

DRAFT

MINUTES OF THE BUDGET & BOND PUBLIC HEARING

January 13, 2020

PRESENT: Gary Daniels, Chairman Mark Bender, Town Administrator
Paul Dargie, Vice Chairman Tina Philbrick - Excused
Mike Putnam, Member Nick Addonizio, Videographer
Laura Dudziak, Member - Excused Department Heads
Chris Labonte, Member Members of the Public

BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chris Pank	Claudia Lemaire
Karen Mitchell	Jason Cillo
Peggy Seward	Bob Courage
Paul Bartolomucci	George Skuse
Wade Campbell	

WATER COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Robert Courage
Mike Putnam
Dale White

Chairman Daniels opened the public hearing at 6:30 p.m. thanking everyone in attendance. All in attendance were invited to join in the Pledge of Allegiance. 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 explained if any members of the public wish to comment or have questions, they should please use a microphone in order to be heard on the PEG Access Live broadcast. Chairman Daniels opened up the Bond Hearing.

Bond Hearings

WARRANT ARTICLE 3 - WADLEIGH LIBRARY RENOVATION AND EXPANSION PROJECT – \$3,450,000 (\$2,763,000 BOND and \$687,000 DONATIONS)

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the gross project budget sum of \$3,450,000 for the repair, renovation, and expansion of the William Y Wadleigh Memorial Library building 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 **\$187,000** - and borrowing not more than \$2,763,000 in bonds, bond anticipation notes, or notes therefore in accordance with the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33). 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. 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, 3/5 affirmative vote to pass. **The Board of Library Trustees supports this Article (7-0). The Board of Selectmen does not support this Article (2-3). The Budget Advisory Committee supports this Article (0-0). This Article has no tax impact in 2020**

Kathy Parenti Parentis, Chair of the Library Trustees, Lynn Coakley, Library Trustee and Jen Traficante, Library Trustee gave a brief overview of the library renovation and expansion project which will fix problems to include electrical, drainage, (which causes mildew and mold), roof and plumbing issues as well as adding a sprinkler system and fixing structural damage. It will also address the HVAC system, boiler and chiller. The proposed design should last 20 to 25 years. There was some discussion on replacing the current cast iron plumbing because it isn't good for the building. Selectman Putman said in a new system he would be replacing cast iron with cast iron because it would last longer and it's quiet.

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The expansion will include larger program space. The Library is the only town building that has not been renovated since 1986. This is one of the most used town buildings. We postponed this warrant article from last year because of the MACC Base issue.

Selectman Putnam asked if they still have the virtual tour on YouTube? Jen said yes and it's on the library web page.

WARRANT ARTICLE 4 - MILFORD EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS DISPATCH CENTER, INFRASTRUCTURE AND EQUIPMENT PROJECT - \$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. 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 judgement. 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 3/5 affirmative vote to pass. **The Board of Selectmen supports this article (3-2). The Budget Advisory Committee supports this article (0-0). The article has no tax impact in 2020.**

Chairman Daniels gave a brief overview of the CTA proposed solution.

Rodny Richie, Milford resident referenced line 2 of the warrant article and asked if included the addition on the Police Station. Chairman Daniels said yes. Rodny asked if there was a diagram beyond what was in the CTA report of this addition. Administrator Bender said there is one in the CTA report including the layout of the dispatch station and a larger one available as well.

Rodny asked if the infrastructure equipment included the 170' cell tower. Administrator Bender said yes. Rodny asked if the impact on the abutters and consideration of the fall zone been done yet. Administrator Bender said that is done during the permitting process. Rodny asked if the parking at the Police station has been considered and will any zoning waivers be required. Administrator Bender said they won't lose any parking and everything will be reviewed by planning and zoning.

Rodny asked if there is a consideration of an alternative rather than a 170' cell tower at that location. Chairman Daniels said that antenna would take care of the whole town so we wouldn't have to go with multiple towers like we do now. The backup would be that you would have to establish other towers to get the same amount of coverage. Rodny asked if CTA has completed their work for the consideration of these changes, is our contract done with them. Chairman Daniels said they have only completed one part of the contract. The second part is an RFP. Rodny asked if they could consider CTA analyzing a shorter tower at the police station which could link to a single higher tower in another location. Administrator Bender said the tower at the police station is also proposed by AT&T for the New Hampshire FirstNet System.

Mark Cady, CTA liaison said when they did the studies for the system proposed for Milford; they looked at both a single site system and a multi-site system. To keep the budget in-line with being the most economical, and having a tower that was being proposed by an outside vendor for the town, they took advantage of that site to come back with a single site system making it less vulnerable by not having a microwave hop and making it more economical for the town by having just a single site.

Rodny asked if their propagation indicate that should a tower of that height not be desirable, a shorter tower and take in the risk cost. Is it technically feasible? Mark said it could be technically feasible. The RFP will go out to the vendors and be designed for them to come back with a system design that meets CTA's recommendations provided in the RFP and for them to provide coverage that is specified in the RFP. The vendors could come back with a different solution. Our solution is this is what could provide the best coverage for the town of Milford. If the vendor came back with an alternative solution, that meets the requirements of two sites and falls within the budgeted amount on the warrant article then that could be entertained as a solution.

Rodny referenced the CTA presentation recently given, and was confused about some numbers. Page 17, Alternative ranking; column 3 has a ROM cost of \$1,300,000 to put in a Milford only system. On page 20, opinion

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of probable cost, Milford, the closest number he can find in that chart, row 14 column 4 is \$1,350,000 but that is with no building. He asked for it to be explained.

Administrator Bender said he believes the cost on page 17 doesn't include radio infrastructure or radios for subscribers and it relates only to dispatch. It is not a full system solution. Section 6 relates to all the system alternatives starting on page 72 with radio system alternatives and it goes to section 6.2 which is dispatch center alternatives. As far as page 20, opinion of probable cause, that number is the radio infrastructure cost using the AT&T tower. We want to use the radio infrastructure cost not using the AT&T tower because it isn't a done deal yet. If you use the \$1,675,600 in the line above the \$1,350,000 and you add in the dispatch center facility at \$718,500, consoles etc, you will come up with the \$2,400,000 which we based the warrant article on. This is what CTA feels would be in the best interest of Milford.

Rodny said there was discussion about the problems with the current MACC Base location; he didn't find specific cost related to correcting those problems which means we don't have a comparison base to the best case situation of \$450,000 addition on the current police station. Chairman Daniels said the general statement given to them was to fix all the deficiencies in MACC Base including bringing them up to code, and it would cost us more than if we built new at the police station.

Rodny asked if MACC Base organization has come to Milford to request improvements to the leased space in the last 5 years and if so, at what cost. Administrator Bender said not since he's been here. Rodny said we have the current MACC Base not requesting any improvements but we have CTA saying that the place is so bad that it's going to cost us more to fix it, he finds that disconcerting.

Jason Johnson, MACC Base Director, in reference to MACC Base requesting any improvements on the physical leased space, we pay a fee for the lease space, the majority of improvements take place out of their budget. There are very few things they ask the town for. They take care of their own heating, ventilation, electrical etc. The improvements we've asked for has been to replace all the radio equipment, not update the space. We've made the physical space work for decades with minimal improvements. We still have the room for a third console. Putting in a new radio system while utilizing the existing space would not be a problem.

Captain Frye said the current consoles are outdated now. Jason agreed and said they were purchased in 2015 and going forward they would have to be replaced. As long as the current ones are maintained they would work with an updated radio system. We have made incremental improvements other upgrades have been declined through the years from all the towns.

WARRANT ARTICLE 5 - COLLECTION SYSTEM CAPACITY MANAGEMENT, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT - \$218,305 BOND

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$218,305 for the purpose of automation improvements for the wastewater treatment facility, 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 Automation improvements will replace aging and outdated controls to ensure uninterrupted essential operations and to develop a sewer collection system management plan. Note: As this is for issuance of long term debt, this vote requires, under State law, 3/5 affirmative vote to pass. This is a Special Warrant Article in accordance with RSA 32. This warrant article is paid for by the wastewater user fees. **The Board of Commissioners supports this Article (3-0). The Budget Advisory Committee supports this Article (7-0-2).**

Kevin Stetson, Water Utility Director gave a brief presentation on this warrant article. **The WWTF SCADA PLC improvements will:**

Replace or upgrade existing out dated and unsupported wastewater treatment facility automated controls (Installed in 1998).

Other control improvements that are necessary but not able to be funded with the Operating Budget are being added to the warrant article:

- Aeration Basin Return Activated Sludge automation \$9,027.00
- Plant Auxiliary Equipment Motor Control Center replacement \$57,850.00

With the anticipated WWTF EPA permit renewal the Collection System will need a required Capacity Management, Operation and Maintenance (CMOM) plan/program. This project will be in place of the recommended Col-

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lection System Rehabilitation. We will be seeking Engineering Firm assistance to develop our program to ensure that it meets EPA and NHDES requirements. **This plan will address:**

- Prevention and planned response to Collection System overflows
- Collection System inspections and assessment reports
- Collection System maintenance/repairs
- Pumps and pump station management

The original improvements that were recommended in 2015 were intended to be funded with Operating Budget or Capital Reserve funds. **A warrant article is being proposed due to:**

Sewer revenues are not meeting the projected amounts

- The projects are intend to address urgent needs that are anticipated for 2020
- Operating budget expenses have been adjusted to meet 2020 projected revenue
- Adjusted Operating Budget did not have funds to cover the expenses of the Improvements

The following Bond warrant article came in by petition on Friday, January 10th and has not been assigned a number yet.

EXISTING EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS DISPATCH CENTER UPGRADE - \$1,180,000 BOND BY PETITION

Shall the town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,180,000 for upgrades and renovations to the MACC Base Emergency Dispatch Center? Under this warrant article, Milford will pay only its fair share of the \$1,660,000 dollars required (71.2938%) in accordance with the current Inter-municipal Agreement for renovation and upgrades to the MACC Base infrastructure, and in accordance with the CTA study's budgetary estimate as an alternative to Warrant Article #4. In accordance with the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33), this 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 judgement. This is a Special Warrant Article in accordance with RSA 32. Note: as this is for issuance of long-term debt, this vote under state law requires a 3/5 affirmative vote to pass. **The Board of Commissioners supports this Article (0-0). The Budget Advisory Committee supports this Article (0-0).**

Rodny Richie asked for clarification on the cost for Milford to bond this warrant article. Chairman Daniels said \$1,180,000. Rodny asked if the Board had any information on how this would be put into effect and asked if someone could speak about it. Chairman Daniels asked if anyone familiar with this could come up to speak. No one came forward.

Selectman Labonte asked if Jason had any information on this. Jason said he wasn't a signer as he isn't a Milford resident. He was sent a draft of this warrant article and can speak to the questions that were asked. Where it referenced the current IMA, it's possible that the town of Milford could vote to make improvements that benefit the town of Milford. They could own that equipment and have it come back to the use of MACC Base through the current IMA.

Administrator Bender said he understands what Director Johnson is saying but he isn't sure he reads the article that way. This is referencing the \$1,660,000 as an upgrade to MACC Base dispatch. It's not an apples to apples comparison to warrant article 4 which is a total system upgrade. If we are only asking for Milford to participate in this, who is going to pay the other 29%. This is only taking care of 71% of the cost. Are there warrant articles in Wilton and Mont Vernon to cover the other 29% of the cost or is this going to be a piece meal solution because they won't get the entire \$1,660,000 without it. The second part of the questions is, how are you upgrading the rest of the radio system that was referenced in the CTA study.

Jason said it references the \$1,660,000 number from the CTA study. He hasn't been informed about what the other towns are doing or if they have warrant articles planned for this year. We can work within these numbers to get the Town of Milford what they need.

Captain Frye, speaking as a Board of Governor for MACC Base said he doesn't know how the town of Milford is going to give us \$1,660,000 without a plan. We haven't spoken of a plan to spend this amount. If the tax payers want to give MACC Base \$1,660,000 to do whatever they want to do with it he thinks that is foolish. It was poorly written based on what CTA recommended and there is no plan going forward from that. If we go with the \$2,400,000 that CTA gave us, at least we will have an RFP and a plan on how to spend the tax payer's dollars to improve the safety of our officers, fighter fighters and ambulance personnel. The \$1,660,000 doesn't address

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the outside equipment failures in all the towns. We have one antenna in Milford and other towns have antennas that are failing. Chairman Daniels said for clarification, if he reads the warrant correctly, the \$1,660,000 is the cost of the total project of which Milford would pay \$1,180,000.

Mark Cady said the petition warrant article is getting their information from the section where CTA ranked the alternatives. With the MACC Base location (upstairs) and operation, (ROM operational cost) which is the numbers CTA was given, it totals \$1,660,000 which is on the warrant article. Milford would pay 71%, (\$1,180,000). In the report on page 94, there were 2 figures \$860,000 for infrastructure upgrades and \$800,000 for operational costs. It doesn't include current radio system infrastructure upgrades for Police, Fire and Ambulance and bringing DPW back into the mix of having radios that they currently don't have. It doesn't include the subscribers to support the new infrastructure system as described in the report. The \$1,660,000 was to upgrade MACC Base and their operational cost, no system infrastructure and no subscriber cost.

Administrator Bender said page 94 was summarized as the MACC Base cost for dispatch upgrades. On page 96, there is an apples to apples comparison for a regional dispatch center located at the Milford Police Department at a cost of \$1,400,000 which would also be shared by the member towns if they chose to participate. This is less than the MACC Base cost.

Mark Cady said that was correct. When you look at the ranking slide PD Location Town of Milford only operations ranked number 1. PD location Town of Milford regional operations ranked number 2 and that is where the \$1,400,000 comes from. How we derived those cost was how we derived those rankings and how we saw the town of Milford moving forward.

Jason said you asked what the other towns were doing in light of this petition warrant article; he wants to know what the other towns are doing in light of the first warrant article #4. Chairman Daniels said he's met with the Chairs of both boards and told them that they have not made a decision at this point. He let the towns know that according to the CTA report the relationship would change if we went with CTA's recommendation. We could still participate in a regional and each town would be responsible for their own infrastructure. His understanding is that Mont Vernon is erecting a tower that should take care of the whole town. If we go with the AT&T antenna here we were told Milford would be covered as well. That leaves Wilton with the most number of holes for dispatch. He understands that the tower in Mont Vernon will take care of only part of Wilton and Lyndeborough. Lyndeborough was not included in the discussions because they are a customer not a partner.

Jason asked how many residents signed the petition warrant article. Administrator Bender said 26 or 28 residents signed it.

Selectman Labonte asked what the plan would be if the AT&T tower doesn't make it through planning and zoning. What does it do as far as other options and our cost, and where do we have other available sites that we can build on. Mark said they looked other sites and system designs that are available. We went with the option that the tower would be the prime option that it would be available. He understands that the town is still working with AT&T. Selectman Labonte asked if we have a backup plan if this doesn't happen. If we don't get the AT&T tower, does that mean we don't spend any of the \$2,400,000?

Chairman Daniels clarified that Selectman Labonte was talking about warrant article #4. Selectman Labonte said it's all common denominator. Chairman Daniels said article 4 is based upon having the tower at the PD. If the tower was not there, you would still have \$2,400,000 that you could use for dispatch. He would guess that we would have to go with whatever plan B was available and work with CTA on that and you may not be able to get as much done. Selectman Labonte said if we are depending on the tower and it's doesn't come about, we can't go at a single site and what will it do with our cost. If we promote it to the voters with a 170' tower and it doesn't work, are we changing what we are giving them?

Selectman Dargie said on article 4 references a 170' tower but it isn't necessarily the AT&T tower, it's a Milford owned tower. Selectman Labonte said it still has to go through planning and zoning and may not be approved. Selectman Dargie said we would have to work through another design, other designs are possible.

Mark said if you look at the opinion of probable cost for the Town of Milford, there are 2 line items to give you 2 options; option #1 not using the AT&T tower and option #2 is using the AT&T tower. The difference is \$325,000 depending on which column you look at. The AT&T tower was provided to us as a point and elevation source.

Administrator Bender said Selectman Labonte's question is good, the difference between the towers is \$325,000, it's the same tower it's just in one case we have AT&T footing the bill. If for some reason that tower

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doesn't get built, would a combination of other locations for towers allow us to construct this dispatch solution, the whole solution, not just a dispatch center, and can we do that for \$2,400,000, that becomes option B. We need to have that question answered prior to going to deliberative session.

Peggy Seward, Milford resident clarified that we will be installing a phase I which is basically for the Town of Milford. If we want to do a regional it would be phase II. Administrator Bender said that is not correct. Peggy said if we can also do a regional on phase I, would we want to phase II down the road. Mark said phase I and phase II should not be looked at as, if Milford were to build the system in phase I and then the other towns were to come in and create a regional to become customers in the Town of Milford, that would be a phase II project. When you look at the system it talks about a P25 phase I system, it isn't phases of a project. Phase I and phase II have to do with different modulation types of how frequencies can be utilized by the radio system. Phase I frequencies have a single voice and time slot, (one channel). Phase II allows for two voice paths per channel so you can get more radio traffic. He thinks phases are being used in two different connotations here.

Peggy said she is looking for the second one so phase II would give you more frequencies or you would need more frequencies. Mark said no because we currently have 20 VHF frequencies. We only need 8 to do the Milford only solution so there are enough other frequencies there so we can add in the other regional entities with a proper reuse of engineering of the frequencies that are there. Peggy asked about software. Mark said phase II would require additional software in the radios and the subscribers units if they were to operate in the phase II mode. Peggy asked if that would be additional cost to Milford or the regional subscribers. Mark said if the partners were to go to phase II then Milford would have to also go phase II. Peggy asked if Mark had an estimate of what that cost would be. Mark said he could provide that to them.

Chairman Daniels clarified that using phase II would be like cities with 30 ambulances and things like that. Mark said yes. We look at how many subscribers on the system, channel loading and how much traffic would be utilized. Captain Frye said phase II would be for future growth to be a larger police force, to go to phase II where there would be more of a demand. Mark said yes and it's CTA's recommendation that we stay with phase I for now.

Peter Basiliere, Milford resident, asked when this petition was submitted to the Town Clerk. Administrator Bender said Friday. Peter said he's surprised and disappointed. The Library trustees are here, Water and Sewer people are here, DPW is here but the 28 people who signed this petition know that tonight is the night to make a presentation to the town about their petition. It seems to him that at least one of the 28 should have been able to, with materials, and present not just what they are asking for, but also why and how is it different. It's unfortunate that the petitioners didn't take advantage of the opportunity that we provided them to educate those of us here as well as those watching on Granite Town Media. He would like one of them to let him know who wants to speak at the deliberative session because it could be a rather long meeting on February 1st.

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 read the budget article as follows, then turned the hearing over to Town Administrator Mark Bender.

WARRANT ARTICLE 6 - TOWN OPERATING BUDGET - \$15,261,695

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 \$15,261,695? Should this Article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$15,271,749 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 operating budget warrant article does not include appropriations contained in ANY other Warrant Article. **The Board of Selectmen supports this Article (4-1). The Budget Advisory Committee supports this Article (8-0-1). This article has an estimated tax impact of \$0.046 over the 2019 Budget or (\$4.60 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000).**

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Administrator Bender gave a brief presentation of the Town Operating Budget:

The 2020 Operating Budget is \$15,261,695. The 2020 Default Budget is \$15,271,749. This is an increase of \$497,522 or 3.4% from 2019. The 2020 Operating Budget is \$10,054 less than Default Budget.

The Significant Increases from the prior year are:

- Health Insurance \$187,108 – an increase of 18.8% from Healthtrust and a 6% increase from the Teamsters insurance
- Wage Increases \$106,181:
 - AFSCME 4% or \$47,251 (approved by voters last year, multi-year agreements)
 - Teamsters 2.5% or \$12,266 (approved by voters last year, multi-year agreements)
 - Other town employees 2% or \$46,664
- Workers Compensation \$70,583 (we had a reduction in this expense for the past few years).
- MS4 Compliance \$44,000 (municipal separate sewer storm system) This is mandated by the US EPA and DES.
- Voter Registration/Elections \$43,425 (increase due to 4 elections starting with the NH Presidential Primary in February).

These 5 items represent \$451,297 or 91% of the above increase of \$497,522.

Selectman Labonte asked how much did we encumber out of the 2019 funds to take away from the budget. Administrator Bender said, including the Library request that came in, it was just under \$160,000.

Chris Costantino, Milford resident asked when she could request adding \$30,000 back into the budget to cover the Conservation easement at the BROX property as part of the gravel operation. Selectman Dargie said it would need to be done at the Deliberative session. Chairman Daniels said Chris should state what this is for. There is no obligation for the Selectmen to use that for this purpose. If it gets into the minutes as to what the intent, is it holds a stronger argument.

Peggy Seward said we approved \$14,717,252 in last year's budget and you are saying that this was the default budget plus what? What makes that up to \$15,271,749 for this year's default budget? Administrator Bender said if you read the other warrant articles for the AFSCME and Teamsters in 2019, it said that if approved, the cost would be added to the 2019 actual approved budget at \$14,764.173 and that is how we got to the difference of \$497,522.

Paul Calabria, Finance Director said the 4 elections can be put towards the default budget, the \$187,108 for health insurance increase goes towards default budget, the MS4 cost goes into default budget as well as a Police increase of \$47,251. MACC Base increase by \$17,769. There are various small increase and when you tally them all up, it gets you to the variance.

Selectman Labonte asked if encumbering the money from 2019 affects any of the default budget. Selectman Dargie said no, it only would have changed the proposed budget. The proposed budget would have been another \$20,000 higher which means it would have been another \$110,000 difference if you include it in the budget. We took cost to encumber in 2019 out of the 2020 proposed default budget.

Administrator Bender said in the case of the police cruisers that we encumbered the funds for, the starting for the default budget would be whatever was in the 2019 operating budget for police cruisers. Selectman Labonte said we have a 3.4% increase from the 2019 budget, he feels the number is a "little gray" because we are spending a \$150,000 of 2019 money on stuff that we have taken out of the 2020 budget already. The money may not reflect in the tax rate but it could reflect in the spending difference of 3.4%.

Paul said it's a budgeting tactic that towns have to take advantage of. You have a surplus in 2019 and 2020 may have been something that wasn't manageable in lieu of everything else that is going to be on the warrant this year. Selectman Labonte said the money is still coming out of the voters pocket whether it's 2020 where it's out of the surplus in 2019 that would have gone back to the tax payers so in truth spending is actually up more than 3.4%. There were no other comments.

Water/Wastewater Budget Hearing

Chairman Daniels read the warrant articles as follows, and turned the hearing over to the Water Utilities Director Kevin Stetson

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WARRANT ARTICLE 7 - WATER DEPARTMENT OPERATING BUDGET - \$1,548,984

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum \$1,548,984 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 \$1,541,987, 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 supports this Article (3-0). The Budget Advisory Committee supports this Article (7-0-2).**

Kevin Stetson, Water Utilities Director gave a presentation on the Water Department Operating Budget.

Operating Budget

- The overall water budget of \$1,548,983.72 is increased by 1.4% for budget year 2020. The water budget is funded solely by user fees. Preparation of the 2020 budget includes:
- Expected 2%(non-union,) 2.5% (Teamsters) merit salary increases
- Account 66302-559000 (Other Contracted Services)Ledgewood Station Pump Preventive Maintenance
- Account 66102-512000 (Wages-Part Time-Temp) account increased for ½ of additional hours for the Part-Time Billing Clerk position

Capital Projects

- Warrant Articles
- There are no Warrant Article funded projects scheduled for 2020
- Capital Reserve Funds
- Adams Street water main section replacements – Estimated \$20,000.00 (actual costs TBD)
- Continue with Water Source Exploration phase III, Estimated \$30,000.00 (actual costs TBD)
- Replacement of 2009 Ford Ranger, Estimated \$35,000.00

Water fund remaining balance - \$482,282.52

WARRANT ARTICLE 8 - WASTEWATER DEPARTMENT OPERATING BUDGET - \$2,024,735

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,999,901 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 \$2,027,262 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 supports this Article (3-0). The Budget Advisory Committee supports this Article (7-0-2).**

Kevin Stetson, Water Utilities Director gave a presentation on the Wastewater Department Operating Budget.

Operating Budget

The overall wastewater budget of \$1,999,901.07 is decreased by 7.5% for budget year 2020. The wastewater budget is funded solely by user fees. **Preparation of the 2020 budget includes:**

- Expected 2%(non-union,) 2.5% (Teamsters) merit salary increases
- Account 66102-512000 (Wages-Part Time-Temp) account increased for ½ of additional hours for the Part-Time Billing Clerk position
- \$218,305.00-BOND
 - The WWTF SCADA PLC improvements will:
 - Replace or upgrade existing out dated and unsupported wastewater treatment facility automated controls (Installed in 1998) that allows the plant to be monitored and controlled allowing operations of the treatment works to be in compliance with regulatory requirements without continuous 24/365 staffing of the plant.
 - Other control improvements that are necessary but not able to be funded with the Operating Budget are being added to the warrant article:
 - Aeration Basin Return Activated Sludge automation \$9,027.00
 - Plant Auxiliary Equipment Motor Control Center replacement \$57,850.00
 - The WWTF SCADA PLC improvements will:
 - Replace or upgrade existing out dated and unsupported wastewater treatment facility automated controls (Installed in 1998) that allows the plant to be monitored and controlled allowing opera-

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tions of the treatment works to be in compliance with regulatory requirements without continuous 24/365 staffing of the plant.

- Other control improvements that are necessary but not able to be funded with the Operating Budget are being added to the warrant article:
- Aeration Basin Return Activated Sludge automation \$9,027.00
- Plant Auxiliary Equipment Motor Control Center replacement \$57,850.00

Sewer fund remaining balance - \$324,487

Chairman Daniels clarified that the \$1,999,901 is the figure after being decreased. Kevin said yes. At this time Chairman Daniels closed hearing on the Budgets.

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 Cartegraph Data by the Department of Public Works. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI. **The Board of Selectmen supports this Article (5-0). The Budget Advisory Committee supports this Article (9-0). This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$24.71 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000**

There was no additional discussion on this warrant article.

WARRANT ARTICLE 10 - BRIDGE REPAIR AND/OR REPLACEMENT CAPITAL RESERVE - \$75,000

Shall the town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$75,000 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 Town bridges. Expenditures from this fund would be authorized by the Board of Selectmen. The \$75,000 adds to the Bridge Replacement Capital Reserve approved by voters in 2014. **The Board of Selectmen supports this Article (4-1). The Budget Advisory Committee supports this Article (9-0). This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$4.63 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000**

There was no additional discussion on this warrant article.

WARRANT ARTICLE 11 - AMBULANCE AND EQUIPMENT LEASE-PURCHASE - \$45,180 (Annual Lease Payment \$45,180: \$75,000 Paid From Capital Reserves; Total Purchase Price \$296,400)

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 one ambulance with the appropriate equipment for Ambulance Department operation to replace the current 2001 LifeLine ambulance and to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$45,180** for the first year's payment for this purpose. The total purchase price of this vehicle is \$296,400. Approval of this warrant article will further authorized the expenditure of \$75,000 from the Ambulance Capital Reserve Fund to arrive at the net/lease/purchase amount of \$221,400. If this article passes, future years' payments will be included in the operating budget and the 2001 ambulance will be sold. This is a Special Warrant Article in accordance with RSA 32. **The Board of Selectmen supports this Article (5-0). The Budget Advisory Committee supports this Article (0-0). This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$2.79 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000**

There was no additional discussion on this warrant article.

WARRANT ARTICLE 12 - 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 town meeting. The \$40,000 adds to the DPW Vehicles and Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve approved by voters in 2018. **The Board of**

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Selectmen supports this Article (5-0). The Budget Advisory Committee supports this Article (9-0). This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$2.47 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000

There was no additional discussion on this warrant article.

WARRANT ARTICLE 13 - SOCIAL SERVICES - \$40,000

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$40,000 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. **The Board of Selectmen supports this Article (5-0). The Budget Advisory Committee supports this Article (9-0). This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$2.47 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000**

There was no additional discussion on this warrant article.

WARRANT ARTICLE 14 - 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 supports this Article (5-0). The Budget Advisory Committee supports this Article (9-0). This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$1.98 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000**

There was no additional discussion on this warrant article.

WARRANT ARTICLE 15 - 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 town meeting. The \$25,000 adds to the Fire Apparatus Replacement Capital Reserve approved by voters in 2017. **The Board of Selectmen supports this Article (5-0). The Budget Advisory Committee supports this Article (9-0). This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$1.54 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000**

There was no additional discussion on this warrant article.

WARRANT ARTICLE 16 - 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 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 supports this Article (5-0). The Budget Advisory Committee supports this Article (9-0). This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$1.54 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000**

There was no additional discussion on this warrant article.

WARRANT ARTICLE 17 - AMBULANCE VEHICLE REPLACEMENT CAPITAL RESERVE - \$25,000

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 to be placed in the Ambulance Vehicle Replacement Capital Reserve Fund? Expenditures from this fund will require a vote at town meeting. The \$25,000 adds to the Ambulance Vehicle Replacement Capital Reserve approved by voters in 2017. **The Board of Selectmen supports this Article (5-0). The Budget Advisory Committee supports this Article (9-0). This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$1.54 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000**

There was no additional discussion on this warrant article.

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WARRANT ARTICLE 18 - 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 supports this Article (5-0). The Budget Advisory Committee supports this Article (9-0). This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$1.54 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000**

There was no additional discussion on this warrant article.

WARRANT ARTICLE 19 - 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, subject to a fiscal funding clause which will protect the Town in the event of non-appropriation, for the purpose of lease/purchasing a Wheel Bucket Loader and to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$22,980** for the first year's payment for this purpose. The total purchase price of this vehicle is \$145,000. Approval of this warrant article will further authorized the expenditure of \$80,000 from the DPW Vehicles and Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve to arrive at the net/lease/purchase amount of **\$65,000**. If this article passes, future years' payments will be included in the operating budget and the 2002 Caterpillar loader will be retained by Public Works, eliminating a need for a winter rental and thus reducing the 2020 operating budget by \$15,000. **The Board of Selectman supports this Article (4-1). The Budget Advisory Committee supports this Article (9-0). This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$1.42 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000**

There was no additional discussion on this warrant article.

WARRANT ARTICLE 20 - POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENT PORTABLE RADIO REPLACEMENTS from THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT CAPITAL RESERVE - \$22,800

Shall the Town vote to expend the sum of \$22,800 from the Public Safety Communication Equipment Replacement Capital Reserve to replace Portable Radios for the Police and the Fire Departments. **The Board of Selectmen supports this Article (5-0). The Budget Advisory Committee supports this Article (9-0). This Article does not have a tax impact.**

There was no additional discussion on this warrant article.

WARRANT ARTICLE 21 - PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT CAPITAL RESERVE - \$20,000

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 to be placed in the Public Safety Communication Equipment Capital Reserve Fund? Expenditures from this fund will require a vote at town meeting. The \$20,000 adds to the Public Safety Communication Equipment Replacement Capital Reserve approved by voters in 2017. **The Board of Selectmen supports this Article (5-0). The Budget Advisory Committee supports this Article (5-4). This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$1.23 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000**

There was no additional discussion on this warrant article.

WARRANT ARTICLE 22 - CONSERVATION FUND - \$20,000

Shall the town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 for the purpose of adding it to the conservation fund created in accordance with RSA 36-A, said land fund being allowed to accumulate from year to year and to be available for the acquisition of property, conservation easements and other RSA 36-A allowable purposes? Contribution furthers the protection of the town's natural resources. **The Board of Selectmen supports this Article (3-2). The Budget Advisory Committee supports this Article (9-0). This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$1.23 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000**

There was no additional discussion on this warrant article.

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WARRANT ARTICLE 23 - 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 purpose of Revaluation of Real Estate Assessment is to meet our constitutional and statutory requirement that periodically these assessments are at full and true value. The Board of Selectmen has authority to expend from this fund. The \$15,000 adds to the Assessing Revaluation Capital Reserve approved by voters in 2017. **The Board of Selectmen supports this Article (5-0). The Budget Advisory Committee supports this Article (8-1). This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$0.93 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000**

There was no additional discussion on this warrant article.

WARRANT ARTICLE 24 - ANNUAL LABOR DAY PARADE SUPPORT - \$10,000

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 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. **The Board of Selectmen supports this Article (4-1). The Budget Advisory Committee supports this Article (0-0). This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$0.62 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000**

There was no additional discussion on this warrant article.

WARRANT ARTICLE 25 - 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 supports this Article (5-0). The Budget Advisory Committee supports this Article (8-1). This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$0.56 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000**

There was no additional discussion on this warrant article.

WARRANT ARTICLE 26 - INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION FIREWORKS - \$8,500

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$8,500 for the purpose of providing the Independence Day celebration fireworks display at a time and location to be determined by the Board of Selectmen? This is a Special Warrant Article in accordance with RSA 32. **The Board of Selectmen supports this Article (3-2). The Budget Advisory Committee supports this Article (6-3). This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$0.53 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000**

There was no additional discussion on this warrant article.

WARRANT ARTICLE 27 - PUMPKIN FESTIVAL SUPPORT - \$8,000

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$8,000 for purposes of Pumpkin Festival support by Public Works, Police, Fire, and Ambulance Departments? This is a Special Warrant Article in accordance with RSA 32. **The Board of Selectmen supports this Article (5-0). The Budget Advisory Committee supports this Article (8-0-1). This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$0.49 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000**

There was no additional discussion on this warrant article.

WARRANT ARTICLE 28 - 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 supports this Article (5-0). The Budget Advisory Committee supports this Article (9-0). This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$0.40 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000**

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There was no additional discussion on this warrant article.

WARRANT ARTICLE 29 - VETERAN'S TAX CREDIT AND ALL VETERAN'S TAX CREDIT

Shall the town, pursuant to RSA 72:27-a, vote to increase the Optional Veteran's Tax Credit (RSA 72:28) and the All Veteran's Tax Credit (RSA 72:38-b) from \$300 to \$400. RSA 72:28 I. The standard veterans' tax credit shall be \$50.

II. The optional veterans' tax credit, upon adoption by a city or town pursuant to RSA 72:27-a, shall be an amount from \$51 up to \$750. The optional veterans' tax credit shall replace the standard veterans' tax credit in its entirety and shall not be in addition thereto.

RSA 72:28-b II. The credit granted under this section shall be the same as the amount of the standard or optional veterans' tax credit in effect in the town or city under RSA 72:28. The Board of Selectmen supports this Article (4-0-1). The Budget Advisory Committee supports this Article (8-0-1). This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$3.33 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000

There was no additional discussion on this warrant article.

WARRANT ARTICLE 30 - TAX CREDIT FOR SURVIVING SPOUSE OF VETERAN

Shall the town, pursuant to RSA 72:27-a, vote to increase the tax credit for the Surviving Spouse of a veteran who was killed or died while on active duty (RSA 72:29-a) from \$700 to \$800.

72:29-1 II. ... the surviving spouse of any person who was killed or died while on active duty in the armed forces of the United States or any of the armed forces of any of the governments associated with the United States in the wars, conflicts or armed conflicts, or combat zones set forth in RSA 72:28, shall receive a tax credit in the amount from \$701 up to \$2,000 for the taxes due upon the surviving spouse's real and personal property, whether residential or not, in the same municipality where the surviving spouse is a resident. The Board of Selectmen supports this Article (5-0). The Budget Advisory Committee supports this Article (9-0).

There was no additional discussion on this warrant article.

WARRANT ARTICLE 31 - TAX CREDIT FOR SERVICE CONNECTED TOTAL DISABILITY

Shall the Town, pursuant to RSA 72:27-a, vote to increase the tax credit for veteran's who have total and permanent service-connected disability (RSA 72:35) from \$1400 to \$1500.

RSA 72:25 I-a. The optional tax credit for service-connected total disability, upon adoption by a city or town pursuant to RSA 72:27-a, shall be an amount from \$701 up to \$2,000. The optional tax credit for service-connected total disability shall replace the standard tax credit in its entirety and shall not be in addition thereto.

The Board of Selectmen supports this Article (5-0). The Budget Advisory Committee supports this Article (9-0).

There was no additional discussion on this warrant article.

WARRANT ARTICLE 32 - INCREASE THE PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FOR ELDERLY - \$0

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 - \$83,000; for a person 75 years of age up to 80 - \$124,000; for persons over 80 year of age - \$165,000; and to modify the maximum asset limit for both individual and married persons to \$100,000 (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, of 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 they 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 \$38,600, or if married, a combined net income of not more than \$46,000.

Note: The recommended increase (20% over current limits in each of three age categories) in the exemption amount categories is an offset of the 2019 assessed value statistical update where the average home assessed value increased by 19.6%. The recommended increase in asset limits (from \$85,000 to \$100,000) is to increase

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the cushion for unanticipated expenses. There is no recommended increase for the current income limits. The resultant increase in tax rates due to these changes cannot be determined.

The Board of Selectmen supports this Article (5-0). The Budget Advisory Committee supports this Article (9-0).

There was no additional discussion on this warrant article.

**WARRANT ARTICLE 33 - WEST MILFORD TAX INCREMENT FINANCING DISTRICT
REVOCATION - \$0**

Shall the town vote, pursuant to RSA 162:K, to dissolve the West Milford Tax Increment Financing District comprised of Tax Map 38, Lots 4, 5, 5-1, 9, 11, 12, 13 and 14 (the so-called BROX industrial property owned by the Town of Milford) and Map 7, Lot 16-1 and Map 38 Lot 6 (two parcels owned by Hendrix Wire & Cable Inc.), and to further dissolve the Advisory Board for said District, in accordance with RSA 162:K:14, or take other action relative thereto. **The Board of Selectmen supports this Article (5-0). The Budget Advisory Committee supports this Article (9-0). This Article has no tax impact.**

There was no additional discussion on this warrant article.

**WARRANT ARTICLE 34 - BROX PROPERTIES PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT
FUND REVOCATION - \$0**

Shall the town vote, pursuant to RSA 31:19-a, to revoke the BROX Properties Public Infrastructure Improvement Fund established in 2012 to defray costs of construction for municipal infrastructure improvements in the form of highway improvements and/or the provision of municipal water and sewer facilities servicing the so-called BROX Industrial Properties owned by the Town of Milford identified as Tax Map 38, Lots 4, 5, 5-1, 9, 11, 12, 13 and 14, located in the West Milford Tax Increment Financing District. Said fund contains a \$0 balance. **The Board of Selectmen supports this Article (5-0). The Budget Advisory Committee supports this Article (9-0). This Article has no tax impact.**

There was no additional discussion on this warrant article.

WARRANT ARTICLE 35 – SPORTS BETTING - \$0

Shall the town allow the operation of sports book retail locations within the Town of Milford? **The Board of Selectmen supports this Article (4-0-1). The Budget Advisory Committee does not support this Article (4-5). This Article has no tax impact.**

There was no additional discussion on this warrant article.

**WARRANT ARTICLE 36 - NASHUA STREET PEDESTRIAN SAFETY and SIDEWALK
IMPROVEMENT PROJECT - \$750,500 (State pays \$600,400; Town pays \$150,100), BY PETITION**

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$750,500 with \$150,100 to be raised by general taxation and \$600,400 from the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) Program for the engineering, potential right-of-way acquisition, and construction of approximately 3,500 linear feet of new five-foot (5') wide sidewalk, to include, but not limited to, vertical granite curbing, associated drainage improvements, crosswalk markings, and repaving, along the southerly and northerly sides of Nashua Street beginning from 486 Nashua Street (Near Cahill Place, Map 32, Lot 4-C) to 586 Nashua Street (Near Lorden Plaza, Map 44, Lot 6) and to the existing sidewalk network at the corner of Capron Road and Nashua Street? This reimbursement program provides an 80% federal funding/20% local matching funds opportunity. This is a Special Warrant Article in accordance with RSA 32. **Board of Selectmen supports this Article (0-0). The Budget Advisory Committee supports this Article (7-0-2). This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$9.38 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000.**

Rodny Richie the source of warrant articles isn't always clear to voters. These two warrant articles were sourced by the Board as a result of staff acquiring grants. People don't always know that you talk about some articles and they don't appear on the warrant because you don't support them. The Trustees of the Library are lucky that their warrant article is on the warrants even though this Board isn't supporting it. He asked that the Board consider that in the case of warrant articles 36 and 37 and that the Board consider the tradition not to take a position on petition warrant articles. The sources of these 2 warrant articles came from staff work, from tax payer funds

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to acquire grants and the potential for 80% funding. He would like the Board to provide their rational of why they support or do not support these articles.

Rodny commented on the tax impact of bonds. The Board put no tax impact for 2020 and he's never seen them come back and say, "tax impact in 2021 and the next 15 years will be x amount". The Library Trustees project a tax amount for their bond. He asked that the Board consider doing the same. Chairman Daniels said he would agree with Rodny, at least for the tax impact for 2021.

Administrator Bender said Rodny's tax impact for the Library for 2020 is correct. The tax impact for warrant article 4, dispatch, would be \$10.31 per thousand. He doesn't know how DRA would feel about adding future tax impact to the warrants but we could add something like that into the majority and minority reports.

Peter Basiliere said it's important for people to realize that petition is just a vehicle for getting an item onto the warrant. If you go back in NH history, a warrant is a warning to voters in town that we are going to have a meeting and you need to show up because we will be talking about things that impact our town and taxes. He commends the Board with taking positions on the petition articles especially the bond issue proposed by petition because it's a life safety topic. It impacts first responders and residents.

WARRANT ARTICLE 37- OSGOOD ROAD, MELENDY ROAD, AND ARMORY ROAD PEDESTRIAN SAFETY SIDEWALK AND BICYCLE LANE PROJECT - \$763,000 (State pays \$610,400; Town pays \$152,600), BY PETITION

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$763,000, with \$152,600 to be raised by general taxation and \$610,400 from the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) Program) for the engineering of, potential right-of-way acquisition of, and construction of approximately 4,000 linear feet a new five-foot (5') wide sidewalk with vertical granite curbing, a dedicated striped bicycle lane, and pedestrian walkway, to include, but not limited to associated drainage improvements, crosswalk markings, and repaving, along Osgood Road, Mason Road, Melendy Road, and Armory Road. The pedestrian improvement project will begin at intersection of West Street and Osgood Road and continue southwest along Osgood Road past Adams Field, Osgood Pond, and Mason Road to the intersection of Osgood Road, Melendy Road and Armory Road. The pedestrian improvements will continue eastward along Armory Road to intersection with the Granite Town Rail-Trail, and to authorize the issuance of bonds or notes therefore of not more than \$763,000 in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33)? This reimbursement program provides an 80% federal funding/20% local matching funds opportunity. This is a Special Warrant Article in accordance with RSA 32. **Board of Selectmen supports this Article (0-0) The Budget Advisory Committee supports this Article (7-0-2). This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$9.53 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000**
There was no additional discussion on this warrant article.

WARRANT ARTICLE 38 - NEW MUNICIPAL AND TRANSPORTATION CAPITAL RESERVE FUND PAID BY AN ADDITIONAL AUTO REGISTRATION FEE, BY PETITION- \$0

Shall the Town vote to adopt the provisions of NH RSA 261:153 (VI) to levy an additional motor vehicle registration fee in the amount of five dollars (\$5.00) per registration to be used to support a municipal and transportation improvement fund, and to further provide that with the adoption of this article the town shall create a Capital Reserve Fund pursuant to RSA Chapter 35 to receive these funds, and further that the Capital Reserve Fund shall be known as the Municipal and Transportation Capital Reserve Fund, said reserve fund to be used to fund, wholly or in part, improvements in the local or regional transportation system including roads, bridges, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, parking and intermodal facilities, electric vehicle charging stations, and for operating and capital costs of public transportation only, and to further name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend this Capital Reserve Fund. The funds may be used for engineering, right-of-way acquisition, and construction costs of transportation facilities, including electric vehicle charging stations, and for operating and capital costs of public transportation only. The funds may be used as matching funds for state or federal funds allocated for local or regional transportation improvements. Such funds shall not be used to offset any other non-transportation appropriations made by the municipality. This additional motor vehicle registration fee shall be collected starting with motor vehicle registration permits obtained on or after May 1, 2020. The Board of Selectmen supports this Article (0-0). The Budget Advisory Committee supports this Article (0-0). This Article has no tax impact.

Janet Langdell, Milford resident clarified that the funds raised through this fee could only be used for transportation improvements within the municipality. Selectman Dargie said the warrant article is based on NH RSA

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261:153 section 6. It allows us to add a fee to auto registrations for up to \$5. It goes in to a capital reserve fund which can be used on transportation projects. He would like it used for the Blue Bus which is currently paid for by property taxes. It can be used for a variety of things.

Chairman Daniels said the RSA says that the reserve fund should be used to fund wholly or in part improvements in the local or regional transportation system including roads, bridges, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, parking and intermodal facilities, electric vehicle charging stations, and for operating and capital costs of public transportation only, and to further name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend this Capital Reserve Fund. and public transportation. Under this he believes that the \$5 fee could be used to put towards the purchase of a dump truck. In the past when we received money from the state to be used on transportation infrastructure we bought a bucket loader which can only be used on roads. Selectman Dargie said he doesn't think you can buy a dump truck with this.

Karen Mitchell, Milford resident asked if this is to be used for the Blue Bus, it the intent to get rid of the Blue Bus warrant article? Paul said yes. Karen said there are many different items that the Board can determine where the funds go, would you be committing to getting rid of the Blue Bus warrant. There are several warrants that can fit into this that are passed successfully each year, this feels like duplicate taxation. Selectman Dargie said if you don't have a warrant article for the Blue Bus and it's paid for out of this, its alternative taxation not duplicate taxation.

Karen said you said "if" there are other things in the warrant. Selectman Dargie said the Board would choose what to do with this each year. The additional fee would raise roughly \$90,000 each year. The Blue Bus is \$32,000 per year so there would be about \$58,000 available for other topics like road repairs and bridge repairs. Karen said we already have capital reserve funds for them. Selectman Dargie said correct but right now we put a certain amount into bridge repair and we might be able to lower it.

Karen said it looks like another revenue stream. Selectman Dargie said it is. The idea is to help with property tax relief, taxes go down and auto registration fees go up. Karen said it isn't property tax relief if you get rid of a warrant article and replace it with this. When tax payers vote for the Blue Bus warrant article, they are voting for that. With this, they will vote for it not knowing that it's coming to the Blue Bus this year and maybe something else next year. You are asking to approve something that already has successful warrants and make it entirely up to the Board. You are re-inventing the wheel.

Selectman Dargie said the Blue Bus passes every year but there could be a year where it doesn't pass. If it doesn't pass, no means no and you can't fund it a different way. It will get shut down. Karen said she knows that but she doesn't see the town not passing it.

Selectman Labonte said by the Blue Bus having their own warrant article, you are giving the voters the option if they chose to approve it. This warrant article makes it mandatory. He said Administrator Bender gave the Library tax impact on a \$100,000 home, there are many residents in town that have three vehicles and they would be paying more for this. Their only option not to pay the \$5 is to walk. Janet said, or take the Blue Bus. She would like the viewers to know that Souhegan Valley Rides, (Blue Bus) was not engaged in this warrant article. Nor was it engaged with the proposal by Selectman Dargie to put this forward on this warrant. We are not part of this effort. The RSA that allows this fee has been around for years, this town has just never used it. The motor vehicle registration fee was initially used as a way to generate more revenue by municipalities to pay for road repairs. There have been efforts to use this for public transportation as well as things like the 20% match money on the other petition warrant articles. If anyone is interested, she can get a list of other communities that do this. This was brought forward to the Board of Selectman in previous years and on major concern to Milford was relative to the number of fleets that we have in town, large businesses that have multiple vehicles registered in this town. What economic impact would it have on those large fleets?

Selectman Putnam said most of the people that use the Blue Bus don't have cars. We are putting this burden on just the people who own vehicles. You won't see their rent go down because their property taxes go down, they will be paying the same amount. He isn't in favor of this warrant article.

There were no other comments. Chairman Daniels said at this time we have concluded the Budget and Bond Public Hearing.

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Chairman, Gary Daniels

Member, Laura Dudziak

Vice Chairman, Paul Dargie

Member, Chris Labonte

Member, Mike Putnam