Bates College (BA); University of New Hampshire (MBA)  
**COMMUNITY:** Former school board and school budget committee member; current president of the Wadleigh Library Development Fund; Rotarian  
**OCCUPATION:** Research Vice President, Gartner Inc

I am honored to have served as your town and school district moderator for the past 8 years. Looking ahead, my goals remain:

One, during the deliberative sessions, to ensure everyone has a fair opportunity to voice their opinions, whether supporting or opposing a warrant article.

Two, to appoint taxpayers to the budget committee that results in a strong blend of members with experience and new members who will study and question the reasoning for each spending proposal.

Three, to ensure our elections run smoothly and the results are never in doubt.

I increased the number of people working at the polls for the presidential primary and again at the November general election. Most obvious were the 10 people checking in voters but there were many other helpers.

We also rented a third ballot machine, speeding up the process by 50%. A donated "Voter Motor" cart provided a ride across the parking lot for voters who had difficulty walking to the gym.

I ask for your vote and the opportunity to continue serving our town.





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# Graphical Representation of Last Year's (2015) Tax Rate

## 2015 Property Tax Rate \$28.56

Rate Breakdown	
Local School	\$17.72
State School	2.36
Town	7.19
County	1.29
<hr/> <hr/>	
2015 Tax Rate	28.56

