

TOWN OF MILTON 2025



Annual Town Meeting

Tuesday, April 29, 2025 ELECTION

Monday, May 5, 2025 TOWN MEETING

Milton High School Auditorium

7:30 p.m.

WARRANT

INCLUDING THE REPORT OF THE WARRANT COMMITTEE
AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON ARTICLES
as required by Chapter 75, Section 1, of the General Bylaws of Town

PLEASE BRING THIS REPORT TO TOWN MEETING

**2025
ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION**

Commonwealth of Massachusetts, SS
County of Norfolk

To any of the constables of the Town of Milton in said County:

GREETINGS:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Milton, qualified to vote in Elections and Town affairs, to meet at the several designated polling places in their respective Precincts in said Milton, to wit:

In Precinct 1.	Tucker School, Blue Hills Parkway
In Precinct 2.	Milton Senior Center, Walnut Street
In Precinct 3.	Cunningham Park Community Center, Edge Hill Road
In Precinct 4.	Milton Senior Center, Walnut Street
In Precinct 4A.	Milton Senior Center, Walnut Street
In Precinct 5.	Copeland Field House, Milton High School, Gile Road
In Precinct 6.	Cunningham School Gymnasium, Edge Hill Road
In Precinct 7.	Cunningham Park Community Center, Edge Hill Road
In Precinct 8.	Cunningham School Gymnasium, Edge Hill Road
In Precinct 9.	Copeland Field House, Milton High School, Gile Road
In Precinct 10.	Tucker School, Blue Hills Parkway

On Tuesday, April 29, 2025, next at 7 o'clock in the forenoon, then and there to bring in to Precinct Officers of their precincts their votes on the one ballot respectively the following Town Officers and Question to wit:

Two members of the SELECT BOARD and SURVEYOR OF THE HIGHWAY for a term of three years

A TOWN MODERATOR for a term of three years

One ASSESSOR for a term of three years

Two SCHOOL COMMITTEE members for a term of three years

One PARK COMMISSIONER for a term of three years

One member of the BOARD of HEALTH for a term of three years

Three TRUSTEES of the PUBLIC LIBRARY for a term of three years

Four CONSTABLES for a term of three years

One TRUSTEE of the CEMETERY for a term of five years

One member of the HOUSING AUTHORITY for a term of five years

Two members of the PLANNING BOARD for a term of three years.

One hundred one Town Meeting Members as follows:

Precinct One:	Nine for a term of three years
	One for a term of two years to fill a vacancy
	One for a term of one year to fill a vacancy
Precinct Two:	Ten for a term of three years
	One for a term of one year to fill a vacancy

Precinct Three:	Ten for a term of three years
Precinct Four & Four A	Eleven for a term of three years
Precinct Five:	Nine for a term of three years
Precinct Six:	Nine for a term of three years
Precinct Seven:	Ten for a term of three years
Precinct Eight:	Ten for a term of three years
Precinct Nine:	Ten for a term of three years
	One for a term of two years to fill a vacancy
Precinct Ten:	Eight for a term of three years
	One for a term of one year to fill a vacancy

QUESTION 1

“Shall the Town of Milton be allowed to assess an additional \$8,800,000.00 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purpose of funding the operating budgets of the Town and the Public Schools and an additional \$700,000.00 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purpose of funding an Operating Budget Stabilization Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025?

YES _____ NO _____”

For these purposes the polls will be open at each and all of said precincts at seven o’clock in the forenoon and will be closed at eight o’clock in the evening.

And thereupon by adjournment of said meeting on the following Monday to wit, May 5, next at 7:30 o’clock in the evening at the Milton High School Auditorium, 25 Gile Road in said Milton, then and there to act upon the following articles to wit:

Articles 1 through 39 inclusive appearing in regular type on the following pages.

And you are directed to warn said inhabitants qualified as aforesaid to meet at the times and places and for the purposes herein mentioned by posting attested copies of the Warrant in each of the Post Offices of said Town seven days before the twenty-ninth day of April.

Hereof fail not and make due return of this Warrant with your doings thereon to the Town Clerk, on or before said twenty-ninth day of April, next.

Given under our hands at Milton this of 8th day of April, 2025.

Richard G. Wells, Jr.
Roxanne F. Musto
John C. Keohane
Erin G. Bradley
Benjamin D. Zoll

A True Copy: Attest

William J. Neville
 Constable of Milton

FY25 AND FY26 BUDGETED REVENUE

						FY 25 to FY 26
	FY 2025	Non-Contingent FY 2026	Contingent FY 2026	Total FY 2026	Contingent \$ Difference	
PROPERTY TAXES						
Previous Levy Limit	\$ 95,438,796	\$ 99,114,881	\$ -	\$ 99,114,881	\$ 3,676,085	
Add 2.5% Levy	\$ 2,385,970	\$ 2,477,872	\$ -	\$ 2,477,872	\$ 91,902	
New Growth (Actual 2025)	\$ 1,290,115	\$ 1,000,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000,000	\$ (290,115)	
Override	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,500,000	\$ 9,500,000	\$ 9,500,000	
Subtotal	\$ 99,114,881	\$ 102,592,753	\$ 9,500,000	\$ 112,092,753	\$ 12,977,872	
Debt Exclusion	\$ 1,794,934	\$ 1,336,993	\$ -	\$ 1,336,993	\$ (457,941)	
Debt Exclusion (Fire Stations Project)	\$ 534,246	\$ 992,187	\$ -	\$ 992,187	\$ 457,941	
Public Safety Med. Exp. Exclusion	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000	\$ -	\$ 500,000	\$ -	
Subtotal	\$ 2,829,180	\$ 2,829,180	\$ -	\$ 2,829,180	\$ -	
MAXIMUM ALLOWED PROPERTY TAX	\$ 101,944,061	\$ 105,421,933	\$ 9,500,000	\$ 114,921,933	\$ 12,977,872	
LOCAL RECEIPTS	\$ 10,422,567	\$ 10,250,730	\$ -	\$ 10,250,730	\$ (171,837)	
ENTERPRISE FUNDS INDIRECT COSTS	\$ 1,459,500	\$ 1,532,475	\$ -	\$ 1,532,475	\$ 72,975	
STATE AID						
General Government	\$ 17,859,638	\$ 18,255,799	\$ -	\$ 18,255,799	\$ 396,161	
Library Grant	\$ 63,515	\$ 71,007	\$ -	\$ 71,007	\$ 7,492	
Subtotal	\$ 17,923,153	\$ 18,326,806	\$ -	\$ 18,326,806	\$ 403,653	
OTHER AVAILABLE FUNDS						
Leash Law	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ -	\$ 5,000	\$ -	
Overlay Reserve	\$ 250,000	\$ 100,000	\$ -	\$ 100,000	\$ (150,000)	
Special Purpose Debt Stabilization Fund	\$ 302,932	\$ 326,049	\$ -	\$ 326,049	\$ 23,117	
Free Cash - Operating Stabilization Fund	\$ -	\$ 2,000,000	\$ (2,000,000)	\$ -	\$ -	
Free Cash - Capital	\$ 955,000	\$ 878,500	\$ -	\$ 878,500	\$ (76,500)	
Free Cash - Opioid Settlement Fund	\$ -	\$ 155,666	\$ -	\$ 155,666	\$ 155,666	
Free Cash - Operations	\$ 1,809,658	\$ 528,956	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 2,528,956	\$ 719,298	
Subtotal	\$ 3,322,590	\$ 3,994,171	\$ -	\$ 3,994,171	\$ 671,581	
TOTAL GENERAL FUND	\$ 135,071,871	\$ 139,526,115	\$ 9,500,000	\$ 149,026,115	\$ 13,954,244	
ENTERPRISE FUNDS						
Water Enterprise Fund	\$ 6,807,588	\$ 7,286,228	\$ -	\$ 7,286,228	\$ 478,640	
Sewer Enterprise Fund	\$ 8,789,344	\$ 8,799,989	\$ -	\$ 8,799,989	\$ 10,645	
Stormwater Enterprise Fund	\$ 1,091,080	\$ 1,203,060	\$ -	\$ 1,203,060	\$ 111,980	
PEG Access Enterprise Fund	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000	\$ -	\$ 500,000	\$ -	
Subtotal	\$ 17,188,012	\$ 17,789,277	\$ -	\$ 17,789,277	\$ 601,265	
TOTAL REVENUE / AVAILABLE FUNDS	\$ 152,259,883	\$ 157,315,392	\$ 9,500,000	\$ 166,815,392	\$ 14,555,509	

FY25 AND FY26 BUDGETED EXPENDITURES

<u>ART</u>	<u>APPROPRIATIONS</u>						<u>FY 25 to FY 26</u>	
		<u>FY 2025</u>	<u>Non-Contingent FY 2026</u>	<u>Contingent FY 2026</u>	<u>Total FY 2026</u>		<u>Contingent \$ Difference</u>	
4	Capital Non Bonded	\$ 955,000	\$ 878,500		\$ 878,500		\$ (76,500)	
5	Audit	\$ 65,500	\$ 76,050		\$ 76,050		\$ 10,550	
6	Collective Bargaining Wage Set aside	\$ 1,020,000	\$ 562,640	\$ 27,360	\$ 590,000		\$ (430,000)	
7	Employee Benefits	\$ 20,086,802	\$ 23,588,990	\$ (115,623)	\$ 23,473,367		\$ 3,386,565	
8	Chapter 61 Wage Set aside	\$ 76,000	\$ 100,000		\$ 100,000		\$ 24,000	
9	Public Safety	\$ 16,008,471	\$ 16,773,570	\$ 481,313	\$ 17,254,883		\$ 1,246,412	
10	General Government	\$ 5,315,081	\$ 5,273,107	\$ 158,767	\$ 5,431,874		\$ 116,793	
11	Boards & Committees	\$ 519,903	\$ 509,962	\$ 45,000	\$ 554,962		\$ 35,059	
12	Public Works	\$ 5,853,749	\$ 5,926,496	\$ 142,157	\$ 6,068,653		\$ 214,904	
19	Board of Health	\$ 420,252	\$ 601,732	\$ 8,000	\$ 609,732		\$ 189,480	
20	Library	\$ 1,898,164	\$ 1,904,679	\$ 69,850	\$ 1,974,529		\$ 76,365	
21	Cemetery	\$ 953,540	\$ 933,187	\$ 35,000	\$ 968,187		\$ 14,647	
22	Parks & Recreation	\$ 719,965	\$ 714,914	\$ 26,494	\$ 741,408		\$ 21,443	
23	Consolidated Facilities	\$ 1,311,012	\$ 1,363,747	\$ 52,420	\$ 1,416,167		\$ 105,155	
24	School Department	\$ 67,225,230	\$ 67,233,608	\$ 5,640,306	\$ 72,873,914		\$ 5,648,684	
25	Blue Hills Regional Vocational School	\$ 813,159	\$ 954,340	\$ -	\$ 954,340		\$ 141,181	
26	Interest and Maturing Debt	\$ 5,817,961	\$ 5,711,478	\$ -	\$ 5,711,478		\$ (106,483)	
28	Stabilization Funds	\$ -	\$ 300,000	\$ 228,956	\$ 528,956		\$ 528,956	
29	Operating Budget Stabilization Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,700,000	\$ 2,700,000		\$ 2,700,000	
30	Special Education Reserve Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	
31	Reserve Fund	\$ 265,000	\$ 282,256	\$ -	\$ 282,256		\$ 17,256	
TOTAL GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS		\$ 129,324,789	\$ 133,689,256	\$ 9,500,000	\$ 143,189,256		\$ 13,864,467	
NON-APPROPRIATED EXPENDITURES								
	State and County assessments	\$ 4,674,470	\$ 5,015,852	\$ -	\$ 5,015,852		\$ 341,382	
	Overlay	\$ 100,000	\$ 250,000	\$ -	\$ 250,000		\$ 150,000	
	Library Grant (Cherry Sheets)	\$ 63,515	\$ 71,007	\$ -	\$ 71,007		\$ 7,492	
	Special purpose medical	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000	\$ -	\$ 500,000		\$ -	
	Special purpose debt stabilization	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	
	Subtotal	\$ 5,337,985	\$ 5,836,859	\$ -	\$ 5,836,859		\$ 498,874	
TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES		\$ 134,662,774	\$ 139,526,115	\$ 9,500,000	\$ 149,026,115		\$ 14,363,341	
ENTERPRISE FUNDS								
16	WATER ENTERPRISE FUND	\$ 6,807,588	\$ 7,286,228	\$ -	\$ 7,286,228		\$ 478,640	
17	SEWER ENTERPRISE FUND	\$ 8,789,344	\$ 8,799,989	\$ -	\$ 8,799,989		\$ 10,645	
18	STORMWATER ENTERPRISE	\$ 1,091,080	\$ 1,203,060	\$ -	\$ 1,203,060		\$ 111,980	
33	PEG ACCESS ENTERPRISE	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000	\$ -	\$ 500,000		\$ -	
	Subtotal	\$ 17,188,012	\$ 17,789,277	\$ -	\$ 17,789,277		\$ 601,265	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		\$ 151,850,786	\$ 157,315,392	\$ 9,500,000	\$ 166,815,392		\$ 14,964,606	

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In compliance with the American with Disabilities Act, this Warrant can be made available in alternative formats. The May 5, 2025 Annual Town Meeting, if requested, will be offered by assisted listening devices or an interpreter certified in sign language. Requests for alternative formats should be made as far in advance as possible.

Should you need assistance, please notify the SELECT BOARD at 617-898-4843 or 617-696-5199 TTY.

Smoking and other tobacco use is prohibited in school facilities and outside on the school grounds by MGL Chapter 71, Section 37H, “An Act Establishing the Education Act of 1993.” This law applies to any individual at any time.

Strong fragrances cause significant adverse reactions in some people, such as migraine headaches. Products with strong fragrances include personal care products such as perfume, cologne, fragranced hair products, after shave lotion, scented hand lotion, etc. Attendees at Town Meeting are requested to avoid wearing products with strong fragrances. As an accommodation to persons with such adverse reactions, and to allow safe and free access to the auditorium, the lobby and restroom, attendees at Town Meeting who are wearing products with strong fragrances, or who think they may be wearing products with strong fragrances, are requested to sit away from the sections nearest to the lobby entrance.

MESSAGE FROM THE TOWN MODERATOR

ROBERT G. HISS

Welcome to the 2025 Annual Town Meeting!

As elected Town Meeting Members you will be participating directly in the governance of your town. “The town meeting, oldest expression of democracy in the Western Hemisphere, survives with unabated vigor in the rural sections of the New England States.” Hernane Tavares de Sa, “Town Meeting Tonight” in America, June 1949, p.8. Your active participation assures that Milton’s own tradition of “unabated vigor” during the deliberations, debates and votes on the warrants presented for your consideration will continue.

The presiding officer for this Town Meeting is your Moderator who is empowered “to give liberty of spech, and silence unceasonable and disorderly speakeings, [and] to put all things to a voate . . . ” The fundamental Orders of Connecticut, Secs. 6 and 10 (1639). See also the Body of Liberties, Secs. 54 and 71 (Massachusetts, 1641). The procedures and process for the conducting of town meeting in Milton stems from a combination of directives set forth in the bylaws of the Town and in traditions that have developed over the long history of the Town Meeting in Milton. So that each Town Meeting Member may understand the basic rules and procedures followed in order to enhance his/her participation in the process, I take this occasion to review some of the fundamental rules which will govern the debates and votes on the warrants presented for your consideration and judgment. We will follow rule 15 which describes the Consent Agenda, adopted at our May 7, 2018, Annual Town Meeting. I plan to mail a Consent Agenda prior to this year’s Town Meeting.

First, Town Meeting Members are required to check in with the Town Clerk and to be seated in the lower part of the auditorium, which is demarcated and reserved for Town Meeting Members. Town citizens and others who are not Town Meeting Members are required to be seated in the upper part of the auditorium.

Second, any Town Meeting Member wishing to speak to any article or pending related matter will first go to the nearest microphone and, upon being recognized by the Moderator, will identify herself/himself by giving his or her name and precinct. If you have not been recognized by the Moderator, you are not permitted to speak to the meeting. On occasion members will informally alert the Moderator that they desire to be recognized to speak on a certain article. While your Moderator will attempt to remember who desires to be recognized on any article, please be advised that the only way in which a member can be sure to be recognized is to go to a microphone and wait to be recognized.

Third, by longstanding tradition, while any other voter of the Town who is not a Town Meeting Member may not vote, he or she may be recognized to address Town Meeting providing that the voter in advance of the particular session has obtained permission from the Moderator.

Fourth, any person having a monetary or equitable interest in, or who is employed as an attorney or otherwise by another person interested in, any matter under discussion shall disclose the fact of his or her interest or employment before speaking thereon.

Fifth, with reference to each article in the warrant the recommendation of the Warrant Committee shall ordinarily be considered to have been presented in the form of a motion by the Chairperson which has been seconded by the Secretary or other member of the Warrant Committee who is a Town Meeting Member. Unless the Moderator otherwise expressly states at the time, the question to be voted on under each article will usually be whether or not to accept the recommendation of the Warrant Committee. In other words, generally the recommendation of the Warrant Committee is the main motion pending under the Article. In the event that the Warrant Committee recommends a NO vote on an article, the question will be presented as a vote on a motion made and seconded to approve the article, i.e., Members will vote YES if they favor the article and NO if they oppose the article, as recommended by the Warrant Committee.

Sixth, pursuant to Section 4 of Chapter 2 of the Town's bylaws, the Moderator requires that all substantive or complex motions be reduced to writing and presented to the Moderator before submission to the meeting.

Seventh, by longstanding tradition, "Town Meeting Time, A handbook of Parliamentary Law" 4th Edition, will, in addition to the bylaws of the town of Milton and the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, be the rules of order for this meeting.

Eighth, any member desiring to show slides, make a PowerPoint presentation or any other visual material before the meeting must make appropriate arrangements and inform the Moderator.

Ninth, members are urged to obtain all information needed by them prior to the meeting. However, by tradition the Moderator will recognize any Town Meeting Member for the purpose of requesting additional information relevant to the matter under consideration. All such requests must be directed solely to the Moderator who will attempt to ascertain the most appropriate official who should answer such an inquiry. Answers will not be provided while the member still has the floor in order to prevent the temptation to cross-examine the person providing the information, which is not permitted. However, the Moderator will separately recognize a member once for the purpose of posing a follow-up question. Sometimes the information is not available or is not immediately available and the request for information will simply not be fulfilled.

Tenth, when it is announced by the Moderator that the Meeting will proceed to vote, debate will be closed and the pending question will be put to the Town Meeting.

Eleventh, upon a question being put to the Town Meeting, the Moderator will first determine by voice vote the sense of the Meeting. If the Moderator is unable to decide by the sound of the voices or if his announcement of the vote is doubted by seven Town Meeting Members standing in their place, the Moderator shall then proceed to have a standing vote on the question. If the vote is further doubted by twenty-five Town Meeting Members standing in their places, then there will be a roll call of the meeting with the Town Clerk calling the name of each Town Meeting Member in alphabetical order and each Town Meeting Member upon his/her name being called shall rise in place and answer YES or NO.

When an electronic voting system approved by the Moderator is in use, upon a question being put to the Town Meeting, the Moderator will determine by electronic vote the sense of the meeting and shall

announce the vote as displayed by the electronic voting system. No town meeting member shall be allowed to vote after the vote is declared. If seven Town Meeting Members stand in their place, the Moderator will display the results of the vote by Town Meeting Members' name.

Twelfth, no vote shall be reconsidered at the same meeting, except upon a motion made within one hour of the adoption of such vote, unless by two-thirds vote, provided that the time which elapses during any adjournment of the meeting shall be excluded in computing the hour since the adoption of the vote.

Thirteenth, because of the constraints of state law pursuant to Proposition 2-1/2, the budget articles as recommended by the Warrant Committee to this Town Meeting are at the maximum tax levy limitation permitted by state law pursuant to Proposition 2-1/2. While the Moderator will entertain motions to amend budget articles upward, the Town's total appropriation may not exceed the Proposition 2-1/2 limit. Thus, to avoid potential chaos, and the necessity for additional meetings to balance the Town's appropriation within the levy limit on the amount of revenue that the town may raise by property tax, your Moderator both urges and expects that any Member offering an upward amendment to a budget article will also for the benefit of fellow Town Meeting Members specify an offsetting decrease in some other line item, or specify what additional source of revenue is or will be available. In addition, it is also permissible to make increased funding subject to an override ballot vote by the registered voters of the Town.

Fourteenth, each person speaking to an article or amendment is limited to ten (10) minutes and no person may speak on a question more than once when any other person desires to be heard, or more than twice on the same question without permission of the Town Moderator. Pre-approved presentations will not necessarily be limited to 10 minutes at the discretion of the Moderator.

Fifteenth, at least five business days prior to the opening of the first session of the Annual Town Meeting or any Special Town Meeting, the moderator may propose to all members a "Consent Agenda" listing all articles which, based on the records of recent town meetings, the Moderator deems to be non-controversial. At the first session of the meeting, at the request of any five members present, any article shall be removed from the Consent Agenda so that it can be debated and voted upon in accordance with the provisions of Town Meeting's Rules. A member requesting to remove an article from the Consent Agenda may state the reasons for the request, without debate. All articles remaining in the Consent Agenda shall then be voted upon, without debate, with a 2/3 vote required for adoption.

With these procedures in mind, I am confident that the Town Meeting will provide a forum for full debate and careful consideration of the 39 articles and recommendations of the Warrant Committee.

Robert G. Hiss

Town Moderator

REPORT OF THE WARRANT COMMITTEE FOR THE 2025 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Greetings to the Honorable Select Board, Town Meeting Members and Residents,

To the Honorable Select Board, Town Meeting Members and Residents of the Town of Milton:

The Warrant Committee herein presents to Town Meeting and to the voters and citizens of the Town estimates and recommendations for action on articles submitted to the Annual Town Meeting, convening on Monday, May 5, 2025.

For Fiscal Year (FY) 2026, the Warrant Committee has recommended two budgets within this annual Warrant. The first recommendation is a non-contingent budget which would result in moderate budgetary cuts in the general government departments of the Town and significant budget reductions with the School Department that could include up to seventy-three seventy-six (76) positions within the school, a significant number of those being teaching positions, non-instructional administrative positions and optional programming. The next budget recommended is a contingent budget that is designed in part to continue level services within the Town across all Town Departments, including some program and position cuts in order to support the new curriculum within the School Department. The contingent budget recommendations within this Warrant are only possible if the Town, on April 29, 2025, approves raising the tax levy beyond the allowable 2 ½ percent property tax increase, for an override amount of nine and one half million dollars (\$9,500,000).

In prior fiscal years, when an override was deemed as a necessary alternative to budgetary cuts, the matter was first reviewed by the Warrant Committee, non-contingent and contingent budgets were constructed and presented to Town Meeting. The Town Meeting members would approve an override amount, and it would be the responsibility of the Select Board to call a referendum for a vote on the override budget number that was approved. The citizens of the Town would then decide if they wanted to approve the override by way of a Town wide referendum. If the voters do not approve or vote in the affirmative to “override” Proposition 2 ½, the non-contingent budget will take effect at the beginning of the next fiscal year, July 1.

This year, at the Annual Town Meeting, members will be asked to approve the amount that the voters have decided on April 29, 2025. Even though the situation is reversed from historical overrides that Milton has entertained in previous years, there is no prohibition against this scenario. Pursuant to our responsibilities to this Body under the Town of Milton Bylaws, the Warrant Committee has prepared, with the assistance of the Town Administrator, two budgets for your review, *contingent and non-contingent*. The Warrant Committee spent many nights discussing the general and school budgets and the override amount set by the Select Board. After vigorous and lengthy debates, comments, and serious reflection over eighty (80) hours of meetings, the Warrant Committee recommends the contingent budget set forth in this Warrant.

Therefore, the Warrant Committee recommends that the Town Meeting vote to approve the General Fund contingent appropriations totaling \$143,189,256 exclusive of non-appropriated expenditures. The combination of non-appropriated expenditures (state and county assessments, special purpose medical,

and overlay) of \$5,836,859 and for a total recommended general fund appropriation of \$149,026,115. That will require the support of a levy increase of 2.5% or \$2,477,872, new growth of \$1,000,000, and an override of Proposition 2 ½ of \$9,500,000, in addition to the previous levy limit of \$99,114,881. The contingent recommendation is an increase of \$12,977,872 or 13.1% above last year's levy. The non-contingent recommendation would result in an increase in the levy of \$3,477,872 or 3.5%. The above numbers address the tax levy only and do not account for other revenue sources (local receipts, local aid and free cash). If the override is approved by voters, the average single-family home, which is currently assessed at \$1,028,457, would have an estimated FY 2026 tax increase of \$1,063 due to the override. This would be in addition to the annual increase allowed under Proposition 2 ½ (estimated to be \$389). The total estimated tax bill for the average single family in FY 2026 if the override is approved is \$12,828, a combined increase of \$1,452. In the event the override is not approved, (non-contingent budget) the average single-family home, under the current assessed value, would have an estimated Fiscal Year 2026 tax increase of \$389.

I. What is Proposition 2 ½ or an “Override”

Proposition 2 ½ is a Massachusetts law enacted in 1980 that strictly limits the amount of property tax revenue a municipality can raise through real and personal property taxes. This property tax revenue is called the “tax levy.” The law places limits on how much the tax levy can be increased from year-to-year by a municipality without taxpayer consent. The maximum amount a municipality can levy in any given year is called the “levy limit.”

Proposition 2 ½ also caps the tax levy at 2.5% of the total full and fair cash value of all taxable real and personal property in the Town of Milton. Because our tax levy is somewhat near this restriction each year, increased spending will eventually result in a deficit and cannot be covered by other funding, including Department of Revenue certified “free cash”. Free cash is usually unspent budget appropriations that get turned back to the Town's general fund each year. In the past several years, the Town has reallocated these monies to cover small deficits in the budget. That is simply not possible this year given the large budget deficit the School Department has incurred.

Under Proposition 2 ½, specifically M.G.L. Ch. 59, s. 21C, a community's levy limit increases automatically by two factors:

1. An incremental increase of 2.5% of the prior year's levy limit, and
2. A dollar amount derived from the value of new construction and other growth in the local tax base since the previous year, called “new growth.”

The 2.5% increase and the new growth number are added to the prior year's levy limit to reach the current year's levy limit. A municipality in Massachusetts can exceed its levy limit with voter approval. This law gives municipalities flexibility to permanently increase the levy limit through overrides to support municipal and school operations.

Proposition 2½ also establishes two types of voter-approved increases in taxing authority:

Overrides: A levy limit override increases the amount of property tax revenue a municipality may raise in the year specified in the override question and in future years; the “**contingent budget**” in this Annual

Warrant. The result is a permanent increase by the taxing authority. The purpose of the override is to provide funding for municipal expenses likely to recur or continue, such as the Town's annual operating and fixed costs.

Exclusions (Capital Debt Exclusions): An exclusion increases the amount of property tax revenue a community may raise for a limited or temporary calendar period in order to fund specific projects. It does not increase the municipalities' levy limit nor become part of the base for calculating future years' levy limits. The exclusion may be used to raise additional funds only for capital purposes, such as public buildings, public works projects, land, and equipment acquisitions.

II. Fiscal Year 2026 Milton Override

Milton has had three operational overrides in the last twenty years which were in 2017, 2009 and 2006 for Fiscal Years 2018, 2010 and 2007, respectively. These ranged between \$2.4 million and \$3.4 million dollars. This year the Select Board has requested that the Town authorize a \$9.5 million dollar override. This amount is by far the largest figure that has been requested to raise the annual tax levy in an override year. The requests under the contingent override budget presented to the Warrant Committee for the general government suggest a slight to moderate increase to their various departmental budgets, to maintain continued services and adjust for cost increases. No "need based" Town departmental needs are being addressed in this budget, nor have these departments seen significant increases in the last eight (8) budget years. One of the most illustrative "needs based" requests that was going unfilled that the Warrant Committee discussed was the hiring of an Information Technology employee to assist the Police Department in their management and investigations. In the eyes of the Warrant Committee, the needs of our general government are many, but the resources are few. The main share of the tax levy is granted to the School Department; last year approximately sixty-seven million dollars (\$67,225,230). The School Department's budget has increased approximately nine (9) percent or more over the past two years. The true issue before the voters on April 29, 2025, is the current budgetary management of our schools in the Town. The question is one the Warrant Committee asked over and over- Is the School Department and School Committee deserving of the trust to use taxpayer funds in a prudent, responsible manner in the administration of our schools.

III. Milton School Department

As a direct result of the rising costs of operations within the Town, limited revenue streams, and the expiration of federal funding from the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act), the Warrant Committee has been discussing the government and school budget since this past summer when information regarding a FY 2024 deficit surfaced. In addition, the Warrant Committee appointed five (5) members to the Warrant Committee School Finance Subcommittee. The Warrant Committee School Finance Subcommittee was tasked with following the School Committee Finance Subcommittee, observing the School Committee meetings, engaging with and educating other Warrant Committee members about the status of the Milton Public School budget throughout FY 2025. There are many budgetary items on this Warrant and the Warrant Committee has endorsed and requested approval by Town Meeting of all Town budgetary requests, including the contingent budget of the schools and the Town for FY 2026. We must however address the very important and necessary department in our Town that requires this override to maintain level services, the School Department.

What the members of the Warrant Committee's subcommittee discovered during the budget process in Fall of 2024 was that there was a large deficiency in funds with the school budget. The failure to address the rising costs and include those increases in the FY 2025 budget coupled with the use of one time ARPA funds to hire permanent positions within the school district, created a financial storm. The Warrant Committee was alerted to the increases in costs in special education by the School Committee in FY 2024, yet nothing was done to address that budget line. Moreover, in previous years, the Warrant Committee cautioned the School Committee on the use of one time ARPA funding for permanent positions, however the decision was made to move forward with the positions, without a contingent plan for when the federal funds were exhausted. There were other issues discovered and discussed by the Warrant Committee that are contained within our comment for Article 24. In addition, there were some members of the Warrant Committee who believe that they were not furnished enough information to truly endorse the contingent number in the FY 2026 school budget. The issues were discerning what positions were hired specifically with the ARPA funds, budget versus actual variances, and growth in expenses.

The discussions concerning the schools and their budget were difficult for the Warrant Committee, especially those members who expressed frustration over what they believed was a lack of transparency in the budget in previous fiscal years. The Warrant Committee endorsed and called for the recording and broadcasting of the School Committee Finance Subcommittee meetings last year. The School Department has the largest department in Town and as a result has a complex and voluminous budget. Easy public access to these meetings can ensure that members of the public and others can easily be appraised of the financial decisions of the School Department and speak about the issues during public comments. The School Committee now will adhere to that request for their finance subcommittee, and that is a good start.

There has been rumble of an override for the last couple of years within Town government. An abundance of "free cash", availability of ARPA Federal grant funds, new growth and slight revenue increases have allowed Milton to push off the inevitable, until today. Milton relies heavily on residential property taxes for revenue and that constraint nearly ensures that overrides are necessary from time to time. Also, what must be considered are costs that we do not entirely control that go beyond the requirements of the School Department: union contracts; wage increases; insurance premiums; need for repairs and new equipment; the list goes on and on.

The final decision of the Warrant Committee to endorse the contingent budget and thus the nine million five hundred-thousand-dollar override (\$9,500,000) was based on the desire to continue level services in our Town government and within our school department. This override will ensure that the services we have come to expect are not dramatically reduced. Home values continue to increase in our Town and have continued to outpace the rise in the tax levy. This is promising but is something that needs to be monitored by taxpayers.

IV. Recommendations

It is the position of the Warrant Committee that the School Department and the School Committee need to change the approach to the budget. Those changes and areas of focus are continued in our comment on Article 24. However, we believe that the hiring of the new Milton School Assistant Superintendent

of Finance and Operations (ASF&O) and the new budgetary policy that the School Committee has outlined for the Warrant Committee is a path towards regaining the trust of the taxpayer. The search for a new Superintendent is promising. Attracting a candidate with a comprehensive approach to education and fiscal management would be the best decision for the Town and the School Department. These are some items, among others, that should be a central focus during the Superintendent hiring process. The list includes transparency in the budget; greater public access to finance subcommittee meetings; tracking of new hires; internal review of positions to reduce redundancy; review of roles of part time employees; an organizational chart; budgeting to actual monies spent the previous year; and review of school expenses and line item appropriations by the School Committee. These steps, among others, were outlined to the Warrant Committee in our discussions with the School Committee. The Warrant Committee is placing its full trust in the Milton School Committee that they will closely collaborate with the ASF&O to implement sound financial controls district wide moving forward.

The Warrant Committee, by its vote for the contingent budget, is willing to give our School Department and School Committee a measured vote of confidence that they will rectify the practices of the past and move into the future with a more fiscally responsible, structured approach to the budget, like we all do in our personal finances. We hope that with these prospective changes, and increased scrutiny by elected officials of the Town, public faith can be restored. The Warrant Committee believes that the School Department, with new leadership, new fiscal discipline and new ideas, can reverse course and maintain the economic health of the schools for years to come. The Warrant Committee cautions Town Meeting that general expenses will continue to rise, and the Town should be mindful about taking on any additional, large future debt exclusions that will only place a bigger burden on the Milton taxpayer in these very uncertain financial times. Affordability in Milton is a real issue for many current residents, that cannot be ignored.

If the School Department and School Committee cannot make these changes and increase the budgetary efficiency of the schools, the voters of Milton will be unlikely to support future operating overrides or debt exclusions.

V. Remaining Articles

As for the remainder of the Warrant, there are several additional articles for Town Meeting's consideration that the Warrant Committee would like to highlight:

Article 2 requests an amendment to the Fiscal Year 24 Annual Town Meeting appropriation into the Reserve Fund from \$265,000 to \$965,000. These will be funds raised from Free Cash to mitigate the Fiscal Year 2025 projected School Department deficit.

Articles 13, 14 and 15 respectively address our Water, Sewer and Stormwater Enterprise Funds

Article 28 concerns an appropriation to our General, Capital and Roads Stabilization Funds

Article 29 establishes a new Operating Budget Stabilization Fund which is designed to collect tax revenue to be set aside for the purposes of general government and school funding. This fund will serve as a recurring source of revenue to support operating budgets in future fiscal years.

Article 30 establishes a new Special Education Reserve Fund pursuant to M.G.L. Ch. 40, s. 13E

Article 31 concerns the appropriation into the Reserve Fund

Article 37 is a revisiting of the proposed General Bylaw, Light Trespass. The Warrant Committee is awaiting the results of any public hearing(s) held by the Select Board and any further structural refinements to the Bylaw pursuant to the Special Town Meeting in February 2025. The Warrant Committee comment will be included on a green sheet and available on the Town's website upon submission.

Articles 38 and 39 concern the Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU) Planning Bylaw and the Site Plan Review Bylaw that were first submitted at the Special Town Meeting in February 2025. The versions contained in this Warrant have been amended with additional changes suggested by Town Meeting and approved by both the Planning Board and Warrant Committee.

VI. Acknowledgements and Thanks

The Chair wishes to express his appreciation to each of the members of the Warrant Committee for the many hours of work required to prepare this Annual Warrant. The Warrant Committee also extends thanks to the Town Administrator, Mr. Nicholas Milano and the Town Finance Director, Amy Dexter, for all their assistance and collaboration in the crafting of this Warrant for Town Meeting. The Warrant Committee would also like to especially thank the Select Board, the Superintendent of Schools, the School Committee, the Planning Board, and all the other departments throughout the Town for their diligent work in preparing the budget.

The Chair is especially grateful for the continued assistance of the Warrant Committee Clerk, Karen Bosworth.

Yours in Service,

The Warrant Committee

Thomas A. Caldwell (Chair)
Stephen H. Rines (Secretary)
Lori A. Connelly
Elizabeth S. Dillon
James H. "Jay" Fundling
Allison J. Gagnon
Julie A. Joyce
Andrew S. Koh
Macy Lee
Peter F. Mawn
Julia Maxwell
Brian J. McGuire
Aman Negassi
Ronald T. Sia
Judith A. Steele
Karen Bosworth (Clerk)

ARTICLE 1 To hear and act upon the report of the Town Accountant and other Town Officers and Committees.

Submitted by the Select Board

RECOMMENDED that the Town vote to accept the report of the Town Accountant and other Town Officers and Committees.

COMMENT: The Town of Milton Annual Report for FY24 has been provided to Town Meeting Members and is available online at townofmilton.org, under Departments, Town Moderator, Town Reports.

ARTICLE 2 To see if the Town will vote to amend the appropriations voted at the 2024 Annual Town Meeting for the twelve-month period beginning July 1, 2024, by amending the amount appropriated under Article 33 to the Reserve Fund from \$265,000 to \$965,000, which sum shall be appropriated from funds certified by the Department of Revenue as free cash; and to act on anything relating thereto.

Submitted by the School Committee

RECOMMENDED that the Town vote to amend the following appropriation voted by the 2024 Annual Town Meeting by the article referenced in the table below for the twelve-month period beginning July 1, 2024:

<u>Description</u>	<u>2024 Annual Town Meeting Article</u>	<u>Current FY2025 Appropriation</u>	<u>FY2025 Adjustment</u>	<u>Revised FY2025 Appropriation</u>
Reserve Fund	33	\$265,000	\$700,000	\$965,000

And to meet said appropriation the sum of \$700,000 be appropriated from funds certified by the Department of Revenue as free cash.

COMMENT: This Article acknowledges the potential FY25 shortfall within the School Department Budget. The action requested by the above article is a request to amend the amount appropriated under Article 33 from the 2024 Annual Town Meeting to the Reserve Fund from \$265,000 to \$965,000, which sum shall be appropriated from funds certified by the Department of Revenue as free cash.

The additional \$700,000 requested is a result of the original FY25 budget being created from prior year budget amounts rather than actual incurred expense trends. When the FY24 \$3.8M shortfall was identified in July 2024, the School Department reviewed the details of the FY25 budget that was appropriated in May 2024 and identified a potential \$2.3M shortfall, specifically in the areas of substitute teachers, utilities, and special education. The School Committee reviewed their budget to find efficiencies and other reductions to close the projected gap. Their work identified \$1.6M leaving approximately \$700,000 that they may need to be addressed. The School Committee worked with the Town Administrator, and this was the recommendation to increase the reserve fund with certified free cash which was voted on by both the School Committee and Select Board.

The Warrant Committee recommends approval of this article.

ARTICLE 3 To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Town Treasurer to enter into compensating balance agreements during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, in accordance with the provisions of General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53F; and to act on anything relating thereto.

Submitted by the Select Board

RECOMMENDED that the Town vote YES.

ARTICLE 4 To see what sum of money the Town will vote to appropriate for capital items; to determine how said appropriation shall be raised, whether by borrowing or otherwise; and to act on anything relating thereto.

Submitted by the Select Board and the Capital Improvement Planning Committee

RECOMMENDED that the Town appropriate the sum of \$5,793,500 to fund the capital projects listed below:

<u>Department</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Useful Life (years)</u>	<u>Amount</u>
<u>Bonded Capital Items:</u>			
Town Equipment	Administrative Vehicle	10	45,000
Town Equipment	Administrative Vehicle	10	45,000
DPW Equipment	Light Duty pick-up truck	10	70,000
DPW Equipment	5-ton six-wheel combo dump truck	15	300,000
DPW Projects	Roadway construction	15	1,000,000
DPW Projects	Sidewalk construction	15	100,000
Facilities - Schools	Generator – Tucker School	20	325,000
Facilities - Schools	Paving and curbing	20	250,000
Facilities - Town	DPW building and site improvements	20	500,000
Facilities - Town	Transit van	15	70,000
Fire	Fire Engine (replace Engine 2)	20	1,100,000
Library	Generator	20	350,000
Town Technology	Phone system upgrades	10	110,000
Water Enterprise	Utility Truck	15	85,000
Water Enterprise	Pick Up Truck	15	80,000
Water Enterprise	Meter Replacements	10	100,000
Sewer Enterprise	Meter Replacements	10	100,000
Stormwater Enterprise	Catch Basin Truck	15	250,000
Recommended Bonded Capital Items			<u>4,880,000</u>

Non-Bonded Capital Items:

Facilities – Town	C.O.A. A/V Equipment replacement	35,000
DPW Equipment	DEF Distribution System	55,000
Facilities - Schools	Roof top units – upgrades and improvements	75,000
Facilities - Town	Electric Vehicle charging stations	50,000
Facilities – Town	Replace Town Hall front entrance doors	45,000
Facilities – Town	Replace Town hall windows	47,500
Facilities – Town	Fire stations maintenance/improvements	30,000
Fire	Turnout gear	25,000
School Technology	End user devices	391,000
Town Technology	IT infrastructure upgrades	100,000
Town Technology	Software upgrades	25,000
Water Enterprise	Air Compressor	35,000
Recommended Non-Bonded Capital Items		913,500
Total Recommended Capital Items		5,793,500

and that to meet said appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, is authorized to sell and issue bonds or notes of the Town, aggregating not more than \$4,880,000 under and pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 44, Section 7 and Chapter 44, Section 8 of Massachusetts General Laws, as amended, or any other enabling authority, for the purposes listed under the heading: "Bonded Capital Items" including the payment of costs incidental or related thereto, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefore, and that the Select Board be and hereby is authorized to accept and expend in addition to the foregoing appropriation one or more grants or gifts from any other public or private funding source; and that the sum of \$878,500 be appropriated from funds certified by the Department of Revenue as free cash for purposes listed under the heading Non-Bonded Capital Items; and that the sum of \$35,000 be appropriated from funds certified by the Department of Revenue as Water Enterprise Fund retained earnings.

COMMENT: This year the Town departments' FY26 capital requests, exclusive of Enterprise Fund infrastructure projects, submitted to the Capital Improvement Planning Committee (CIPC) totaled \$9.7 million. The level of requests reflects the millions of dollars in property, buildings and equipment owned by the Town and the necessity to maintain, rehabilitate and/or replace them, over time. Department heads worked collaboratively with the CIPC and Town Administrator to prioritize capital projects to be funded in FY26. The CIPC also notes that several capital projects were also approved at the February Special Town Meeting. It should be noted that there were many additional projects that are needed but could not be funded this year. The CIPC will catalog these unfunded requests for inclusion in future budget planning exercises.

During deliberations on this Article, the Warrant Committee discussed several of the Capital Improvement Planning Committee recommendations. Of particular interest were the purchase of a new fire engine for the Milton Fire Department and the purchase of a new generator for the Milton Library. The Fire department has set a system for the replacement of fire apparatus. Former Chief Jack Grant put this schedule in place fifteen (15) years ago. There are three (3) front line engines and one (1) reserve/spare engine, replacing an engine every five (5) years allows each engine fifteen (15) years as a frontline piece of equipment and five (5) years as a backup. The ladder should be replaced on the

(fifteen) 15-year cycle as well. MFD has space for a reserve ladder now with the new fire station and the current Ladder One will fill the reserve role when the new tower ladder arrives, which was authorized at the Annual 2022 Town Meeting. The cost for fire apparatus has gone up significantly over the past 5 years. The lead time for a new truck is 36-48 months. Most towns begin to replace their frontline apparatus around ten (10) years. Milton has been able to extend it to fifteen (15) years due to the firefighters' daily care of the equipment and the work of Milton's DPW mechanics.

Also important to note, as indicated above, is the request of the Trustees of the Library to purchase a generator to maintain power at the library during electric outages and maintain it as a possible location as a heating and cooling station throughout the year. The Warrant Committee stressed the need that all schools should be equipped with the same generators recommended in this project, and the Town should continue to make current school buildings a priority. This was of particular concern to the Warrant Committee given the high cost of the equipment and the necessity to keep all schools in Town open during any power outages.

The Warrant Committee recommends approval of this article.

ARTICLE 5 To see what sum of money the Town will vote to appropriate to the Select Board for the purpose of conducting a municipal audit for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025; and to act on anything relating thereto.

Submitted by the Select Board

RECOMMENDED that the Town appropriate the amounts shown in the following tabulation under the heading "Recomm. FY26":

AUDIT	Actual FY24	Approp. FY25	Recomm. FY26
General Audit	63,500	65,500	67,000
OPEB Valuation	9,050	0	9,050
TOTAL AUDIT	72,550	65,500	76,050

and that to meet said appropriation the sum of \$76,050 be raised from the tax levy.

COMMENT: The FY26 recommendation represents an increase of \$10,550 from the FY25 appropriation. This increase is mainly attributed to the OPEB (Other Post-Employment Benefits) valuation being required every two years. The FY26 Audit budget of \$76,050 is based upon year two of a three-year contract covering the audit of the Town's financial statements for the fiscal year ending 6/30/2024 (paid in FY25) through the fiscal year ending 6/30/2026.

The Warrant Committee recommends approval of this Article.

ARTICLE 6 To see what sum of money the Town will vote to appropriate for the purpose of funding cost items not in departmental budgets for the twelve month period beginning July 1, 2025, for the collective bargaining agreements reached before or after this Town Meeting between the Town and bargaining units representing Town employees, such sums to be allocated to departments; and to act on anything related thereto.

Submitted by the Select Board

RECOMMENDED that the Town appropriate the amounts shown in the following tabulation under the heading "Non-contingent Recomm. FY26" and that the Town appropriate the amount shown in the following tabulation under the heading "Contingent Recomm. FY 26", contingent upon passage by the voters of the Town of Milton of an override ballot question under Chapter 59, Section 21C of the Massachusetts General Laws:

	Actual	Approp.	Non- Contingent Recomm.	Contingent Recomm.
WAGE SET ASIDE - CBA	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY26
	1,244,043	1,020,000	562,640	27,360

and that to meet said appropriation the sum of \$590,000 be raised from the tax levy.

COMMENT: This article provides a set-aside to fund non-school union collective bargaining agreements and reflects anticipated costs based on the Town’s past collective bargaining agreements. All contracts with Town unions expire June 30, 2025, and negotiations with some units have commenced. All contracts with the unions representing Milton school employees will also expire and the set aside for bargaining agreements is included within the FY26 schools’ appropriation request.

The non-contingent amount reflects the adjusted appropriation if the override is not approved based on what would be a lower number of Town employees.

The Warrant Committee recommends approval of this Article.

ARTICLE 7 To see what sum of money the Town will vote to appropriate for the twelve-month period beginning July 1, 2025, for the several categories classified as Employee Benefits; and to act on anything relating thereto.

Submitted by the Select Board

RECOMMENDED that the Town appropriate the amounts shown in the following tabulation under the heading "Non-contingent Recomm. FY26" and that the Town appropriate the amount shown in the following tabulation under the heading "Contingent Recomm. FY 26", contingent upon passage by the voters of the Town of Milton of an override ballot question under Chapter 59, Section 21C of the Massachusetts General Laws:

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

	Actual FY24	Approp. FY25	Non- Contingent Recomm. FY26	Contingent Recomm. FY26
Unemployment	122,780	100,000	215,623	(115,623)
Contributory Retirement	8,351,397	4,540,705	4,696,318	-
Other Post Employment Benefits				
Trust	100,000	1,500,000	1,562,500	-
Group Insurances	13,747,509	13,946,097	17,114,549	-
TOTAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	22,321,686	20,086,802	23,588,990	(115,623)

and that to meet said appropriation the sum of \$23,473,367 be raised from the tax levy contingent upon passage by the voters of an override ballot question under Chapter 59, Section 21C of the Massachusetts General Laws.

If the voters do not approve of an override ballot question under Chapter 59, Section 21C of the Massachusetts General Laws, the Town shall appropriate \$23,588,990 and to meet said appropriation the sum of \$21,642,290 shall be raised from the tax levy and the sum of \$1,946,700 shall be appropriated from funds certified by the Department of Revenue as free cash.

COMMENT: The Employee Benefits appropriation includes four components: 1) Unemployment, 2) Contributory Retirement (pension contribution), 3) Group Insurance (primarily health and life insurance for employees and current retirees) and 4) contribution to the Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) Trust – a trust to fund future life and health insurance benefits for town retirees. The Unemployment and OPEB Trust components were previously their own warrant articles, but have been moved to this article this year as they fall under the umbrella of employee benefits.

1. Unemployment

The contingent recommended FY26 appropriation for Unemployment is level-funded at the rate that was appropriated in FY25. The contingent FY26 appropriation was determined following a review of the historical trend over the previous five years.

Unemployment is the only line item that is higher under the non-contingent situation, because if the override fails, layoffs will result in the need for additional funds for unemployment. It is unclear what

the full impact of layoffs may be on the unemployment budget and this budget will need to be carefully monitored in the new fiscal year.

2. Contributory Retirement

The recommended Contributory Retirement appropriation includes \$3,696,318 for the benefits earned by Town Employees in FY26 (this cost is referred to as the Normal Cost, less that portion paid by Milton Housing Authority) and an additional contribution of \$1 million to cover unforeseen future events, such as a decrease in assets, for a total appropriation of \$4,696,318. The FY26 contribution level was set by the Town's Retirement Board during FY24, and is one of the only items in the budget that cannot be changed by Town Meeting.

The Town met full-funding for Contributory Retirement in FY24, per its actuarial valuation dated January 1, 2023. This is well in advance of the mandated deadline of 2040. The full funding of the pension in FY24 allows for a significant reduction from the FY24 appropriation of \$8.3 million. By reaching full funding ahead of schedule, funds that would have been appropriated to the Milton Contributory Retirement System are instead available to be spent on the Town's operating and capital budget and on the Town's other long-term liabilities. Milton is one of the few retirement systems in Massachusetts to reach full funding. The full Actuarial Valuation Report for the Milton Contributory Retirement System is available at <https://www.mass.gov/lists/retirement-board-funding-schedules-approved-by-perac>. The Retirement Board is expected to set a future contribution schedule during FY26.

3. Group Insurance

The Group Insurance appropriation includes the Town's portion of health and life insurance premiums and the Employer Medicare Tax. The appropriation for Group Insurance reflects a premium increase of 14% for FY26. The increase is based upon a review and analysis of trends in FY24 and FY25 claims to date and enrollment numbers. The Warrant Committee acknowledges the significant impact that such a premium increase means for not only the Town budget, but also for Town and School employees. This premium increase is representative of accelerating health care costs facing not only municipalities, but also private employers. The Town's Health Insurance Trust remains in stable condition; it is anticipated that it will remain in stable condition at the conclusion of FY26, but if cost trends remain high, additional premium increases or plan design changes may be necessary to reduce costs.

The health insurance premium split is currently 76% Town / 24% Employee. In FY25, the group insurance appropriation reflected savings related to a one pay period premium holiday for active employees and the use of \$394,914 in ARPA funds to supplement the appropriation. These sources of funding are not available in FY26 and result in an increase in the appropriation of approximately \$845,000. In addition, enrollment in the Town's health insurance plans has increased in recent years, meaning the Town budget must fund a greater number of premium payments to account for additional employees receiving coverage.

If the override does not pass, reduced positions will likely result in fewer employees enrolled in the Town's health insurance plan, but any savings from this is difficult to predict as it is very dependent on the individuals who leave and their personal coverage choice(s). For this reason, the non-contingent and contingent Group Insurance budgets are equal. Any savings from reduced health coverage if the override fails could be used to supplement the unemployment line if needed, as noted below.

The below table provides more detail about the Town's health insurance costs, showing the comparison between retiree and active plans and a more detailed analysis of what is driving the increase in costs from FY25 to FY26.

	# Plans	Approp FY 2025	# Plans	Approp FY 2026	Inc (dec)	\$ Increase (decrease)
Group Health - Active Plans	698	11,829,669	712	13,993,733	14	2,164,064
Group Health - Retiree Plans	270	911,539	270	933,771	-	22,232
Reserve for new enrollments	19	360,803	22	386,602	3	25,799
Total Group Health Insurance	987	13,102,011	1,004	15,314,106	17	2,212,095
Employer portion Medicare Tax		1,215,000		1,275,750		60,750
Other		474,000		524,693		50,693
ARPA Funding		(394,914)		-		394,914
Premium Holiday		(450,000)		-		450,000
Total Group Insurance		<u>13,946,097</u>		<u>17,114,549</u>		<u>3,168,452</u>

FY 25 to FY 26 Increase:

14% Premium increase	1,678,391
Census increase	507,906
FY 25 Premium holiday	450,000
FY 25 ARPA funding	394,914
Other	<u>137,241</u>
Total increase	<u>3,168,452</u>

4. Other Post-Employment Benefits

The Town has an unfunded liability for Other Post-Employment Benefits, which are primarily health insurance benefits for retirees, \$121,616,469 as of June 30, 2024. In 2023, the Select Board adopted an OPEB policy to address the unfunded liability, once the Town's pension system achieved full funding, which took place FY24. The policy sets a goal of appropriating \$2.5 million in FY25 to the Town's long-term liabilities (OPEB and Pension) in addition to the Pension Normal Cost described above. This \$2.5M contribution will grow by 2.5% each year.

FY25 was the first budget year that the OPEB policy was in effect. As a result, \$1 million above the Normal Cost was appropriated to the Milton Contributory Retirement System and \$1.5 million was appropriated to the OPEB Trust. In FY26, the amount the policy requires to be set aside for the Town's long-term liabilities is \$2,562,500, of which \$1 million is identified for the Milton Retirement System and the remainder is identified for OPEB.

This policy of a fixed amount that can be shifted between Pension and OPEB ensures that if the pension fund suffers a downturn, additional funds can be made available for the pension without affecting the town's broader budget. Conversely, if the pension is comfortably funded, the pension contribution can be reduced, increasing the OPEB contribution, and not affecting the broader town budget.

The balance in the OPEB Trust as of February 28, 2025, is \$3,488,894, which includes the \$1.5 million appropriated to the OPEB Trust as part of the FY25 Budget at last year's Annual Town Meeting.

The Warrant Committee recommends approval of this article.

ARTICLE 8 To see if the Town will vote to amend Chapter 61 of the General Bylaws, known as the Personnel Administration Bylaw, as follows:

By striking out the section “Position Identification by Level, Department, Municipal Division and Personnel Code” and inserting in place thereof a new section as follows:

POSITION IDENTIFICATION BY LEVEL, DEPARTMENT, MUNICIPAL DIVISION, AND PERSONNEL CODE

Level	Normal Work Week	Position, Title, Department and Division
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GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Assessors

10	37.5	Chief Appraiser
7	37.5	Appraisal Technician
6	37.5	Administrative Assistant

Information Technology

10	37.5	Director
7	37.5	Assistant

Accounting

6	37.5	Assistant Town Accountant
6	37.5	Principal Bookkeeper
6	37.5	Financial Analyst

Consolidated Facilities

10	37.5	Operations Manager
8	37.5	Licensed HVAC Tech
8	37.5	Licensed Electrician
8	37.5	Licensed Facilities Tech
8	37.5	Licensed Craftsman
6	37.5	Office Assistant
W5	40	Maintenance Craftsman
W3	40	Maintenance Man
W4	40	Maintenance Man/Painter

Select Board

11	37.5	Human Resource Director
11	37.5	Assistant Town Administrator
10	37.5	Director of Planning & Community Development

8	37.5	Assistant Town Planner
7	37.5	Chief Procurement Officer
6	37.5	Contract and Licensing Agent/Benefits Assistant
6	37.5	Executive Administrative Assistant
Misc.		Harbor Master

Town Clerk

6	37.5	Assistant Town Clerk
4	37.5	Senior Administrative Clerk
4	37.5	Senior Administrative Clerk
Misc.		Seasonal

Treasurer-Collector

6	37.5	Assistant Town Treasurer
6	37.5	Deputy Collector
5	30	Senior Administrative Clerk
6	37.5	Payroll Clerk

Veteran's Benefits

Misc.		Veterans Agent/Director of Veterans Services
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PUBLIC SAFETY

Inspectional Services

12	37.5	Building Commissioner
8	25	Plumbing & Gas Inspector/Sealer of Weights & Measures
8	25	Wire Inspector
8	37.5	Local Inspector
8	20	Local Inspector
8	10	Local Inspector
8	16	Local Inspector
6	37.5	Code Enforcement Officer
4	37.5	Senior Administrative Clerk
4	37.5	Senior Administrative Clerk/BOA

Fire

F3	42	Deputy Chief
F2	42	Lieutenant
F2	42	Fire Prevention Officer
F1	42	Fire Fighter
6	37.5	Senior Administrative Clerk

		<u>Police</u>
P3	40	Lieutenant
P2	40	Sergeant
P1	40	Police Officer
P1	40	Student Officer
7	22.5	Crime Analyst
7	37.5	Business Manager/ Civilians
6	30	Youth Counselor
4	37.5	Animal Control Officer
5	37.5	Senior Administrative Records Clerk
4	37.5	Senior Administrative Clerk – Payroll
3	40	Civilian Dispatchers
Misc.		Traffic Supervisor/Cadet/Seasonal
Misc.	19	Parking Enforcement Officer

BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

		<u>Council on Aging</u>
10	37.5	Director
8	37.5	Outreach Coordinator
6	37.5	Senior Administrative Clerk
2	37.5	Van Driver
2	19	Van Driver
Misc.	19	Outreach Worker
Misc.	19	Outreach Administrative Clerk

		<u>Planning</u>
4	22.5	Senior Administrative Clerk

		<u>Youth</u>
9		Coordinator

		<u>Cemetery</u>
9	37.5	Superintendent
4	32.5	Senior Administrative Clerk
W8	40	General Working Foreman
W7	40	Senior Working Foreman/Maintenance
		Craftsman, Motor Equipment Operator Gr. 2
W7	40	Motor Equipment Repairman,
		Maintenance Craftsman,
		Motor Equipment Operator Gr. 2
W6	40	Working Foreman, Maintenance Craftsman,

W5	40	Working Foreman, Maintenance Craftsman, Sprayer Operator/Motor Equipment Operator Gr. 2
W4	40	Maintenance Craftsman, Motor Equipment Operator, Grade 1
W3	40	Maintenance Man, Motor Equipment Operator Gr. 1
Misc.		Laborer (Intermittent)

Health

9	37.5	Public Health Director/Nurse
8	37.5	Assistant Health Director
Misc.	37.5	Community Health Social Worker
6	16	Nurse
7	37.5	Health Agent
4	21.5	Senior Administrative Clerk
Misc	18.75	Project Coordinator/Substance Abuse Coalition
Misc	18.75	Project Coordinator/Substance Abuse Coalition

Library

	37.5	Director
L3	37.5	Assistant Director
L2.5	37.5	Adult Services Librarian
L2	37.5	Young Adult Librarian
L2	37.5	Reference/Technology
	37.5	Reference Librarian
		Children's Librarian
		Technical Services Librarian
	16	Assistant Children's Librarian
	12.5	Reference Librarian
LS5	37.5	Administrative Assistant
		Circulation Library Assistant
		Technical Library Assistant
LS4	37.5	Library Assistant
LS3	20	Library Assistant
	19.5	Library Assistant
	18	Library Assistant
	16	Library Assistant
Misc.		Library Page

Parks

8	37.5	Parks Manager
7	37.5	Recreation Manager
4	37.5	Senior Administrative Clerk
W8	40	Senior Working Foreman,

		Motor Equipment Operator Gr. 2
W5	40	Working Foreman/Maintenance Craftsman
		Motor Equipment Operator Gr. 2
W4	40	Maintenance Craftsman
		Motor Equipment Operator Gr. 1
Misc.		Laborer (Intermittent)
<u>Public Works</u>		
	37.5	Director of Public Works
10	37.5	Assistant Director of Public Works
13	37.5	Town Engineer
10	37.5	Assistant Town Engineer/Manager of Contracts
9	37.5	Manager of Street/Traffic Lights and Special DPW/Engineering Projects
8	37.5	Civil Engineer
9	37.5	Lead Mechanic
8	37.5	GIS and CAD Operator/Engineering Draftsman
8	37.5	Water/ Sewer Superintendent
6	37.5	Administrative Assistant
6	37.5	Environmental Coordinator
5	37.5	Senior Administrative Clerk/Conservation
4	37.5	Senior Administrative Clerk/Water & Sewer
W8	40	General Foreman
W8	40	General Foreman, Motor Equipment Operator Gr. 2
W7	40	Signal Maintainer
W7	40	Senior Working Foreman, Construction & Maintenance Craftsman, Senior Motor Equipment Repairman, Arborist
		Tree Surgeon, Motor Equipment Operator Gr. 2
W7	40	Senior Working Foreman, Motor Equipment Repairman, Motor Equipment Operator Gr. 2
W6	40	Working Foreman, Construction and Maintenance Craftsman, Motor Equipment Repairman-Helper, Arborist (Tree Surgeon)
		Motor Equipment Operator Gr. 2
		Public Works Emergency Man
W5	40	Working Foreman, Construction and Maintenance Craftsman, Motor Equipment Operator Gr. 2
W4	40	Construction and Maintenance Craftsman
		Motor Equipment Repairman Helper, Apprentice Arborist (Tree Surgeon), Motor Equipment Operator Gr. 1
W3	40	Maintenance Man, Grounds Maintenance Man
		Water & Sewer System Maintenance Man
		Motor Equipment Repairman-Helper

		Apprentice Arborist (Tree Surgeon)
		Motor Equipment Operator Gr. 1
Misc.	19	Conservation Agent
Misc.		Engineering Interns (seasonal)
Misc.		Laborer (Intermittent)

UNCLASSIFIED

Town Administrator
 Finance Director/Town Accountant
 Treasurer/Collector
 Police Chief
 Deputy Chief
 Fire Chief
 Consolidated Facilities Director
 Warrant Committee Clerk
 Registrar of Voters
 Parks and Recreation Seasonal Employees
 Inspector of Animals

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Town Clerk

Submitted by the Personnel Board

RECOMMENDED that the Town vote to amend Chapter 61 of the General Bylaws, known as the Personnel Administration Bylaw, exactly as set forth in this schedule and to appropriate the sum of \$100,000 to fund wage adjustments effective July 1, 2025; said sum to be added to the salary accounts of the departments as shown in the following tabulations:

	Recomm. FY26
Accounting	3,375
Cemetery	839
Consolidated Facilities	2,940
Council on Aging	1,757
Public Works	2,723
Fire	4,200
Library	2,700
Parks	795
Police	26,488
Leash Law	479
Select Board	10,856
Town Clerk Dept	450

Treasurer Dept	2,700
Veterans Agent	749
Warrant Committee	552
Other	<u>38,397</u>
Total Chapter 61 Wage Adjustments	<u>100,000</u>

and that to meet said appropriation the sum of \$100,000 be raised from the tax levy.

COMMENT: The recommended appropriation provides sufficient funds to cover wage adjustments for non-union personnel, effective July 1, 2025. As of the date of the preparation of the departmental budgets for FY26, contracts and related wage adjustments for FY26 have not been finalized for those non-union positions covered under the Personnel Bylaw.

The Warrant Committee recommends approval of this article.

ARTICLE 9 To see what sum of money the Town will vote to appropriate for the twelve-month period beginning July 1, 2025, for the several categories classified as "Public Safety"; and to act on anything relating thereto.

Submitted by the Select Board

RECOMMENDED that the Town appropriate the amounts shown in the following tabulation under the heading "Non-contingent Recomm. FY26" and that the Town appropriate the amount shown in the following tabulation under the heading "Contingent Recomm. FY 26", contingent upon passage by the voters of the Town of Milton of an override ballot question under Chapter 59, Section 21C of the Massachusetts General Laws:

PUBLIC SAFETY		Actual FY24	Approp. FY25	Non- Contingent Recomm. FY26	Contingent Recomm. FY26
1	INSPECTIONAL SERVICES				
	Salaries & Wages	571,958	641,390	651,052	-
	General Expenses	20,003	23,851	30,928	-
	Total Inspectional Services	591,961	665,241	681,980	-
2	FIRE				
	Salaries & Wages	5,835,525	6,035,886	6,756,525	185,254
	General Expenses	265,671	401,564	438,314	60,000
	Total Fire	6,101,196	6,437,450	7,194,839	245,254
3	MILTON EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (MEMA)				
	Salaries & Wages	0	750	750	-
	General Expenses	500	785	785	-
	Auxiliary Fire	2,793	4,700	4,700	-
	Auxiliary Police	4,443	4,700	4,700	-
	Total MEMA	7,736	10,935	10,935	-

4 POLICE				
Salaries & Wages	7,280,028	8,125,071	8,068,745	181,037
General Expenses	798,319	668,588	696,588	55,022
Subtotal	8,078,347	8,793,659	8,765,333	236,059
Animal Control Salaries & Wages	79,426	76,601	81,383	
Animal Control General Expenses	18,127	24,585	39,100	
Subtotal	97,553	101,186	120,483	-
Total Police	8,175,900	8,894,845	8,885,816	236,059
TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY	14,876,793	16,008,471	16,773,570	481,313

and that to meet said appropriation the sum of \$5,000 be transferred from the Dog Licenses Surcharge Account received pursuant to Chapter 187 of the Acts of 1981 for Leash Law enforcement, and that \$17,249,883 be raised from the tax levy.

COMMENT: The Warrant Committee recommends this appropriation, which is approximately an 8% increase over FY25, driven largely by the implementation of the Fire Department Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) which is not fully reflected in the FY25 appropriation since it was approved in June 2024. The increases tied to that contract were included in the FY25 appropriation for the Collective Bargaining Wage Set Aside in Article six (6). Both police and fire budgets reflect increases due to the higher costs of doing business, from increased electricity costs to higher equipment costs. The Police Department's general expenses line includes an increase of approximately \$55,000 to increase their cruiser replacement appropriation to enable the department to once again fully fund three (3) cruiser replacements per year. Due to rising costs, but level funding, the Department's appropriation was only able to fund two (2) cruisers. The Fire Department's budget reflects adjustments related to the CBA and general expense adjustments to maintain equipment.

The Warrant Committee would like to highlight the personnel needs of the police and fire departments. The Fire Department is currently operating with eleven (11) firefighters per shift to address approximately forty-five hundred (4500) incident responses per year. This is well below the level of acceptable service of seventeen (17) fire fighters per shift for three stations. In addition, the police department is without an Information Technology (IT) position to help assist in investigations, the future deployment of officer worn body cameras and maintenance of the various computer servers within the department. Funding this position in the future will assist in the equipment modernization of the Milton Police Department, as the Town is currently doing to address the equipment and housing needs of the fire department. This will certainly ensure more effective, safe policing for our Town.

The Animal Control general expense budget reflects a 59% increase in costs to operate the new Animal Shelter, which is a recently constructed 4,000 square feet facility, much larger than the current shelter. As of the printing of the Warrant, the Animal Shelter has not yet opened, so the Town is budgeting based on what it expects utility costs will be (it is a 100% electric facility).

The non-contingent amount reflects the adjusted appropriation if the override is not approved. It is important to note the impacts to the police and fire budgets:

- The Police Department will be required to leave two patrol officer positions vacant, reduce overtime, and eliminate the additional funding to enable three (3) cruiser replacements.
- The Fire Department will likewise be required to leave two (2) firefighter positions vacant, reduce overtime, and eliminate budget adjustments for equipment/technology replacements. The two positions are currently vacant, and no candidates have yet been appointed and assigned to a fire academy.

The Warrant Committee recommends approval of this article.

ARTICLE 10 To see what sum of money the Town will vote to appropriate for the twelve-month period beginning July 1, 2025, for the operation of the Town departments classified as General Government; and to act on anything relating thereto.

Submitted by the Select Board

RECOMMENDED that the Town appropriate the amounts shown in the following tabulation under the heading "Non-contingent Recomm. FY26" and that the Town appropriate the amount shown in the following tabulation under the heading "Contingent Recomm. FY 26", contingent upon passage by the voters of the Town of Milton of an override ballot question under Chapter 59, Section 21C of the Massachusetts General Laws:

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

	Actual FY24	Approp. FY25	Non- Contingent Recomm. FY26	Contingent Recomm. FY26
A SELECT BOARD				
1 ACCOUNTING				
Salaries & Wages	460,683	421,966	426,363	-
General Expenses	5,064	6,310	6,560	-
Total Accounting	465,747	428,276	432,923	-
2 INSURANCE GENERAL				
General Expenses	1,307,980	1,456,000	1,535,953	-
Total Insurance General	1,307,980	1,456,000	1,535,953	-
3 LAW				
Retainer	75,000	78,750	78,750	-
Professional & Special Services	350,107	291,375	291,375	-
Total Law	425,107	370,125	370,125	-

4	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY				
	Salaries & Wages	138,618	144,241	160,675	-
	General Expenses	512,920	541,497	579,690	20,000
	Total Information Technology	651,538	685,738	740,365	20,000
5	TOWN REPORTS				
	General Expenses	-	-	-	-
	Total Town Reports	-	-	-	-
6	SELECT BOARD				
	Salary – Chair	1,800	1,800	1,800	-
	Salaries – Other Four Members	6,000	6,000	6,000	-
	Salaries & Wages	672,762	723,486	633,803	104,267
	General Expenses	53,914	81,905	107,405	4,500
	Total Select Board	734,476	813,191	749,008	108,767
7	VETERANS BENEFITS				
	Salaries & Wages	24,461	24,950	24,950	-
	General Expenses	27,571	2,343	2,343	-
	Benefits	45,258	100,000	70,000	30,000
	Total Veterans Benefits	97,290	127,293	97,293	30,000
	TOTAL SELECT BOARD	3,682,138	3,880,623	3,925,667	158,767
B	BOARD OF ASSESSORS				
	Salary – Chair	1,800	1,800	1,800	-
	Salaries – Other Two Members	3,000	3,000	3,000	-
	Salaries & Wages	255,411	253,837	271,472	-
	General Expenses	53,955	47,584	59,723	-
	Total Board of Assessors	314,166	306,221	335,995	-
C	TOWN CLERK				
	Salary – Town Clerk	108,450	112,703	115,376	-
	Salaries & Wage	197,693	232,689	235,346	-
	General Expenses	29,148	38,296	39,096	-
	Total Town Clerk	335,291	383,688	389,818	-
D	ELECTION & REGISTRATION				
	Salaries & Wages	143,008	216,248	65,944	-
	General Expenses	59,990	63,480	61,730	-
	Total Election & Registration	202,998	279,728	127,674	-
E	TREASURER-COLLECTOR				
	Salaries & Wages	311,133	379,971	433,153	-
	General Expenses	52,425	84,850	60,800	-

Total Treasurer-Collector	363,558	464,821	493,953	-
TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT	4,898,151	5,315,081	5,273,107	158,767

and that to meet said appropriation the sum of \$5,431,874 be raised from the tax levy.

COMMENT: The general government departments primarily provide financial and administrative support to other Town operating departments and manage the affairs of the Town. The changes from FY25 are adjustments needed to maintain level service and are reflective of the broader trend of rising costs to deliver the same level of service. The Select Board's budget is higher in general expenses as a result of funding a full year of operating the Former Fire Headquarters. In May, Milton Access TV will undertake a technology project that will enable the facility to support live broadcasting of board and committee meetings. Since the building came online in FY25, it is common for the meeting room to be used on most weeknights for board and committee meetings.

The decrease in the Elections & Registration budget is due to fewer scheduled elections that will be held in FY26 (1 – the 2026 Annual Town Election) compared to the number of elections included in the FY25 budget (3). This budget will again increase in FY27 because there are three (3) anticipated elections in FY27.

The non-contingent amount reflects the adjusted appropriation if the override is not approved based on what would be a lower number of Town employees.

- *The Select Board budget will be reduced by (1) leaving the Town Planner position unfunded and vacant in FY26 and (2) eliminating the funding set aside for renting space at the United Congregational Church in Milton (formerly known as the First Congregational Church of Milton) for the Wildcat Den, which provides after school activities for middle school students. The Town Planner position has been vacant since November 2024 and the Town has been unable to fill the position. The Wildcat Den will remain open for the rest of this school year but not reopen in September 2025.*
- *The Information Technology budget will be reduced by \$20,000, impacting the department's ability to implement software upgrades and replace aging equipment.*
- *The Veterans Budget will be reduced by \$30,000 which will bring the budget more in line with historical trends. Despite the budget reduction, in Massachusetts Chapter 115 veterans' benefits are allowed under the Massachusetts General Laws, whether a city or town has a budgetary appropriation. Thus, the Town will be required to fulfill all eligible benefits applications, regardless of the level of funding.*

The Warrant Committee recommends approval of this article.

ARTICLE 11 To see what sum of money the Town will vote to appropriate for the twelve-month period beginning July 1, 2025, for the operation of the several Boards and Committees classified as Boards and Special Committees; and to act on anything relating thereto.

Submitted by the Select Board

RECOMMENDED that the Town appropriate the amounts shown in the following tabulation under the heading "Non-contingent Recomm. FY26" and that the Town appropriate the amount shown in the following tabulation under the heading "Contingent Recomm. FY 26", contingent upon passage by the voters of the Town of Milton of an override ballot question under Chapter 59, Section 21C of the Massachusetts General Laws:

BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

	Actual FY24	Approp. FY25	Non- Contingent Recomm. FY26	Contingent Recomm. FY26
A CONSERVATION COMMISSION				
General Expenses	2,625	2,625	2,625	-
Total Conservation Commission	2,625	2,625	2,625	-
B COUNCIL ON AGING				
Salaries & Wages	292,092	292,639	321,182	-
General Expenses	58,875	68,758	62,804	15,000
Transportation	4,846	5,500	6,000	-
Total Council on Aging	355,813	366,897	389,986	15,000
C HISTORICAL COMMISSION				
General Expenses	3,600	2,240	2,240	-
Total Historical Commission	3,600	2,240	2,240	-
E PLANNING BOARD				
Salaries & Wages	39,312	40,176	41,355	-
General Expenses	15,575	4,494	4,494	-
Studies	0	50,000	50,000	-
Total Planning Board	54,887	94,670	95,849	-
F MASTER PLAN IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE				
Master Plan Implementation	6,000	30,000	0	30,000
Total MPIC	6,000	30,000	0	30,000
G BY LAW REVIEW COMMITTEE				
General Expenses	0	5,730	0	-
	0	5,730	0	-

H WARRANT COMMITTEE

Salaries & Wages	11,267	16,891	18,412	-
General Expenses	363	850	850	-
Total Warrant Committee	11,630	17,741	19,262	-

TOTAL BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

434,555	519,903	509,962	45,000
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and that to meet said appropriation the sum of \$554,962 be raised from the tax levy.

COMMENT: The requested aggregate budget for the various Boards and Committees of the Town for FY25 is approximately 7% higher than FY25 appropriations, due mainly to employee collective bargaining agreements and some budgetary adjustments for inflation, particularly due to higher electricity costs.

The non-contingent amount reflects the adjusted appropriation if the override is not approved. The Town will reduce the Council on Aging's supplies budget from \$15,000 to \$0, impacting the COA's ability to deliver services and pushing additional costs onto the COA's grants and gift/donation accounts. In addition, the Town will also eliminate all funding for the Master Plan Implementation Committee (MPIC) which is expected to issue a report and recommendations on next steps related to the Master Plan in Fall 2025.

The Warrant Committee recommends approval of this article.

ARTICLE 12 To see what sum of money the Town will vote to appropriate for the twelve-month period beginning July 1, 2025, for the operation, maintenance, and improvements of Public Works; and to act on anything relating thereto.

Submitted by the Select Board

RECOMMENDED that the Town appropriate the amounts shown in the following tabulation under the heading "Non-contingent Recomm. FY26" and that the Town appropriate the amount show in the following tabulation under the heading "Contingent Recomm. FY 26", contingent upon passage by the voters of the Town of Milton of an override ballot question under Chapter 59, Section 21C of the Massachusetts General Laws:

PUBLIC WORKS	Actual FY24	Approp. FY25	Non- Contingent Recomm. FY26	Contingent Recomm. FY26
Public Works General	2,041,810	1,991,720	1,906,111	112,157
Vehicle Maintenance	750,226	720,120	788,579	30,000
Subtotal Public Works	2,792,036	2,711,840	2,694,690	142,157
 SOLID WASTE MGMT.				
Collection of Refuse	797,105	821,019	841,544	-
Refuse Disposal	718,097	787,500	826,875	-

Curbside Recycling	1,241,683	1,368,196	1,396,102	-
Landfill Monitoring	24,752	19,000	19,000	-
Solid Waste General	135,515	146,194	148,285	-
Subtotal Solid Waste Mgmt.	2,917,152	3,141,909	3,231,806	-
TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS	5,709,188	5,853,749	5,926,496	142,157

and that to meet said appropriation the sum of \$6,068,653 be raised from the tax levy. Of the total amount appropriated, the maximum sum authorized for salaries and wages is \$1,400,000. The Public Works Department is hereby authorized to sell at a private or public sale, with the approval of the Select Board, equipment that is no longer needed by the department. It is further authorized to exchange or trade in old equipment for similar materials in the usual course of its operations to provide replacement items.

COMMENT: The overall total Public Works FY26 recommendation represents an increase of \$214,904 (4%) from the FY25 appropriation. The Public Works General budget includes salary, wages, longevity, and stipends consistent with its collective bargaining agreements and contractual agreements. The remainder of the general expense budget requests have been level funded. The Town's Snow and Ice budget is historically underfunded at its current amount of \$160,000 as evidenced by a historic average of approximately \$500,000 per year. The FY26 budget request remains level funded at \$160,000.

Vehicle Maintenance – Contingent: The Vehicle Maintenance budget was prepared to reflect greater reliance on our mechanics to maintain Town vehicles and trucks and increasing costs in recent years. To that end, the FY26 expense budget recommendation has been increased from \$720,120 to \$818,579, a 14 % increase.

Solid Waste – FY26 represents the fourth year of our contract for solid waste collection, which expires after FY27. Our contracts for disposal of trash and for processing our recyclables end at the conclusion of FY25 and negotiations are underway to extend those contracts.

Collection of Refuse – This is a fixed contractual item for the collection and hauling of municipal solid waste (trash). The contractual price for FY26 is \$841,544, which represents a 2% increase over FY25.

Transfer and Disposal of Refuse – This is a contractual item that relates to the cost of disposal of municipal solid waste at the Covanta disposal facility in Braintree. The unit price for solid waste disposal is not known at this time, but the Town is anticipating a potential 5% increase over FY25 and has accordingly budgeted for that increase. Tonnage rates continue to be higher than historic levels following the COVID-19 pandemic.

Solid Waste General – This budget contains Professional Services for pest extermination contract services and for removal services for propane, helium, oxygen, fire extinguishers and other tank-type items received at the recycle center. There is a slight increase in this line item for FY 26, in the amount of \$148,285, which represents a one (1) percent increase from last year.

Curbside Recycling – This effort is comprised of several different elements, some contractual, some unit cost or commodity based:

Collection of recycling material is a fixed contractual price for FY26 of \$958,102, which represents a 2% increase over FY25. Disposal and processing of recycling materials is a variable cost, which is tied to a regional index published monthly and commodity values. The recycled materials market has fluctuated greatly over the past several years and is very unstable and unpredictable. Current projections are for a recycled material processing cost of \$100/ton in FY26. The Town averages approximately 3,750 tons per year; therefore, a budget of \$375,000 is requested. The combined recycle hauling and processing costs for FY26 are budgeted at \$1,396,102, a 2% increase over FY25.

Landfill Closure represents a regulatory requirement to measure, quantify, and report groundwater location and contaminants that may exist beneath Milton’s landfill, which has been closed for two decades. This line item has been level funded at \$19,000.

The non-contingent amount reflects the adjusted appropriation if the override is not approved:

- Elimination of funding for Traffic Engineer consulting services which has been funded at \$80,000 per year since FY24 and are utilized on a regular basis to help implement road safety projects.
- Elimination of the Engineering co-op positions. The Engineering co-ops play a critical role in helping the Engineering Department manage and implement the Town’s annual road paving projects and other large capital projects.
- Reduction in seasonal positions who assist in maintaining properties during summer months and assist in public works projects; and
- Reduction in funding for vehicle maintenance which will result in deferred maintenance and limit the amount of work the DPW garage can complete.

The Warrant Committee recommends approval of this article.

ARTICLE 13 To see what sum of money the Town will vote to appropriate for the twelve-month period beginning July 1, 2025, for the Water Enterprise Fund; to determine how said appropriation shall be raised, whether by transfer from available funds, borrowing or otherwise; and to act on anything relating thereto.

Submitted by the Select Board

RECOMMENDED that the Town appropriate \$7,286,228 for the Water Enterprise Fund; and that \$738,675 be included in appropriations from the general fund for indirect costs and be allocated to the Water Enterprise Fund for funding and that the sum of \$8,024,903 be raised and appropriated as follows:

	Actual FY24	Approp. FY25	Recomm. FY26
WATER ENTERPRISE REVENUE:			
Rate / User Fee Revenue	6,672,691	7,311,088	7,574,903
Service and Miscellaneous Revenue	193,120	200,000	200,000
Retained earnings	340,307	0	250,000
Total Revenue	7,206,118	7,511,088	8,024,903

WATER ENTERPRISE COSTS:**Direct Costs:**

Salaries & Wages	878,796	963,749	991,594
General Expenses	372,092	476,300	476,300
Capital Outlay	151,163	365,000	365,000
Debt Service	949,246	939,912	1,150,716
Reserve	0	0	0
MWRA Assessments	4,184,821	4,062,627	4,302,618
Subtotal Direct Costs	6,536,118	6,807,588	7,286,228
Indirect Costs	670,000	703,500	738,675
TOTAL	7,206,118	7,511,088	8,024,903

COMMENT: The Water Enterprise Fund Budget represents the costs of providing Milton residents with safe drinking water. The single greatest cost is the MWRA assessment, which covers the cost of the bulk purchase of water from the MWRA. Direct costs include water department personnel, system repairs, and debt service for water system expansion and improvements. Indirect costs, such as employee benefits, are also charged to the Water Enterprise Fund Budget.

The Town's MWRA assessment fluctuates depending on water usage by Milton property owners. As is the case in each of the three enterprise fund systems, all Town and School properties as well as all property owners (including those who are exempt from the property tax levy) are charged user fees for their consumption. Milton's water rate assessment from the MWRA has decreased approximately 3.1 % from last year.

The budget increase in FY26 is due to higher debt service for water main improvement projects completed by the Department of Public Works and MWRA assessment. As an MWRA community, the Town has access to 0% interest loan and grant funding to complete water main projects. Additional information about the water system and water capital projects are available on the town website: <https://www.townofmilton.org/889/Water-System-Study-Master-Plan>

The Warrant Committee recommends approval of this article.

ARTICLE 14 To see what sum of money the Town will vote to appropriate for the twelve-month period beginning July 1, 2025, for the Sewer Enterprise Fund; to determine how said appropriation shall be raised, whether by transfer from available funds, borrowing or otherwise; and to act on anything relating thereto.

Submitted by the Select Board

RECOMMENDED that the Town appropriate \$8,799,989 for the Sewer Enterprise Fund; that \$738,675 be included in appropriations from the general fund for indirect costs and be allocated to the Sewer Enterprise Fund for funding and that \$9,538,664 be raised and appropriated as follows:

	Actual FY24	Approp. FY25	Recomm. FY26
SEWER ENTERPRISE REVENUE:			
Rate / User Fee Revenue	7,791,854	8,777,844	9,138,664
Service and Miscellaneous Revenue	197,898	215,000	200,000
Sewer Inflow/Infiltration Mitigation Fund	300,000	500,000	200,000
Retained Earnings	151,861	0	0
Total Revenue	8,441,613	9,492,844	9,538,664
SEWER ENTERPRISE COSTS:			
Direct Costs:			
Salaries & Wages	720,462	793,760	816,584
General Expenses	284,241	242,200	242,200
Capital Outlay	31,223	500,000	0
Debt Service	421,249	419,437	430,000
Reserve	0	0	0
MWRA Assessments	6,314,438	6,833,947	7,311,205
Subtotal Direct Costs	7,771,613	8,789,344	8,799,989
Indirect Costs	670,000	703,500	738,675
TOTAL	8,441,613	9,492,844	9,538,664

COMMENT: The Sewer Enterprise Fund is comparable in purpose to the Water Enterprise Fund but targeted to the costs to provide wastewater management. The Town's sewer system collects wastewater flows from properties and transports it to the Deer Island Treatment Plant for processing. Public Works Department staff time, Milton's MWRA assessment, debt service, system improvement and maintenance costs, as well as indirect costs, are established and charged to the Sewer Enterprise Fund. Anticipated costs for the next fiscal year, in both Enterprise accounts, are the basis by which the Select Board will develop and set the FY26 water and sewer rates.

As shown in the table above, the Town's assessment from the MWRA has grown significantly in recent years, from \$6.3 million in FY24 to \$7.3 million in FY26. This 16% increase over two years puts additional budgetary pressure on the Sewer Enterprise Fund and requires higher rate increases than

would otherwise be anticipated. While the assessment has increased, the Town benefits from the MWRA membership by avoiding any responsibility for wastewater treatment and avoids the need to operate and maintain its own treatment plant, unlike most other cities and towns in Massachusetts.

The Warrant Committee recommends approval of this article.

ARTICLE 15 To see what sum of money the Town will vote to appropriate for the twelve-month period beginning July 1, 2025, for the Stormwater Enterprise Fund; to determine how said appropriation shall be raised, whether by transfer from available funds, borrowing or otherwise; and to act on anything relating thereto.

Submitted by the Select Board

RECOMMENDED that the Town appropriate the sum of \$1,203,060 for the Stormwater Enterprise Fund; that \$55,125 be included in appropriations from the general fund for indirect costs and be allocated to the Stormwater Enterprise Fund for funding, and that \$1,258,185 be raised and appropriated as follows:

	Actual FY24	Approp. FY25	Recomm. FY26
STORMWATER ENTERPRISE REVENUE:			
Rate / Fee Revenue	1,047,511	1,134,080	1,248,185
Miscellaneous Revenue	10,242	9,500	10,000
Retained Earnings	71,050	0	0
Total Revenue	1,128,803	1,143,580	1,258,185
STORMWATER ENTERPRISE COSTS:			
Direct Costs:			
Salaries & Wages	190,157	217,241	223,631
General Expenses	660,152	648,729	748,729
Debt Service	228,494	225,110	230,700
Reserve	0	0	0
Subtotal Direct Costs	1,078,803	1,091,080	1,203,060
Indirect Costs	50,000	52,500	55,125
TOTAL	1,128,803	1,143,580	1,258,185

COMMENT: The Stormwater Enterprise Fund targets the costs of managing the Town's stormwater collection system including maintaining existing infrastructure and meeting its legal requirements under the federal National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. The Town's current NPDES permit requirements became effective July 1, 2018, and require a number of activities to achieve improved stormwater management and quality. The stormwater utility fee pays for street sweeping, catch basin cleaning, and replacement of drainage systems, yard waste collection, and other services

that the Department of Public Works provides each year to ensure that the Town complies with the NPDES permit requirements.

The increase in FY26 is to enable the DPW to remove materials from catch basin cleaning that have been accumulating at the DPW Yard. The stormwater fee is based on the amount of impervious area per property. As with the water and sewer enterprise funds, all property owners (including those that are otherwise exempt from property taxes) are assessed and required to pay the stormwater fee.

Additional information about the Town's stormwater management efforts is available on the Town website: <https://www.townofmilton.org/327/Stormwater-Management>

The Warrant Committee recommends approval of this article.

ARTICLE 16 To see what sum of money the Town will vote to appropriate to provide rehabilitation, replacement or enhancement of the Town's water system, and to authorize the Select Board, on behalf of the Town, to apply for and use federal, state, MWRA or other funds for this purpose, to determine how such appropriation shall be raised; whether by borrowing or otherwise; and to act on anything relating thereto.

Submitted by the Select Board

RECOMMENDED that the sum of \$596,700 be appropriated for the purpose of financing the rehabilitation, replacement or enhancement of the Town's water system, including costs incidental and related thereto; that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, is authorized to borrow \$596,700 under and pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 8 (5) of the General Laws, as amended, or any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor, and that the Select Board and hereby is authorized to accept and expend in addition to the foregoing appropriation one or more grants or gifts from the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority or any other public or private funding source.

COMMENT: The primary source of funds Milton uses to rehabilitate the drinking water system is the MWRA's Local Water System Assistance Program. The program allocates Milton \$596,700 for FY25 through a ten year, 0% interest loan. The Milton Water Department uses the funding to replace pipes that have exceeded their useful life. An additional \$365,000 from the Water Enterprise Fund supplements the MWRA infrastructure funds on an annual basis. The requested \$961,700 is a small amount to invest to maintain a system as extensive as Milton's. At the investment rate, rehabilitation of the entire system would take more than 100 years, well beyond the useful life for much of the system.

The Warrant Committee recommends approval of this article.

ARTICLE 17 To see what sum of money the town will vote to appropriate to provide capital needs for the Town's sewer system, including costs incidental and related thereto, and to authorize the Select Board, on behalf of the Town, to apply for and use federal, state, MWRA or other funds for this purpose, to see how such appropriation shall be raised; whether by borrowing under applicable provisions of law or otherwise; and to act on anything relating thereto.

Submitted by the Select Board

RECOMMENDED that the sum of \$1,150,000 be appropriated for the purpose of financing the capital needs of the Town's sewer system, including costs incidental and related thereto; that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, is authorized to borrow \$1,150,000 under and pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 8 (5) of the General Laws, as amended, or any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor; and to provide that, in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, the premium received by the Town upon the sale of any bonds or notes thereunder, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to pay project costs and the amount borrowed for each such project shall be reduced by the amount of any such premium so applied, and that the Select Board be and hereby is authorized to accept and expend in addition to the foregoing appropriation one or more grants or gifts from the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority or any other public or private funding source.

COMMENT: Our sewer system collects sanitary waste from Town properties and conveys it into the MWRA system, for treatment at Deer Island; ratepayers benefit from this arrangement by avoiding added costs of other treatment methods. Regular investment in the sewer infrastructure maintains system integrity and protects against sewerage backflow into buildings and streets. Properly maintained sewers also limit the entry of groundwater and stormwater (infiltration and inflow) into the sanitary system.

Milton annually participates in the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) I&I removal program. In FY26 the Town is expected to be eligible for \$1,150,000, 75% of which will be as a grant and 25% of which will be in the form of a 0% interest loan. By maintaining the Town's sewer mains and taking steps to limit infiltration and inflow, the Town can reduce the flow of wastewater it sends to the MWRA for treatment. The Town's MWRA assessment is based on flow and if stormwater or groundwater is entering the sewer system, the Town needs to fund the treatment for water it would normally not treat.

The Warrant Committee recommends approval of this article.

ARTICLE 18 To see what sum of money the Town will vote to appropriate to provide rehabilitation, replacement or enhancement of the Town's stormwater system, including costs incidental and related thereto, and to authorize the Select Board, on behalf of the Town, to apply for and use federal, state, or other funds for this purpose; to determine how such appropriation shall be raised, whether by borrowing or otherwise; and to act of anything relating thereto.

Submitted by the Select Board

RECOMMENDED that the sum of \$320,000 be appropriated for the purpose of financing the rehabilitation, replacement, or enhancement of the Town's stormwater system, including costs incidental and related thereto; that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, is authorized to borrow \$320,000 under and pursuant to Chapter 44, Sections 7(1) and 8(15) of the General Laws, as amended, or any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor, and that the Select Board be and hereby is authorized to accept and expend in addition to the foregoing appropriation one or more grants or gifts from any other public or private funding source.

COMMENT: Milton’s storm drain system is built to collect and convey rainwater from over 96 miles of public roadway. Milton has an obligation under the Federal Clean Water Act to minimize the discharge of pollutants to receiving waters and to maintain its stormwater collection system in good standing. Funds appropriated in this article are utilized for capital projects to repair and rehabilitate failed storm water infrastructure. Debt service for these projects will be reflected in the Town’s Stormwater Enterprise Fund Budget.

The Warrant Committee recommends approval of this article.

ARTICLE 19 To see what sum of money the Town will vote to appropriate for Health and Sanitation for the twelve-month period beginning July 1, 2025; and to act on anything relating thereto.

Submitted by the Board of Health

RECOMMENDED that the Town appropriate the amounts shown in the following tabulation under the heading "Non-contingent Recomm. FY26" and that the Town appropriate the amount shown in the following tabulation under the heading “Contingent Recomm. FY 26”, contingent upon passage by the voters of the Town of Milton of an override ballot question under Chapter 59, Section 21C of the Massachusetts General Laws:

BOARD OF HEALTH	Actual FY24	Approp. FY25	Non- Contingent	Contingent
			Recomm. FY26	Recomm. FY26
Salaries & Wages	373,186	386,683	418,775	-
General Expenses	39,206	33,569	27,291	8,000
Transfer to Opioid Fund	0	0	155,666	-
TOTAL BOARD OF HEALTH	412,392	420,252	601,732	8,000

and that to meet said appropriation the sum of \$454,066 be raised from the tax levy and the sum of \$155,666 shall be raised from funds certified by the Department of Revenue as free cash.

COMMENT: The Milton Public Health Department's mission is to achieve the highest level of wellness for all Milton residents by adopting reasonable health regulations, by providing preventative health programming and by preparing and planning for public health emergencies. To maintain the quality of protective and preventative services the Health Department must be sufficiently staffed and funded.

Contingent: *The FY26 appropriation of \$609,732 represents a 45% increase from the FY25 appropriation of \$420,253. The majority of the increase relates to the \$155,666 transfer to the Opioid Settlement Fund. The accounting treatment for settlement funds changed as of December 4, 2023 as detailed below. The salaries and wages have increased slightly in the Department while general expenses have increased \$1,722 in training and education to ensure an effective and knowledgeable workforce.*

Along with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and most of the municipalities in Massachusetts, Milton is part of the nationwide settlements regarding the opioid crisis. As part of the settlements with Distributors, Johnson & Johnson, Teva, Allergan, CVS, Walgreens, and Walmart, the Town began receiving payments in FY23 which will continue, in some cases, through 2038. The funds are required to be used specifically for opioid use disorder prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery and the Town must comply with reporting requirements regarding expenditures. In FY24, the Town appropriated \$75,000 which would be expended under the direction of the Board of Health for eligible purposes, in accordance with the nationwide settlement and guidance from the Commonwealth. On December 4, 2023, the Governor signed Chapter 77 of the Acts of 2023, Section 9. Pursuant to the new Clause 4 of G.L. c. 44, § 53, the Director of Accounts has determined that cities and towns that have received or will receive funds in Fiscal Year 2024, or thereafter, pursuant to these settlement agreements, may place said funds into a special revenue fund. The proceeds can then be expended, without further appropriation, at the direction of the chief executive officer only for the purpose identified in said settlement agreements. Section 197 of the Act further allows a community to consolidate all monies previously received for this purpose into the special revenue fund as described herein. Settlement funds totaling \$155,666 were received by the Town in Fiscal Year 2023 and were recorded as general fund revenues. The appropriation requested in FY26 relates to the transfer of these prior year receipts to the Opioid Settlement Fund as required. All settlement funds received after FY23 have been recorded as revenues in the Opioid Settlement Fund.

The non-contingent amount reflects the adjusted appropriation if the override is not approved. The Health Department budget will be reduced by \$8,000 for Professional Services, which is the department's outside engineering consultant who assists with septic (Title V) applications and plan review. As a result, the Health Department will seek to raise fees to have these services fully funded by applicants rather than supported by the tax levy.

The Warrant Committee recommends approval of this article.

ARTICLE 20 To see what sum of money the Town will vote to appropriate for the Public Library for the twelve-month period beginning July 1, 2025; and to act on anything relating thereto.

Submitted by the Board of Library Trustees

RECOMMENDED that the Town appropriate the amounts shown in the following tabulation under the heading "Non-contingent Recomm. FY26" and that the Town appropriate the amount shown in the following tabulation under the heading "Contingent Recomm. FY 26", contingent upon passage by the voters of the Town of Milton of an override ballot question under Chapter 59, Section 21C of the Massachusetts General Laws:

LIBRARY	Actual FY24	Approp. FY25	Non- Contingent	Contingent
			Recomm. FY26	Recomm. FY26
Salaries & Wages	1,220,459	1,303,255	1,288,600	38,350
General Expenses	600,059	594,909	616,079	31,500
TOTAL LIBRARY	1,820,518	1,898,164	1,904,679	69,850

and that to meet said appropriation the sum of \$1,974,529 be raised from the tax levy.

COMMENT: The slight increase to the Library budget represents contractual wage increases, inflation, and increased costs of existing contracts for services. The increase in the books and related materials budget meets the amount necessary to stay certified by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners ("MBLC") for State Aid funds (approximately \$71,000 in FY25) and reciprocal borrowing with other libraries. Additional personnel have been requested and approved by the Personnel Board and represent a need that continues to be unfunded.

The contingent amount reflects the adjusted appropriation if the override is approved, which is \$1,974,529, a 4% increase over FY25.

The non-contingent amount reflects the adjusted appropriation if the override is not approved. The resulting loss will most likely result in the reduction of Summer Saturdays, Sunday hours, and an approximately 11 % cut to books and materials, particularly eBooks. These cuts would also bring the Library budget below the amount required by the MBLC to receive state funding, though the Library may seek waiver.

The Warrant Committee recommends approval of this article.

ARTICLE 21 To see what sum of money the Town will vote to appropriate for the maintenance and improvement of the Cemetery for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025; and to act on anything relating thereto.

Submitted by the Board of the Cemetery Trustees

RECOMMENDED that the Town appropriate the amounts shown in the following tabulation under the heading "Non-contingent Recomm. FY26" and that the Town appropriate the amount shown in the following tabulation under the heading “Contingent Recomm. FY 26”, contingent upon passage by the voters of the Town of Milton of an override ballot question under Chapter 59, Section 21C of the Massachusetts General Laws:

CEMETERY	Actual FY24	Approp. FY25	Non- Contingent	Contingent
			Recomm. FY26	Recomm. FY26
Salaries & Wages	758,684	804,497	784,144	35,000
General Expenses	141,643	149,043	149,043	-
TOTAL CEMETERY	900,327	953,540	933,187	35,000

and to meet said appropriation the sum of \$968,187 be raised from the tax levy. The Department is hereby authorized to sell or exchange old equipment.

COMMENT: The Cemetery is one of the jewels of the Town of Milton. The Cemetery sits on one hundred and four (104) contiguous acres of land and is known for its mature trees, beautiful gardens, and winding paths. A historic garden cemetery, it was established as the Town’s only cemetery in 1672 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It is important to note that the Cemetery has recently achieved Arboretum status, which takes into account: public access; staff; education opportunities; and collections.

The Cemetery’s Department is seeking essentially a level budget this year which is slight increase from last year's appropriation if the override is approved by the Town. That appropriation is reflected in the contingent amount in the above table.

The non-contingent amount reflects the adjusted appropriation if the override is not approved. This appropriation will result in the reduction of budget resources for overtime and seasonal workers.

The Warrant Committee recommends approval of this article.

ARTICLE 22 To see what sum of money the Town will vote to appropriate for the twelve-month period beginning July 1, 2025 for the operation of Parks and Recreation; and to see if the Town will vote to authorize the continued use of the Parks and Recreation Revolving Fund pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 68 of the General Bylaws of the Town; and to act on anything relating thereto.

Submitted by the Board of Park Commissioners

RECOMMENDED that the Town authorize the continued use of the Parks and Recreation Revolving Fund pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 68 of the General Bylaws of the Town and that the Town appropriate the amounts shown in the following tabulation under the heading "Non-contingent Recomm. FY26" and that the Town appropriate the amount show in the following tabulation under the heading “Contingent Recomm. FY 26”, contingent upon passage by the voters of the Town of Milton of an override ballot question under Chapter 59, Section 21C of the Massachusetts General Laws:

PARKS AND RECREATION	Non-			
	Actual FY24	Approp. FY25	Contingent Recomm. FY26	Contingent Recomm. FY26
Salaries & Wages	510,282	541,115	532,659	26,494
General Expenses	157,177	176,850	180,255	-
Gym Buddies	2,000	2,000	2,000	-
TOTAL PARKS AND RECREATION	669,459	719,965	714,914	26,494

and that to meet said appropriation the sum of \$741,408 be raised from the tax levy.

COMMENT: The Parks and Recreation Department manages approximately 115 acres of Town parks for both active and passive recreation as well as numerous recreation activities for Milton youth. The general expenses line includes utilities, water/sewer, equipment maintenance, and grounds maintenance. The management team of the Parks and Recreation Department is working diligently to manage the current needed capital projects while planning for future needed capital improvements in and around the town while respecting the financial limits of their town approved budget.

Since the passage of the Community Preservation Act in Milton, the Parks and Recreation Department has actively applied for and received grants to improve parks facilities in Milton, including new field lights, a new playground, and new dugouts at Kelly Field.

The Warrant Committee would like to give special thanks to the staff at the Parks and Recreation Department for the work they do throughout the year to maintain our parks and provide activities for all Milton residents to enjoy. The contingent recommendation represents a slight increase to the general expenses line for the Parks and Recreation Department.

The non-contingent amount reflects the adjusted appropriation if the override is not approved. The Town’s planned appropriation for the part-time employee who manages the Wildcat Den (a youth center for middle school students) will be eliminated. This will mean the Wildcat Den will not reopen in September 2025.

The Warrant Committee recommends approval of this article.

ARTICLE 23 To see what sum of money the Town will vote to appropriate for the support of the Consolidated Facilities Department for the twelve-month period beginning July 1, 2025; and to act on anything relating thereto.

Submitted by the Select Board

RECOMMENDED that the Town appropriate the amounts shown in the following tabulation under the heading "Non-contingent Recomm. FY26" and that the Town appropriate the amount show in the following tabulation under the heading “Contingent Recomm. FY 26”, contingent upon passage by the voters of the Town of Milton of an override ballot question under Chapter 59, Section 21C of the Massachusetts General Laws:

CONSOLIDATED FACILITIES	Non-			
	Actual	Approp.	Contingent	Contingent
	FY24	FY25	Recomm.	Recomm.
			FY26	FY26
Salaries & Wages	856,145	923,215	867,211	52,420
General Expenses	195,708	187,797	286,536	-
Improvement Projects/Repairs	175,957	200,000	210,000	-
TOTAL CONSOLIDATED FACILITIES	1,227,810	1,311,012	1,363,747	52,420

and that to meet said appropriation the sum of \$1,416,167 be raised from the tax levy.

COMMENT: The Consolidated Facilities Department (CFD) oversees all of the day-to-day building maintenance, engineering and capital planning for both Town and School buildings. The CFD oversees 945,000 square feet of space covering 25 buildings. The department oversees the following buildings and structures under the agreement between the Select Board and the School Committee: Milton High School, Pierce Middle School, Tucker Elementary, Glover Elementary, Collicott and Cunningham Elementary, Brooks Field Concession Building and Storage Facility, Town Hall, the Public Library, Milton Police Headquarters, three Fire Houses, Milton Art Center, Council on Aging, the Animal Shelter, Milton Yacht Club, and eight Department of Public Works buildings. The department also provides routine safety checks of structures located on the Governor Stoughton Property.

Further, the department has 15 essential areas of responsibility: Facilities Engineering, Project Management, Capital Projects, Long Range Capital Planning, Preventative Maintenance, Routine Building Maintenance, Utility Consumption, State and Local Life Safety Inspections, Department of Environmental Protection Registrations, Energy Conservation, Building Security, Public Procurement, Custodial Care, and Landscaping and Snow/Ice Removal.

The requested aggregate budget for the Consolidated Facilities Department from FY25 to FY26 represents an increase of 8%, driven largely by increased costs to perform the same level of maintenance and improvements to Town buildings. The CFD budget shown here reflects the expenses related to Town buildings, but additional funds are allocated to CFD in the school department budget for maintenance to the school buildings.

The non-contingent amount reflects the adjusted appropriation if the override is not approved. The CFD will need to reduce its workforce by one employee in order to assist the Town in achieving a balanced budget. This reduction will impact the CFD’s ability to perform projects and maintain Town and School facilities.

The Warrant Committee recommends approval of this article.

ARTICLE 24 To see what sum of money the Town will vote to appropriate for the support of schools for the twelve-month period beginning July 1, 2025; and to act on anything relating thereto.

Submitted by the School Committee

RECOMMENDED that the Town appropriate the amounts shown in the following tabulation under the heading "Non-contingent Recomm. FY26" and that the Town appropriate the amount show in the following tabulation under the heading “Contingent Recomm. FY 26”, contingent upon passage by the voters of the Town of Milton of an override ballot question under Chapter 59, Section 21C of the Massachusetts General Laws:

SCHOOLS	Actual FY24	Approp. FY25	Non- Contingent Recomm. FY26	Contingent Recomm. FY26
School Department	61,577,213	67,225,230	67,233,608	5,640,306
TOTAL SCHOOLS	61,577,213	67,225,230	67,233,608	5,640,306

and that to meet said appropriation the sum of \$72,873,914 be raised from the tax levy.

COMMENT: The Milton Public Schools (MPS) have undergone some challenges within the past year. In July 2024, the school department determined that there was a shortfall for the fiscal year (FY) ending June 30, 2024, in the amount of \$3,800,000. The School Department was able to cover the majority of the shortfall by using reserve funds that they had built up over a number of years. The majority of the funds were taken from the Circuit Breaker reserve (a special education reserve that is funded by reimbursement from the State), the Medicaid reserve (a reserve that is funded by reimbursement from the State for Medicaid-covered services), and revolving funds that are charge-back accounts for School Department programs including Community Schools, Facility Rentals, Food Service and many club and activities accounts, virtually depleting these accounts. The School Department requested that the Select Board allocate funds to cover the remaining shortfall. The Select Board approved an allocation of \$415,000 in American Rescue Plan Act federal funding.

The newly hired Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations (ASF&O) identified a **projected** FY 2025 budget deficit in the 2Q FY25 financial update to the School Committee. This was not an actual deficit, however if the actual spending trend continued for the remainder of the year, the School Department would most likely end the year with a \$2,300,000 deficit. A similar situation to the FY24 year-end, without the reserve funds available to close the gap.

At that time, a deep dive was undertaken to identify the issues that were causing these significant deficits. The ASF&O found a structural deficit within the operating budget. A structural deficit occurs when the

recurring expenses consistently exceed recurring revenues/reimbursements. This was identified to be the case specifically with substitute teacher expenses, utility expenses (including heat, electricity, and water), and special education expenses (tuition for out of district placements, transportation, and contracted services). A review of FY23, FY24, and FY25 illustrated actual expenditures to be unfavorable compared to the amount budgeted.

How does this happen?

One reason for the structural deficit is due to creating a budget with a prior year budget and not reviewing and using actual expenses. Another reason for the structural deficit can be attributed to the increasing costs of goods and services that all departments have experienced in the past few years.

A number of steps were taken to address the projected FY25 deficit. They included a hiring freeze, a purchase order freeze, a decision to defer some consolidated facilities purchase orders, and a plan to utilize current staff efficiently instead of paying for substitute teacher coverage. The School Committee also decided to utilize a majority of the school reserve funds, including an allocation of custodial salaries to the food service reserve, a supplemental funding request for special education transportation, an allocation to Community Schools, Medicaid, and Facility Rentals reserve accounts. With all of these actions, the expected projected deficit is approximately \$700,000 for fiscal year 2025. This deficit is being addressed by an appropriation to the FY25 Reserve Fund (Article 2) from free cash in the event of an actual deficit in FY25.

These issues were incorporated into the FY26 budget created in November 2024. The FY26 budget request was for level service in the amount of \$73,573,914 which is a 9.44% increase over the FY25 budget of \$67,225,230. Now with an override being sought, the revised non-contingent budget is a request of \$67,233,608 and a contingent budget (if the override passes) of \$5,640,306 for a total appropriation of \$72,873,914.

The Warrant Committee had a number of questions regarding the FY26 budget. Of issue, was the addition of 79 positions since 2018, many of which had been hired with one-time funds – Federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds provided to the Town during the pandemic. The School Committee utilized these funds for hiring which was discussed at many of the prior year Warrant Committee meetings. It was stated time and time again that using these one-time funds would create a “fiscal cliff.” As stated in the 2022 and 2023 Annual Town Meeting Warrant comments, the Warrant Committee, “.....urged the School Department to comprehensively review the feasibility of continuing to rely upon these outside funding sources.” When the funds are no longer provided, the Town will need to go to the taxpayers and ask for an override, as is currently being proposed, or cuts within the school budget would need to be made. The School Department spent approximately \$2,800,000 of ARPA funds on recurring costs. And there has not been an appetite to eliminate any positions at all. There is concern that there needs to be a full review of the staffing and administrative positions to determine if a reorganization or realignment would identify redundancy and ultimately provide savings to the budget.

Without cutting costs, one suggestion discussed by the Warrant Committee was to revisit charging for the full day kindergarten program as the State mandate is only for half-day kindergarten. When full day kindergarten was originally offered parents were charged \$3,500. At that level, this would generate approximately \$1,225,000 in revenue and would still be less expensive for parents than paying for childcare. Another option was to eliminate the full day preschool at the Tucker School; however, the cost of the program was not known. It was also suggested to review the French Immersion curriculum. This program is a very unique program in a public school system. One that is more representative of a

program in a private school setting. One relatively new issue is the need for 2.4 reading specialists to support students in the French Immersion classes to ensure they are reading in a second language, an advanced optional school curriculum. The Warrant Committee would still like to understand the total cost of the program.

Other fee considerations were also discussed for school buses, athletic programs, and other extracurricular activities. A question was asked regarding comparative costs with other districts and whether or not the costs were covered by the fees. There was a recent presentation on the fee schedules that will be voted on by the School Committee to increase some fees while ensuring they are comparable to other districts. The fees do not completely cover the cost of the services but do provide an offset.

The issue of residency was again broached. The School Committee instituted a new policy last year in response to the Warrant Committee's concerns that there was a long period of time between kindergarten registration and 6th grade registration. At the time, residency was certified in kindergarten, 6th grade, and 9th grade. In the revised policy, an additional checkpoint was added in 3rd grade. The Warrant Committee is fully committed to the educational needs of the Town's residents.

Recommendations were cited from a similarly situated neighboring city's audit as a result of a significant deficit. The recommendations were as follows:

- The School Finance Department should build its budget based on actual expense information from prior years
- The School Finance Department's budget must be more detailed and transparent
- The School Department should maintain a human resources/personnel system that accurately tracks employees by location, position, and funding source
- The School Finance Department must track spending relative to the budget approved by the School Committee
- The School Department must share key data throughout the fiscal year
- The School Committee members should undergo annual budget and finance training
- The School Committee must, as required by Massachusetts Law, approve vendor and payroll warrants
- The School Department should be led by a Superintendent with a financial background and prior experience managing a large-scale organization
- The School and Town Finance Departments should be consolidated
- The School Department and Town must bridge the artificial divide between the two systems and work collaboratively on school finances
- The Town should engage a Certified Public Accounting Firm to conduct a periodic review of the School Department's processes, protocols, and internal controls
- The Town should appoint an Ombudsman to allow Town employees, School Department employees, and members of the public to anonymously report issues

The Warrant Committee feels that adopting the above practices and the addition of the new Assistant Superintendent of Business and Finance ("ASF&O") is a step in the right direction. However, the ASF&O will need the Superintendent, the School Committee, and School Leadership to approve the policies and procedures, including appropriate levels of sign off, that need to be implemented in order to ensure that costs are contained within the budgets that are prepared for each school principal.

Some improvements have already been implemented by the School Department. The ASF&O created the FY26 budget utilizing the actual expense trends instead of the prior practice of utilizing previous budget numbers. It is anticipated that the ASF&O will begin providing a quarterly forecast, which is an update to the budget based on the most current actual expenditures. The ASF&O had suggested the creation of a Special Education Reserve Fund for unanticipated special education, out of district tuitions, and transportation. The fund is governed by Massachusetts General Law Chapter 40 Section 13E. This would allow the School Department to have a reserve fund specifically for special education. The School Committee may determine to make appropriations from their budget into this fund, but in order to transfer funds out of the reserve fund, it would require a vote of both the School Committee and the Select Board. The creation of this fund can be found in Article 30 of this Annual Town Meeting Warrant. The School Committee voted to post recordings of the School Finance subcommittee meetings as a result of the issues identified herein. The Warrant Committee appreciates this change of thought by the School Committee as it was in the Warrant Committee's recommendation last year to record all finance subcommittee meetings as they are the most critical given that they relate to the finances of the Town.

The School Committee discussed some new practices that they would like to embark upon with the cooperation of the Town of Milton administration. This includes, in collaboration with the Town to procure a consultant to provide an assessment of both the Town and School finance and budgeting practices and receive recommendations on process improvements that would support sustainability and predictability of the operating budgets. Additionally, they discussed the establishment of a joint Town Finance committee with two (2) members from each board responsible for the Town's budget: Select Board, School Committee, and Warrant Committee. This is really re-instituting the Select Board Finance subcommittee as the Committee was disbanded this fiscal year. The Warrant Committee is encouraged by these changes and suggestions moving forward.

The contingent budget proposed includes re-allocations to fund critical investments of a long overdue English Language Arts (ELA) curriculum and an increase in English Language Learner (ELL) staff to accommodate the number of current ELL students.

The non-contingent amount reflects the adjusted appropriation if the override is not approved. The School Department will need to reduce its workforce by 76 employees in order to assist the Town in achieving a balanced budget. This reduction will impact the School Department's ability to offer the same level of services that have been provided since the influx of ARPA funds were made available. To that end, the School Committee and School Leadership have identified a number of cuts that will occur if the override is not approved.

The list of positions/programs to be cut by the School Department is as follows:

- **Milton High School:** Science Department head, English Department head, and five teachers – one teacher each in Latin, math, special education, English, and social studies.
- **Pierce Middle School:** Librarian, BCBA (special education), four teachers – one teacher each in science, math, social studies, and English, and a reading interventionist.
- **Joint Milton High and Pierce:** Custodian, inclusion specialist, and technology coach. There will also be cuts to theater, clubs, and athletics.
- **Elementary schools (4):** Two early literacy and learning interventionist, two English reading specialists, 2.4 full time equivalent (FTE) French reading specialists, two math interventionists, physical education teacher, music teacher, art teacher, two technology teachers, 0.6 FTE

Spanish teacher, librarian, and 1.6 FTE in library assistants. In addition, there would be a reduction from full time to a 0.8 FTE for all kindergarten education assistants, 0.4 future problem solver teacher, a custodian, an adjustment counselor, an inclusion specialist, a BCBA for special education, a preschool teacher and two preschool instructional assistants, two elementary classroom teachers and an elementary nursing contract.

- **District wide:** Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, a reduction in hours of the Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations and reclassification to business director, director of diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging, technology staff member, director of data and analytics, 1.3 administrative assistants, four ABA instructional assistants, ten special education assistants, 1.8 nurses, a 504 coordinator, preschool director, a 0.5 communications coordinator, director of fine arts, director of nursing, director of instructional technology, director of social studies, and an equity coach.
- **Other reductions:** elimination of full day preschool at Tucker Elementary School and the elimination of a bus that was added last year to take students off of the waitlist.

The Warrant Committee was sharply divided on the school budget, in particular the five members of the Warrant Committee School Subcommittee that spent an inordinate amount of time meeting, researching, and discussing the components of the budget. The Warrant Committee in its deliberations on this article discussed topics that cause trepidation among citizens with its analysis. This should not be misconstrued for animosity or an inability to collaborate on new initiatives. The Warrant Committee is steadfast in its mandate to report all matters of concern to the Town. While the vote on this article was split, resulting in an eventual approval of the contingent budget, each member of the Warrant Committee hopes for the success of our schools and the academic success of our children.

ARTICLE 25 To see what sum of money the Town will vote to appropriate for the support of the Blue Hills Regional Technical School for the twelve-month period beginning July 1, 2025, and to act on anything relating thereto.

Submitted by the Select Board

RECOMMENDED that the Town appropriate the amounts shown in the following tabulation under the heading "Recomm. FY26":

BLUE HILLS REG. TECH. SCHOOL	Actual FY 24	Approp. FY25	Recomm. FY26
Assessment	1,073,877	813,159	954,340
TOTAL	1,073,877	813,159	954,340

and that to meet said appropriation the sum of \$954,340 be raised from the tax levy.

COMMENT: Blue Hills Regional Technical School charges each of the nine district Towns an annual assessment that consists of an annual operating assessment, renovation capital assessment and school to careers assessment. These assessments are based upon the number of students attending each year from each of the participating districts. The FY26 allocation of costs for Blue Hills Regional Technical School to the Town has increased due to enrollment. The Town's FY26 assessment is based on the 39

students currently enrolled at Blue Hills. The FY25 assessment was based on FY24 during which there were 34 Milton residents enrolled; for FY24, there were 51.

The Warrant Committee recommends approval of this article.

ARTICLE 26 To see what sum of money the Town will vote to appropriate for Interest and Maturing Debt for the twelve-month period beginning July 1, 2025, and to act on anything relating thereto.

Submitted by the Select Board

RECOMMENDED that the Town appropriate the amount shown in the following tabulation under the heading “Recomm. FY26”:

INTEREST AND MATURING DEBT	Actual FY24	Approp. FY25	Recomm. FY26
Interest	826,452	945,006	778,698
Maturing Debt	3,706,677	4,035,777	3,614,544
Interest - Fire Station Building Project	407,810	737,178	1,268,236
Maturing Debt - Fire Station Building Project	0	100,000	50,000
TOTAL INTEREST AND MATURING DEBT	4,940,939	5,817,961	5,711,478

and that to meet said appropriation the sum of \$100,000 be appropriated from funds released from the Overlay Reserve, \$5,285,429 be raised from the tax levy and \$326,049 be transferred from the Special Purpose Debt Stabilization Fund.

COMMENT: The table above illustrates the total principal and interest payable for the Town’s various bond issues and a provision for estimated debt service on authorized unissued debt authorizations.

The debt service for the Fire Station Building Project relates to short-term borrowings for costs related to the new Milton Fire Station Headquarters. This will be paid utilizing debt exclusion funds as authorized under Chapter 43 of the Acts of 2017. The balance in the Special Purpose Debt Stabilization fund as of March 31, 2025 was \$648,555.

The Warrant Committee recommends approval of this article.

ARTICLE 27 To see if the Town will vote to rescind certain authorized, but unissued portions of the amounts authorized to be borrowed to pay costs of capital projects; and to act on anything relating thereto.

Submitted by the Select Board

RECOMMENDED that the Town vote to rescind the authorized but unissued portions of the amounts authorized to be borrowed to pay costs of capital projects shown in the following tabulation:

Town Meeting Date	Article	Project Description	Total Amount Authorized	Amount to be Rescinded
12/05/2022	2	Sewer MWRA	1,150,000	862,500
05/01/2023	22	Roadways – Chapter 90	626,278	626,278
05/08/2024	19	Roadways – Chapter 90	626,278	626,278
		Total to be rescinded		<u>2,115,056</u>

COMMENT: The borrowing authorizations approved in previous fiscal years that are listed in this article are no longer needed because total costs for the projects incurred were less than the amount authorized or the Town received other funds such as grant funds to cover the cost or a portion thereof; therefore, the balance of the authorization may be rescinded as it is no longer needed. The Department of Revenue and the ratings agencies monitor the Town’s level of authorized, but unissued debt and it is prudent to periodically rescind authorizations that are no longer needed.

The Chapter 90 Roadways program is a 100% reimbursement grant program through the State and the Sewer System Rehab project is 75% grant / 25% borrowing program through the Massachusetts Water Resource Authority (MWRA). These authorizations are made so that the Town may borrow short-term for the projects in the event the reimbursements are not received in a timely manner. Upon completion of the projects and receipt of the reimbursement, the debt authorization may be rescinded.

The Warrant Committee recommends approval of this article.

ARTICLE 28 To see what sum of money the Town will vote to appropriate for the Stabilization Fund, Capital Stabilization Fund, and Road Stabilization Fund, in accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40, Section 5B; and to act on anything relating thereto.

Submitted by the Select Board

RECOMMENDED that the Town appropriate the amounts shown in the following tabulation under the heading "Non-contingent Recomm. FY26" and that the Town appropriate the amount shown in the following tabulation under the heading “Contingent Recomm. FY 26”, contingent upon passage by the voters of the Town of Milton of an override ballot question under Chapter 59, Section 21C of the Massachusetts General Laws:

STABILIZATION FUNDS	Actual FY24	Approp. FY25	Non- Contingent Recomm. FY 26	Contingent Recomm. FY26
Stabilization Fund	500,000	0	300,000	228,956
Capital Stabilization Fund	0	0	0	0
Road Stabilization Fund	0	0	0	0
TOTAL STABILIZATION FUNDS	500,000	0	300,000	228,956

and that to meet said appropriation the sum of \$528,956 shall be appropriated from funds certified by the Department of Revenue as free cash.

If the voters do not approve of an override ballot question under Chapter 59, Section 21C of the Massachusetts General Laws, the Town shall appropriate \$300,000 and to meet said appropriation the sum of \$300,000 shall be appropriated from funds certified by the Department of Revenue as free cash.

COMMENT: The Warrant Committee remains committed to the important goal of growing the Town's Stabilization Fund as a positive component of Milton's credit and AAA bond rating, and to ensure the Town of Milton is prepared with funds for future contingencies. These stabilization funds are treated as the Town's main reserves with a goal of maintaining at least 5% of the General Fund budget in the stabilization funds.

The balance in the Stabilization Funds as of December 31, 2024, are as follows:

- *General Stabilization Fund: \$6,171,982*
- *Capital Stabilization Fund: \$1,229,672*
- *Road Stabilization Fund: \$236,850*

The Warrant Committee recommends approval of this article.

ARTICLE 29 To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40, Section 5B, to establish a special purpose stabilization to be known as the “Operating Budget Stabilization Fund” for the purposes of funding the operating budgets of the of the Town and the Public Schools; to see what sum of money the Town will vote to appropriate to said reserve fund; to see how said appropriation shall be raised; and to act on anything relating thereto.

Submitted by the Select Board

RECOMMENDED that the Town vote, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40, Section 5B, to establish a special purpose stabilization to be known as the “Operating Budget Stabilization Fund” for the purposes of funding the operating budgets of the of the Town and the Public Schools; and, that the Town vote to appropriate \$2,700,000 to the said Operating Budget Stabilization Fund, that the sum of \$2,000,000 be appropriated from funds certified by the Department of Revenue as free cash and \$700,000 be raised from the tax levy, contingent upon passage by the voters of the Town of Milton of an override ballot question under Chapter 59, Section 21C of the Massachusetts General Laws.

If voters do not approve an override ballot question under Chapter 59, Section 21C of the Massachusetts General Laws, no appropriations shall be made to the Operating Budget Stabilization Fund.

COMMENT: This article proposes that the Town establish a new Operating Budget Stabilization Fund. The Town currently maintains three other stabilization funds (General, Capital, and Road) as further described in Article 29. While these other stabilization funds have different titles and purposes, they are treated together as the Town’s budgetary reserves and are approximately 5.5% of the annual General Fund Budget, which is above the Town’s intended reserves target of 5% of the General Fund.

The Operating Budget Stabilization Fund is intended not to serve as a financial reserve in the case of economic downturns or extraordinary costs; rather, the Operating Budget Stabilization Fund is proposed to be established as part of the override budget as a recurring source of revenue to support operating budgets in future fiscal years.

Regardless of the outcome of the override, the Operating Budget Stabilization Fund will be established by this vote.

If the override is approved, then this article would appropriate two sources of funding into it:

- 1. \$700,000 from the tax levy, which is included in the operating override ballot question*
- 2. \$2 million from Free Cash to further capitalize the fund*

Any requests to withdraw funding from the Operating Budget Stabilization Fund must be approved by a 2/3 vote of the Town Meeting.

Since a portion of the funding is part of the operating override ballot question, this is a recurring source of property tax revenue for the Operating Budget Stabilization Fund. Beginning in Fiscal Year 2027, the Select Board may vote to: increase the appropriation to the fund by 2.5%, reduce the appropriation to any amount less than \$700,000, or eliminate the appropriation altogether.

The Warrant Committee has asked for and anticipates that the Select Board will establish, preferably in partnership with the Warrant Committee, a policy that will describe a plan for carefully utilizing the Operating Budget Stabilization Fund to support operating budgets while not too quickly drawing down the fund's financial resources. Other communities, including Braintree, Arlington, and Hingham have operating budget stabilization funds that were established alongside an operating override.

The non-contingent amount reflects the adjusted appropriation if the override is not approved, which will be \$0.

The Warrant Committee recommends approval of this article.

ARTICLE 30 To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40, Section 13E to establish a reserve fund to pay for unanticipated or unbudgeted costs of special education, out-of-district tuition or transportation; to see what sum of money the Town will vote to appropriate to said reserve fund; to see how said appropriation shall be raised; and to act on anything relating thereto.

Submitted by the School Committee

RECOMMENDED that the Town vote to accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40, Section 13E to establish a reserve fund to be called the “Special Education Reserve Fund” to pay for unanticipated or unbudgeted costs of special education, out-of-district tuition, and transportation.

COMMENT: Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40, Section 13E allows municipalities which accept this provision to establish a reserve fund for unanticipated special education, out-of-district tuition, recovery high schools, or transportation costs. The purpose of the fund is to provide the Milton Public Schools with a safety net to respond to unforeseen costs in any given year without adversely impacting the delivery of instruction to students in other programmatic areas.

While no appropriation is recommended into the fund through the Town budget at this time, once funds are more readily available, the School Committee may transfer a portion of the appropriation to the School Department budget into the reserve fund. In future years, the School Committee could submit a request that the Town Meeting appropriate from other sources into the reserve.

The School Committee intends to establish a policy that would govern the intended use of the reserve fund. Transfers out of the reserve fund require approval of both the Select Board and the School Committee. Additional information about the Special Education Reserve Fund is available on the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education website:

<https://www.doe.mass.edu/finance/circuitbreaker/stabilization.html>

The Warrant Committee recommends approval of this article.

ARTICLE 31 To see what sum of money the Town will vote to appropriate for the Reserve Fund for extraordinary or unforeseen expenditures for the twelve-month period beginning July 1, 2025; and to act on anything relating thereto.

Submitted by the Select Board

RECOMMENDED that the Town appropriate the sum of \$282,256 for the Reserve Fund for extraordinary or unforeseen expenditures for the twelve-month period beginning July 1, 2025; and that to meet said appropriation the sum of \$282,256 be appropriated from the tax levy. If voters do not approve an override ballot question under Chapter 59, Section 21C of the Massachusetts General Laws, said appropriation shall be made from funds certified by the Department of Revenue as free cash.

COMMENT: This recommendation provides \$282,256 for extraordinary or unforeseen expenditures during Fiscal Year 2026. Transfers from the Reserve Fund are subject to the approval of the Warrant Committee. This is a 10% increase from the \$265,000 that was allocated to this fund in FY25. The increase is a result of a \$32,256 savings from the general insurance account after the Town received its FY26 renewal information.

The Warrant Committee recommends approval of this article.

ARTICLE 32 To see if the Town will vote to authorize the use of revolving funds previously established pursuant to votes of Town Meeting, and to determine: 1) the programs and purposes for which each such revolving fund may be expended; 2) the departmental receipts which shall be credited to each such revolving fund; 3) the board, department or officer authorized to expend money from each such revolving fund; and 4) a limit on the total amount which may be expended from each such revolving fund in the fiscal year which begins on July 1, 2025; and to act on anything relating thereto.

Submitted by the Select Board

RECOMMENDED that the Town vote to authorize the use of revolving funds previously established pursuant to votes of Town Meeting, and to determine: 1) the programs and purposes for which each such revolving fund may be expended; 2) the departmental receipts which shall be credited to each such revolving fund; 3) the board, department or officer authorized to expend money from each such revolving fund; and 4) a limit on the total amount which may be expended from each such revolving fund in the fiscal year which begins on July 1, 2025, in accordance with the tabulation below:

Annual Town Meeting	Department	Purpose	Revenue Source	Limit
March 1994 Article 37	Board of Park Commissioners	Maintenance and repair of Town parks and recreational facilities	Fees received from the use of Town parks and recreational facilities	\$100,000

May 1996 Article 31	Board of Library Trustees	Purchasing new books and other related materials	Fines for overdue materials and from charges for lost or damaged materials, printer use fees and receipts from the sale of trash stickers	\$65,000
May 2001 Article 29	Select Board	Operation, repair, rental and maintenance of the Senior Center	Fees received from rental of the facilities at the Senior Center	\$1,000
May 2004 Article 28	Board of Health	Operation of health programs and for the purchase of additional vaccine for Town of Milton residents	Fees and charges received from the operation of influenza and pneumonia clinics, a year-round immunization program, other health programs	\$40,000
May 2008 Article 30	Board of Library Trustees	Operation, repair, rental and maintenance of the library facilities	Fees and charges received from rental of library facilities	\$25,000
May 2009 Article 40	Cemetery Department	Purchasing, storing and installing grave liners and other Cemetery materials and equipment	Fees for providing and installing grave liners	\$60,000
May 2011 Article 32	Conservation Commission	Purchasing and installation of trees, shrubs and plants, cleaning of waterways and removal of invasive species and improving drainage	Fees charged for fines imposed for the violation of the Wetlands Protection Act and the Town of Milton Wetlands Bylaw	\$15,000
January 2012 STM Article 5	Select Board	Building maintenance, repair and improvement	Revenue collected from rent or fees for occupancy or use of the former East Milton Library	\$25,000
May 2017 ATM Article 45	Consolidated Facilities	Energy conservation improvements at any Town building	Revenue received from the sale of energy credits related to the	\$10,000

			operation of solar panels on the roof of the Town Office Building	
October 2018 STM Article 6	Planning Board and Select Board	Traffic Safety and Infrastructure	Money received by the Board of Appeals or Planning Board from applicants for developments which may impact traffic on roads in Milton	\$50,000
May 2022 ATM Article 31	Cemetery	Maintenance and repairs to 211 Centre Street	Money received from rent and occupancy of 211 Centre Street	\$40,000
May 2023 ATM Article 41	Department of Public Works	Administrative costs for paving projects and paving projects	Trench excavation fees, inspection fees, and paving fees	\$250,000

COMMENT: Revolving Funds may be created by a vote of Town Meeting. This article reauthorizes the Revolving Funds previously approved by Town Meeting and sets annual withdrawal limits for each Revolving Fund. The total request from monies transferred into the revolving funds is \$681,000 for FY 26, which represents no change from FY25.

The Warrant Committee recommends approval of this article.

ARTICLE 33 To see what sum of money the Town will vote to appropriate from the PEG Access Enterprise Fund, for Fiscal Year 2026 cable-related purposes, consistent with the Town's franchise agreements with Comcast of Milton, Inc. and RCN Telecom Services of Massachusetts, LC, including but not limited to: (i) support of public, educational or governmental access cable television services; (ii) monitor compliance of the cable operator with the franchise agreement or (iii) prepare for renewal of the franchise license; and to act on anything relating thereto.

Submitted by the Select Board

RECOMMENDED that the Town vote to appropriate \$500,000 from the PEG Access Enterprise Fund for Fiscal Year 2026 cable-related purposes, consistent with the Town's franchise agreements with Comcast of Milton, Inc. and RCN Telecom Services of Massachusetts, LLC, including but not limited to: (i) support of public, educational or governmental access cable television services; (ii) monitor compliance of the cable operator with the franchise agreement or (iii) prepare for renewal of the franchise license.

COMMENT: The annual appropriation recommended in this article is an estimate of the annual fees the Town will owe for FY26 to MPEG Access, Inc., in accordance with the current agreement between the Town and MPEG Access, Inc. Milton Access TV is responsible for many hours of programming, particularly Town boards and committees, school extracurricular activities, such as musical performances, and school sports. Cable operators are required to enter into an agreement with the

Town prior to operating in Milton. Currently, the Town has two such agreements with RCN/Astound and Comcast. In recent years, as cable continues to face competition from alternative television streaming services, fewer Milton residents have cable subscriptions, and we will continue to carefully monitor fees paid to Milton and the budgetary demands to operate Milton Access TV.

The Warrant Committee recommends approval of this article.

ARTICLE 34 To see if the Town will vote to appropriate or reserve from the Community Preservation Fund annual revenues in the amounts recommended by the Community Preservation Committee for committee administrative expenses, community preservation projects and other expenses in fiscal year 2026, with each item to be considered a separate appropriation, and to act on anything relating thereto.

Submitted by the Community Preservation Committee

RECOMMENDED that the Town vote to appropriate Community Preservation Act funds as follows:

	Recomm. FY26
<u>ESTIMATED REVENUES FY 2026</u>	
CPA Surcharge	890,000
State Trust Fund Distribution	140,000
Investment Income	20,000
TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUES	<u>1,050,000</u>
<u>BUDGET FY 2026</u>	
APPROPRIATIONS	
Committee Administrative Expenses	50,000
SPECIAL PURPOSE RESERVES	
Historic Resources Reserve	105,000
Community Housing Reserve	105,000
Open Space and Recreation Reserve	105,000
UNDESIGNATED BUDGETED RESERVES	685,000
TOTAL BUDGET	<u>1,050,000</u>

COMMENT: The Milton Community Preservation Committee was created by the Select Board three years ago, following a vote by the people in Milton to adopt a 1% property surcharge, pursuant to the CPA. Members of the CPC include representatives from the Milton Housing Authority, the Milton Conservation Commission, the Department of Parks and Recreation, the Planning Board, the Milton Historic Commission, the Affordable Housing Trust, as well as three at-large citizen representatives appointed by the Select Board.

Approximately 200 Cities and Towns have voted to enact surcharges pursuant to the CPA and 70% of Massachusetts residents live in a CPA community. Since it was enacted 25 years ago, the CPA has resulted in \$3.4B raised, 37,000 acres of dedicated open space, 4,000 outdoor recreation projects created, 13,000 housing units created, over 19,000 housing units supported, and over 7,600 historic preservation projects throughout the Commonwealth.

In Milton, the application process is completed in two stages following application: an eligibility determination, and a full funding process. During this two-stage process, the CPC can request additional information and engages in interviews of all applicants.

Over the past three years, Milton has recommended funding a total of \$3.8M towards 36 different projects – 41% for open space and recreation, 27.1% for historic preservation, and 31.3% for community housing. While the majority of applications submitted to the CPA are for open space and recreation projects, the CPA attempts to fund each category equally.

The funding for the CPA program is stable at approximately \$1M each year (depending on the level of match by the Commonwealth).

The CPA statute requires the CPC to obtain a vote of Town Meeting to estimate its budget for the upcoming fiscal year. The CPC worked together with the Town Accountant and Town Treasurer to form their budget for FY26. Based on this work, the CPC reported that they conservatively estimated revenues for FY26 at a total of \$1.05M. As set forth above, 10% of that total must be set aside for each category: 1) affordable housing, 2) open space/recreation, and 3) historic preservation. The CPC estimated another 5% for administrative costs, leaving approximately \$685,000 available for appropriation next year. Accordingly, the CPC has recommended placing the remaining \$685,000 referenced above in the budgeted reserve.

These estimated budget numbers will be replaced by actuals, upon the determination of the match percentage to be made by the Commonwealth.

The Warrant Committee recommends approval of this article.

ARTICLE 35 To see if the Town will approve projects and grant funding, as recommended by the Community Preservation Committee, for Fiscal Year 2026. All approved projects must enter into a Grant Agreement with the Town and submit regular progress and budget reports. A total of fourteen (13) projects are recommended, for which \$1,024,946 is to be provided through CPA funds.

CPA PROJECT FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS			
CPA CATEGORY: COMMUNITY HOUSING		FUNDING SOURCE	AMOUNT
1	Milton Affordable Housing Trust	Community Housing Reserve Fund	\$105,000
		Unrestricted Fund Balance	\$170,000
		Total Funding:	\$275,000
CPA CATEGORY: HISTORIC PRESERVATION		FUNDING SOURCE	AMOUNT
2	Milton Art Center Window Replacement	Historic Preservation Reserve Fund	\$30,650
		Unrestricted Fund Balance	\$3,000
		Total Funding:	\$33,650

3	Milton Cemetery Holding Tomb Structural Study	Historic Preservation Reserve Fund	\$13,000
		Unrestricted Fund Balance	\$0
		Total Funding:	\$13,000
4	Eustis Estate Masonry Restoration	Historic Preservation Reserve Fund	\$30,700
		Unrestricted Fund Balance	\$49,300
		Total Funding:	\$80,000
5	Houghton’s Pond Pavillion Various Repairs	Historic Preservation Reserve Fund	\$30,650
		Unrestricted Fund Balance	\$29,350
		Total Funding:	\$60,000
CPA CATEGORY: OPEN SPACE & RECREATION		FUNDING SOURCE	AMOUNT
6	Cunningham & Collicot PTO Play Yard Improvements	Open Space & Rec Reserve Fund	\$21,000
		Unrestricted Fund Balance	\$40,507
		Total Funding:	\$61,507
7	Glover School PTO Landscape Improvements	Open Space & Rec Reserve Fund	\$21,000
		Unrestricted Fund Balance	\$34,750
		Total Funding:	\$55,750
8	Pine Tree Brook Neighborhood Association Pine Tree Brook Restoration	Open Space & Rec Reserve Fund	\$0
		Unrestricted Fund Balance	\$35,000
		Total Funding:	\$35,000
9	Park & Recreation Dept. Peverly Park Playground	Open Space & Rec Reserve Fund	\$21,000
		Unrestricted Fund Balance	\$229,000
		Total Funding:	\$250,000
10	Park & Recreation Dept. Recreation Master Plan	Open Space & Rec Reserve Fund	\$21,000
		Unrestricted Fund Balance	\$24,539
		Total Funding:	\$45,539
11	Park & Recreation Dept. Pagoda Circle Restoration Plan	Open Space & Rec Reserve Fund	\$0
		Unrestricted Fund Balance	\$12,000
		Total Funding:	\$12,000
12	Select Board Wharf Park Rehabilitation	Open Space & Rec Reserve Fund	\$21,000
		Unrestricted Fund Balance	\$52,500
		Total Funding:	\$73,500
13	Friends of Neponset Esplanade Redevelopment Plan Support	Open Space & Rec Reserve Fund	\$0
		Unrestricted Fund Balance	\$30,000
		Total Funding:	\$30,000
TOTAL FUNDING:			\$1,024,946
PROJECT RECOMMENDATION BREAKDOWN			
CPA CATEGORY		NUMBER OF PROJECTS	TOTAL AMOUNT
COMMUNITY HOUSING		1	\$275,000
HISTORIC PRESERVATION		4	\$186,650
OPEN SPACE & RECREATION		8	\$563,296

Submitted by the Community Preservation Committee

RECOMMENDED that the Town vote to approve the projects and amounts shown in the tabulation printed in the Warrant, under the heading “CPA Project Funding Recommendations.” All projects must enter into a Grant Agreement with the Town and submit regular progress and budget reports, and each project shall be a separate appropriation.

COMMENT: The Community Preservation Committee (CPC) conducts an annual Needs Assessment to determine the Town’s priorities for open space, historic resources, community housing and outdoor recreation projects. Working with municipal boards and citizen initiatives, the CPC assesses the Town and its citizens’ preservation goals and conducts public informational hearings to seek the public’s input on the Town’s community preservation needs, opportunities, resources, and priorities.

Under Massachusetts General Laws, projects can only be funded by CPA funds if they are recommended by the CPC. The Town Meeting may vote to reduce an appropriation for a given project or vote not to fund a project but may not increase project appropriations without a CPC recommendation.

Following the CPC’s study of the Needs Assessment, they make recommendations to Town Meeting for the expenditure from the Town’s Community Preservation Fund for projects initiated through an Application for Community Preservation Eligibility that is available on the town website. After careful review and consideration of all project proposals, the CPC recommended that fourteen (14) projects be funded from CPA funds.

Included among these projects are:

- *A needed update to the Milton Cemetery “receiving tomb” which was built in 1879 and has received little to no repair or maintenance in its 145-year history on the property.*
- *Play yard improvements to the play spaces, including sunshades, increased tree cover, and the addition of softer and safer services at the Collicot and Cunningham Elementary schools.*
- *The wharf park development project, which will support the Farmer’s Market and other events.*
- *A new recreation master plan proposed by the Parks and Recreation Department, which would assist the Parks Department, CPC, and broader Town to determine Town funding priorities for open spaces in Milton, following a robust community engagement process.*

The CPC has demonstrated a commitment to funding unique and valuable CPA projects in Milton, including the Peverly Park playground, which has received multiple rounds of funding from the CPC.

The CPC allocates most of its annual funds, but it acts conservatively in reserving approximately \$50,000 in the event there is an error in funding calculation by an applicant, or a lesser state match than anticipated.

The CPC explained its process in ensuring variation, balance, and diversity among funded projects to the Warrant Committee. In particular, CPC attempts to fund projects across various Town departments, as well as citizen-led initiatives. The CPC ensures that it does not fund only studies but also shovel-ready projects. However, studies can ensure Town department and citizen initiatives are properly prioritized, and the CPC evaluates the likelihood and availability of subsequent follow-up funding to actualize any such studies as part of its funding process. The CPC tries to balance school projects

versus non-school projects, as well as ensure balance among the different precincts in Milton. The Warrant Committee recommended and encouraged increased efforts to ensure diversity of voices among both applicants and Community Preservation Committee members.

The CPC typically requests applicants seek partial funding from additional sources to strengthen their applications, enabling CPC to fund multiple projects. Applicants have been successful in achieving this goal. The Community Preservation Committee has demonstrated a commitment to funding unique and valuable CPA projects in Milton, including the Peverly Park playground, which has received multiple rounds of funding from the CPC. Many of the projects proposed by the Committee are unique and thoughtful. However, members of the Warrant Committee believe that the types of projects such as Peverly Playground should be a focus of our Community Preservation Act (CPA) tax funds as opposed to projects that address properties owned and operated by the state and/or private entities.

The Warrant Committee recommends approval of this article.

ARTICLE 36 To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board, during Fiscal Year 2026, to accept on behalf of the Town any and all easements for any of the following purposes: roads, sidewalks, vehicular and/or pedestrian access or passage, drainage and utilities; and to abandon or relocate easements acquired for any of the foregoing purposes; provided, however, that such authorization shall pertain only to easements accepted, abandoned or relocated at no cost to the Town; and to act on anything relating thereto.

Submitted by the Select Board

RECOMMENDED that the Town vote to authorize the Select Board, during Fiscal Year 2026, to accept on behalf of the Town any and all easements for any of the following purposes: roads, sidewalks, vehicular and/or pedestrian access or passage, drainage and utilities; and to abandon or relocate easements acquired for any of the foregoing purposes; provided, however, that such authorization shall pertain only to easements accepted, abandoned or relocated at no cost to the Town.

COMMENT: The Warrant Committee voted unanimously to recommend the Select Board be able to accept all easements on behalf of the Town during the Fiscal Year. Typically, these acceptances are related to new subdivisions. In FY25, the Town accepted a grant of easement for entering into the Pine Gardens Private Way for water line and hydrant maintenance.

ARTICLE 37 To see if the Town will vote to amend the General Bylaws by inserting the following new Chapter XX Protection Against Light Trespass

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Chapter XX is to protect a Person from the intentional and unintentional Light Trespass caused by another Person.

DEFINITIONS

“Lamp” means the bulb or other light-emitting portion of a Luminaire, not inclusive of any reflective or refractive optics used to direct light.

“Light Trespass” means a condition in which artificial light emitted from a Luminaire on one property is directed in such a manner that the light source or glare is visible from any other property and constitutes public hazard or a nuisance.

“Luminaire” means a complete lighting assembly, consisting of a Lamp, housing, optic(s), and other structural elements, but not including any mounting pole or surface.

“Person” means an individual, a member of a limited liability company, a partnership, or a corporation.

“Public hazard or nuisance” means lighting that, by virtue of its intensity, brightness, area of coverage, position or direction causes to adjacent property or occupants thereof visual discomfort or other physical harm or damage, or a substantial and unreasonable interference with the use and enjoyment of such property.

“Town” means the town of Milton, MA.

ENFORCEMENT

The Select Board, in its sole discretion, shall determine if a Light Trespass constituting a public hazard or nuisance exists. Any complaint about Light Trespass shall be made to the Select Board office in writing with any additional material needed to determine that Light Trespass exists. The Select Board shall notify the property owner of its intention to review a complaint regarding light trespass at their property within ten (10) business days of receiving the complaint in writing and request any documentation or response the property owner deems appropriate to prove there is no violation of Light Trespass. The Select Board or its designee shall conduct a site visit to review the complaint and observe conditions. The Select Board or its designee shall prepare a written summary of existing conditions. Within forty-five (45) days of receiving the initial complaint the Select Board shall hold a meeting to determine if Light Trespass violation exists. During this timeframe the property owner may take steps to rectify the alleged Light Trespass.

The Select Board shall take into consideration the following conditions, or any other information deemed appropriate to determine the outcome of the Light Trespass complaint:

1. Lights directly shining into another’s windows;
2. Excessive glare;
3. What angle the fixtures are affixed to the property to create poorly directed lighting;
4. Outdoor lights on a timed motion sensor;
5. Lumens levels that are too bright for the area that would impact sleeping, enjoying one's own property while outdoors, or directly impacting the enjoyment of the night sky;
 - a. appropriate lumens levels for residential neighborhoods:
 - i. Step lights: 100 lumens or less;
 - ii. Path lights: 200 lumens or less

- iii. Landscape lights: 300 lumens or less
 - iv. Wall lights: 600 lumens or less
 - v. String lights: 100 lumens or less per bulb
 - vi. Pond/pool lights: 400 lumens or less
 - vii. Security lights: 1300 lumens or less, on a motion sensor
 - viii. LED flood lights: 800 lumens or less
- b. Any lumens levels in question shall be measured by a Town employee designated by the Select Board by using a light meter and submitted to the Select Board for consideration.

VIOLATIONS

A condition determined by the Select Board to constitute a public hazard or nuisance shall be in violation of this bylaw. Persons found in violation shall have thirty (30) days to rectify the violation after which each additional day during which the violation exists shall constitute a separate offense.

RELIEF

The Town shall have the right to bring a civil action to enforce the provisions of this bylaw and to seek remedies as allowed by law, including, but not limited to injunctive relief, monetary damages; or other relief as directed by a court with jurisdiction over the matter.

PENALTY

Any person or entity who violates this By-Law shall receive a warning for the first violation and shall be liable to the Town of Milton in the amount of \$50 for the second violation and in the amount of \$100 for each subsequent violation, which money shall inure to the Town of Milton for such uses as the Select Board may direct. Fines shall be recovered by indictment or on complaint before the District Court or by noncriminal disposition in accordance with MGL c. 40 S. 21D. Each separate instance of noncompliance following the issuance of any warning or citation pursuant to this section shall constitute a separate violation. The Select Board or its designee shall be the “enforcing person” for purposes of with MGL c. 40 S. 21D.

And to authorize the Town Clerk to assign or amend chapter and section numbers; and to act on anything relating thereto.

Submitted by the Select Board

The Warrant Committee has not yet made a recommendation on this article.

COMMENT: The Warrant Committee did not have an opportunity to review this article prior to the printing of the Warrant. The Warrant Committee will make its recommendation prior to the May 5, 2025 Annual Town Meeting. The recommendation will be available in hard copy form at the Town Meeting and it will be available on the Town’s Town Meeting webpage:

<https://townofmilton.org/townmeeting>

ARTICLE 38 To see if the Town will vote to amend Chapter 275 of the General Bylaws, known as the Zoning Bylaw, by striking Section 3.2, Subsection A, Paragraph (6) and inserting the following new section:

Section 275-3.23: Accessory Dwelling Units

A. Purpose

The purpose of this Section 275-3.23 Accessory Dwelling Units is to allow for Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs), as defined under M.G.L. c. 40A §1A, to be built as-of-right in Single-Family Residential Zoning Districts in accordance with Section 3 of the Zoning Act (M.G.L. c. 40A), as amended by Section 8 of Chapter 150 of the Acts of 2024, and the regulations under 760CMR 71.00: Protected Use Accessory Dwelling Units. This zoning provides for by-right ADUs to accomplish the following purposes:

1. Increase housing production to address local and regional housing needs across all income levels and at all stages of life.
2. Provide a more moderately priced housing option to serve smaller households, households with lower incomes, seniors, and people with disabilities
3. Develop small-scale housing that fits in context of single-family housing while maintaining the appearance and character of the Town's single-family neighborhoods.
4. Encourage the reuse of existing accessory structures, which may have historical or cultural significance, or the preservation of which would generally contribute aesthetic value to the landscape, neighborhood, or Town; and
5. Provide an opportunity for homeowners to age in place, downsize or earn supplemental income from investing in their properties.

B. Definitions

For the purposes of Section 275-3.23 Accessory Dwelling Units the following definitions shall apply:

1. Accessory Dwelling Unit ("ADU"): A self-contained housing unit, inclusive of sleeping, cooking and sanitary facilities on the same Lot as a Principal Dwelling, subject to otherwise applicable dimensional and parking requirements, that:
 - a. maintains a separate entrance, either directly from the outside or through an entry hall or corridor shared with the Principal Dwelling sufficient to meet the requirements of the Building and Fire Codes for safe egress and ingress;
 - b. is not larger in Gross Floor Area than 1/2 the Gross Floor Area of the Principal Dwelling or 900 square feet, whichever is smaller; and
 - c. is subject to such additional restrictions as contained in this Section.
2. Design Standards: Clear, measurable and objective provisions of zoning, or general ordinances or by-laws, which are made applicable to the exterior design of, and use of materials for an ADU when those same design standards apply to the Principal Dwelling to which the ADU is an accessory.

3. Dwelling Unit: A single housing unit providing complete, independent living facilities for one or more persons, including permanent provisions for living, sleeping, eating, cooking and sanitation. This definition does not include a mobile home trailer, however mounted but can include a housing unit within a single-family, duplex, or multi-unit development.
4. EOHLC: The Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities.
5. Gross Floor Area (“GFA”): The sum of the areas of all stories of the building of compliant ceiling height pursuant to the Building Code, including basements, lofts, and intermediate floored tiers, measured from the interior faces of exterior walls or from the centerline of walls separating buildings or dwelling units but excluding crawl spaces, garage parking areas, attics, enclosed porches and similar spaces. Where there are multiple Principal Dwellings on the Lot, the GFA of the largest Principal Dwelling shall be used for determining the maximum size of an ADU.
6. Historic District: A district in a municipality established pursuant to M.G.L. c. 40C or other state law that is characterized by the historic or architectural significance of buildings, structures, and sites, and in which exterior changes to and the construction of buildings and structures are subject to regulations adopted by the Municipality pursuant to M.G.L. c. 40C or other state law.
7. Lot: An area of land with definite boundaries that is used, or available for use, as the site of a structure, or structures, regardless of whether the site conforms to requirements of Zoning.
8. Modular Dwelling Unit: A pre-designed Dwelling Unit assembled and equipped with internal plumbing, electrical or similar systems in compliance with Building and Fire Codes prior to movement to the site where such Dwelling Unit is affixed to a foundation and connected to external utilities; or any portable structure with walls, a floor, and a roof, designed or used as a Dwelling Unit, transportable in one or more sections and affixed to a foundation and connected to external utilities.
9. Pre-Existing Nonconforming Structure: A structure that does not conform to zoning.
10. Principal Dwelling: A structure, regardless of whether it, or the Lot it is situated on, conforms to zoning, including use requirements and dimensional requirements, such as setbacks, bulk, and height, that contains at least one Dwelling Unit and is, or will be, located on the same Lot as an ADU.
11. Short-term Rental: Short-term rental, as defined in M.G.L. c. 64G, s. 1.
12. Single-Family Residential Dwelling: A structure on a Lot containing not more than one Dwelling Unit.
13. Single-family Residential Zoning District: Any zoning district where Single-Family Residential Dwellings are a permitted or an allowable use, including any Zoning District where Single-family Residential Dwellings are allowed as-of-right or by Special Permit.

14. Site Plan Review: The process established under Paragraph E (3) of this Section.

15. Transit Station: A Subway Station, Commuter Rail Station, or Bus Station.

- a. A Bus Station includes any location serving as a point of embarkation for any bus operated by a transit authority.
- b. A Subway Station includes any of the stops along the MBTA Red Line, Green Line, Orange Line, Silver Line, or Blue Line, including any extensions or additions to such lines.
- c. A Commuter Rail Station includes any commuter rail station operated by a Transit Authority with year-round service with trains departing at regular time intervals, rather than intermittent, seasonal, or event-based service.

C. Regulations:

1. ADUs shall maintain a separate entrance from the Principal Dwelling sufficient to meet safe ingress and egress under the Building Code and Fire Codes.
2. ADU construction shall comply with 310 CMR 15.000: The State Environmental Code, Title 5 regulations for a Single-Family Residential Dwelling in the Single-Family Residential Zoning District in which the ADU is located.
3. There shall be no more than one (1) ADU, either internal or detached, on any Lot.
4. No ADU shall be separated from the Principal Dwelling through condominium conversion or be held in separate ownership from the Principal Dwelling and each ADU shall remain accessory to the Principal Dwelling. Neither the Principal Dwelling nor the ADU shall be sold or otherwise conveyed or transferred separately from the other.
5. A detached unit shall meet the dimensional requirements for a Single-Family Residential Dwelling or accessory structure within the same district, whichever results in more permissive regulation.
6. An ADU may be located within an existing Primary Dwelling or an existing accessory structure with non-conforming setbacks, provided that any new construction of floor area complies with the applicable setback requirements.
7. The Gross Floor Area of an ADU shall not be larger than 1/2 the Gross Floor Area of the Principal Dwelling or 900 square feet, whichever is smaller, and shall not be less than 350 square feet. Once an ADU has been added to a Primary Dwelling or lot, the ADU shall not be enlarged beyond the square footage allowed by this Section.
8. An ADU may not be rented for periods less than twelve (12) months at a time and is prohibited from being rented on a weekly or daily basis. The ADU shall not be used as a Short-term Rental, or otherwise for boarding and lodging, or other commercial use.
9. A property owner granted approval for a Temporary Apartment under Section 275-3.1, Subsection I may, upon written application to the Building Commissioner, request approval of such apartment as an ADU under the provisions of this Section.
10. One (1) parking space shall be provided for each ADU located on a Lot that is more than 0.5 mile from a Transit Station. The parking required for an ADU is in addition to that required for the Primary Dwelling.
11. Utilities such as water, sewer, electricity and gas, for the ADU may be on the same services as the Primary Dwelling subject to the requirements of the authority having jurisdiction and the

utility service provider. Utility connections for a detached ADU are subject to the requirements of the authority having jurisdiction and the utility service provider.

D. Design Standards

1. Exterior modifications to a Principal Dwelling or accessory structure, as well as the construction of a new detached unit, are encouraged to be architecturally compatible with the Principal Dwelling, including the use of complimentary color palettes, exterior finishes, window types, roof pitch, and other design features.
2. Where a driveway or parking space abuts a Principal Dwelling or an ADU, a landscape area with a minimum depth of three (3) feet is encouraged to be provided for the entire length of the driveway and/or parking space.
3. All stairways to upper stories shall be enclosed within the exterior walls of the building in which the ADU is located.
4. Pedestrian paths shall be provided from the sidewalk or driveway to the entrance(s) of the Principal Dwelling and the ADU.
5. Energy-efficient features and sustainable materials are encouraged, but not required, unless the Building Code, Fire Code, energy code, and/or any other applicable code requires such features and materials to be incorporated into the design of an ADU. These features and materials could include solar panels, energy-efficient lighting and appliances, high insulation values for the walls, roof, windows and doors, and eco-friendly building materials.
6. Radon resistant techniques for new construction are encouraged to be incorporated into the new design of the ADU.

E. Process and Procedural Requirements

1. Creation of an ADU in an expansion of an existing Principal Dwelling or in a detached accessory structure shall require site plan approval by the Planning Board in compliance with the provisions of this Section.
2. Site Plan Approval Submission Requirements:
 - a. A completed application form and a filing fee in an amount determined by the Inspectional Services Department;
 - b. The existing square footage of the Principal Dwelling and the proposed square footage of the ADU;
 - c. The existing floor layouts of the Principal Dwelling and the proposed floor layout of the ADU to an architectural scale of ¼ inch = 1 foot- 0 inches;
 - d. Exterior elevations of new and existing buildings to an architectural scale of ¼ inch = 1 foot- 0 inches;
 - e. Any proposed changes to the exterior of the Principal Dwelling;
 - f. A site plan prepared by a registered land surveyor showing new and existing buildings, setbacks, parking, drives, grading, drainage, utilities including gas, water, electric, sewer, and septic lines, and landscaping, including existing hardscape and stone walls.
3. One hard copy of the complete application and one electronic file of the complete filing shall be submitted to the Planning Department.

F. Authority of the Planning Board

1. The Planning Board may impose reasonable conditions to satisfy compliance with the Design Standards in Section D.
2. The Planning Board shall consider the Site Plan Approval Submission at a meeting held no less than 30 days after receipt of the complete submission. The Planning Board shall issue its written decision to the applicant and the Building Commissioner no more than 75 days after receipt of a site plan approval submission. Failure to issue a written decision within such 75 day period, or such longer time as may be agreed with the applicant, will be deemed an approval of the site plan as submitted.
3. The decision of the Board shall be by a majority vote of the Board as constituted (i.e., three affirmative votes).

G. Administration and Enforcement

1. The Building Commissioner shall administer and enforce the provisions of this Section 275-3.23 Accessory Dwelling Units.
2. No building shall be changed in use or configuration without a Building Permit from the Building Commissioner.
3. No building shall be occupied until a Certificate of Occupancy is issued by the Building Commissioner where required.
4. The Building Commissioner shall apply the Dover analysis as articulated in 760 CMR 71.03(3)(a), to any request for an ADU Building Permit and shall waive any zoning requirement that the Building Commissioner finds to be unreasonable under the Dover analysis.

And to authorize the Town Clerk to make clerical revisions to section numbers and headings; and to act on anything relating thereto.

Submitted by the Planning Board

RECOMMENDED that the Town vote to approve the article as printed in the Warrant.

COMMENT: This Article seeks to amend Chapter 275 of the Town of Milton General Bylaws, known as the Zoning Bylaws. This amendment would remove the current bylaw concerning Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) and replace it with updated language reflecting changes made by the Warrant Committee and accepted unanimously by the Planning Board. Most corrections were typographical, but some minor language adjustments were made to enhance clarity and flexibility.

The Affordable Homes Act, signed into law by the Governor on August 6, 2024, introduced significant zoning reforms, which took effect on February 2, 2025. Section 8 of the Act amended the Zoning Act (M.G.L. c. 40A), allowing ADUs, defined as self-contained housing units including sleeping, cooking, and sanitary facilities, of up to 900 square feet by right in single-family zoning districts. This change enables homeowners to create additional housing without requiring special permits, promoting increased housing availability.

Summary of Commonwealth ADU Regulations

ADU Restrictions:

- *Size Limits: Maximum of 900 sq. ft. or half the gross floor area of the principal dwelling, whichever is smaller.*
- *Entrance Requirements: Must have a separate entrance, either directly outside or through a shared entry hall that meets state building code egress standards.*
- *Local Regulations: Municipalities may add restrictions on short-term rentals.*

Municipal Authority on ADUs:

- *Site Plan Review: Towns may require a site plan review process for detached ADUs or new ADU construction.*
- *Title V Requirements: ADUs must comply with septic system (Title V) regulations, where applicable.*
- *Dimensional & Structural Rules: Towns may regulate setbacks, height, and bulk.*
- *Short-Term Rental Limits: Municipalities may restrict or prohibit short-term rentals.*

Municipal Restrictions Not Allowed:

- *Owner-Occupancy: Towns cannot require that the property owner live on-site.*
- *Family-Only Occupancy: ADUs cannot be restricted to family members.*
- *Special Permits: Towns cannot require special permits or discretionary zoning approvals.*
- *Excessive Parking:*
 - *Within 0.5 miles of transit: No parking required.*
 - *Beyond 0.5 miles of transit: Only one parking space may be required.*

This law streamlines ADU development while allowing municipalities to maintain reasonable oversight.

Milton's ADU Bylaw and Planning Board Considerations

The Milton Planning Board and Warrant Committee held a second joint meeting to discuss the new ADU law and the recommended bylaw language. The Planning Board incorporated the new state provisions and the recommendations of Town Meeting, all while considering Milton's housing needs and neighborhood character.

General Conditions in Milton's ADU Bylaw:

- *Types: ADUs allowed as detached units, in accessory structures, or within the principal dwelling.*
- *Limit: One (1) ADU per lot—no exceptions.*
- *Ownership: ADUs cannot be sold separately from the principal dwelling.*
- *Size: Maximum of 900 sq. ft. or half the main home's size, whichever is smaller; minimum size is 350 sq. ft.*
- *Rental Restrictions: ADUs must be rented for at least 12 months; short-term rentals are prohibited.*
- *Parking: One (1) parking space required if the lot is more than 0.5 miles from transit.*

- *Utilities: Shared utilities with the primary dwelling are permitted.*

Design Standards in Milton's ADU Bylaw:

- *Architectural Compatibility: ADUs are encouraged to be architecturally compatible with the principal dwelling.*
- *Landscaping: A 3-foot buffer is encouraged along driveways or parking spaces.*
- *Separate Entrances: Each ADU must have a separate entrance.*
- *Walkways: A pedestrian path must be provided to the ADU entrance.*
- *Stairways: Exterior stairways must be enclosed within the ADU's exterior walls.*
- *Sustainability: Eco-friendly features are encouraged, such as solar panels and energy-efficient materials.*

Process and Approval in Milton's ADU Bylaw:

- *Administration & Enforcement: The Building Commissioner is responsible for compliance.*
- *Approval: Site plan approval is required for expansions or detached ADUs.*
- *Submission Requirements: Applicants must provide floor plans, site plans, and building elevations.*
- *Health Review: The Board of Health will review ADUs where septic or well water is in use.*

The Warrant Committee overwhelmingly supported the ADU Article as amended and recommended by the Planning Board. The Warrant Committee would also like to thank the many contributors who made recommendations in the refinement of this Bylaw since our last Town Meeting in February 2025.

Key discussions included:

- *Lease Requirement: The Committee debated the 12-month minimum lease requirement. Town Counsel confirmed that this provision does not violate state law. The Attorney General's Municipal Law Unit will review the article for state law compliance after submission by the Town Clerk. The Warrant Committee supported the lease requirement as a means to promote neighborhood stability and school continuity for families.*
- *Enforcement: Enforcement will likely rely on citizen reports to the Building Commissioner.*
- *Design Flexibility: The Warrant Committee adjusted language to allow for greater flexibility in ADU design while maintaining compatibility with the principal dwelling.*

State Guidance & Legal Review

The Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (EOHLC) issued guidance on municipal ADU regulations, which the Planning Board incorporated into the article. Additionally, in February 2025, the EOHLC released a draft ADU bylaw for municipalities seeking further guidance.

The Planning Board reviewed ADU bylaws from multiple towns when drafting Milton's proposal. Town Counsel approved this final bylaw language, though final compliance will still be reviewed by the Attorney General's Office – Municipal Law Unit.

ARTICLE 39 To see if the Town will vote to amend Chapter 275 of the General Bylaws, known as the Zoning Bylaw, by replacing §275-12.4 Site Plan Approval with the following section:

§275-12.4 Site Plan Approval

A. Purpose

The purpose of this Section is to protect the health, safety, convenience and general welfare of the inhabitants of the Town by providing a means to determine whether a proposed use of land or structures is in compliance with sound site utilization principles relative to traffic circulation and safety, pedestrian safety and access, off-street parking and loading, emergency vehicle access, storm water drainage, screening, signage, exterior lighting, visual impact of parking, storage or other service areas, and consistency with character and scale of surrounding landscape and buildings.

B. Applicability

Whenever site plan approval is required under the provisions of this Chapter, the procedure set forth in this section shall be followed. The following activities and uses require site plan approval by the Planning Board (“Board”):

- (a) Construction, redevelopment or expansion of multifamily residences;
- (b) Construction, redevelopment or expansion of mixed-use or commercial buildings of 800 square feet or more;
- (c) Any use or change in use that requires a Special Permit by the Board of Appeals shall be excluded from this site plan approval; and
- (d) Construction or expansion of parking, loading, service and access driveways associated with multifamily, mixed-use, commercial or other buildings, excluding single-family use.

C. Application and Submission Requirements

- (a) Pre-Application Conference.

Applicants seeking site plan approval shall obtain a site plan review application form and site plan checklist from the Department of Planning and Community Development (“Planning Department”). The application form and any checklists or other administrative documents may be revised from time to time by the Planning Department or the Planning Board without public hearing.

Applicants are encouraged to discuss proposed applications with the Planning Department prior to formally submitting an application. At the meeting, the Planning Department shall provide the applicant with an indication of whether the proposal, in its major features, is acceptable or should be modified before expenditures for more detailed planning and engineering are made. At the request of the Planning Department, the Board may hold a Pre-Application Conference at any regular or special meetings of the Board to discuss the proposed development and any unusual features on the site that may require special treatment. The Pre-Application Conference may also provide an opportunity to discuss waiver requests and the information the Board will need to coordinate reviews by other Town boards and departments. The Board may request impact analyses, such as a traffic study. No later than five (5) days prior to the scheduled Pre-Application Conference, the applicant shall submit to the Board a brief explanation of the project including the property owner’s name, the applicant’s name, assessor’s map, site address, plot plan (if available), sketch or description of new development or proposed changes to a previously approved project.

(b) Submission.

The completed application form together with the proposed site plan and all supplementary documentation must be submitted to the Planning Board in accordance with the Planning Board's site plan review regulations. The Planning Department shall review the application for completeness and, in the event that such application is incomplete, shall notify the applicant of the missing information.

(c) Plans and Plan Content.

The application for site plan approval shall include the following documents to be submitted in electronic format to the Planning Department. Physical copies may be requested by the Board:

- 1) Application and fee for site plan approval;
- 2) Existing conditions survey that indicates boundaries, dimensions, area, use, ownership and zoning of the subject parcel and adjacent parcels. It shall include existing structures, parking areas, open space features, walls, fences, trees of 12 inches caliper or more, utilities, easements, wetlands and wetlands buffer zones, and topography with contours at 1-foot intervals. Additionally, the survey shall include contours, buildings, and trees of 12 inches caliper or more on adjacent parcels within thirty (30) feet of lot boundaries;
- 3) Existing conditions narrative, including adjacent neighborhood and historic context, with photographs and diagrams as appropriate;
- 4) Zoning narrative that demonstrates compliance with applicable requirements of this Chapter and the Rules and Regulations of the Planning Board;
- 5) Design narrative that describes compliance with applicable design standards and guidelines;
- 6) Site plans that show required setbacks, the position of the building(s) on the site, building(s) setback dimensions, points of vehicular access to and from the site and vehicular circulation within the site, parking areas, open space areas, stormwater management, utilities, dimensions of building(s) and parking areas, proposed grading, retaining walls and other information commonly required for site plan approval. Where a portion of the site is to remain undisturbed by the proposed work, such area shall be so indicated on the plan;
- 7) Landscape plans that show layout, species, spacing, sizes, quantities and details for all plant materials, and locations and details of hardscape, fencing and landscape walls;
- 8) Tree preservation plan with calculated caliper of total existing trees and total of trees to be removed;
- 9) Architectural plans, building elevations and sections, three dimensional views and renderings of the building(s) showing the architectural design of the building(s) in context. Drawings shall indicate proposed materials and colors;
- 10) Site sections that graphically represent all slope cuts and fills, structures, retaining walls and significant land features;
- 11) Cut and fill plan with calculated quantities of cut and fill to be used on site, removed from site and added to the site;
- 12) Traffic impact analysis for projects with ten (10) or more net new parking spaces;
- 13) Parking and transportation demand management plan (PTDM) as described in §275-20.5 and, if applicable, proof of payment of the transportation mitigation fee described in §275-20.6.
- 14) Photometric plan that shows locations and specifications for all exterior lighting fixtures and lighting photometrics for projects that include ten (10) or more net new parking spaces;
- 15) Shadow study for projects proposing buildings greater than 35 feet in height;

- 16) Preliminary construction management plan;
- 17) A copy, if any, of the determination of applicability issued by or the notice of intent filed with the Conservation Commission of the Town of Milton under MGL c. 131, § 40, or Chapter 260 of the General Bylaws of the Town of Milton;

All site plans shall be prepared by a licensed architect, landscape architect, and/or a civil engineer. All landscape plans shall be prepared by a licensed landscape architect. All building plans, elevations, sections and renderings shall be prepared by a licensed architect. All disciplines shall be licensed in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Upon written request, the Board may, at its discretion, waive the submission by the applicant of any of the above required information.

If the application does not conform to the requirements of this Section, and no waivers have been granted, the Board shall identify the deficiencies in writing and may deny approval. A new application and hearing process will be required for further consideration of the proposal.

D. Procedures

- (a) Upon receipt of a complete application to the Planning Department, the application shall be circulated, as appropriate, to the Building Commissioner, Fire Department, Police Department, Historical Commission, and Engineering Department, requesting comments by the first public hearing. For development applications within a Local Historic District, if applicable, the Board shall seek comments from the Historical Commission before the first public hearing. Filing with the Historical Commission is recommended prior to submission to the Board.
- (b) The Board shall conduct a public hearing. Subsequent changes and revisions to application materials shall be submitted with a narrative summarizing the changes in the new submittal.

E. Outside Consultants

When reviewing an application, the Board may determine that the assistance of outside consultants is warranted due to the size, scale or complexity of a proposed project or because of the project's potential impacts. The Board may require that applicants pay a review fee, consisting of the reasonable costs incurred by the Board for the employment of outside consultants engaged by the Board to assist in the review of applications. In hiring outside consultants, the Board may engage disinterested engineers, architects, landscape architects, planners, urban designers or other appropriate professionals who can assist the Board in analyzing a project to ensure compliance with all relevant laws, bylaws and regulations, and other requirements. Expenditures may be made at the direction of the Board and shall be made only in connection with the review of the specific project for which the review fee has been collected from the applicant.

Failure of an applicant to pay a review fee shall be grounds for denial of the application. At the completion of the Planning Board's review of a project, any excess amount of the review shall be repaid to the applicant. A final report of expenditures shall be provided to the applicant.

F. Review Standards

The Board will consider the following in its review:

- a) Location and configuration of structures and the relationship of the site's structures to nearby structures in terms of major design elements including bulk, height, scale, massing, materials, roof and cornice lines and color;
- b) Sustainable, climate-sensitive, and environmentally conscious site design practices;
- c) Preservation of existing natural landscape features and trees;
- d) Open space and landscape design;
- e) Existing topographic characteristics and proposed topographic changes;
- f) Vehicular, emergency service, non-vehicular/multi-modal and pedestrian access and circulation;
- g) Design of the streetscape and transition between abutting properties;
- h) Location, design and screening of parking and service areas;
- i) Loading, delivery, waste and snow removal management;
- j) Protection of surface and ground water quality;
- k) Location of public and private infrastructure and utilities;
- l) Site security features, such as fencing and lighting;
- m) Site and exterior building lighting;
- n) Site and building signage;
- o) Historic significance and impacts on historic structures or landscapes;
- p) Protection and mitigation of adjacent properties against detrimental impacts (surface water drainage, light, sound and sight buffers and preservation of views, light, and air); and

G. Site Design Standards

- a) Connections. Sidewalks shall provide direct connections among building entrances, public sidewalk (if applicable), bicycle storage, and parking.
- b) Vehicular access. Where feasible, curb cuts shall be minimized and shared driveways encouraged. The maximum driveway width shall be 24 feet for development with 10 or more parking spaces and 12 feet for development with less than ten (10) parking spaces.
- c) Parking areas shall be designed so that vehicles may exit without backing into a public street to the extent reasonably practicable.
- d) Open space. Acceptable activities within minimum required open space, where applicable, include natural areas (including wetlands and surface waters), wildlife and native plant habitat, landscape plantings, agricultural activities, low-impact design stormwater management, non-motorized trails, courtyards, patios, decks, play areas and other low-impact recreational activities. Required open space shall not contain habitable structures, streets, driveways, or surface parking.
- e) Playground and recreation areas. Any development containing forty (40) or more units shall provide an outdoor play area or common space for use by families with children.
- f) Setbacks. No structure shall be erected within the required setbacks as specified in this Chapter. Driveways may be located within the required setbacks provided that no more than 30 percent of the setback area shall be paved.
- g) Parking location. Surface parking shall be located to the sides and rear to the greatest extent possible.
- h) Landscaping at parking perimeter. A landscape buffer shall be provided at the parking perimeter. Shade trees, ornamental trees, shrubs, and other plant materials shall be included in the buffer as is reasonable. The minimum width of the buffer shall be 5 feet.

- i) Landscaping at parking interior. A minimum of a five-foot wide landscape divider shall be provided between every 10 parking spaces, and a shade tree shall be planted between every 20 parking spaces. A minimum of a five-foot-wide terminus landscape island shall be provided at the beginning and end of each row, and a shade tree shall be planted in each terminus island.
- j) Screening for parking. Surface parking adjacent to a public sidewalk shall be screened by a landscaped buffer of sufficient width to allow the healthy establishment of trees, shrubs, and perennials, but no less than 6 (six) feet. The buffer may include a fence or wall of no more than three feet in height unless there is a significant grade change between the parking and the sidewalk.
- k) Parking materials. The parking surface may be concrete, asphalt, decomposed granite, bricks, gravel, pea stone, crushed shells or pavers, including pervious materials but not including grass or soil not contained within a paver or other structure.
- l) Existing landscape. Incorporate significant existing site features, such as trees of 12 inches caliper or more located within setbacks, stone walls, and historic fences into new development to the greatest extent possible.
- m) Landscaping. Use landscape design as a placemaking feature and not exclusively as a buffer.
- n) Plantings. Plantings shall include species that are native or adapted to the region and shall include shade trees. Plants on the Massachusetts Prohibited Plant List, as may be amended, shall be prohibited. Deciduous trees shall be at least three inches (3") in caliper as measured six inches (6") above the root ball at time of planting. Deciduous trees used for screening shall be expected to reach a height of 20 feet within ten (10) years after planting. Evergreen trees used for screening shall be a minimum of ten (10') feet in height at the time of planting. Where the Board determines that the planting of trees is impractical, the applicant may substitute shrubbery for trees at the ratio of a minimum of 3 shrubs for every 1 required tree.
- o) Groundcover. Groundcover plantings are preferable to mulch where practical. Large areas of lawn are not desirable. Plantings with lower requirements for irrigation, fertilization and pesticide use are encouraged. Plants with similar cultural requirements should be grouped together.
- p) Outdoor Lighting. Light levels shall not exceed the minimum design guidelines defined by the Illuminating Engineering Society of North America (IESNA) and shall provide illumination necessary for safety and convenience while preventing glare and overspill onto adjoining properties and reducing the amount of skyglow. Light fixtures shall be Dark-Sky compliant and meet International Dark Sky Association certification requirements.
- q) Mechanicals. Mechanical equipment at ground level shall not be located in the front yard setback nor in open space and shall be screened by a combination of fencing and evergreen plantings. Rooftop mechanical equipment shall be screened and incorporated into the architectural design.
- r) Electrical transformers and generators. Electrical transformers and generators shall not be located at grade within the required setbacks to the extent allowed by utility company. Applicants shall consider locating transformers within buildings or within below grade vaults and locating generators on roofs. Transformers and generators located at grade shall be screened by a combination of fencing and evergreen plantings to the extent allowed by utility companies.
- s) Utilities. Locate utility meters to minimize their visibility. Integrate them into the building and site design. Minimize the visibility of utility connections.
- t) Dumpsters. Dumpsters shall be screened by a combination of fencing and planting. Where possible, dumpsters or other trash and recycling collection points shall be located within the building.
- u) Resiliency and Sustainability. Consider present and future climate conditions in assessing project environmental impacts, including carbon emissions, extreme precipitation, extreme heat, and sea

level rise. Projects must identify site and building strategies that eliminate, reduce, and mitigate adverse impacts including those due to changing climate conditions.

- v) Renewable Energy. Projects shall consider access to solar energy in building placement, orientation and design.
- w) Projects shall utilize low impact development strategies to the greatest extent possible, such as limiting the amount of impervious area, preserving and creating connected natural spaces, and using green infrastructure techniques such as rainwater harvesting, rain gardens, pollinator gardens, bioswales, permeable pavement, green roofs and tree canopy.
- x) Stormwater management. The application shall include strategies that demonstrate compliance of the construction activities and the proposed project with the most current versions of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection Stormwater Management Standards, the Massachusetts Stormwater Handbook, Massachusetts Erosion Sediment and Control Guidelines, and, if applicable, additional requirements under the Milton MS4 Permit for projects that disturb more than one acre and discharge to the Town's municipal stormwater system, and an Operations and Management Plan for both the construction activities and ongoing post-construction maintenance and reporting requirements.

H. General Building Design Standards:

- a) The primary building shall have its principal façade and entrance facing the principal street.
- b) Entries shall be clearly defined and linked to a paved pedestrian network that includes a public sidewalk, if available.
- c) Multi-family housing and mixed-use development shall have common outdoor space that all residents can access. Such space may be located in any combination of ground floor, courtyard, rooftop, or terrace.
- d) Corner lots: A building on a corner lot shall indicate a primary entrance either along one of the street-facing façades or on the primary corner as an entrance serving both streets. Such entries shall be connected by a paved surface to the public sidewalk, if applicable.
- e) All façades shall be treated with similar care and attention in terms of entries, fenestration, and materials.
- f) Emergency exits should be integrated into the building architecture.
- g) Infill lots. Infill buildings shall meet the requirements of each subdistrict's front yard setback, unless the adjacent buildings are set back a distance that is less than the minimum front yard requirements. In that case, infill buildings may match the setback line of either adjacent building, or an average of the setback of the two buildings to provide consistency along the street.
- h) Parking shall be subordinate in design and location to the principal building façade.
 - 1. Surface parking. Surface parking shall be located to the rear or side of the principal building. Parking shall not be located in the setback between the building and any lot line adjacent to the public right-of-way unless approved by the Board.
 - 2. Integrated garages. The principal pedestrian entry into the building shall be more prominent in design and placement than the vehicular entry into the garage.
 - 3. Parking structures. Building(s) dedicated to structured parking on the same lot as one or more multi-family buildings or mixed-use development shall be subordinate in design and placement to the multi-family or mixed-use building(s) on the lot.
- i) Buildings greater than forty (40) feet in length, measured horizontally, shall incorporate wall plane recesses or projections having a depth not less than four (4) feet and extending at least twenty percent

(20%) of the length of the façade. No uninterrupted length of façade shall exceed forty (40) horizontal feet. No projection shall extend into a required setback.

- j) Buildings shall have a clearly defined base and roof edge so that the façade has a distinct base, middle, and top.
- k) All sides of buildings shall be given as much architectural detail as the front. The building shall present a unified architectural design approach. Where windows are not possible or appropriate for the intended use, vertical articulation in the form of raised or recessed surfaces shall be used to break up blank walls.
- l) Change in material shall accompany a change in form or plane and shall not be used within the same plane to reduce perceived bulk.
- m) Use durable materials that convey scale in their proportion, texture, finish and detailing and that contribute to the visual continuity of existing historic neighborhoods. Windows and doors shall have low reflectivity glass.
- n) Locate an addition to the side or rear of the existing building to the greatest extent possible.
- o) Entrances, exits, windows and doors shall be surrounded by architectural detail that highlights these features of the façade.
- p) In general, all windows shall be taller than they are wide. This requirement shall apply to windows on the first floor as well as upper floors. Windows shall be inset in order to create a shadow line and broken up with the use of mullions when possible.
- q) All stairways to upper floors shall be enclosed within the exterior walls of buildings.
- r) Garage entrances and service and loading areas shall not face an open space or street directly unless no other location is feasible.
- s) Rooftop terraces shall be set back a minimum of ten (10) feet from any façade wall and secured by a perimeter fence at least four (4) feet in height.

I. Building Design Standards: Multiple Buildings on a Parcel

- a) For a mixed-use development, uses may be mixed within the buildings or in separate buildings.
- b) Parking and circulation on the site shall be organized so as to reduce the amount of impervious surface. Where possible, parking and loading areas shall be connected to minimize curb cuts onto public rights-of-way
- c) A paved pedestrian network shall connect parking to the entries to all buildings and the buildings to each other.
- d) The orientation of multiple buildings on a lot should reinforce the relationships among the buildings. All building façades shall be treated with the same care and attention in terms of entries, fenestration, and materials.
- e) The building(s) adjacent to the public street shall have a pedestrian entry facing the public street.

J. Building Design Standards: Mixed-Use Development

- a) In a mixed-use building, access to and egress from the residential component shall be clearly differentiated from access to other uses. Such differentiation may occur by using separate entrances or egresses from the building or within a lobby space shared among different uses.
- b) Retail facades shall have a greater proportion of transparency than solids.
- c) Retail facades shall include small setbacks at street level to incorporate seating, displays and rain cover.

- d) Sidewalk width at retail facades shall be a minimum of 10 feet.
- e) Paved pedestrian access from the residential component shall be provided to residential parking and amenities and to the public sidewalk, as applicable.
- f) Parking and circulation on the site shall be organized so as to reduce the amount of impervious surface. Where possible, parking and loading areas shall be connected to minimize curb cuts onto public rights-of-way.

K. Design Guidelines

The Board may adopt and amend, by simple majority vote, Design Guidelines which shall be applicable to all rehabilitation, redevelopment, or new construction within the applicable districts. Such Design Guidelines must be objective and not subjective and may only address the scale and proportions of buildings, the alignment, width, and grade of streets and sidewalks, the type and location of infrastructure, the location of building and garage entrances, off street parking, the protection of significant natural site features, the location and design of on-site open spaces, exterior signs, and buffering in relation to adjacent properties. Design Guidelines may contain graphics illustrating a particular standard or definition in order to make such standard or definition clear and understandable

L. Waivers

The Board may, upon written request of the applicant, waive any of the submission requirements of this Section. Applicants requesting waivers shall make such requests at a Pre-Application Conference with the Board at a public meeting, in order that the Planning Department and Board may make a determination prior to the first public hearing that such waiver is appropriate. If, after the application has been filed and during the review process and public meeting or hearing, the Board determines that additional information is required in order for the Board to evaluate the waiver request, the applicant shall submit the desired information.

The Board may, upon written request of the applicant, waive site and/or building design standards of this Section, in the interests of design flexibility and overall project quality, and upon a finding of consistency of such variation with the overall purpose and objectives of this Section.

M. Authority of the Board

- a) Whenever an activity or use requires both site plan approval and a special permit or permits for which the Planning Board is the Special Permit Granting Authority, the Board shall conduct such reviews concurrently.
- b) The Board may impose reasonable conditions necessary to satisfy compliance with the Review Standards in Section F.
- c) The Board may impose reasonable conditions to ensure compliance with the applicable requirements of the Zoning By-Law, to protect adjacent properties and the neighborhood from significantly detrimental impacts of the proposed project, and to ensure public health, safety and welfare.
- d) The Board may disapprove a site plan only if the Board finds that:
 - 1. The site plan review application is not complete in accordance with this Section and the Design Guidelines; or
 - 2. The proposed use and development of the site does not comply with the applicable use and development requirements of the Zoning Bylaw; or
 - 3. No reasonable conditions can be imposed to ensure public health, safety, and welfare by eliminating or reducing any significantly detrimental impacts that would result from development of the site as proposed.

- e) The Board may allow minor modifications of the site plan design or construction details that do not alter the intent or conditions of the approval, Major modifications will require a new site plan review application. The Board has the sole discretion to determine whether a proposed site plan modification is minor.
- f) The Building Inspector may not issue a certificate of occupancy for any use or development subject to site plan review until the site has been developed in compliance with the approved site plan. The Building Inspector may issue a temporary occupancy permit provided the applicant posts sufficient monetary security to ensure full compliance within six months.

N. Time Limits

The Board shall consider the site plan review application at a public meeting held no less than 30 days and no more than 45 days after receipt of a complete application. The Board may continue such meeting as it deems necessary to ensure adequate review; but, with the exception of a site plan review being conducted concurrently with proceedings on a related special permit application, the Board may not continue the hearing for more than 60 days unless requested to do so, in writing, by the applicant.

The time limits specified herein for hearings and for the decision required under Section O shall not apply to proceedings conducted concurrently by the Board on a related special permit application for the subject property. In these circumstances, the Board's review of the site plan may continue until the special permit hearing concludes at which time separate written decisions shall be filed in the office of the Town Clerk with a copy of the site plan review decision provided to the Building Inspector.

O. Decision

The decision of the Board shall be by a majority vote of the Board as constituted (i.e., three affirmative votes). In the absence of appropriate circumstances entitling the Board to additional review time, as defined herein, the Board shall issue and file with the Town Clerk its written decision, either approving or disproving the site plan, no more than 120 days after the receipt of a complete site plan review application, and the failure to so issue and file a written decision within such 120 day period shall be deemed to constitute constructive approval of the site plan as submitted. For purposes of this paragraph, "appropriate circumstances entitling the Board to additional review time" shall mean: (a) the applicant's consent to extend said 120 period; or (b) the Board's determination, in its reasonable discretion, that based upon the nature of the application and proposed project, the volume of material or information presented to the Board in connection with the underlying hearing, the complexity of any technical or legal issues arising out of the Board's review, and other similar factors, additional time exceeding said 120 period is necessary to facilitate an adequate review of the application.

P. Project Phasing

An Applicant may propose, in a Site Plan Approval submission, that a project be developed in phases. Site Plan Approval shall extend only to the extent of the phases which are shown in full compliance with the requirements of this Section and all associated impacts are shown as of the completion of that phase or phases.

Q. Appeal

Any person aggrieved by a decision of the Board made under this Section may appeal said decision under MGL c. 40A, § 17 by filing an action with the Superior Court or Land Court no later than 20 days following the Board's filing of said decision with the Town Clerk, and otherwise in accordance with the procedures set forth in MGL c. 40A, § 17.

R. Withdrawal of Application

Any application for a permit submitted hereunder may be withdrawn without prejudice by notice in writing to the Board prior to the notice of a public hearing being posted or mailed. Withdrawal of any application thereafter requires Board approval. No refund of fees will be provided if an application is withdrawn.

S. Permit Lapse

Any Site Plan Approval issued under this section shall lapse within three years if substantial use thereof has not commenced except for good cause.

T. Severability

If any provision of this Section is found to be invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of Section shall not be affected but shall remain in full force and effect. The invalidity of any provision of this Section shall not affect the validity of the remainder of Milton's Zoning Bylaw.

And to authorize the Town Clerk to make clerical revisions to section numbers and headings; and to act on anything relating thereto.

Submitted by the Planning Board

RECOMMENDED that the Town vote to approve the article as printed in the Warrant.

COMMENT: This Article seeks to amend Chapter 275 of the General Bylaws by replacing the existing Site Plan Approval section with a comprehensive updated version. This amendment maintains the detailed procedures and standards for reviewing construction and development projects in the Town, particularly focusing on multifamily residences, mixed-use developments, and commercial buildings over 800 square feet.

The purpose remains to protect public welfare by ensuring new developments meet standards for traffic safety, pedestrian access, parking, emergency access, drainage, signage, exterior lighting and visual consistency with surrounding areas. While the amendment represents a cleanup of the prior version with simplified language, the substantive requirements and protections of the prior site plan approval process are preserved.

The updated section continues to provide extensive requirements for application submissions, including detailed plans and studies, and maintains specific design standards for everything from parking layout to building aesthetics. It retains requirements for sustainable design, landscape preservation, lighting, and stormwater management. The amendment also preserves the Planning Board's review process, including public hearings, the ability to hire outside consultants, and enforcement powers.

Notable features in this Site Plan Approval that remain unchanged include requirements for playground areas in large developments, specific landscaping standards for parking areas, and detailed architectural guidelines for building facades and entrances. The proposal maintains provisions for waivers, appeals, and project phasing.

Key administrative changes in the new version include:

- *Streamlined timeline requirements - The Planning Board must now consider applications at a public meeting between 30-45 days after receipt of a complete application (Section N)*
- *Clarified decision process - The Board must issue its written decision within 120 days of receiving a complete application, with failure to do so resulting in deemed approval (Section O)*
- *Modernized appeal provisions - Any person aggrieved by a Board decision may appeal within 20 days to either Superior Court or Land Court under MGL c. 40A, § 17 (Section Q)*
- *Simplified withdrawal process - Applications may be withdrawn without prejudice prior to public hearing notice, with Board approval required thereafter (Section R)*

The Warrant Committee notes that commercial establishments offering food, drink, and, potentially, entertainment continue to require greater oversight due to their distinct nature and potential impacts on neighboring residential areas. This is particularly important given that Milton's business districts are contiguous with residential neighborhoods. The public hearing process remains critical to maintaining the quiet and safety of our residential streets by allowing neighbors and other affected parties to comment on matters such as seating capacity changes, noise, odors, hours of operation, parking arrangements, loading zones, safety concerns, traffic impacts, and outdoor gathering spaces.

The primary goal of this amendment is to simplify the site plan approval process through clearer language and more straightforward administrative procedures, while maintaining the substantive protections and standards that ensure development in Milton remains consistent with the town's character and the welfare of its residents. The Warrant Committee again appreciates the hard work of the Planning Board and the Citizens of the Town in crafting this Bylaw.

TABLE 1

Town of Milton
Full Time and Part Time Positions

	FY2021*		FY2022*		FY2023*		FY2024*		FY2025		FY2026*	
	FT	PT	FT	PT	FT	PT	FT	PT	FT	PT	FT	PT
Retirement	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Animal Control	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0
Assessors	3	0	3	0	3	0	3	0	3	0	3	0
Cemetery	9	1	9	1	9	1	9	1	9	1	9	1
Accounting	4	0	5	0	4	1	5	0	4	0	4	0
Consolidated Facilities	12	0	11	0	11	0	11	0	11	0	11	0
Council on Aging	3	1	4	1	4	1	4	3	4	3	3	7
Fire	58	0	59	0	59	0	59	0	59	0	59	0
Health	2	4	3	4	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Information Technology	2	0	2	0	2	0	2	0	2	0	2	0
Inspectional Services	5	3	5	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	6	4
Library	13	8	13	8	13	8	13	9	13	9	13	9
Park	7	2	7	1	7	1	7	1	7	1	7	1
Personnel	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Planning	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1
Police	62	23	70	17	70	17	70	17	71	17	71	17
Public Works	40	1	40	1	40	1	40	0	40	0	40	0
Selectboard	5	3	5	1	6	0	6	1	6	1	6	1
Town Administrator	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0
Town Clerk	4	0	4	0	4	0	4	0	4	0	4	0
Treasurers/Collector	4	1	4	1	4	1	3	1	4	1	4	1
Veterans' Agent	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1
Youth	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0
Total:	237	50	248	42	248	43	249	45	250	45	250	48
Grand Total:	287		290		291		294		295		298	

*Not all positions listed were funded.

TABLE 2
Milton Public Schools
Professional Personnel Report
by FTE

Source	Category	2019-2020	2020-2021*	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024**	2024-2025***
EPIMS Oct 1	Administrators	28.70	26.80	30.20	31.20	32.00	32.00
EPIMS Oct 1	Instructional Staff	313.35	336.02	321.20	334.54	345.76	348.09
EPIMS Oct 1	Instructional Support Staff	18.10	17.50	16.30	20.10	23.00	12.00
EPIMS Oct 1	Instructional Support -- Shared Special Education Staff	11.80	10.60	12.00	11.00	15.00	13.40
EPIMS Oct 1	Paraprofessional Staff	84.90	86.20	86.20	99.80	111.00	105.00
EPIMS Oct 1	Special Education Related Staff	12.20	11.20	12.60	12.70	15.00	27.00
EPIMS Oct 1	Medical/Health Services	6.00	6.00	5.00	6.40	6.80	5.00
EPIMS Oct 1	Office/Clerical/Administrative Support	18.40	19.20	19.20	19.20	20.00	20.00
Payroll	Unit C Lunch/Recess Aides	6.38	6.38	6.38	8.00	8.00	8.00
Payroll	Facilities	26.00	26.00	26.00	26.50	27.00	27.00
Payroll	Cafeteria	23.07	23.00	23.00	25.00	28.00	28.00
	Total	548.90	568.90	558.08	594.44	631.56	625.49

This table format was introduced in the Spring 2011 ATM Warrant and uses the EPIMS (Education Personnel Information Management System) data that the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education requires every school system to provide semiannually. The October 1 filings are for the then-current academic year. All numbers are full-time equivalent positions.

* The 2020-2021 School year figures include additional temporary staff required to implement the hybrid learning model due to the COVID-19 pandemic social distancing and safety measures.

** 2023-2024 not final from DESE

*** 2024-2025 reflects reallocation of staff from Instructional Support Staff to Special Education

TABLE 3
RESERVE FUND TRANSFERS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

DATE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
FY 2024 RESERVE FUND APPROPRIATIONS:		
5/1/2023	Article 40	Appropriated May 2023 Annual Town Meeting
		\$ 250,000
12/4/2023	Article 5	Appropriated December 2023 Special Town Meeting
		\$ 350,000
	Total Appropriated	<u>\$ 600,000</u>
FY 2024 RESERVE FUND TRANSFERS:		
10/2/2023	Public Works	Wood Chipper
		\$ (107,135)
6/30/2024	Legal	Legal professional services/disbursements
		\$ (222,608)
6/30/2024	Unemployment	Unemployment claims
		\$ (16,019)
6/30/2024	Elections & Registrations	February 2024 Special Election
		\$ (5,827)
6/30/2024	General Insurance	Premium increases
		\$ (7,980)
	Total Transferred Out	<u>\$ (359,569)</u>
	Available Balance	<u><u>\$ 240,431</u></u>

Table 4
Comparative Tax Rate and Tax Levy for Ten Years

Fiscal Year	Amt. to be raised	Actual Tax levy	Tax Rate	
2015	\$99,939,078	\$68,134,681	13.94 22.40	Residential Commercial
2016	\$104,553,160	\$71,171,510	13.50 21.70	Residential Commercial
2017	\$108,814,806	\$73,993,206	13.56 21.51	Residential Commercial
2018	\$115,995,813	\$79,551,918	13.81 21.90	Residential Commercial
2019	\$120,447,482	\$82,348,069	13.18 20.20	Residential Commercial
2020	\$127,166,123	\$85,137,614	13.12 20.10	Residential Commercial
2021	\$129,318,455	\$88,217,613	13.13 20.41	Residential Commercial
2022	\$133,365,215	\$91,282,668	12.47 19.12	Residential Commercial
2023	\$141,625,874	\$94,712,824	11.40 18.22	Residential Commercial
2024	\$149,620,793	\$98,233,390	10.92 17.94	Residential Commercial
2025	\$154,827,948	\$101,939,555	11.09 16.93	Residential Commercial

Table 5
Interest and Maturing Debt - Fiscal Year 2026
July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026

	Rate	Outstanding at 6/30/2026	FY26 Payments		Total P & I
			Principal	Interest	
2007 Multi-Purpose (\$2,028,000) - non-exempt **	1.69%	130,000	70,000	3,300	73,300
2007 MSBA Low Interest Loan (\$6,787,577) - exempt	2.00%	678,757	339,379	20,363	359,742
2009 Multi-Purpose (\$11,879,455) - exempt *** / ^	3.96%	1,145,000	590,000	16,252	606,252
2009 Multi-Purpose (\$540,000) - non-exempt ***	3.96%	55,000	25,000	2,000	27,000
2012 Multi-Purpose Series A (\$4,066,566) - non-exempt	2.23%	1,150,000	195,000	34,648	229,648
2012 Medical Expenses Series B (\$1,936,100) - non-exempt	3.21%	330,000	110,000	16,830	126,830
2013 Multi-Purpose (\$5,075,000) - exempt ^	2.06%	-	371,000	-	371,000
2013 Multi-Purpose (\$701,000) - non-exempt ^	2.06%	-	23,000	38,943	61,943
2014 Multi-Purpose (\$4,403,182) - non-exempt	2.14%	515,000	199,000	22,225	221,225
2016 Multi-Purpose (\$2,040,349) - non-exempt	1.69%	460,000	85,000	10,250	95,250
2018 Multi-Purpose (\$7,654,858) - non-exempt	2.61%	2,946,000	483,000	133,289	616,289
2021 Multi-Purpose (\$3,702,572) - non-exempt	2.06%	2,318,982	275,898	60,423	336,321
2023 Multi-Purpose (\$846,500) - fire station land	2.71%	762,000	30,000	31,330	61,330
2023 Multi-Purpose (\$4,681,800) - non-exempt	2.71%	3,523,000	402,000	178,831	580,831
2024 Multi-Purpose (\$20,930,000) - fire station design & construction	3.77%	20,880,000	50,000	1,268,236	1,318,236
2024 Multi-Purpose (\$2,735,000) - non-exempt	3.06%	2,160,000	235,000	109,350	344,350
Estimated Principal and Interest			181,267	100,665	281,932
		\$ 37,053,739	\$ 3,664,544	\$ 2,046,934	\$ 5,711,478

** issue was refunded on 8/10/2016

*** issue was refunded on 3/30/2017

^ \$38,253.09 DE-1 Credit of total limited tax moved to non-exempt. Took \$11,130.00 from 2013 exempt debt and the remainder (\$27,123.09) from 2009 exempt debt interest, and moved full credit of \$38,253.09 to 2013 non-exempt.

**TABLE 6
ENCUMBERED FUNDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

GENERAL GOVERNMENT:	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Select Board	\$ 1,027
Legal	\$ 150,000
Information Technology	\$ 35,796
Town Clerk	\$ 3,138
Elections and Registration	\$ -
Treasurer/Collector	\$ 58
Planning	\$ 53,102
Master Plan Implementation Committee	\$ 2,661
Consolidated Facilities	\$ 24,987
Town Reports	\$ 5,492
Police	\$ 58,711
Inspectional Services	\$ 1,434
Fire	\$ -
Schools	\$ 833
Public Works	\$ 117,521
Cemetery	\$ -
Health	\$ 19,164
Council on Aging	\$ 2,438
Library	\$ 1,805
Park & Recreation Dept.	\$ 12,900
Employee Benefits	\$ 13,446
Unemployment	\$ 5,790
TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT	\$ 510,303
 SEWER ENTERPRISE FUND	 \$ 7,932
WATER ENTERPRISE FUND	\$ 234,032
STORMWATER ENTERPRISE FUND	\$ 49,631
 TOTAL ENCUMBERED FUNDS	 <u>\$ 801,898</u>

TABLE 7
GENERAL FUND SOLID WASTE OPERATIONS
FOR THE FISCAL YEARS 2024 -2026

	ACTUAL	APPROPRIATED	RECOMM.	ARTICLE
	<u>FY 2024</u>	<u>FY 2025</u>	<u>FY 2026</u>	<u>REFERENCE</u>
REVENUE:				
Trash Sticker User Fee Revenue	\$ 1,306,010	\$ 1,480,000	\$ 1,580,000	
Tax Levy Support	\$ 1,611,142	\$ 1,661,909	\$ 1,651,806	
Total Revenue & Surplus	\$ 2,917,152	\$ 3,141,909	\$ 3,231,806	
COSTS:				
Solid Waste Direct Costs				
Trash				
Solid Waste Operations	\$ 135,515	\$ 146,194	\$ 148,285	13
Collection of Refuse	\$ 797,105	\$ 821,019	\$ 841,544	13
Refuse Disposal	\$ 718,097	\$ 787,500	\$ 826,875	13
Landfill Monitoring	\$ 24,752	\$ 19,000	\$ 19,000	13
Subtotal Trash Cost	\$ 1,675,469	\$ 1,773,713	\$ 1,835,704	
Recycling				
Collection/Processing of Curbside Recycling	\$ 1,241,683	\$ 1,368,196	\$ 1,396,102	13
Subtotal Recycling Cost	\$ 1,241,683	\$ 1,368,196	\$ 1,396,102	
Total Solid Waste Operation Costs	\$ 2,917,152	\$ 3,141,909	\$ 3,231,806	

Table 8
School Department Budget

PROGRAM AREA	FY 21 Actual	FY 22 Actual	FY 23 Actual	FY 24 Actual	FY 25 Budget	FY 26 Requested	\$ Change FY 25 to FY 26	% Change FY 25 to FY 26
Policy and Administration								
Salaries	\$1,347,866	\$1,338,258	\$1,461,221	\$1,483,521	\$1,516,239	\$1,533,020	\$16,781	1.11%
Expenses	\$446,527	\$284,327	\$411,263	\$361,961	\$371,835	\$380,138	\$8,303	2.23%
Total	\$1,794,393	\$1,622,585	\$1,872,484	\$1,845,482	\$1,888,074	\$1,913,158	\$25,084	1.33%
Instructional Leadership								
Salaries	\$3,762,307	\$3,884,035	\$4,223,834	\$4,458,195	\$4,906,426	\$5,020,998	\$114,572	2.34%
Expenses	\$136,638	\$143,121	\$175,572	\$130,183	\$187,068	\$208,931	\$21,863	11.69%
Total	\$3,898,945	\$4,027,156	\$4,399,406	\$4,588,378	\$5,093,494	\$5,229,929	\$136,435	2.68%
Instruction								
Salaries	\$23,723,575	\$24,207,466	\$25,333,303	\$26,438,985	\$28,120,111	\$30,732,700	\$2,612,589	9.29%
Expenses	\$620,555	\$521,821	\$870,248	\$507,653	\$882,136	\$1,157,136	\$275,000	31.17%
Total	\$24,344,130	\$24,819,287	\$26,203,551	\$26,946,638	\$29,002,247	\$31,889,836	\$2,887,589	9.96%
Instructional Services								
Salaries	\$3,719,496	\$3,823,739	\$3,971,657	\$4,222,312	\$4,639,996	\$4,787,868	\$147,872	3.19%
Expenses	\$666,497	\$1,044,287	\$1,099,110	\$1,025,960	\$1,044,106	\$992,149	(\$51,957)	-4.98%
Total	\$4,385,993	\$4,868,026	\$5,070,767	\$5,248,272	\$5,684,102	\$5,780,017	\$95,915	1.69%
SPED								
Salaries	\$8,966,515	\$9,518,348	\$9,941,476	\$12,543,771	\$14,299,356	\$15,147,149	\$847,793	5.93%
Expenses	\$5,216,396	\$5,264,006	\$6,009,499	\$6,046,917	\$6,558,513	\$7,894,560	\$1,336,047	20.37%
Total	\$14,182,911	\$14,782,354	\$15,950,975	\$18,590,688	\$20,857,869	\$23,041,709	\$2,183,840	10.47%
Technology								
Salaries	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Expenses (1)	\$492,747	\$405,819	\$474,133	\$356,868	\$438,000	\$438,000	\$0	0.00%
Total	\$492,747	\$405,819	\$474,133	\$356,868	\$438,000	\$438,000	\$0	0.00%
Facilities								
Salaries	\$2,059,753	\$2,129,329	\$2,194,251	\$1,969,529	\$2,375,608	\$2,399,617	\$24,009	1.01%
Expenses	\$1,785,722	\$2,166,541	\$2,199,856	\$2,028,205	\$1,885,836	\$2,181,647	\$295,811	15.69%
Total	\$3,845,475	\$4,295,870	\$4,394,107	\$3,997,734	\$4,261,444	\$4,581,264	\$319,820	7.50%
Salaries	\$43,579,512	\$44,991,175	\$47,125,742	\$51,116,313	\$55,857,736	\$59,621,352	\$3,763,616	6.74%
Expenses	\$9,365,082	\$9,829,922	\$11,239,681	\$10,457,747	\$11,367,494	\$13,252,561	\$1,885,067	16.58%
Total	\$52,944,594	\$54,821,097	\$58,365,423	\$61,574,060	\$67,225,230	\$72,873,913	\$5,648,683	8.40%

(1) In FY 19, DESE changed its accounting requirements, moving much of what was Technology spending into either Instruction, Instructional Leadership, or Facilities, depending on whether the spending was for direct instruction, building administrative support, or network maintenance.
Only district-wide administrative costs remain in the Technology budget section.

(2) Non-recurring expenses relate to the purchase of new math and social studies curriculum.

**TABLE 9
COMPARISON OF
REQUESTED AND RECOMMENDED EXPENDITURES**

Article No.		FY 2026 Requested	FY 2026 Recomm.	\$ Difference
4	NON-BONDED CAPITAL	878,500	878,500	0
5	AUDIT	76,050	76,050	0
6	COLLECTIVE BARGAINING WAGE SET ASIDE	590,000	590,000	0
7	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS			
	Unemployment	215,623	100,000	(115,623)
	Contributory Retirement	4,696,318	4,696,318	0
	Other Post Employment Benefits Trust	1,562,500	1,562,500	
	Group Insurances	17,114,549	17,114,549	0
	TOTAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	23,588,990	23,473,367	(115,623)
8	CHAPTER 61 WAGE SET ASIDE	100,000	100,000	0
9	PUBLIC SAFETY			
	Inspectional Services	763,368	681,980	(81,388)
	Fire	8,137,654	7,440,093	(697,561)
	MEMA	10,935	10,935	0
	Police	9,419,013	9,121,875	(297,138)
	TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY	18,330,970	17,254,883	(1,076,087)
10	GENERAL GOVERNMENT			
	Select Board			
	Accounting	432,923	432,923	0
	General Insurance	1,535,953	1,535,953	0
	Law	370,125	370,125	0
	Information Technology	790,365	760,365	(30,000)
	Select Board	1,067,175	857,775	(209,400)
	Veterans' Benefits	127,293	127,293	0
	subtotal	4,323,834	4,084,434	(239,400)
	Other General Government			
	Board of Assessors	335,995	335,995	0
	Town Clerk	389,818	389,818	0
	Elections & Registration	127,674	127,674	0
	Treasurer /Collector	527,430	493,953	(33,477)
	subtotal	1,380,917	1,347,440	(33,477)
	TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT	5,704,751	5,431,874	(272,877)
11	BOARDS & COMMITTEES			
	Conservation Commission	2,625	2,625	0
	Council on Aging	473,229	404,986	(68,243)
	Historical Commission	2,240	2,240	0
	Planning Board	95,849	95,849	0
	ByLaw Review Committee	0	0	0
	Master Plan Implementation Committee	30,000	30,000	0
	Warrant Committee	19,262	19,262	0
	TOTAL BOARDS AND COMMITTEES	623,205	554,962	(68,243)
12	PUBLIC WORKS			
	Public Works General	2,236,208	2,018,268	(217,940)
	Vehicle Maintenance	833,579	818,579	(15,000)
	Solid Waste	3,231,806	3,231,806	0
	TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS	6,301,593	6,068,653	(232,940)
19	BOARD OF HEALTH	654,680	609,732	(44,948)
20	LIBRARY	2,080,383	1,974,529	(105,854)

21	CEMETERY	968,187	968,187	0
22	PARKS & RECREATION	752,408	741,408	(11,000)
23	CONSOLIDATED FACILITIES	1,506,281	1,416,167	(90,114)
24	SCHOOL DEPARTMENT	74,940,914	72,873,914	(2,067,000)
25	BLUE HILLS REGIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL	954,340	954,340	0
26	INTEREST & MATURING DEBT	5,711,478	5,711,478	0
28	GENERAL STABILIZATION FUND	528,956	528,956	0
28	CAPITAL STABILIZATION FUND	0	0	0
28	ROADWAY STABILIZATION FUND	0	0	0
29	OPERATING BUDGET STABILIZATION FUND	2,700,000	2,700,000	0
30	SPECIAL EDUCATION RESERVE FUND	1,000,000	0	(1,000,000)
31	RESERVE FUND	282,256	282,256	0
TOTAL GENERAL FUND		148,273,942	143,189,256	(5,084,686)
ENTERPRISE FUNDS				
13	Water Enterprise Fund	7,286,228	7,286,228	0
14	Sewer Enterprise Fund	8,799,989	8,799,989	0
15	Stormwater Enterprise Fund	1,203,060	1,203,060	0
33	PEG Access Enterprise Fund	500,000	500,000	0
TOTAL ENTERPRISE FUNDS		17,789,277	17,789,277	0
OTHER				
4	Bonded Capital	8,829,228	4,880,000	(3,949,228)
16	Water System Improvements	596,700	596,700	0
17	Sewer System Improvements	1,150,000	1,150,000	0
18	Rehabilitation of Town's Stormwater System	320,000	320,000	0
GRAND TOTALS		176,362,447	167,328,533	(9,033,914)

Town of Milton
525 Canton Ave
Milton, MA 02186

Town Meeting will be held on
Monday, May 5th
Beginning at 7:30 p.m.

The Milton High School auditorium
is reserved for additional Town Meeting
sessions at 7:30 p.m. on May 6, May 7, May 12,
May 13, and May 14.

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