

## **Descriptions of Proposed 2023 Warrant Articles for the Town of Milford, NH**

### **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) Remaining amount \$17,328, 438.55.**

This appropriation would allow for the construction of 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). 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. The total repayment would be paid for by the sewer users and the taxpayers. This article would require a 3/5 vote of support to pass, would have tax impact of \$25.10 per \$100,000 home value and would be a long-term debt issue. The payments for this bond would **not** begin until 2026 and would be paid for in the amounts of 55% rate payers/45% taxpayers.

### **Warrant Article 4 - Town Operating Budget - \$17,291,068**

This appropriation is for the operation of the Town, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately. The driving forces behind the increase from 2022 include future wage increases for town employees, increases in benefit costs, rising utility costs and supply costs. Voting YES on this article has an estimated tax impact of \$11.99 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000 when compared to voting NO on this article. If this operating budget does not pass, the default budget would be \$17,041,768, which is \$249,300 below the proposed budget amount.

### **Warrant Article 5 - Wastewater Department Operating Budget - \$2,677,050**

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 wastewater user fees. If this article is defeated, the default budget would be \$2,565,859.

### **Warrant Article 6 - Water Treatment Operating Budget - \$2,083,269**

This appropriation would be used to operate and maintain the Water Department and would be paid for by the water user fees. If this article is defeated, the default budget would be \$1,775,670.

### **Warrant Article 7 - Fire Engine Replacement - 7-year lease/purchase \$755,000 (Annual Lease Payment \$124,665)**

This appropriation would allow for the purchase of a fire engine/pumper with the appropriate equipment for Fire Department operation. This truck would replace the current 1993 Pierce Saber engine/pumper). This article requires a simple majority (51%) to pass. With passage of this article, the first year's payment would be \$124,665 and future payments would be included in the operating budget. **Note:** This article will have NO tax impact until the town takes delivery of the fire engine in 2025 or 2026. At that point, there is an estimated tax impact of \$6.02 per \$100,000 home value.

### **Warrant Article 8 - Reconstruction of Town Roads - \$400,000**

This appropriation would allow for the sum of \$400,000 to reconstruct or repair Town roads by the DPW. This would be a non-lapsing appropriation – meaning that if not fully used in 2023, the remaining funds would rollover to the next fiscal year to be used solely on road repair and reconstruction. The article would have a tax impact of \$19.32 per \$100,000 home value.

**Warrant Article 9 - Ambulance Vehicle Replacement (Lease/Purchase)**  
**(Annual Payment \$60,820/Total Purchase Price \$409,000)**

This article would allow for the withdrawal and use of \$125,800 from the previously established Ambulance Capital Reserve Fund towards an ambulance vehicle replacement. It would not necessarily fund the entire apparatus so much as allow for a lesser amount of bond at the time of purchase. If the warrant to purchase a new ambulance passes, this balance will be used towards the purchase of the ambulance. **Note:**

This article will have NO tax impact until the town takes delivery of the ambulance in 2025. At that point, there is an estimated tax impact of \$2.94 per \$100,000 home value.

**Warrant Article 10 - AFSCME/Police Contract \$175,398**

The Board of Selectmen and AFSCME (American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees) have successfully negotiated a contract for salaries and benefits for the years 2023 through 2026. The yearly increase in raises will follow the schedule of 8%, 4%, and 3% beginning with April 1, 2023. The cost increase for 2023 is estimated to be \$175,398 and if approved will be part of the 2023 Operating Budget. This article has an estimated tax impact of \$8.47 per \$100,000 home value.

**Warrant Article 11 - Bandstand and Renovation - \$90,000**

This appropriation would be used to renovate the historic Pillsbury Bandstand on the Milford Oval. An assessment of the project and an estimate of the scope of work necessary for its completion have been finished. Funding in the form of grants, donations, and contributions for the restoration of this historic landmark are in the process of being secured. This article has an estimated tax impact of \$2.90 per \$100,000 home value. Contributions are expected to be over \$42,000.

**\*\*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. These funds represent current/ongoing work being done as well as near term needs for the Town. This year the Selectmen have opted to not to list these funds on the ballot.

**Warrant Article 12 - Social Services - \$40,000**

This appropriation would be used to provide funding to Social Service agencies for Milford residents in need. The following are agencies that are included in the appropriation: ARCNH (Addiction Recovery Coalition of NH), Boys & Girls Club of Souhegan Valley, Bridges, CAC (Child Advocacy Center), CAST (Community Action for Safe Teens), Greater Nashua Mental Health Center (GNMHC), Lamprey Health Care, Share Outreach and St. Joseph Community Services (Meals on Wheels). This article has an estimated tax impact of \$1.93 per \$100,000 home value.

**Warrant Article 13 - Transfer Station Recycling Center/Revolving Fund - \$40,000**

This article would allow for the establishment of a revolving fund and dedicate all income from the sale of recyclables for the purpose of repairs, supplies, building needs, and equipment that is used for the purpose of storage, processing, and redistribution of recyclable materials for the Transfer Station/Recycling Center. The money would be allowed to accumulate from year to year and not be part of the Town's general fund balance. This article would have an estimated tax impact of \$1.93 per \$100,000 home value.

**Warrant Article 14 - Non-Emergency Community Transportation Bus Services (Blue Bus) - \$32,000**

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. This article has an estimated tax impact of \$1.55 per \$100,000 home value.

**Warrant Article 15 - Modification of Existing Elderly Exemption Criteria**

This article would modify the elderly exemption from property tax based on assessed value for qualified taxpayers as follows: age 65-75, \$83,000; age 75-80, \$124,000 and age over 80, \$200,500. This article would also modify the maximum asset limit for both individual and married persons to \$125,000 (excluding the value of the persons residence). This article has an estimated tax impact of \$1.45 per \$100,000 home value.

**Warrant Article 16 - Wadleigh Library Maintenance and Upkeep Capital Reserve - \$25,000**

This appropriation would raise \$25,000 to be placed in this previously established capital reserve fund to be used towards future library building repairs and improvements of the existing facility for the benefit of the Town. This article has an estimated tax impact of \$1.21 per \$100,000 home value.

**Warrant Article 17 - Independence Day Celebration Fireworks - \$14,000**

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. This article will have an estimated tax impact of \$0.68 per \$100,000 home value.

**Warrant Article 18 - 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. This article has an estimated tax impact of \$0.43 per \$100,000 home value.

**Warrant Article 19 - Memorial, Veterans & Labor Day Parades and Recognition - Town Support - \$8,000**

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. This article has an estimated tax impact of \$0.39 per \$100,000 home value.

**Warrant Article 20 - Annual Labor Day Parade Support - \$3,000**

This appropriation would be used to fund bands, musicians and other allied expenses directly attributed to the annual Labor Day Parade. This article would have an estimated tax impact of \$0.14 per \$100,000 home value.

**Warrant Article 21- Re-Adopt the Optional Veteran's Tax Credit with Expanded Eligibility - \$2,000**

This article would re-adopt the provisions of RSA 72:28-b - Optional Veteran's Tax Credit of \$400 and would expand 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. If this article fails, the tax credit will default to the \$50 Standard Veteran's Tax credit. This article has an estimated tax impact of \$0.10 per \$100,000 home value.

**Warrant Article 22 - Re-Adopt the All Veteran's Tax Credit with Expanded Eligibility - \$2,000**

This article would re-adopt the \$400 Veteran's Tax credit for standard and optional recipients. This article has an estimated tax impact of \$0.10 per \$100,000 home value.

**Warrant Article 23 - Milford Community Electricity Aggregation - \$0**

This article would allow for the adoption of the Milford Standard Community Power Electric Aggregation Plan. Under this Community Power Plan, the Town would be 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. There is no tax impact from this article.

**Warrant Article 24 - Historical Preservation of the Town of Milford's Fire Horn- by Petition**

This article would 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. Additionally, it would direct the reinstatement and continual operation of the Fire Horn in its regular and historic daily use in perpetuity.

**Warrant Article 25 - Elect Member of the Milford Planning Board - \$0(by petition)**

This article would support electing the Milford Planning Board (7 members) rather than being appointed. The election of members would begin with one member being ex officio, two members having a one-year term, two members for a two-year term and two members for a three-year term. Thereafter, the term of the planning board members would be for three years to be filled at the end of the next regular town election.

Prepared by: Karen Mitchell, Vice Chair and Secretary of the Milford Budget Advisory Committee