

Town of Milford Warrant & Financials Final

February 1, 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

Board of Selectmen – 3 Year Term (vote for one)

David J. Catanzano
Gary Daniels

Cemetery Trustee – 3 Year Term (vote for one)

Jay Duffy
Mike Thornton

Cemetery Trustee – 2 Year Term (vote for one)

Chris Costantino

Checklist Supervisor – 1 Year Term (vote for one)

Kevin Overby

Town Clerk – 3 Year Term (vote for one)

Joan Dargie

Library Trustee – 3 Year Term (vote for two)

Chris Costantino
Jennifer Siegrist

Trustees of the Trust Fund – 3 Year Term (vote for one)

Janet Spalding

Trustees of the Trust Fund – 1 Year Term (vote for one)

Gina Matthews

Water and Wastewater Commissioner – 3 Year Term (vote for one)

Dale White

Water and Wastewater Commissioner – 1 Year Term (vote for one)

Eric Knott

ARTICLE 2 – BALLOT VOTE – ZONING CHANGES

Ballot Title: Family Day Care Home-Zoning District Criteria Revisions

Ballot Vote No. 1

1. Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment #1 as proposed by the Milford Planning Board for the Town of Milford Zoning Ordinance as follows:

AMENDMENT #1: Amend the Zoning Ordinance, Article IV, Definitions and Article V Districts, Section 5.0 (Zoning Districts & Regulations) and Article VII, Supplementary Standards, Section 7.12.6 (Home Businesses) by amending several Zoning Districts to provide additional “Allowable Uses” to provide for “Family Day Care Homes”.

Topical Description of Proposed Amendment: The proposal, which affects several sections of Milford's ordinances, will make "Family Day Care Homes" acceptable in any zone where primary residential uses are permitted. Further, the facilities will no longer be subject to local site plan review or special exception process. The proposed changes bring Milford into compliance with changes mandated by the state in 2024 that facilitate the addition and availability of childcare spaces.

The Planning Board supports Amendment #1 by a unanimous vote 7-0.

Ballot Title: Junkyards-Article IV (Section 4.01): Amendment to the Definition of Junkyards

Ballot Vote No. 2

2. Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment #2 as proposed by the Milford Planning Board for the Town of Milford Zoning Ordinance as follows:

AMENDMENT #2: Amend the Zoning Ordinance, Article IV, (Definitions- Section 4.01) by amending the definition of “Junkyards” to include “any lots”.

Topical Description of Proposed Amendment: This change provides consistency and clarification within our zoning ordinance language for compliance with the State of New Hampshire’s RSA-mandated language for “Junkyards”.

The Planning Board supports Amendment #2 by a unanimous vote 7-0.

Ballot Title: Open Space and Conservation District

Ballot Vote No. 3

3. Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment #3 as proposed by the Milford Planning Board for the Town of Milford Zoning Ordinance as follows:

AMENDMENT # 3: Amend the Zoning Ordinance, Article VI Open Space and Conservation District, Section 6.04.4 (Location and Scope of Authority) by removing all references to the number of dwelling units.

Topical Description of Proposed Amendment: The proposal removes all references to the number of dwelling units in the Open Space and Conservation District language to eliminate confusion and ambiguity regarding the ordinance's intent.

The Planning Board supports Amendment #3 by a unanimous vote 7-0.

Ballot Title: Manufactured Home Park Expansion

Ballot Vote No. 4

4. Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment #4 as proposed by the Milford Planning Board for the Town of Milford Zoning Ordinance as follows:

AMENDMENT #4: The proposal amends Zoning Ordinance, Article VII, Supplementary Standards, Section 7.05.1, Allowable Uses, to allow for the reasonable expansion of manufactured home parks.

Topical Description of Proposed Amendment: The proposal amends Article VII, Allowable Uses, to allow for the reasonable expansion of existing manufactured housing, both internal to an existing approved manufactured housing park site, and to include adjacent lands; providing that full compliance with existing national fire code criteria shall be met. This provides for full consistency with RSA mandated zoning ordinances within the State of New Hampshire.

The Planning Board supports Amendment #4 by a unanimous vote 7-0.

Ballot Title: Reduce the Residence 'R' Zoning District Lot Size and Minimum Road Frontage to allow for increased residential density.

Ballot Vote No. 5

5. Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment #5 as proposed by the Milford Planning Board for the Town of Milford Zoning Ordinance as follows:

AMENDMENT #5: Milford Residence "R" Zoning District: Amend the Milford Zoning Ordinance, (Article V, Section 5.04.4.A Lot Sizes and Frontages), to reduce the minimum required lot size & road frontage for a single-family dwelling or a single-family manufactured home unit in the Residential "R" Zoning District from the current 2 Acre (87,120 square feet) minimum lot size, to 40,000 SF or greater, with a reduction of the current minimum 200 feet linear feet of road frontage to a revised minimum of 150 linear feet of frontage along a Class V or better road.

Topical Description of Proposed Amendment: The proposal, which impacts approximately 12,100 acres of the town's overall 16,300 acres, will allow landowners to subdivide their properties of two acres or more into lots of less than one acre (minimum of 40,000 square feet, dependent upon soil and slope conditions).

The proposed minimum lot size and road frontage requirements will essentially revert to the former lot standards that were in place in the town's designated Residence "R" Zoning District prior to November 2000.

The proposal enables additional dwelling units and increased densities; thus, providing a tool to help address the State's current housing challenges.

The Planning Board supports this Amendment #5 by a 5-2 Vote.

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 two (2) 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 two (2) 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 (9-0). 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 includes wages, benefits, and other costs associated with enabling this new staffing model. 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 (9-0). 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 (3-2). The Budget Advisory Committee recommends this Article (9-0). 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 does not recommend this Article (3-6). 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 (5-0). The Budget Advisory Committee recommends this Article (9-0). 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 (9-0). 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.**

WARRNT 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 MAINTENANCE AND 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 and maintenance concerns in the Town pools. This funding would make necessary repairs to ensure the main pool and kiddie pool are safe for all users. 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). The Budget Advisory Committee recommends this Article (9-0). This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$4.36 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000.**

WARRANT ARTICLE 23 – SUPPORT OF REPAIR AND RESURFACING OF THE MALCOLM ELLINGWOOD ROTCH TENNIS COURTS AT KEYES MEMORIAL PARK- by Petition

Shall the Town vote to encourage and support the Town and School District to cooperate in the repair and resurfacing of the Malcom Ellington Rotch Tennis Courts at Keyes Memorial Park? **The Board of Selectmen recommends this Article (5-0). The Budget Advisory Committee recommends this Article (9-0). This Article has no tax impact.**