

**Town of Milford
Warrant & Financials
Budget and Bond**

January 12, 2026

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 Town Hall Auditorium on **Saturday, January 31, 2026, at 9:00 am**, to transact all business other than voting, and on **Tuesday, March 10, 2026**, at the Milford High 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 10, 2026, at 6:00 a.m.** and will not close earlier than 8:00 p.m.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the services of an interpreter will be provided as requested. Such requests must be received in the Milford Board of Selectmen's Office, Town Hall, One Union Square, Milford, NH 03055-4240, at least two (2) calendar weeks before the event. The Town will attempt to honor any requests received after this time.

ARTICLE 1 – ELECTION OF OFFICERS

GOES IN AFTER BUDGET & BOND

ARTICLE 2 – BALLOT VOTE – ZONING CHANGES

GOES IN AFTER BUDGET & BOND

WARRANT ARTICLE 3 - \$4,900,000 BOND TO PERFORM THE HIGHLANDS AREA WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT PROJECT.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Four Million Nine Hundred Thousand Dollars and no cents (\$4,900,000) for the purpose of performing the Highlands Area Water Main Replacement Project. Such sum to be raised by the issuance of serial bonds and notes not to exceed Four Million Nine Hundred Thousand Dollars and no cents (\$4,900,000) under and in compliance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (NH RSA 33:1 et. seq., as amended) and to authorize the Town to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon. Further, and to take such actions as may be necessary to affect the issuance, negotiation, sale and delivery of such bonds or notes as shall be in the best interest of the Town. Additionally, to authorize the Town to apply for, receive, and expend grants or other funds that may reduce the amount to be repaid, and pass any vote relating thereto. ***The bond shall be paid for using water user fees.*** Recommendations required (3/5 ballot vote required).

The Board of Commissioners recommends this Article (0-0)

The Budget Advisory Committee recommends this Article (0-0)

WARRANT ARTICLE 4 - WATER DEPARTMENT – MATCH FOR FEDERAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES \$1,000,000 (BOND)

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Million dollars and no cents (\$1,000,000) (gross budget) for the sole purpose of paying the town’s 20% cost share in order to accept and expend unanticipated grant funds received from the federal government for water utility system repairs and improvements, and to authorize the issuance of not more than One Million dollars and no cents (\$1,000,000) of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the select board to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon; *The bond shall be paid for using water user fees.* Recommendations required (3/5 ballot vote required).

The Board of Commissioners recommends this Article (0-0)

The Budget Advisory Committee recommends this Article (0-0)

WARRANT ARTICLE 5- TOWN OPERATING BUDGET - \$ 21,369,930

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts outlined in the budget for the purposes set forth herein, totaling Twenty-One Million Seven Hundred Eighty-Two thousand, Three hundred and eight dollars and no cents (\$21,782,308). Should this Article be defeated, the default budget shall be (\$21,171,031), 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. (Majority Vote Required.)

The Select Board recommends this Article (0-0)

The Budget Advisory Committee recommends this Article (0-0)

Voting Yes on this article has an estimated tax impact of \$6.28/\$1,000, \$628.08/\$100,000 of assessed value.

Voting No on this article has an estimated tax impact of \$6.19/\$1,000, \$618.55/\$100,000 of assessed value.

WARRANT ARTICLE 6 - WASTEWATER DEPARTMENT OPERATING BUDGET - \$ 2,997,662

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Million Nine Hundred Ninety-Seven Thousand Six Hundred Sixty-Two dollars and no cents (\$2,997,662) to operate and maintain the Wastewater Treatment Facility and the Sanitary Sewer Collection System, said appropriation to be offset by income received from wastewater user charges, or take any other action relative thereto? Should this Article be defeated, the default budget shall be Two Million Nine Hundred Forty-Nine Thousand Five Hundred Ninety-One dollars and no cents (\$2,949,591) 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. *Wastewater user fees fund this warrant article.*

The Board of Commissioners recommends this Article (0-0)

The Budget Advisory Committee recommends this Article (0-0)

WARRANT ARTICLE 7 - WATER DEPARTMENT OPERATING BUDGET - \$ 2,499,055

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Million Four Hundred Ninety-Nine Thousand Fifty-Five dollars and no cents (\$2,499,055) to operate and maintain the Water Department, said appropriation to be offset by income received from the water user charges, or take any other action relative thereto? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be Two Million Four Hundred Seventy-Four Thousand Four Hundred Thirty-Seven dollars and no cents (\$2,474,437), 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. *Water user fees fund this warrant article.* (Majority Vote Required.)

The Board of Commissioners recommends this Article (0-0)

The Budget Advisory Committee recommends this Article (0-0)

WARRANT ARTICLE 8 - RECONSTRUCTION OF TOWN ROADS - \$ 500,000

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Hundred thousand dollars and no cents (\$500,000) to reconstruct or repair Town roads? This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI. (Majority Vote Required.)

The Select Board recommends this Article (0-0)

The Budget Advisory Committee recommends this Article (0-0)

This article has an estimated tax impact of .24/ \$1,000, \$23.96/\$100,000 of assessed value.

WARRANT ARTICLE 9 - AFSCME/POLICE CONTRACT \$ 90,025

Shall the Town vote to approve the cost items included in the Police Officers' Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) reached between the Board of Selectmen and Local 3657 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) for contract years 2026, 2027, 2028 (1 April – 31 March) which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits, and to further raise and appropriate the sum of \$90,025 for fiscal year 2026? Said sum represents the additional costs over those of the current appropriation at current staffing levels paid in the expiring Agreement. Upon approval of this Article, said cost allocation is to be transferred to the General Operating Budget.

	2026	2027	2028
Wages	\$ 39,141.42	\$ 39,615.63	\$ 46,433.00
Benefits	\$ 50,883.84	\$ 51,500.32	\$ 60,362.90
Total	\$ 90,025.26	\$ 91,115.95	\$ 106,795.90

NOTE:

The Contract calls for an 3.5% increase as of April 1, 2026, a 3.5% increase as of April 1, 2027, and a 4% increase for 2028.

These figures represent the estimated increases for the first three months of 2028 to cover salary increases to contract termination date of March 31, 2028.

The Select Board recommends this Article (0-0)

The Budget Advisory Committee recommends this Article (0-0)

This article has an estimated tax impact of .043/ \$1,000, \$4.31/\$100,000 of assessed value.

WARRANT ARTICLE 10 - NON-EMERGENCY COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION BUS SERVICES \$32,000

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty-Two thousand dollars and no cents (\$32,000) for the purpose of providing the Town's share of funding to the Souhegan Valley Transportation Collaborative (SVTC) 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? The Select Board designates this article as special and non-lapsing. (Majority Vote Required.)

The Select Board recommends this Article (0-0)

The Budget Advisory Committee recommends this Article (0-0)

This article has an estimated tax impact of .015/ \$1,000, \$1.53/\$100,000 of assessed value.

WARRANT ARTICLE 11 - SOCIAL SERVICES - \$25,000

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-Five Thousand dollars and no cents (\$25,000) for the purpose of providing funding to Social Service agencies for Milford residents, as proposed by the Social Services Committee and submitted to the Board of Selectmen? This is a Special Warrant Article in accordance with RSA 32. (Majority Vote Required.)

The Select Board recommends this Article (0-0)

The Budget Advisory Committee recommends this Article (0-0)

This article has an estimated tax impact of .012/ \$1,000, \$1.20/\$100,000 of assessed value.

WARRANT ARTICLE 12- APPROPRIATION FOR 250TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE UNITED STATES - \$20,000

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Thousand dollars and no cents (\$20,000) for the purpose of planning, organizing, and conducting events and activities in celebration of the 250th Anniversary of the United States in 2026, including but not limited to historical displays, community events, fireworks, and related expenses; This is a Special Warrant Article in accordance with RSA 32. This is a non-lapsing article until 12/31/27. (Majority Vote Required.)

The Select Board recommends this Article (0-0)

The Budget Advisory Committee recommends this Article (0-0)

This article has an estimated tax impact of .01/ \$1,000, .96/\$100,000 of assessed value.

WARRANT ARTICLE 13 - ESTABLISH A RECREATION EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES MAINTENANCE CAPITAL RESERVE ACCOUNT - \$20,000

To see if the town will vote to establish a Recreation Facilities Maintenance Capital Reserve fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the repair, replacement, and maintenance of recreation facilities, vehicles and equipment, and to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Thousand dollars and no cents (\$20,000) to be placed in this fund; and furthermore, to name the Select Board as agents to expend. (Majority Vote Required.)

The Select Board recommends this Article (0-0)

The Budget Advisory Committee recommends this Article (0-0)

This article has an estimated tax impact of .01/ \$1,000, .96/\$100,000 of assessed value.

WARRANT ARTICLE 14 - MEMORIAL, VETERANS & LABOR DAY PARADES AND RECOGNITION SUPPORT - \$11,000

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eleven Thousand dollars and no cents (\$11,000) for the purpose of town support relative to the observance of Memorial, Veterans, and Labor Day Parades or take any other action relative thereto? These funds shall be used to cover parade costs incurred by Public Works, Police Departments, and other Town departments, and to purchase flags to be placed on the graves of veterans about 30 days before Memorial Day and removed about 30 days after Veterans 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 is a non-lapsing article until 12/31/27. (Majority Vote Required.)

The Select Board recommends this Article (0-0)

The Budget Advisory Committee recommends this Article (0-0)

This article has an estimated tax impact of .005/ \$1,000, .53/\$100,000 of assessed value.

WARRANT ARTICLE 15 - SUMMER BAND CONCERTS SUPPORT - \$9,000

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Nine Thousand dollars and no cents (\$9,000) 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 is a non-lapsing article until 12/31/27. (Majority Vote Required.)

The Select Board recommends this Article (0-0)

The Budget Advisory Committee recommends this Article (0-0)

This article has an estimated tax impact of .004/ \$1,000, .43/\$100,000 of assessed value.

WARRANT ARTICLE 16 – ANNUAL LABOR DAY PARADE SUPPORT - \$6,000

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Six Thousand dollars and no cents (\$6,000) for the purpose of funding bands, musicians, and other allied expenses directly attributed to the annual Labor Day Parade? This is a Special Warrant Article in accordance with RSA 32. This is a non-lapsing article until 12/31/27. (Majority Vote Required.)

The Select Board recommends this Article (0-0)

The Budget Advisory Committee recommends this Article (0-0)

This article has an estimated tax impact of .003/ \$1,000, .29/\$100,000 of assessed value.

WARRANT ARTICLE 17 - SERVICE-CONNECTED TOTAL DISABILITY VETERANS CREDIT

To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to RSA 72:35, I-a, to increase the optional tax credit for service-connected permanent and total disability from Fifteen Hundred dollars and no cents (\$1500) to Nineteen Hundred dollars and no cents (\$1900), pursuant to RSA 72:27-a. The said credit for service-connected total disability shall replace the Optional veterans' credit and/or the All-Veterans credit, under RSA 72:28, 72:28-b, 72:28-c, and 72:36-a in its entirety and shall not be in addition thereto. To qualify, the veteran or the veteran's surviving spouse must satisfy all the conditions of RSA 72:35, that pertain to eligibility for this credit, as well as those contained in any other applicable statute. (Majority Vote Required.)

The Select Board recommends this Article (0-0)

The Budget Advisory Committee recommends this Article (0-0)

WARRANT ARTICLE 18 - MODIFICATION OF EXISTING ELDERLY EXEMPTION CRITERIA

Shall the Town, pursuant to RSA 72:27-a, vote to modify the elderly exemption from property tax based on assessed value for qualified taxpayers to be as follows: for persons 65 years of age up to 75 years, One Hundred Twelve Thousand Dollars and no cents (\$112,000); for a person 75 years of age up to 80 years, One Hundred Sixty-Seven Thousand Four Hundred dollars and no cents (\$167,400); for persons over 80 years of age, Two Hundred Seventy Thousand dollars and no cents (\$270,000); and to modify the maximum asset limit for both individual and married persons to One Hundred Thirty Thousand dollars and no cents (\$130,000) (excluding the value of the person(s) residence). To qualify, the person must satisfy all of the conditions of RSA 72:39-a&b that pertain to eligibility for this exemption as well as those contained in any other applicable statute including without limitation, that they demonstrate that they have been a New Hampshire resident for at least 3 consecutive years, that they own the real estate individually or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by such persons spouse, that they must have been married to each other for at least 5 years, and that the reside at the property as their primary residence. In addition, the taxpayer must have a net income in each applicable age group of not more than Forty One Thousand Five Hundred dollars and no cents (\$41,500), or if married a combined net income of not more than Forty Seven Thousand dollars and no cents (\$47,000). (Majority Vote Required.)

The Select Board recommends this Article (0-0)

The Budget Advisory Committee recommends this Article (0-0)

WARRANT ARTICLE 19 - HERON POND DOG PARK

Shall the Town vote to approve the use of a portion of the sports fields along Heron Pond Road as a dog park? There are two sports fields adjacent to the south side of Heron Pond Road, on Tax Map 38, Lot 58, that are part of the Milford Community Lands. The sports fields were properly designed and permitted through the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) in alignment with the Community Lands Master Plan update. In 2016 a petition warrant article was included as part of the Town vote to approve the building of these sports fields post-construction. Now the Recreation Department and Milford, NH Dog Park Association would like to use a portion of the eastern field to erect a fence for a dog park. The fence would encompass most of the field, with approximately 50' on the east side of the field to allow for vehicles to park on the grass. The intention of this warrant article is to vote to approve a change of use of the approved sports fields to allow them to also be used for a dog park. (Majority Vote Required.)

The Select Board recommends this Article (0-0)

The Budget Advisory Committee recommends this Article (0-0)

WARRANT ARTICLE 20 – MEMORIAL PARK IMPROVEMENTS \$0

To be completed by 9/11/26 (25th anniversary)

Amendment to 2019 Warrant Article 33 – Vietnam Memorial - \$0

Amendment to 2019 Warrant Article 34 – Freedom Memorial - \$0

Shall the town vote pursuant to the provisions of RSA 31:19-a, (I), to modify the established Town of Freedom Memorial Trust Fund of 2019 and Town of Milford Vietnam War Memorial Trust Fund of 2019 to be referenced as the Memorial Park Trust Fund a trust fund for the purpose of designing, constructing and maintaining all aspects of Memorial Park. The purpose of which is to recognize citizens lost in WWII, Vietnam and '9/11' and those lost through subsequent military actions. Said trust fund shall be known as the Town of Milford Memorial Park Trust Fund of 2025 and may receive privately donated gifts, legacies and devises, provided, however, the such gifts, legacies, or devises shall be invested and accounted for separately from, and not comingled with, amounts appropriated by the town. The details of the Memorial, including the time of construction, shall be determined by the Board of Selectman, provided that any memorial shall only be located on the property owned by the Town of Milford. Said trust fund shall remain in place for a maximum period of 25 years unless sooner revoked by a future town meeting. At the conclusion of 25 years, or on such earlier date by revocation, any funds remain said trust fund, the source of which were private gifts or donations or as referenced above, shall only be paid over to suitable veterans' charitable organization of the Board of Selectman choice which shall then utilize said funds for the continuation of the charitable purpose of said charitable organization. At such termination, any funds remaining that were raised by the town shall be returned to the general fund. Pursuant to RSA 31:91-a (I), the Board of Selectman are appointed agents to expand any funds for the purpose of trust.

The Select Board recommends this Article (0-0)

The Budget Advisory Committee recommends this Article (0-0)

WARRANT ARTICLE 21- CONSERVATION LAND FUND \$20,000 by Petition

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 Fund created in accordance with RSA 36-A, said 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.

Explanation: An additional \$20,000 continues to build a base of funds: 1) to work with landowners needing assistance in placing an easement on a property, 2} to work with other organizations in the event that prime properties become available, or 3} to enable a quick responsive action by the Conservation Commission. The Conservation Fund has a balance of \$16,268.06. The Milford Budget Advisory Committee {BAC), after review, suggests that this Fund should accrue to \$280,000 in order to meet current land pricing pressures. The American Farmland Trust found that the cost of services for open spaces and working farms and forests are about half the cost of services for residential properties. This Conservation Fund request has been repeatedly supported by the town residents.

