

Warrant Committee

November 19, 2015

Eighth meeting

Present: Chair Ted Hays, Secretary LeeMichael McLean, Members Jean Eckner, Betty White, Chuck Karimbakas, Jonathan Schindler, Steve McCurdy, Brian Beaupre, Darnell Turner, James Potter, Philip Mathews and Richard Boehler.

Absent: Michael Maholchic

Reserve Fund Balance: \$597,445

1. The 8th meeting of the Warrant Committee was called to order at 7:38 p.m. in the Carol Blute Conference Room of Milton Town Hall.

2. On a motion by Member McLean, seconded by Member Turner, the Committee voted to approve meeting minutes:

July 14, 2015:	8/0/2
September 2, 2015	8/0/2
September 9, 2015	9/0/1
September 16, 2015	9/0/1
September 17, 2015	8/0/2
September 28, 2015	8/0/2

3. The Committee discussed meeting guests, schedules and agendas. Departmental budgets and the timing of their submissions were addressed. Member Mathews suggested that the Board of Selectmen submit a narrative of priorities. The new zoning articles to be presented at the Special Town Meeting and the timing of the warrant were discussed.

Member Karimbakas arrived at 7:46 p.m.

4. On a motion by Member McLean, seconded by Member White, a payment of \$333.00 in membership dues to the Association of Town Finance Committees (ATFC) was approved 11/0/0.

5. The Committee discussed the 5-year Town financial forecast, presented by the Board of Selectmen at the November 3rd meeting at the Council on Aging. Defining and delineating level service and level dollar needs followed. The Committee examined debt service, cost of living adjustments, overlay reserves, and unfunded mandates. Schools, the DPW, and storm water management were examined. Member Turner noted that capital projects had been omitted from the budget.

6. The potential override (“contingent budget”) was addressed. The Committee agreed that the dollar amount for an override must be clearly defined, understood, and precise, and that the Board of Selectmen and Warrant Committee must collaborate closely in order for the override to succeed. The Committee discussed the history of Milton overrides, the role of the Town Administrator in the

process, and what to expect from the incoming Strong Town Administrator in the construction of Town budgets.

7. The meeting moved to the topic of free cash; where it comes from, how it should be used, how taxes affect it, operational uses, past uses, and priorities.

8. The Committee discussed tactics for budget analysis, including examination of ‘actual’ budget spreadsheets and tie-out reports.

9. Subcommittee obligations and assignments were discussed. It was agreed that each subcommittee would meet for 15 minutes at the next Warrant Committee meeting.

10. On a motion by Member McLean, seconded by Member Turner, the meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m., 11/0/0

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Respectfully submitted by
Julia Getman
Warrant Committee Clerk