

February 6, 2018

Dear Board of Selectmen,

Each warrant article for the upcoming 2018 voting has been listed with a fact based (opinion-less) description. Similar to the write-up in 2017, the purpose is to help voters understand the Town's needs and issues in more detail well before voting, without all of the legal verbiage as seen on each warrant. There is another extensive list of warrants up for vote this year and the hope is that better understanding of the Town needs will help voters to also feel less intimidated and more likely to come out and vote.

The distribution of this information will be online (Milford Town page, Budget Advisory Committee page, Milford NH Residents FB page, etc.), paper copies at the Library, paper copies at Town Hall and any other possible common locations for local information.

Thank you for your support.

Respectfully,
Karen Mitchell

Description of Proposed 2018 Warrant Articles for the Town of Milford, NH

****NOTE:** Neither the Board of Selectman nor the Budget Advisory Committee have taken **final** votes on support/non-support for these articles at this point in time.

Warrant Article 3 - Main Fire Station Upgrade – Bond - \$3,864,300

This appropriation is for the design and construction of needed electrical upgrades, parking lot expansion, facility renovations and the expansion of the downtown fire station. This will be a bond issue with the duration of 20 years.

Warrant Article 4 - Town Operating Budget - \$14,060,271

This appropriation is for the operation of the Town, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately.

Warrant Article 5 - Water Department Operating Budget - \$1,520,953

This appropriation would be used to operate and maintain the Water Department and would be paid for by water user fees.

Warrant Article 6 - Wastewater Treatment Operating Budget – \$2,069,450

This appropriation would be used to operate and maintain the Wastewater Treatment Facility and the Sanitary Sewer Collection System and would be paid for by the wastewater user fees.

****NOTE:** Capital Reserve Funds are a useful budgeting tool that allows municipalities to set money apart from the general fund for specific purposes. The following capital reserve funds are not necessarily designed to fund each item in its entirety, so much as reduce the amount the Town will need to borrow (have bonded) at the time of purchase. The Towns of Amherst and Merrimack

successfully utilize capital reserve funds. The following funds represent current/ongoing work being done as well as near term needs for the Town.

Warrant Article 7 - Bridge Replacement Capital Reserve - \$175,000

Upcoming identified projects for 2018 are: two bridges on Mason Rd. (Mason Rd./Great Brook and Mason Rd./Tucker), which are exposed to high traffic daily for cars and buses, a culvert on Mason Rd. at the Wilton line, and a bridge on Hartshorn Rd. over Hartshorn Brook. The next bridge deemed in need of repair/replacement will be the Joslin Rd. culvert over Hartshorn Brook.

Warrant Article 8 - DPW Vehicles and Heavy Equipment – Capital Reserve - \$40,000

The establishment of this fund would allow for the appropriation to be used towards vehicles or heavy equipment replacement. It would not necessarily fund the entire vehicle so much as allow for a lesser amount of lease/purchase at the time of purchase.

Warrant Article 9 - Fire Apparatus Replacement – Capital Reserve - \$25,000

This previously established fund allows for the appropriation to be used towards a fire apparatus replacement. It would not necessarily fund the entire apparatus so much as allow for a lesser amount of lease/purchase at the time of purchase.

Warrant Article 10 - Town Facilities Renovation and Major Replacement – Capital Reserve - \$25,000

This previously established fund allows for the appropriation to be used towards Town Hall and facilities renovation as well as major replacements. It would not necessarily fund the entire project so much as allow for a lesser amount needed to expend at the time of renovation.

Warrant Article 11 - Ambulance Vehicle Replacement – Capital Reserve - \$25,000

This previously established fund allows for the appropriation to be used towards Ambulance vehicle replacement. It would not necessarily fund the entire vehicle so much as allow for a lesser amount of lease/purchase at the time of purchase.

Warrant Article 12 - Public Safety Communication Equipment Replacement – Capital Reserve - \$20,000

This previously established fund allows for the purchase replacement radios and pagers, both portable and vehicular for the Town departments of Police, Fire, Ambulance and some DPW. These devices allow the various departments to communicate with each other for Town purposes. This does not include MACC Base.

Warrant Article 13 - Assessing Revaluation – Capital Reserve - \$15,000

This previously established fund allows for the appropriation to be used towards reducing the tax impact of the expense incurred in the year of assessments. The revaluation and real estate assessments are to meet our constitutional and statutory requirements to periodically show these are at full and true value. It would not necessarily fund the entire amount needed so much as allow for a lesser amount needed to expend at the time of re-assessment.

**Warrant Article 14 - Replacement Sidewalk Plow Lease/Purchase - \$155,000
(Annual payment \$32,300/Total Purchase Price (\$155,000))**

This appropriation is for the lease/purchase of a replacement sidewalk plow with a first-year payment of \$32,300 and a total purchase price of \$155,000. This would allow the Town to have two sidewalk plows to be utilized as well as provide a backup in the event that one of the plows fails. It would be replacing a year 2000 Holder tractor plow with a sander, which is no longer in service.

Warrant Article 15 - Social Services - \$40,000

This appropriation would be used to provide funding to Social Service agencies for Milford residents. The following are agencies that are included in the appropriation: Big Brothers/Big Sisters NH, Bridges, CASA, CAST, Child Advocacy Center, Greater Nashua Mental Health, Keystone Hall, Nashua Children's Home, Nashua Soup Kitchen & Shelter, Harbor Homes, Milford Regional Counseling, Share Outreach, Souhegan Valley Boys & Girls Club and St. Joseph Community Services (Meals on Wheels).

Warrant Article 16 - Non-Emergency Community Transportation Bus Services (Blue Bus) - \$30,000

This appropriation would be used to provide the Town's share of funding the Souhegan Valley Transportation Collaborative (SVTC) in order to continue operating a regional, non-emergency, wheelchair-accessible transportation services providing rides within the designated service area to seniors, people with disabilities and the general public.

Warrant Article 17 - Pumpkin Festival, Holiday Decorations and Plantings - \$23,000

This appropriation would be used to provide the Pumpkin Festival support by Public Works, Police, Fire and Ambulance Departments; with the remaining balance for the purchase and planting of flowers for the Oval and Stone Bridge area; purchase of lights, garland and holiday decorations.

Warrant Article 18 - AFSCME (Association of Federal, State and County Municipal Employees) Contract - \$21,572

This article would allow for a one year extension of the Police Officers Collective Bargaining agreement. The contract calls for a 2.0% salary increase plus any additional merit increase which exceeds the 2.0% and is included in the operating budget for all other Town employees not in the AFSCME bargaining unit.

Warrant Article 19 - Summer Band Concerts - \$9,000

This appropriation would be used to hold the annual summer evening Band Concerts. The funds are used towards the bands, sound systems and crossing details.

Warrant Article 20 - Funding of the Annual Labor Day Parade - \$10,000

This appropriation would be used to fund the bands, musicians and other allied expenses directly attributed to the annual Labor Day Parade.

Warrant Article 21 - Memorial, Veterans & Labor Day Parades and Recognition – Town Support - \$6,500

This appropriation would be used to cover the costs of Town support relative to the observance of Memorial, Veterans and Labor Day Parades. The funds would cover the costs incurred by Public Works, Police and other Town Departments as well as to purchase flags to be placed on the graves of veterans on Memorial Day.

Warrant Article 22 - Appointing Agents to the Keyes Park Expansion Committee Project Capital Reserve - \$0

This article would name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from the Keyes Park Expansion Committee Project Capital Reserve Fund instead of requiring a Town vote. This article has no tax impact.

Warrant Article 23 - Authority to Grant Industrial Tax Relief - \$0

This article is intended to incentivize industrial development. If approved, this would allow a municipal and local school property tax exemption on new construction, additions, renovations or improvements and will run for the duration of five years. The exemption would be 50% for the first year, 40% for the second year, 30% for the third year, 20% for the fourth year and 10% for the fifth year. The "industrial uses" will include all manufacturing, production, assembling, warehousing, or processing of goods or materials for sale or distribution, research and development activities, or processing of waste materials.

Warrant Article 24 - Rename Bridge Replacement Capital Reserves Fund - \$0

This article would allow for the Bridge Replacement Capital Reserve Fund to be renamed the Bridge Repair and/or Replacement Capital Reserve Fund to allow clarification of the use of the funds towards not only Town bridge replacement, but also for "high priority projects for either replacement or repair in place". This will include culverts (10 feet or less across) greater than \$75,000 in replacement cost. This article has no tax impact.

Warrant Article 25 - Swing Bridge - \$0

This article would allow for the use of funds from the Bridge Replacement Capital Reserve Funds along with donations to match the grant money given by the State of NH towards repair of the Milford Swing Bridge. The NH DOT has placed the Swing Bridge on their ten-year plan funds and the rehabilitation funding is scheduled to be available in the year 2020, but requires the Town to provide the matching dollars.

Warrant Article 26 - Mile Slip Town Forest Easement - \$0

This article would allow the Board of Selectmen in conjunction with the Conservation Commission to put a permanent conservation easement on the property known as Mile Slip Town Forest.

**A version of this was supported by voters in 2014. This article contains corrected language required by the Town Attorney.

Warrant Article 27 - KENO - \$0 – by Petition

This article would allow for the operation of Keno (a game of chance similar to lotto, based on the drawing of numbers that must correspond with selected numbers on cards) within the Town.

Warrant Article 28 - Fireworks - \$8,500 – by Petition

This appropriation would be used to cover strictly the cost of the Independence Day celebration fireworks themselves. The show will last approximately 25-30 minutes.

Warrant Article 29 - Keyes Park Expansion Committee Project – Capital Reserve - \$25,000 – by Petition

This previously established fund allows for the appropriation to be used towards the KEYES Park Expansion Committee Project Capital Reserve Fund. This project is to update and expand Keyes Park inclusive of the Town purchased parcel of land (127 Elm St.), which is adjacent to Keyes Park. It would not necessarily fund the entire project so much as allow for a lesser amount of bond at the time of the expansion.

**A version of this was supported by voters in 2017. This article contains corrected language as required by the Department of Revenue Administration.

Warrant Article 30 - Conservation Land Fund - \$20,000 - by Petition

This appropriation would be used to add to the Conservation Land Fund, which would give opportunity for the Town to purchase land or conservation easements as the opportunities arise. These contributions further the protection of the Town's natural resources.

Warrant Article 31 - Compact Part of Town - \$0 – by Petition

This article would allow the lands designated as the Town Community Lands (BROX) to be deemed a “Compact Part” of the Town in accordance with RSA 644:13 (Unauthorized Use of Firearms).

Prepared by: Karen Mitchell, Secretary, Town Budget Advisory Committee

Approval by: Budget Advisory Committee

Awaiting approval from: Board of Selectman