

APPROVED
MINUTES OF THE BUDGET & BOND PUBLIC HEARING
January 11, 2021

PRESENT: Gary Daniels, Chairman John Shannon, Town Administrator
Paul Dargie, Vice Chairman Tina Philbrick - Assistant
Laura Dudziak, Member Department Heads
Chris Labonte, Member Members of the Public
Dave Freel, Member

BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS – Not all were present
Chris Pank Claudia Lemaire
Karen Mitchell Vanessa Sheehan
Peggy Seward George Skuse
Paul Bartolomucci

WATER COMMISSIONERS PRESENT – Not all were present
Robert Courage
Mike Putnam
Dale White

Chairman Daniels opened the public hearing at 6:30 p.m. thanking everyone in attendance. Chairman Daniels introduced members of the Board of Selectmen. Chairman Daniels then introduced, Water Commissioners Bob Courage, Mike Putnam and Dale White Chairman Daniels thanked members of the Budget Advisory Committee and the Town Moderator Pete Basiliere.

Chairman Daniels indicated that tonight's hearing is for the Town Budget and Bond Hearing, but the warrant articles will also be reviewed in order for the public to voice their opinion on all items. Chairman Daniels welcomed members of the public accessing this meeting remotely. Even though this meeting is being conducted in a unique manner under unusual circumstances, the usual rules of conduct and decorum apply. Public comments will be limited to three to five minutes per person. Any person found to be disrupting this meeting will be asked to cease the disruption. If the disruptive behavior continues thereafter, that person will be removed from the meeting.

All votes that are taken during this meeting must be done by Roll Call vote. Members who called in from home were asked to state their name and state whether there was anyone in the room with them during this meeting, which is required under the Right-to-Know law. Chairman Daniels opened up the Bond Hearing.

Please note this meeting was not recorded during the first half-hour of the Bond hearing due to technical issues. Minutes were transcribed to the best of my ability. Tina Philbrick

Bond Hearings

WARRANT ARTICLE 3 - FIRST RESPONDERS COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK - \$2,400,000 BOND

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate, an amount not to exceed \$2,400,000 for upgrades and replacement of the emergency services dispatch center and related infrastructure/equipment? This article adopts the recommendation of the consultant engaged to study dispatch operations as approved by voters in March 2019. The project establishes a Milford Emergency Communications Dispatch Center replacing MACC Base and allows connectivity by neighboring towns if they choose to participate and borrowing not more than \$2,400,000 in bonds, bond anticipation notes, or notes therefore in accordance with the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33), the article further authorizes the Selectmen to issue and negotiate bonds or notes with a term not to exceed 15 years and to determine the rate of interest and other conditions in their judgment. This is a Special Warrant Article in accordance with RSA 32. Note: As this is for the issuance of long-term debt, this vote under state law requires a 60% affirmative vote to pass. **The Board of Selectmen recommends this article (0-0). The Budget Advisory Committee recommends this article (0-0). The article has no tax impact in 2021 however; beginning in 2022 this article has an estimated tax impact of \$12.38 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000.**

Captain Frye gave a summary of the history of this warrant article. Cheryl Giggetts, CTA Consultant said all surrounding towns were interviewed to make sure the needs were met for all first responders.

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Selectman Labonte said voters approved \$85,000 and we've spent an additional \$33,000. Cheryl Giggetts said the additional \$33,000 did not go to CTA. Selectman Labonte asked if they had an operating budget yet. Cheryl said around \$529,000. Selectman Labonte asked if it included benefits. Cheryl said yes. Operating expenses would be about \$66,500 so the total cost would be about \$596,000.

Selectman Labonte asked when the title was changed for this warrant article. Chairman Daniels said after the last meeting. Selectman Labonte wants it changed back to what it was, he feels it's misleading. Chairman Daniels said it reflects what the warrant article is actually for.

Chairman Daniels made a motion to change the description in the body of the warrant article from "Milford Emergency Communications Dispatch Center" to First Responders Communications Network. Seconded by Selectman Dargie. A roll call vote was taken with Selectman Dargie yes, Selectman Dudziak yes, Selectman Labonte no, Selectman Freel yes, and Chairman Daniels yes. The motion passed 4/1 with Selectman Labonte opposed.

WARRANT ARTICLE 4 - SEWER WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY (WWTF) SECONDARY CLARIFIERS REPLACEMENT MECHANISMS - \$1,750,000.00 BOND

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,750,000.00 for the replacement of WWTF Secondary Clarifier mechanisms, in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the Selectmen to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes to determine the rate of interest and other conditions in their judgement? The mechanisms will replace aging equipment to ensure uninterrupted essential operations at the WWTF. This is a Special Warrant Article in accordance with RSA 32 and is paid for by the wastewater user fees. Note: As this is for the issuance of long-term debt, this vote under state law requires a 60% affirmative vote to pass. **The Board of Commissioners recommends this Article (3-0). The Budget Advisory Committee recommends this Article (0-0).**

Bob Courage, Water Commissioner said this project will replace aging Secondary Clarifier mechanisms to avoid failure of equipment to ensure uninterrupted essential operations at the Waste Water Treatment Facility. This will replace 40 years old equipment that has been in place since the treatment plant was built. There will be 2 large units about 42' in diameter which will be an integral part of the treatment process. This separates the sludge for the dewatering unit. The \$1,750,000 is a placeholder and bids are due back on the 29th of January. We can amend the warrant article at the Deliberative Session.

Kevin Stetson, Water Utility Director gave a brief presentation on this warrant article. The Wastewater Facility (WWTF) two Secondary Clarifiers provide the wastewater treatment that separates the biological mass (Secondary Sludge) from the wastewater to "clarify" the water that goes into the disinfection phase of treatment. The Clarifier mechanisms are large rotating "plows" that move the sludge to storage for de-watering and disposal. The mechanisms have been in service with the original plant since 1980 and have begun to show severe wear and failure. The replacement mechanisms for both clarifiers will ensure essential operations are not interrupted.

Please note the recording for this meeting started here.

Selectman Freel said he knows this warrant is paid for by user fees and asked if they should put the words "this has no tax impact" on the bottom of the warrant for the people who are voting on it. Chairman Daniels said he isn't sure you can say that because that message is going out to everyone.

Peggy Seward, Budget Advisory Committee, asked for an updated copy of the warrants. Chairman Daniels said it's online as part of the Boards' package. Tina said she would send Peggy a copy via e-mail now.

WARRANT ARTICLE 5 - WADLEIGH LIBRARY HVAC/Electrical Repair - \$995,000 BOND

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$995,000 for the purchase of a New Wadleigh Library HVAC Replacement in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the Library Trustees to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes, to determine the rate of interest and other conditions in their judgment? Work includes replacement of HVAC chiller, new controls, heat recovery, and new fan coil units. Most of the existing system is over 20 years old and does not heat/cool effectively. The new system should address existing issues and provide significant energy savings. 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 recommends this Article (0-0). **The Board**

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of Selectmen recommends this Article (0-0). The Budget Advisory Committee recommends this Article (0-0). This Article has no tax impact in 2021 however; beginning in 2022 this article has an estimated tax impact of \$7.11 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000.

Kathy Parenti, Chair of the Library Trustees, gave a brief overview of the warrant article: These items have been failing over the last few years. In the last four years, they spent over \$24,000 in maintenance and repairs. There will also be a rebate for some of the new things implemented.

Selectman Freel asked how much was estimated for the HVAC and electrical. Kathy said the HVAC was around \$700,000 and the electrical was around \$295,000. It will be a little more than the \$995,000 and the Trustees are prepared to spend a bit more to make sure these things are done. Selectman Freel agrees that the service needs to be updated but if you are going to upgrade to LED's your electrical usage will drop dramatically. Selectman Freel asked who the contractor was. Kathy said Daniels Electric LLC and MileStone Construction LLC.

Selectman Dargie said they may be increasing the wattage if they are planning to do an expansion of the building.

Lynne Coakley, Library Trustee, said they were told that the current amperage is inadequate. Some of this is just getting us back up to where it should have been. Claudia Lamaire, Milford resident, said musical events and additional lights take fair amounts of amperage.

At this time Chairman Daniels closed the Bond Hearing and Opened up the Budget Hearing.

Town Budget Hearing

Chairman Daniels opened the Budget Hearing and turned the hearing over to Town Administrator John Shannon.

WARRANT ARTICLE 6 - TOWN OPERATING BUDGET - \$15,776,568 (the number was changed after I put the BOS package together.)

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth in the budget for the purposes set forth herein, totaling \$15,776,568. Should this Article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$15,756,541 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. **The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article (0-0). The Budget Advisory Committee recommends this Article (0-0). This article has an estimated tax impact of \$0.057 over the 2020 Budget or (\$5.73 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000).**

Administrator Shannon gave a brief presentation of the Town Operating Budget: The 2021 Operating Budget is \$15,828,635. The 2021 Default Budget is \$15,782,928. This is an increase of \$566,940 or 3.7% from 2020. The 2021 Operating Budget is \$20,027 more than Default Budget.

The Significant Increases from the prior year are:

- NHRS \$91,404
- Wage Increases \$87,570
 - AFSCME 2.5% or \$33,188
 - Teamsters 2.0% or \$17,330
 - Other town employees 1.5% or \$37,052
- Solid Waste Disposal \$85,027
- Health Insurance \$54,346
- Assessing \$37,000

Selectman Labonte asked if this would be the time to amend the budget. Chairman Daniels said no, it would have to be after the hearing was closed. Selectman Dargie said at the last meeting, we were told that DPW needed two trucks. In the proposed encumbrances a second truck was added. If we don't do the encumbrances, what happens to the second truck?

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Administrator Shannon said one truck went down unexpectedly this year. If you encumber that one, the one currently in the budget would stay in the budget. Selectman Dargie said if it isn't encumbered, do we need the truck, and should it be added to the budget? Rick Riendeau, DPW Director, said they need the second truck.

Chairman Daniels closed the Town Operating Budget Public Hearing.

Water/Wastewater Budget Hearing

Chairman Daniels turned the hearing over to Kevin Stetson, Water Utilities Director.

WARRANT ARTICLE 7 - WASTEWATER DEPARTMENT OPERATING BUDGET - \$2,288,406

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,288,406 to operate and maintain the Wastewater Treatment Facility and the Sanitary Sewer Collection System, said appropriation to be offset by income received from wastewater user charges, or take any other action relative thereto? Should this Article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$2,218,206 which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous actions of the Town, or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13 X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. This warrant article is paid for by the wastewater user fees. **The Board of Commissioners recommends this Article (3-0). The Budget Advisory Committee recommends this Article (0-0).**

Kevin Stetson, Water Utility Director gave a brief presentation on this warrant article: The proposed Sewer Department Operating Budget reflects an increase of 14.4% to the 2020 Operating Budget. The Sewer Department has over 2,900 customers, maintains approximately 40 miles of sewer main, 1,200 manholes, and oversees 5.5 miles of sewer interceptor between the Wilton town line and the wastewater treatment facility in East Milford. This is funded by user fees.

Selectman Dargie asked if there was a big item that caused an increase of 14.4%. Kevin said it's made up of several items; chemical costs, electric cost, water usage, salary increases, and roof replacement for several buildings. The cost will be shared between the Wastewater and Water Department operating budget.

Selectman Freel asked if any increases affected by some of the money needed to spend on updating the system due to the EPA requirements. Kevin said not in these operating budgets.

WARRANT ARTICLE 8 - WATER DEPARTMENT OPERATING BUDGET - \$1,589,652

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,589,652 to operate and maintain the Water Department, said appropriation to be offset by income received from the water user charges, or take any other action relative thereto? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$1,548,984, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous actions of the Town, or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13 X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. This warrant article is paid for by the water user fees. **The Board of Commissioners recommends this Article (3-0). The Budget Advisory Committee recommends this Article (0-0).**

Kevin Stetson, Water Utility Director gave a brief presentation on this warrant article: The Proposed Water Department Operating Budget reflects an increase of 2.6% to the 2020 Operating Budget. The Water Department oversees the town wells, 57 miles of water pipe, over 3,400 customers, 503 hydrants as well as numerous service calls. This is funded by user fees.

Chairman Daniels closed Water and Sewer operating budget hearing. Chairman Daniels said that is all that is required to address in these public hearings but traditionally we cover all warrant articles.

Appropriation Warrant Articles

Chairman Daniels read the warrant articles as follows:

WARRANT ARTICLE 9 - RECONSTRUCTION OF TOWN ROADS - \$400,000

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$400,000 to reconstruct roads as detailed using Cartograph Data by the Department of Public Works. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI. **The**

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Board of Selectmen recommends this Article (0-0). The Budget Advisory Committee recommends this Article (0-0). This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$23.81 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000.

There were no comments at this time.

WARRANT ARTICLE 10 - WADLEIGH LIBRARY MAINTENANCE AND UPKEEP CAPITAL RESERVE - \$150,000

Shall the Town vote to establish a Library Maintenance and Upkeep Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of future library building repairs, renovations, improvements for the benefit of the Town, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$150,000 to be placed in this fund, and to appoint the Library Trustees as agents to expend from this fund?. **The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article (0-0). The Budget Advisory Committee recommends this Article (0-0). This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$8.93 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000.**

Kathy Parenti Parentis, Chair of the Library Trustees said they decided on the larger amount because all other capital reserve accounts have already started. This is to prevent the current situation from happening again.

Selectman Freel is all for maintenance but feels that this isn't the year to go for two warrant articles given that the Library Bond article is almost \$1,000,000. He suggested lowering this one to \$25,000. Kathy said they will discuss lowering it at the next Trustee meeting.

WARRANT ARTICLE 11 - FIRE RESCUE TRUCK #1 REPLACEMENT - 7-YEAR LEASE/PURCHASE - \$689,700 (Annual Lease Payment \$86,214: \$100,000 Paid from Fire Apparatus Replacement Capital Reserve the Total Purchase Price (\$689,700)

Shall the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a 7-year lease/purchase agreement in the amount of \$689,700 for the lease-purchasing of a fire rescue truck with appropriate equipment for Fire Department operation (it will replace the current 1987 E ONE Rescue Truck) and to raise and appropriate \$100,000 from the Fire Apparatus Replacement Capital Reserve Fund as a down payment to reduce the lease/purchase price. Furthermore, to raise and appropriate \$86,214 for the first year's payment for this purpose. With the passage of this article, future payments will be included in the operating budget. This is a Special Warrant Article in accordance with RSA 32. Note: As this is for the issuance of long-term debt, this vote under state law requires a 60% affirmative vote to pass. **The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article (0-0). The Budget Advisory Committee recommends this Article (0-0). This article has an estimated tax impact of \$5.31 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000.**

Chief Flaherty said they are trying to replace a single purpose vehicle with a dual-purpose vehicle. This will eliminate needing two vehicles at a motor vehicle accident. We may see a couple of points added to our ISO rating which will help with insurance. He doesn't know what the trade-in value would be of the older truck, it will be negotiable after they have a contract.

Mike Thornton, Milford resident, asked what the end of lease equipment buyout cost was. Chief Flaherty said it's a lease purchase; at the end of seven years we own it there is no additional cost. The total cost with interest will be \$729,440. The interest will be approximately \$39,740.

Peggy Seward, BAC member questioned the 60% for long-term debt and asked at what point do we call it a long-term debt when we didn't do this before on leases. Paul Calabria, Finance Director, said if there is an escape clause you can do it as a simple majority. This doesn't have an escape clause. We are leasing this for the full seven years which requires a 60% vote.

Selectman Dargie asked why we don't have a non-appropriation clause in this warrant. Paul said because we are using money from the capital reserve account to buy down the price. Selectman Dargie asked what the percent was for previous warrant articles that had non-appropriation clauses. He's concerned about this failing because of that issue. It might be better to not use the capital reserve money and only requiring 50% of the vote.

Paul said the Ambulance warrant article received 62% of the vote last year. Selectman Dargie said we should look into it more; he wants to make sure it passes.

Selectman Labonte commented on only rolling one vehicle to an accident instead of two, at what point would it be beneficial to lower the initial cost and get rid of two trucks for one and utilize two vehicles for trade-in. Chief

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Flaherty said the other truck we would have to trade in would be the 1993 Engine 4. He doesn't believe it has a lot of value. The most they have received for any one vehicle is \$12,000. It's better to keep it as a spare. Part of the ISO rating is to have a spare piece in service.

Selectman Labonte asked what the trade-in value on the rescue would be. Chief Flaherty said around \$1,500. Selectman Labonte asked if it should be put out to auction. Chief Flaherty said definitely; he would never sell it for \$1,500. They have other options.

Selectman Freel agreed with Selectman Dargie about getting rid of the \$100,000 capital reserve and going for the 50% vote. He asked if equipment would be needed for the truck and could they use the capital reserve for that purchase. Chief Flaherty said he could but they wanted to lower the tax impact on the amount since we already have this money. He can look into it.

Selectman Labonte asked how much more are we spending on this truck versus replacing the rescue with like-kind without a pump and tank. Chief Flaherty said close to \$80,000. The added value to the apparatus to have one vehicle on the scene is well worth that. Engine one was around \$500,000 and the Ladder truck was over \$780,000. Other communities are going with pumpers over \$600,000 just for the pump. Saving the extra space would be the pump, tank and all the fittings so rough numbers are \$75,000 to \$80,000.

Selectman Labonte said you're still talking \$700,000. What would it cost if you were to replace the 1987 GMC with 2020 of the same kind? Chief Flaherty said it's a commercial cab, not a custom cab and they put a firebox on the back of it, he would have to research it. We looked at planning for the future.

WARRANT ARTICLE 12 - PUBLIC WORKS SNOW PLOW UNIT 5 YEAR LEASE-PURCHASE - \$42,530 (Annual Lease Payment \$42,530; Total Purchase Price (\$200,000)

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 snowplow unit/dump truck with the appropriate equipment for Highway Department operation (it will replace the 2002 International plow/dump unit), and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$42,530 for the first year's payment for this purpose? The total purchase price of this vehicle is \$200,000 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. **Board of Selectmen recommends this Article (0-0). The Budget Advisory Committee recommends this Article (0-0). This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$2.52 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000.**

Rick Riendeau said this is to replace the 2002 truck. We've spent approximately \$67,185 on maintenance. Based on the national standards and rating system used by the American Public Works Association, we look at age, mileage, service and liability, and maintenance based off the original cost and the condition it's in. This vehicle rates in at 42 points and according to the standards 31 or more point needs consideration for replacement. The new truck will come complete with the plow and sander unit.

Selectman Labonte said in 2019 the warrant article was to replace a 2002 international plow truck, and this warrant article is to also replace a 2002 international plow truck. Rick said the last truck he replaced was a 2001 so the year may have been incorrect in the last warrant. Selectman Labonte assumes this will be the same type of vehicle it's replacing. Rick said it's very similar; he's trying not to lock himself to a certain GBW if there is a chance he can get a deal on a different GBW. Selectman Labonte asked if it was safe to say it wasn't going to be a 10 wheel dump truck, it will be a 6 wheel dump truck. Rick said that's his intention. Selectman Labonte asked if they can change the description to a 6 wheel dump truck. Chairman Daniels said yes.

Selectman Freel asked if we could use the plow and sander from the truck that this is replacing. Rick said no, the sander unit is integral to the body of the truck. The plow is not good after 18 years. Sometimes we can salvage some of the parts.

Selectman Freel asked if we take whatever is usable off the truck and junk it. Rick said take what is usable and trade the rest of the truck in. Selectman Freel asked if it would be better to use a sander that slides into the back of a truck so it can be used from truck to truck. Rick said the integral sanders work better for them, they don't have the storage to pull the unit out and hang it for the summer. It's also easier for them to switch back in forth in the winter.

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Selectman Labonte asked what the total cost with interest is and what they can expect for a trade-in. Rick said they won't give him an actual trade-in cost; most of the trade-ins have been \$3,000 to \$5,000. He will try to get the information. Selectman Labonte asked if it would be traded in or would they use another avenue for this truck like auction or seal bid. Rick said they usually trade it in and the cost of the trade-in goes into the new truck.

Paul Calabria, Finance Director, said total payments with interest would be about \$212,650. Chairman Daniels asked if the \$67,000 in repairs was recent. Rick said over the life of the vehicle.

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

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$40,000 to be placed in the DPW Vehicles and Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve Fund? Expenditures from this fund will require a vote at the town meeting. The \$40,000 adds to the DPW Vehicles and Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve approved by voters in 2018. **The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article (0-0). The Budget Advisory Committee recommends this Article (0-0). This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$2.38 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000.**

Rick said this capital reserve fund has \$120,000 in it. It's up to the Board if they want to apply it to a truck or loader. It's important for the long term replacement of our vehicles. We have at least six vehicles falling into the 17 to 18-year replacement trade-in category over the next several years.

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

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$40,000 to provide 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. **The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article (0-0). The Budget Advisory Committee recommends this Article (0-0). This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$2.38 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000.**

Tina Philbrick, Social Services Committee Member, said the Committee began meeting in September to evaluate and refine the application process and then to review completed applications. This year 14 applications were received and the Committee recommends funding 12 requests. Priority is given to those agencies who are based in Milford, and/or who work to provide housing and housing services, support for risk youth or the elderly, or address mental health and substance use disorder needs.

WARRANT ARTICLE 15 - INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE CAPITAL RESERVE - \$40,000

Shall the Town vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 31:1 for the purpose of improvements to the towns Information Systems, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$40,000 to be placed in this fund, and to appoint the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from this fund. **The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article (0-0). The Budget Advisory Committee recommends this Article (0-0). This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$2.38 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000.**

Administrator Shannon we originally asked for two separate warrant articles at \$25,000 each but decided to combine hardware and software and decrease the request by \$10,000. This would allow the Board to use the capital reserve for anything related to Information Systems upgrades.

WARRANT ARTICLE 16 - NON-EMERGENCY COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION BUS SERVICES – \$32,000

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$32,000 for the purpose of providing the Town's share of funding to the Souhegan Valley Transportation Collaborative (SVTC) in order to continue operating a regional, non-emergency, wheelchair-accessible transportation service providing rides within the designated service area to seniors, people with disabilities, and the general public? This is a Special Warrant Article in accordance with RSA 32. **The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article (0-0). The Budget Advisory Committee recommends this Article (0-0). This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$1.90 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000.**

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Janet Langdell, Coordinator of Souhegan Valley Transportation Collaborative, said they have continued with this service throughout COVID 19. This has allowed our customers to get to all forms of medical appointments. Six towns utilize these services.

Selectman Labonte asked if one of the towns doesn't support it, does it stop or continue. Janet said it would depend on the town. If it were a small town, they could get around it. If it were Milford, which uses 60% to 70% of the service, they would have a problem.

WARRANT ARTICLE 17 - FIRE APPARATUS REPLACEMENT CAPITAL RESERVE - \$25,000

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 to be placed in the Fire Apparatus Replacement Capital Reserve Fund? Expenditures from this fund will require a vote at the town meeting. The \$25,000 adds to the Fire Apparatus Replacement Capital Reserve approved by voters in 2017. **The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article (0-0). The Budget Advisory Committee recommends this Article (0-0). This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$1.49 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000.**

Chief Flaherty said this adds to the current capital reserve fund which has a balance of \$100,000.

WARRANT ARTICLE 18 - TOWN FACILITIES RENOVATION AND MAJOR REPAIR REPLACEMENT CAPITAL RESERVE - \$25,000

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 to be placed in the Town Facilities Renovation and Major Repair Replacement Capital Reserve Fund? Expenditures from this fund will require a vote at the town meeting. The \$25,000 adds to the Town Facilities Renovation and Major Repair Replacement Capital Reserve approved by voters in 2017. **The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article (0-0). The Budget Advisory Committee recommends this Article (0-0). This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$1.49 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000.**

Administrator Shannon said this adds to the current capital reserve fund for any problems that may arise for buildings. Chairman Daniels said this balance is currently at \$100,000.

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

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 to be placed in the Keyes Park Expansion Committee Project Capital Reserve Fund? The purpose of this fund is for the design, development, and construction of improvements to Keyes Memorial Park, as outlined in the Keyes Memorial Park Expansion Committee Report, (December 20, 2016, and as amended). The Board of Selectmen has authority to expend from this fund. The \$25,000 adds to the Keyes Park Expansion Committee Project Capital Reserve approved by voters in 2017. **The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article (0-0). The Budget Advisory Committee recommends this Article (0-0). This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$1.49 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000.**

Arene Berry, Recreation Director, this didn't pass last year so hopefully, it will pass this year so we can continue to make improvements at Keyes Memorial Park.

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

Shall the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a 3-year lease/purchase agreement in the amount of \$145,000 for lease-purchasing one Caterpillar (or similar) Wheel Bucket Loader and to raise and appropriate \$80,000 from the DPW Vehicles & Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve Fund as a down payment to reduce the lease/purchase price. Furthermore, to raise and appropriate \$22,980 for the first year's payment for this purpose. With the passage of this article, future payments will be included in the operating budget. **Board of Selectman recommends this Article (0-0). The Budget Advisory Committee recommends this Article (0-0). This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$1.37 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000.**

Paul Calabria, Finance Director said this warrant article will have the same issues as the fire truck warrant article because we are expending from the capital reserve account. The language doesn't reflect it, but this will require

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a 60% vote to pass. We will need more clarification from DRA. Chairman Daniels said if we are committed to doing this for three years, then its fine. Paul said yes.

Rick Riendeau, DPW Director, said this was to replace the 1996 loader that went out of service in 2016. In 1996 DPW had three loaders when Wastewater was part of DPW. DPW has maintained two loaders since the split of those departments. In 2017-2018 we spent \$18,000 each year on a rental for the winter months. 2018-2019 and 2020 it went up to \$19,000 and for 2021 it will go up from \$3,200 per month to \$3,800 per month. He took the numbers based on \$3,200 per month and what we were spending on the \$19,000 and multiplied it by 15 years and we got a total cost of \$288,000. He needs to correct the warrant article to \$146,118. Based on that price, if you multiplied the cost of the maintenance for both loaders, we had an average cost of \$24,000 a year. Combining that we get a cost of \$186,483 which compared to the rental is a savings of \$101,517 over 15 years. This doesn't include the rental cost increase that will happen this year or in future years.

Peggy Seward asked if Rick had a summary sheet for the other truck warrant article that the BAC could use for a positive explanation to vote. Rick said he will provide one to the BAC.

Ammy Rice, Milford Resident asked Rick where he got the quote for the Cat loader. She can't imagine buying a one for that price. Rick said didn't say it was a Cat loader. Ammy said that is what is in the warrant article. Rick said the words in the warrant article are "one Caterpillar (or similar)". Ammy suggests taking the word caterpillar out of the warrant article. Rick said this is the reason to limit the verbiage because it's limiting as to what we can buy. He's all for not classifying what make or model.

Selectman Labonte doesn't have an issue with not putting in the brands but he thinks the size and model of the equipment is a good thing. Selectman Labonte said if we were to buy the current lease of \$3,800 per month, 100% would be able to be used for the purchase of a loader.

Rick said with the negotiations taking place right now if we buy the present loader that we are renting we can apply the full \$19,000 of the rental of the winter months towards the purchase price. That would come off the top. Selectman Labonte said if you choose to do that it would be like you never appropriated the whole \$146,000. Rick said the balance would be \$125,118.

Selectman Labonte asked how this would affect our Procurement policy as far as bidding. Rick said we have competitive bids for the loader. This vendor told us that if we were to buy the loader that we are currently renting, he would apply the full \$19,000 to the purchase price.

Selectman Freel asked what the total monthly rental was. Rick said \$3,800 a month for five to six months of the year. Selectman Freel asked what brand and model was that loader. If this were to pass, you probably know that this would be the one you want to buy because it's a good deal. Rick said yes. Next year's model would be more money for a smaller size. The loader brand is a ZW180 Hitachi.

Selectman Labonte asked what the advantage was to have a loader versus a John Deere backhoe. Rick said the loader is utilized with snow pickup more. We pull snow off the sidewalks and do several other things with it. The loader that sits at the pile loads the trucks when the other loader is out taking care of the snow downtown. Selectman Labonte asked if the backhoe that's compatible about to do the loading at DPW. Rick said the backhoe isn't the same as a loader.

Peggy Seward asked about the capital expenditures and who was authorized to use them. Each of them should say who is authorized to use them. Chairman Daniels said it depends on if an emergency came up in April, do you want to wait another year to get approval from the voters to spend the money to get something back on the road.

WARRANT ARTICLE 21 - ASSESSING REVALUATION CAPITAL RESERVE - \$15,000

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000 to be placed in the Assessing Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund? **The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article (0-0). The Budget Advisory Committee recommends this Article (0-0). This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$.89 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000.**

Marti Noel, Assessing Director, said this is to even out the cost of the evaluations. We know we have to do them every five years.

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Chairman Daniels asked if the assessments are still running \$75,000. Marti said this year it will be \$80,000. Selectman Dargie asked if there will be a warrant article to take money out for this. Marti said it's in the budget. The Selectmen manage this capital reserve account.

Chairman Daniels said if we put \$15,000 in each year on year five why would we ask for \$15,000 more when you are taking \$75,000 out. Marti said it's a matter of keeping the rotation going so there is always reserve building up for the next revaluation.

Selectman Labonte asked if the Board takes a vote to transfer the money from the capital reserve into the general fund. Selectman Dargie said that vote was taken during the summer, he forgot about that. It's all set. Selectman Labonte is confused on why it isn't a warrant article. Marti said if it isn't set aside each year, you have a big expense at year five. Selectman Labonte asked how much is in the budget for the 2021 revaluation.

Paul Calabria said \$15,000 goes in each year and when the invoice comes in it then goes to the Trustees of the Trust funds and they make the payment from the capital reserve accounts. We may pay in advance from the operating budget and the trustees reimburse us. It is not in a line item in the Assessing budget. There is currently \$45,000 in the capital reserve and Marti has \$35,000 in her budget. Paul explained how it all worked.

WARRANT ARTICLE 22 - AMBULANCE DEPARTMENT PORTABLE RADIO REPLACEMENT FROM THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT CAPITAL RESERVE - \$13,927

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$13,927 to replace Portable Radios for the Ambulance Department with \$13,927 to come from the Public Safety Communication Equipment Replacement Capital Reserve to replace Portable Radios for the Ambulance Department. **The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article (0-0). The Budget Advisory Committee recommends this Article (0-0). This article does not have a tax impact.**

Peggy Seward asked how many radios is this for and what do you do with the old ones. Eric Schelberg, Ambulance Director, said nine replacement radios and the old radios are not worth anything. Selectman Labonte asked who has the authority to remove money from this fund. Eric said this requires a town vote.

Selectman Labonte asked if you were able to buy your nine portable radios would we be able to reduce warrant article 3 by \$13,927. Eric said the radios in this warrant article are not Motorola, they are a different brand. When warrant article 3 passes he wouldn't request the Board spend this money, it would go back into the radio capital reserve fund. The radios he's looking to purchase will be compatible with whatever is in place.

WARRANT ARTICLE 23 - SUMMER BAND CONCERTS SUPPORT - \$9,000

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$9,000 for the purpose of holding the annual summer evening Band Concerts (bands, sound system, crossing detail)? This is a Special Warrant Article in accordance with RSA 32. **The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article (0-0). The Budget Advisory Committee recommends this Article (0-0). This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$.54 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000.**

Selectman Labonte said we did a couple of concerts last year so the remainder of the money goes back to the tax-payers, we didn't spend the money elsewhere. Chairman Daniels said correct.

WARRANT ARTICLE 24 - MEMORIAL, VETERANS & LABOR DAY PARADES AND RECOGNITION SUPPORT - \$6,500

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$6,500 for the purpose of town support relative to the observance of Memorial, Veterans, and Labor Day Parades? These funds shall be used to cover parade costs incurred by Public Works, Police Department, and other Town departments, and to purchase flags to be placed on the graves of veterans on Memorial Day. Departmental support costs and materials associated with the provision of these services will be charged against this appropriation. This is a Special Warrant Article in accordance with RSA 32. **The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article (0-0). The Budget Advisory Committee recommends this Article (0-0). This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$.40 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000.**

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Selectman Labonte asked how much of this money was used last year. Paul said about \$1,500. Tina Philbrick said some of the money was spent on memorial wreaths and the rest on flags. Even though the parades were canceled, they still laid down wreaths for the veterans.

WARRANT ARTICLE 25 - BLIND EXEMPTION

Shall the town, pursuant to RSA 72:27-a, vote to increase the Exemption for the Blind (RSA 72:37) amount from \$15,000 to \$30,000. The minimum exemption amount of \$15,000 was established by statute in 2003. The town of Milford has never increased this exemption amount, despite the increase in property taxes since that time and the diminishing effect this exemption has had over time in assisting the Blind. **The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article (0-0). The Budget Advisory Committee recommends this Article (0-0). This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$ on an assessed valuation of \$100,000.**

Marti Noel, Assessing Director, said there are less than 10 recipients so the exemption is a total of \$300,000.

WARRANT ARTICLE 26 - GRANITE TOWN RAIL TRAIL REVOLVING FUND

Shall the town vote to establish a Granite Town Rail-Trail Revolving Fund pursuant to RSA 35-B:2 II. Any monies received for Granite Town Rail-Trail facilities shall be allowed to accumulate from year to year and shall not be considered to be part of the General Fund unassigned fund balance. The Treasurer shall have custody of all monies in the fund and shall pay out the same only upon order of the Milford Conservation Commission and no further legislative body approval required. These funds may be expended only for trail management purposes as stated in RSA 35-B. **The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article (0-0). The Budget Advisory Committee recommends this Article (0-0). This article has no tax impact.**

Selectman Dargie asked if this needs to state that the funds that are currently in the general fund for this will be transferred. Chris Costantino, Conservation Commission Member said the money isn't in the general fund. At this moment once the two checks that she wrote are cashed, the account is in the negative \$24,000 balance. The DRA provided the warrant wording to Conservation.

There were no other comments. Chairman Daniels closed the Budget and Bond Public Hearing.

The Deliberative Session is on Saturday, January 30th at 9:00 am at the Milford High School on 100 West Street. Town Vote will be on Tuesday, March 9th from 6:00 am until 8:00 pm, also at the Milford High School on 100 West Street.

Selectman Dargie made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Chairman Daniels. A roll call vote was taken with Selectman Dargie yes, Selectman Dudziak yes, Selectman Labonte yes, Selectman Freel yes, and Chairman Daniels yes. All were in favor. The motion passed 5/0.

Chairman, Gary Daniels

Member, Chris Labonte

Vice-Chairman, Paul Dargie

Member, Dave Freel

Member, Laura Dudziak