

Town of Milford

Warrant & Financials

Budget and Bond

January 13, 2025

To the inhabitants of the Town of Milford in the County of Hillsborough, in the State of New Hampshire, qualified to vote in Town Affairs:

You are hereby notified that the Annual Meeting of the Town of Milford will be held, in accordance with RSA 40:13, in said Milford, with the first session (also known as “Deliberative Session”) at the Town Hall Auditorium on Saturday, February 1, 2025, at 9:00 am, to transact all business other than voting, and on Tuesday, March 11, 2025, at the Milford High School Gymnasium, for the second session (also known as “Town Vote”) for voting by official ballot at the polls on all matters in the warrant as well as officers and other matters to be voted on. The polls will be open on March 11, 2025, at 6:00 a.m. and will not close earlier than 8:00 p.m.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the services of an interpreter will be provided as requested. Such requests must be received in the Milford Board of Selectmen's Office, Town Hall, One Union Square, Milford, NH 03055-4240, at least two (2) calendar weeks before the event. The Town will attempt to honor any requests received after this time.

ARTICLE 1 – ELECTION OF OFFICERS

ARTICLE 2 – BALLOT VOTE – ZONING CHANGES

WARRANT ARTICLE 3 - WADLEIGH MEMORIAL LIBRARY LOWER-LEVEL RESTROOMS - \$250,000 (BOND)

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$250,000 (gross budget) for the construction of new restrooms on the lower level of the Wadleigh Memorial Library (“the Project”), with \$25,000 coming from the Wadleigh Library Maintenance And Upkeep Capital Reserve Fund; and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$225,000 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33), and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes, to determine the rate of interest and other conditions in their judgment with a term not to exceed five (5) years; and further to authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for, accept, and expend any federal, state, or private funds that may become available in respect of the Project to reduce the amount that must be bonded or to pay debt service on such bonds or notes? The public library has three floors open for public use, but currently has only two public restrooms, both on the second floor.

This article would allow the town to add restrooms on the lower level, near the renovated conference and meeting room. (3/5 ballot affirmative vote required). **The Board of Selectmen recommend this Article (3-2). The Budget Advisory Committee recommends this Article (9-0). This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$2.45 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000.**

WARRANT ARTICLE 4 - TOWN OPERATING BUDGET - \$19,300,099

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 \$19,300,099. Should this Article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$18,729,307, 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 (4-1). The Budget Advisory Committee recommends this Article (9-0). Voting YES on this article has an estimated tax impact of \$27.96 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000 when compared to voting NO on this article.**

WARRANT ARTICLE 5 - WASTEWATER DEPARTMENT OPERATING BUDGET - \$2,856,974

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,856,974 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 \$2,711,808 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 (2-0). The Budget Advisory Committee recommends this Article (9-0).**

WARRANT ARTICLE 6 - WATER DEPARTMENT OPERATING BUDGET - \$2,429,662

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,429,662 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 \$2,357,379, 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 (2-0). The Budget Advisory Committee recommends this Article (9-0).**

WARRANT ARTICLE 7 - MILFORD SWING BRIDGE - \$634,070 (State pays \$507,256; Town pays \$126,814)

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$634,070 with \$126,814 to be raised by general taxation and \$507,256 from funds from NH Department of Transportation 10-Year Plan for the construction/rehabilitation of the rare, historically significant suspension pedestrian Swing Bridge? The Town retained Hoyle, Tanner & Associates in 2015 to assess the bridge's condition and develop an approximation of costs for replacement/repair. The company determined that the Swing Bridge was in poor condition, and repairs were needed to correct structural deficiencies and prevent further

deterioration of the historically significant community asset. This reimbursement program provides an 80% federal funding and 20% local matching funds opportunity. This is a Special Warrant Article in accordance with RSA 32. **The Board of Selectmen recommend this Article (5-0). The Budget Advisory Committee recommends this Article (9-0). This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$6.21 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000.**

WARRANT ARTICLE 8 - DUMP TRUCK 58K GROSS VEHICLE WEIGHT (OR SIMILAR) WITH PLOW AND SANDER ASSEMBLY - 5 YEAR LEASE-PURCHASE - \$70,452 (Annual Lease Payment \$70,452; Total Purchase Price \$352,260)

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, in the amount of \$352,260, that will protect the Town in the event of non-appropriation, for the purpose of lease/purchasing a 58K GVW dump truck with a plow and sander assembly for Highway Department operation and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$70,452 for the first year's payment for this purpose? If this article passes, future years' payments will be included in the operating budget. **The Board of Selectmen recommend this Article (5-0). The Budget Advisory Committee recommends this Article (9-0). This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$3.45 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000.**

WARRANT ARTICLE 9 - RECONSTRUCTION OF TOWN ROADS - \$300,000

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$300,000 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 (5-0). The Budget Advisory Committee recommends this Article (8-0-1). This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$14.70 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000.**

WARRANT ARTICLE 10 - FIRE DEPARTMENT – THREE (3) FULL-TIME FIREFIGHTERS - \$277,195

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$277,195 for the purpose of hiring three (3) full-time firefighter personnel and to be included in the preparation of the annual budget in future years, or take any other action relative thereto? This appropriation is for 6-months only, and in future years, the total annual amount required will be approximately \$555,399. **The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article (4-1). The Budget Advisory Committee recommends this Article (7-0-2). This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$13.58 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000.**

WARRANT ARTICLE 11 - AMBULANCE REPLACEMENT AND EQUIPMENT REVOLVING FUND - \$140,000

Shall the Town vote to establish a revolving fund pursuant to RSA 31:95-h for the purpose of funding future Ambulance replacements and its associated equipment? The first \$140,000 in Ambulance Department service fees collected, in each calendar year would be deposited into the fund and the money in the fund shall be allowed to accumulate year to year and shall not be considered part of the Town's general fund balance. The Town Treasurer shall have custody of all moneys in the fund and shall pay out the same only with approval of the governing body to expend. Such funds may be expended only for the purpose for which the fund was created. **The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article (4-1). The Budget Advisory Committee recommends this Article (6-0-3). This article has a tax impact \$6.86 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000.**

WARRANT ARTICLE 12 - MILFORD DAMS ALTERNATIVES FEASIBILITY STUDY - \$100,000 (Gross Appropriation. 100% Loan Forgiveness by NH State Dept. of Environmental Services)

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000 (gross budget) to conduct an updated dam alternatives feasibility study for the McLane and Goldman Dams? The purpose and intent of the project is to address questions left unanswered from the 2014 feasibility study, determine the environmental and financial impacts to the Town, and provide options to help the Town develop a plan for future actions. The Town was awarded a low interest loan totaling \$100,000 through the NH Department of Environmental Services Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF). The program allows for 100% loan forgiveness up to \$100,000. (3/5 ballot affirmative vote required). **The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article (3-2). The Budget Advisory Committee recommends this Article (9-0). This Article does not have a tax impact.**

WARRANT ARTICLE 13 - KEYES PARK EXPANSION COMMITTEE PROJECT CAPITAL RESERVE - \$60,000

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$60,000 to be placed in the Keyes Park Expansion Committee Project Capital Reserve Fund? The \$60,000 adds to the Keyes Park Expansion Committee Project Capital Reserve approved by voters in 2017. The current available balance in this capital reserve account as of December 31, 2024, is approximately \$170.32. **The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article (4-1). The Budget Advisory Committee recommends this Article (8-0-1). This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$2.94 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000.**

WARRANT ARTICLE 14 - SOCIAL SERVICES - \$45,000

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$45,000, 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 recommends this Article (5-0). The Budget Advisory Committee recommends this Article (9-0). This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$2.20 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000.**

WARRANT ARTICLE 15 - POLICE DEPARTMENT PORTABLE, MOBILE RADIO AND MOBILE DATA TERMINAL (MDT) REPLACEMENT FROM THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT CAPITAL RESERVE FUND - \$35,000

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$35,000 to replace Portable, Mobile Radios and Mobile Data Terminals for the Police Department to come from the Public Safety Communication Equipment Replacement Capital Reserve? The current available balance in this capital reserve account as of December 31, 2024, is approximately \$63,734.76. **The Board of Selectmen recommend this Article (5-0). The Budget Advisory Committee recommends this Article (9-0). This Article does not have a tax impact.**

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

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$32,000 for the purpose of providing the Town's share of funding to the Souhegan Valley Transportation Collaborative (SVTC) 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? The Board of Selectmen designates this article as special and non-lapsing. **The Board of Selectman recommends this Article (5-0). The Budget Advisory Committee recommends this Article (9-0). This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$1.57 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000.**

WARRANT ARTICLE 17 - INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE CAPITAL RESERVE - \$20,000

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 to be placed in the Information Technology Infrastructure Capital Reserve Fund? The Board of Selectmen has the authority to expend from this fund. The \$20,000 adds to the Information Technology Infrastructure Capital Reserve Fund approved by voters in 2021. The current available balance in this capital reserve account as of December 31, 2024, is approximately \$61,249.74. **The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article (5-0). The Budget Advisory Committee recommends this Article (8-0-1). This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$0.98 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000.**

WARRANT ARTICLE 18 - CONSERVATION LAND 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 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, or take any other action relative thereto? Contributions further the protection of the town's natural resources. The current available balance in this fund account as of December 31, 2024, is approximately \$80,051. This is a Special Warrant Article in accordance with RSA 32. **The Board of Selectmen recommend this Article (3-2). The Budget Advisory Committee recommends this Article (9-0). This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$0.98 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000.**

WARRANT ARTICLE 19 - MEMORIAL, VETERANS & LABOR DAY PARADES AND RECOGNITION SUPPORT - \$11,000

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$11,000 for the purpose of town support relative to the observance of Memorial, Veterans, and Labor Day Parades or take any other action relative thereto? These funds shall be used to cover parade costs incurred by Public Works, Police Departments, and other Town departments, and to purchase flags to be placed on the graves of veterans about 30 days before Memorial Day and removed about 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 12/31/26. **The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article (5-0). The Budget Advisory Committee recommends this Article (9-0). This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$0.54 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000.**

WARRANT ARTICLE 20 - 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) or take any other action relative thereto? This is a Special Warrant Article in accordance with RSA 32. This is a non-lapsing article until 12/31/26. **The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article (5-0). The Budget Advisory**

Committee recommends this Article (9-0). This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$0.44 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000.

WARRANT ARTICLE – 21 ANNUAL LABOR DAY PARADE SUPPORT - \$8,000

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$8,000 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. This is a non-lapsing article until 12/31/26. **The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article (5-0). The Budget Advisory Committee recommends this Article (9-0). This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$0.39 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000.**

WARRANT ARTICLE 22 – NECESSARY SAFETY REPAIRS TO KEYES POOL - \$89,000 by Petition

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$89,000 for the purpose of repairing safety concerns in the Town pools. This funding would make necessary repairs to ensure the main pool and kiddy pool are safe for all users. Specific safety repairs would include, but not limited to: (1) Clean and pressure wash all areas of the Main and Kiddy pools, (2) Grind down any sharp-edged areas in the pool. (approx.-50 sq ft.), (3) Repair any faulty areas in the pools. (4 areas), (4) Paint both pools including racing lines, targets and depth markers using Hi-Build Epoxy. (Town supplies stencils), (5) Replace caulking in the 3 expansion joints inside pools. Work to be accomplished in time for the 2025 season. This is a Special Warrant Article in accordance with RSA 32. This is a non-lapsing article until 12/31/26. **The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article (3-2). This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$4.36 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000.**

WARRANT ARTICLE 23 - REPAIR AND RESURFACE THE MALCOLM ELLINGWOOD ROTCH TENNIS COURTS AT KEYES MEMORIAL PARK- \$60,000 by Petition

Shall the Town vote to appropriate the remaining project balance of \$60,000 for the purpose of repairing and resurfacing the Malcom Ellingwood Rotch Tennis Courts at Keyes Memorial Park. The cracks in the surface of the four courts have grown to the extent to where the courts are considered unsafe and unplayable. Community members have engaged in private grant writing and received donations to heavily offset the cost of this project to the town. The remaining balance will ensure project completion and restore the tennis courts for use by community members, Milford Recreation activities and Milford High School tennis programs from April through October. This is a Special Warrant Article in accordance with RSA 32. This is a non-lapsing article until 12/31/26. **The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article (3-2). This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$2.94 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000.**