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APPROVED

MINUTES OF THE BUDGET & BOND PUBLIC HEARING

January 9, 2023

PRESENT: Paul Dargie, Chairman
Tim Finan, Vice Chairman
Gary Daniels, Member
Laura Dudziak, Member
Dave Freel, Member

Mark Bender Town Administrator, Excused
Andy Kouropoulos, Videographer
Department Heads & Senior Staff:
Members of the Public

BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS, WATER COMMISSIONERS, AND LIBRARY TRUSTEES

Chairman Dargie opened the public hearing at 6:30 p.m. thanking everyone in attendance. Chairman Dargie introduced members of the Board of Selectmen. Karen Mitchell, Budget Advisory Committee, introduced the Budget Advisory Committee Members. Dale White introduced the Water Commissioners and Water Utilities Director.

Chairman Dargie indicated that tonight's hearing is for the Town Budget and Bond Hearing, but the warrant articles will also be reviewed for the public to voice their opinion on all items. Chairman Dargie explained if any members of the public wish to comment or have questions, they should please use a microphone to be heard on the PEG Access Live broadcast.

Chairman Dargie opened the Bond hearing.

BOND HEARINGS

WARRANT ARTICLE 3 - WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY (WWTF) UPGRADE PROJECT – \$23,953,000 BOND (Loan Forgiveness \$3,592,950) (Wilton NH Portion \$3,031,611.45) (20% SAG Grant \$3,465,687.71) Remaining amount \$13,862,750.84.

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$23,953,000 for the purposes of constructing a new advanced treatment process to comply with the Town's recently activated EPA National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit and to complete other age-related improvements throughout the WWTF, in accordance with the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the Selectmen, as applicable, to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and determine the rate of interest and other conditions in their judgement; and further, to authorize the Board of Selectmen, as applicable, to apply for, obtain and accept federal, state or other aid, grants or other funds, which may be available for such project that may reduce the amount to be financed with bonds or notes; to participate in the State Revolving Fund (SRF) per RSA 486:14, established for this purpose; and, to allow the Board of Selectmen, as applicable, to expend such monies that become available; and, to take such other action or to pass any other votes relative thereto? The WWTF improvements will meet new, more stringent permit limits and upgrade aging equipment to improve operator safety, energy efficiency, and operational efficiency to provide uninterrupted essential operations at the WWTF. This is a Special Warrant Article in accordance with RSA 32 with the total repayment paid for by the sewer users and the taxpayers. 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 Board of Selectmen recommends this article (4-0). The Budget Advisory Committee recommends this Article (0-0). (NOTE: Beginning in 2026, this article has an estimated tax impact of \$19.50 based on (55% ratepayers/45% taxpayers), on an assessed valuation of \$100,000.**

Chairman Dargie gave a brief overview of the Bond project. It's roughly \$24 million for the entire project. The facility is 40 years old and needs to be updated. There is a new permit for discharging into the river that requires adding a tertiary portion of it to the system. Jim Pouliot, Water Utilities Director said it's to remove metals and phosphorus and they have to meet compliance by 2025. Chairman Dargie said we have to meet the EPA's new requirement for the permit. This project is needed. The bond will start after the project is completed in 2026. After all the grants, loan forgiveness, and the Town of Wilton's share, the remaining to be funding is \$13.8 million.

Mr. Pouliot said they don't have the SAG grant yet. They will be applying for it in June, so the language shouldn't be on the warrant article. Chairman Dargie asked Mr. Pouliot to work with Finance to get the correct numbers put on the warrant. The Selectmen and Commissioners have agreed that the ratepayers will pay 55% of the cost and the taxpayers will pay 45%.

Pete Basiliere, a Milford resident, asked that the (55% ratepayers/45% taxpayers) section at the end of the warrant article be embedded into the warrant article. Tina Philbrick, Executive Assistant said they can send it to the DRA. They are strict as to what can and can't be placed in a warrant article.

Dale White, Water Commissioner, said they don't have the SAG Grant yet. They can't apply for it until the warrant article is approved and voted on. We don't know if we will be approved or not but we have been told that there is a very high chance that we will be approved for it.

Bob Courage, Water Commissioner, said they were fortunate to borrow the money from the state revolving fund at 2.5% interest on a 20-year bond. The temporary borrowing that we will need during the financing of the project is at 1% interest and that will be until we start making our bond payment. The first payment will be due one year after completion which might be around 2027 or 2028 due to delays in materials for the project. It isn't anything that will be coming soon.

Selectman Freel asked how much would be expended during the project before the final payment. Mr. Pouliot said there would be a monthly disbursement amount which can vary. The final check doesn't get disbursed until the Engineering firm signs off on the project.

There were no other comments.

Chairman Dargie closed the Bond hearing.

TOWN BUDGET HEARING

WARRANT ARTICLE 4 - TOWN OPERATING BUDGET - \$ 17,457,068

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts outlined in the budget for the purposes set forth herein, totaling \$17,457,068? Should this Article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$17,041,768 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 (3-1). The Budget Advisory Committee recommends this Article (0-0). Voting YES on this article has an estimated tax impact of \$19.01 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000 when compared to voting NO on this article.**

Finance Director, Paul Calabria, gave a brief overview of the town budget. The proposed budget includes a 7% increase for town non-union employees. Also included in the budget are the three firemen that were approved last year. Also included were wage adjustments that the Board unanimously approved for DPW in May and Ambulance, Fire, and various staff increases that were approved in October. These adjustments with benefits make up 77% of the budget increase between 2022 and 2023. It also includes debt service, utilities cost, MACC Base increase, etc. The budget represents a 6.6% increase from last year. We are trying to retain our current employees and fill unfilled positions. We have averaged a 21% turnover of salary employees in each of the last three years. The hourly employee turnover in the last three years is 29%. If this passes it will result in a \$66 increase in taxes on a home valued at \$350,000 over your taxes from last year to maintain the level of services that we have right now.

Chris Labonte, a Milford resident, said the original budget proposed was 8.8% and the difference was \$350,000 which was spent down with 2022 surplus money. So in the numbers game, it's showing a 6.8% increase now so in truth there is another \$300,000 there. Surplus money that was due back to the taxpayer was purchased ahead of the 2023 budget. The increase in the 2023 budget is higher. He wants to make sure that the numbers are correct taking the shell game out of it. He just wants verification that the numbers are higher, he's not saying that this is a bad budget. Selectman Freel said if the public was watching, they would understand this.

Chairman Dargie said we are not taking more money. Whether the money is left in 2022 and returned and the 2023 budget is higher, or whatever money that was left over in 2022 is used to purchase things out of the budget, as far as the taxpayers go, it's the same. When your taxes are calculated next fall, it's the same number. Mr. Labonte said he agrees and disagrees. It's not taking any more money out of the pocket by utilizing the surplus in 2022, keep in mind that when you start planning the 2024 budget, you would have spent \$300,000 and something of the 2022 money on top of the 2023 money to make those numbers all work. If there is no surplus in 2023, it will be a huge impact on the taxpayers.

Mr. Calabria said this isn't a number or shell game. We have a deficit between our proposed budget and the default budget of close to \$700,000. If we got a default budget, the services in this town would be drastically affected. We mitigated that by taking some surplus money and buying things out of the 2023 budget. To put a default difference of \$700,000 in a warrant article would have doomed our proposed budget and would have affected benefits. Most of the \$400,000 difference is employee-driven.

Katherine Kokko, a Milford resident, asked for the budgeted expenditure for the lease of Crown Castle. Mr. Calabria said it was in the Police Communications line item that was posted today.

There were no other comments.

Chairman Dargie opened the Water/Wastewater Budget Hearing.

WATER/WASTEWATER BUDGET HEARING

WARRANT ARTICLE 5 - WASTEWATER DEPARTMENT OPERATING BUDGET - \$2,677,050

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,677,050 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 \$2,565,859 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).**

Andrea Chappell, a Milford resident, asked what the fee increase to the water and wastewater will be to the users. Mr. Pouliot said there will be no increase to the sewer user rate and they don't have the numbers of the increase for the water users rate increase yet. Ms. Chappell suggested that the increase be stated in the warrant article.

There were no other comments.

WARRANT ARTICLE 6 - WATER DEPARTMENT OPERATING BUDGET - \$2,083,269

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,083,269 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 \$1,775,670, 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).**

There were no other comments.

Chairman Dargie opened the appropriation warrant articles portion of the hearing.

APPROPRIATION WARRANT ARTICLES

WARRANT ARTICLE 7 - FIRE ENGINE REPLACEMENT - 7-YEAR LEASE/PURCHASE - \$755,000 Gross Purchase Price (Annual Lease Payment \$124,665)

Shall the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a 7-year lease/purchase agreement in the amount of \$755,000 for the lease-purchasing of a fire engine/pumper with appropriate equipment for Fire Department operation (it will replace the current 1993 Pierce Saber Engine/pumper)? Furthermore, to raise and appropriate \$124,665 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. This article includes a provision for a Fiscal Funding Clause and under state law requires a simple majority vote to pass. **The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article (4-0). The Budget Advisory Committee recommends this Article (0-0). This article has an estimated tax impact of \$6.02 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000.**

Karen Mitchell, BAC Member, asked if the Board would consider changing this to a 10-year bond instead of a lease. Every tax impact we see is going to be hard on the taxpayers and if we can make this a bond it would make it a zero tax impact for this coming year. Mr. Calabria said he wasn't sure we could bond equipment. Chairman Dargie said it can't be changed because we just had the bond hearing.

Mr. Calabria said he will look into a longer lease, but the rate will be higher. Mr. Labonte said 2023 has a high payout for debt service and 2024 is lower. Ms. Mitchell said the Fire Truck could have been bonded. She suggests that we state that we don't pay for this until we get it. Mr. Calabria said that because of supply issues, the Fire Chief is receiving a \$30,000

discount to pay upfront; we did the same thing for the last ambulance we purchased. Ms. Mitchell said she understands we would not get a discount but she's more concerned about not getting the fire engine, town operating budget, and other things. If we could get the tax impact down to zero, she doesn't believe it would delay receipt of the fire engine beyond two years. Chairman Dargie said they would word it like what is being done in warrant article 3 for when the tax impact would hit.

There were no other comments.

WARRANT ARTICLE 8 - RECONSTRUCTION OF TOWN ROADS - \$ 400,000

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$400,000 to reconstruct or repair Town roads? This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI. **The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article (3-1). The Budget Advisory Committee recommends this Article (0-0). This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$19.32 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000.**

Karen Mitchell asked what the entire original block grant spent on this year. Leo Lessard, Public Works Director, said some of the block grant for \$328,000 was used for hot top supplies and crack filling. He didn't do the crack filling and a lot of the hot top supplies because he put the money into paving. So it was taken out but put back into the paving budget. The line item for the paving budget was \$196,000 but was increased with the paving supply money. Ms. Mitchell said that the block grant should be for pavement and equipment, not supplies. Ms. Mitchell stated that "normally the Roads article was \$300,000 and we increased it this year which increased the tax impact on this article which makes it harder to pass. The paving budget is a concern for her. She would like the paving budget increased and the roads fixed. Chairman Dargie said the roads are not just paving, other aspects go into it.

Selectman Freel said all the sidewalks are in a bad state. He thinks the warrant article should include sidewalks. Mr. Lessard said the warrant article is set up for roads only. Mr. Calabria will ask if the article can be used for sidewalks.

Scott Kimball, a Milford resident, said there is a line item for sidewalk maintenance for \$5,000. There are places to put money to fix this if we want. Mr. Lessard said he thought he could use the warrant article to repair what they are rebuilding but not for just sidewalks.

Mr. Basiliere, questioned the way article 4 is written, specifically the amount of the increase in taxes. Mr. Calabria said the tax rate is based on the difference between the budget and the default budget. There was additional discussion. Selectman Freel explained how he easily interpreted it. This comment comes up every few years and it doesn't matter how its presented, it's going to be confusing.

There were other no comments.

WARRANT ARTICLE 9 - ONE REPLACEMENT AMBULANCE (5-YEAR LEASE/PURCHASE) (Annual Payment \$52,857/Total Purchase Price \$371,922)

Shall the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to withdraw \$125,800 from the Ambulance Capital Reserve account and 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 2013-A (3A) Braun ambulance and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$52,857 for the first year's payment for this purpose? The total purchase price of this vehicle is \$371,922. If this article passes, future years' payments will be included in the operating budget. This is a Special Warrant Article in accordance with RSA 32. This article includes a provision for a Fiscal Funding Clause and under state law requires a simple majority vote to pass. **The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article (4-0). The Budget Advisory Committee recommends this Article (0-0). This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$2.55 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000.**

Mr. Labonte said this warrant article received a tie vote in CIP as far as putting this off to 2024.

Ms. Seward said equipment should be in the budget, not in this warrant article. She asked about a 7-year lease. Chairman Dargie said we would pay more in interest on a longer lease.

There were no other comments.

WARRANT ARTICLE 10 - AFSCME/POLICE CONTRACT - \$175,398

Shall the Town vote to approve the cost items included in the Police Officers' Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) reached between the Board of Selectmen and Local 3657 of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) for contract years 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026 (1 April – 31 March) which calls for the following

246 increases in salaries and benefits, and to further raise and appropriate the sum of \$175,398 for fiscal year 2023? Said sum
247 represents the additional costs over those of the current appropriation at current staffing levels paid in the expiring
248 Agreement. Upon approval of this Article, said cost allocation is to be transferred to the General Operating Budget. **The**
249 **Board of Selectmen recommends this Article (4-0). The Budget Advisory Committee recommends this Article (0-0).**
250 **This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$8.47 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000.**
251

252 **There were no other comments.**
253

254 **WARRANT ARTICLE 11 - BANDSTAND RENOVATION - \$90,000** 255

256 Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$90,000 for the purpose of renovating the Pillsbury Bandstand on
257 the Milford Oval. There will be an expected \$30,000 in private donations to offset this expenditure. The Board of Selectmen
258 are hereby authorized to apply for, obtain and accept federal, state or other aid, if any, which may be available for said
259 project and to comply with all laws applicable to said project, to take any and all action necessary to carry out any vote
260 hereunder or take any other action relative thereto? This is a Special Warrant Article in accordance with RSA 32. **The**
261 **Board of Selectmen recommends this Article (2-2). The Budget Advisory Committee recommends this Article (0-0).**
262 **This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$2.90 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000.**
263

264 **There were no comments regarding this warrant article.**
265

266 **WARRANT ARTICLE 12 - SOCIAL SERVICES - \$40,000** 267

268 Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$40,000, for the purpose of providing funding to Social Service
269 agencies for Milford residents as proposed by the Social Services Committee and submitted to the Board of Selectmen?
270 This is a Special Warrant Article in accordance with RSA 32. **The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article (4-0).**
271 **The Budget Advisory Committee recommends this Article (0-0). This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$1.93 on**
272 **an assessed valuation of \$100,000.**
273

274 **There were no other comments.**
275

276 **WARRANT ARTICLE 13 - TRANSFER STATION RECYCLING CENTER / REVOLVING FUND - \$40,000** 277

278 Shall the Town vote to establish a Transfer Station/Recycling Center /Revolving Fund, and dedicate all income from the
279 sale of recyclables for the purpose of repairs, supplies, building needs, and equipment that is used for the purpose of
280 storage, processing, and redistribution of recyclable materials for the Transfer Station/Recycling Center, as allowed
281 pursuant to RSA 31:95-h (II)? The money in the fund shall be allowed to accumulate from year to year, and shall not be
282 considered part of the town's general fund balance. The Town Treasurer shall have custody of all moneys in the fund, and
283 shall pay out the same only upon order of the Board of Selectmen and no further approval is required by the legislative body
284 to expend. Such funds may be expended only for the purpose for which the fund was created. This authorization will stay in
285 effect until rescinded. **The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article (3-1). The Budget Advisory Committee**
286 **recommends this Article (0-0). This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$1.93 on an assessed valuation of**
287 **\$100,000.**
288

289 There was some discussion about recyclables. We are only taking out
290

291 Ms. Mitchell asked why we were pulling this out of the operating budget, we don't pull anything else out. Selectman Freel
292 said we received a presentation from recycling and they thought this was a good idea. Ms. Mitchell cautions doing this for
293 some departments and not others. There was additional discussion on what other departments could be using a revolving
294 fund.
295

296 Selectman Daniels said the Transfer Station needs to be kept in operation. A revolving fund could take care of problems
297 that came up during the year instead of a capital reserve fund which would have to wait a year to fix things. Selectman Fi-
298 nan said this would be potentially self-funding.
299

300 Chairman Dargie would rather set up a capital reserve and not do a revolving fund. Revolving funds are good for
301 Recreation. Selectman Freel doesn't agree. There was additional discussion about revolving versus capital reserve.
302

303 Ms. Langdell asked about the language of having the Board in charge of this fund instead of the Recycling Committee.
304 Selectman Daniels said the Treasurer is the custodian of the funds and the funds are released according to the Selectmen's
305 vote. We decided that we didn't want to leave a subcommittee in charge of the money.
306

307 Mr. Kimball said the people in the Transfer Station don't feel any appreciation for what they do. This fund allows them to
308 address things without having to drag themselves in front of the town.
309

310 **There were no other comments.**
311

312 **WARRANT ARTICLE 14 - NON-EMERGENCY COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION BUS SERVICES –**
313 **\$32,000**
314

315 Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$32,000 for the purpose of providing the Town's share of funding
316 to the Souhegan Valley Transportation Collaborative (SVTC) in order to continue operating a regional, non-emergency,
317 wheelchair-accessible transportation service providing rides within the designated service area to seniors, people with
318 disabilities, and the general public? **The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article (4-0). The Budget Advisory**
319 **Committee recommends this Article (0-0). This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$1.55 on an assessed valuation**
320 **of \$100,000.**
321

322 **There were no other comments.**
323

324 **WARRANT ARTICLE 15 - MODIFICATION OF EXISTING ELDERLY EXEMPTION CRITERIA - \$30,000**
325

326 Shall the Town, pursuant to RSA 72:27-a, vote to modify the elderly exemption from property tax based on assessed value
327 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
328 to 80 \$124,000; for persons over 80 years of age \$200,500; and to modify the maximum asset limit for both individual and
329 married persons to \$125,000 (excluding the value of the person(s) residence)? To qualify, the person must satisfy all of the
330 conditions of RSA 72:39-a&b that pertain to eligibility for this exemption as well as those contained in any other applicable
331 statute including without limitation, that they demonstrate that they have been a New Hampshire resident for at least 3
332 consecutive years, that they own the real estate individually or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by such persons spouse,
333 that they must have been married to each other for at least 5 years, and that they reside at the property as their primary
334 residence. In addition, the taxpayer must have a net income in each applicable age group of not more than \$40,500, or if
335 married a combined net income of not more than \$46,000. **The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article (4-0). The**
336 **Budget Advisory Committee recommends this Article (0-0). This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$1.45 on an**
337 **assessed valuation of \$100,000.**
338

339 **There were no other comments.**
340

341 **WARRANT ARTICLE 16 - WADLEIGH LIBRARY MAINTENANCE AND UPKEEP CAPITAL RESERVE -**
342 **\$25,000**
343

344 Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 to be placed in the Library Maintenance and Upkeep
345 Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of future library building repairs and improvements
346 of the existing facility for the benefit of the Town approved by voters in 2022? The Library Trustees have been appointed
347 as agents to expend from this fund. The \$25,000 builds upon the Wadleigh Library Maintenance and Upkeep Capital
348 Reserve approved by voters in 2022. **The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article (4-0). The Budget Advisory**
349 **Committee recommends this Article (0-0). This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$1.21 on an assessed valuation**
350 **of \$100,000.**
351

352 **There were no other comments.**
353

354 **WARRANT ARTICLE 17 - INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION FIREWORKS - \$14,000**
355

356 Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$14,000 for the purpose of providing the Independence Day
357 celebration fireworks display at a time and location to be determined by the Board of Selectmen? This is a Special Warrant
358 Article in accordance with RSA 32. **The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article (3-1). The Budget Advisory**
359 **Committee recommends this Article (0-0). This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$0.68 on an assessed valuation**
360 **of \$100,000.**
361

362 **There were no other comments.**
363

364 **WARRANT ARTICLE 18 - ANNUAL LABOR DAY PARADE SUPPORT - \$10,000**
365

366 Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 for the purpose of funding bands, musicians and other
367 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 recommends this Article (2-2). The Budget Advisory Committee recommends this Article (0-0). This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$0.48 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000.**

There were no other comments.

WARRANT ARTICLE 19 - 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. This is a non-lapsing article until 12/31/24. **The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article (2-2). The Budget Advisory Committee recommends this Article (0-0). This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$0.43 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000.**

There were no other comments.

WARRANT ARTICLE 20 - MEMORIAL, VETERANS & LABOR DAY PARADES AND RECOGNITION SUPPORT - \$8,000

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$8,000 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 30 days before Memorial Day and removed 30 days after Veterans Day. Departmental support costs and materials associated with the provision of these services will be charged against this appropriation. This is a Special Warrant Article in accordance with RSA 32. This is a non-lapsing article until 12/31/24. **The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article (4-0). The Budget Advisory Committee recommends this Article (0-0). This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$0.39 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000.**

There were no other comments.

WARRANT ARTICLE 21 - RE-ADOPT THE OPTIONAL VETERAN'S TAX CREDIT WITH EXPANDED ELIGIBILITY - \$5,000

Shall the Town vote to re-adopt the provisions of RSA 72:28 II - Optional Veteran's Tax Credit of \$400 which, if re-adopted, must be expanded to include individuals who have not yet been discharged from service in the armed forces and meet eligibility as described in revised RSA 72:28 and 21:50? This credit was most recently increased and re-adopted by town vote in 2020 and is currently available to any resident of Milford, or the spouse or surviving spouse of any resident who (1) served not less than 90 days of active service in the armed forces of the United States and was honorably discharged or an officer honorably separated from services and is not eligible for receiving a credit under RSA 72:28 or RSA 72:35. The current Veteran's property tax credit is \$400. If re-adoption fails with the expanded eligibility, then the Optional Veteran's Tax Credit will default for April 1, 2023 to the \$50 Standard Veteran's Tax and must include the expanded eligibility for all individuals who have not yet been discharged from service provided they meet eligibility requirements as described in the revised RSA 72:28 in effect by April 1, 2023. **The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article (3-0-1). The Budget Advisory Committee recommends this Article (0-0). This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$0.24 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000.**

There were no other comments.

WARRANT ARTICLE 22 - RE-ADOPT ALL VETERAN'S TAX CREDIT WITH EXPANDED ELIGIBILITY - \$5,000

Shall the Town vote to re-adopt the provisions of RSA 72:28-b – All Veteran's Tax Credit of \$400, which, if re-adopted, must be expanded to include individuals who have not yet been discharged from service in the armed forces and meet eligibility as described in revised RSA 72:28-b and 21:50? This credit was adopted by town vote in 2018 and is currently available to any resident of Milford, or the spouse or surviving spouse of any resident who (1) served not less than 90 days of active service in the armed forces of the United States and was honorably discharged or an officer honorably separated from services and is not eligible for receiving a credit under RSA 72:28 or RSA 72:35. The current credit is \$400, the same amount as the standard or optional veteran's tax credit under RSA 72:28. Per a recently revised Veterans Tax Credit Statute (RSA 72:28), If the re-adoption fails with the expanded eligibility, then this All Optional Veteran's Tax Credit will expire by April 1, 2023 and the \$50 Standard Veteran's Tax Credit will be in place for the April 2023 tax year. **The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article (3-0-1). The Budget Advisory Committee recommends this Article (0-0). This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$0.24 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000.**

There were no other comments.

WARRANT ARTICLE 23 - MILFORD COMMUNITY ELECTRICITY AGGREGATION - \$0

Shall the Town vote to adopt the Milford Standard Community Power Electric Aggregation Plan pursuant to RSA 53-E:7, which authorizes the Board of Selectmen to develop and implement Standard Community Power Electric Aggregation Plan as described therein? Under this Community Power Plan, the Town is authorized to buy electricity in bulk for its residents and businesses. The Plan's goal is to help ratepayers save money on their electric bills, while also getting more energy from renewable sources. The Plan will be self-funding, with no amount to be raised from taxation. **The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article (4-0). The Budget Advisory Committee recommends this Article (0-0).**

There were no other comments.

WARRANT ARTICLE 24 - HISTORICAL PRESERVATION OF THE TOWN OF MILFORD'S FIRE HORN BY Petition

Shall the voters of the Town of Milford N.H. direct the Board of Selectmen to preserve, maintain in good repair, to replace parts and systems as needed, Milford's historic Fire Horn in perpetuity? To additionally direct the Board of Selectmen, Town Administrator, or any other municipal department, to reinstate and then continually operate the Fire Horn in its regular and historic daily use in perpetuity. **The Board of Selectmen does not recommend this Article (1-3). The Budget Advisory Committee recommends this Article (0-0).**

Selectman Daniels asked if this means that no one in the future will be allowed to change this. Chairman Dargie said this is the intent of the people who submitted the warrant article. Ms. Langdell said this could be brought back to have it changed in a future warrant article. Mike Thornton said a current body can't dictate to a future body what they may or may not do.

Mr. Kimball said the term perpetuity is to highlight the desire of the voter. There is nothing that stops this from overriding.

There were no other comments.

The following Warrant article was not in the Board package because it just came in today.

WARRANT ARTICLE 25 - ELECT MEMBERS OF THE MILFORD PLANNING BOARD - \$0 (by petition)

Are you in favor of electing the Milford planning board consisting of 7 members which includes one ex officio member with two members to be elected for a one year term, two members for a two year term, and two members for a three year term, there after the term of planning board members shall be for three years to be filled at the end of the next regular town election pursuant to the provisions of RSA 673:2, II, (b) (2)?

Ms. Seward, asked about the non-lapsing comments in warrant articles 19 and 20, why do we want to carry it over a year. Chairman Dargie said it was geared towards if there is a problem and we don't actually have the parades or concerts and the money would flow into the next year. In all likely hood, the money will be spent and not carried over. Mr. Labonte said it wasn't lapsing before. Chairman Dargie said we had to take votes to encumber the funds.

Mr. Calabria said he believes that the RSA referenced in the warrant articles allows you to use the funds the following year.

Selectman Daniels questioned the language in the veteran's tax credit warrant articles. Chairman Dargie said Ms. Noel was trying to highlight the change in the RSA.

There were no other comments.

Chairman Dargie said the public hearing for the 2023 Bond & Budget is now complete at 8:30 p.m.

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Chairman, Paul Dargie

Member, Laura Dudziak

Vice Chairman, Tim Finan

Member, Dave Freel

Member, Gary Daniels