

*JDaugis 3/30/15*

**Annual School District Meeting  
Deliberative Session Minutes  
Thursday, February 5, 2015  
Milford High School Cafeteria  
100 West Street, Milford**

**Agenda**

1. Call to Order
2. Invocation
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Announcements
5. Rules of the Meeting
6. Introductions
7. Reading of the Warrant (motion to dispense with reading)
8. Warrant Articles
9. Other Business
10. Adjournment

## 2015 Milford School District Deliberative Session

### Moderator's Rules of Procedure

New Hampshire law gives the moderator the authority to establish rules of procedure for the Deliberative Session and also gives the voters the power to overrule the moderator's rules and rulings. These Rules of Procedure are how the moderator intends to govern the meeting, in the absence of any challenges to the rules, to ensure a fair and orderly meeting.

1. Registered Milford voters must check in at the checklist table, where they will receive a sticker that must be worn while in the hall and a voting card. Anyone wishing to speak must wear this sticker in order to be recognized.
2. Non-residents will be allowed to speak only after a positive vote by the meeting on a motion to allow the non-resident(s) to speak.
3. When a vote is called for, registered voters will vote on the motion by holding up their voting card. The moderator will cast a vote only to break a tie or to create a tie.
4. Anyone wishing to speak must do so at the microphone located at the center aisle. Please state your name and street address your first time at the microphone. For subsequent trips to the microphone, stating your name will be sufficient.
5. All questions or comments must be directed to the moderator, not to individual officials, committee members or audience members.
6. Except for presenters explaining proposed articles, speakers have a three-minute time limit. If the speaker asks a question, one follow-up question is allowed before stepping away from the microphone. If the speaker has additional questions about or comments on a particular issue, they may be raised only after all other speakers already in line have spoken.
7. Anyone wishing to call the question must do so from the microphone. A speaker may not call the question immediately after speaking on the issue.
8. The motions to call the question and to restrict reconsideration are not debatable. Upon a second, the moderator will ask for a vote by the meeting.
9. Upon an affirmative vote to call the question, anyone already in line as well as members of the School Board and the Budget Committee who had already indicated a desire to address the topic will be permitted to speak on the issue.
10. Discussion and voting will be taken one amendment at a time.
11. While a proposed amendment to a dollar amount may be made verbally, an amendment that changes the language of a question must be submitted in writing. Time will be allowed for the voter to write the proposed language on a piece of paper. Important note: The language of the warrant article for the operating budget is stipulated by state statute and may not be changed.

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### Moderator's Rules of Procedure

12. The meeting may, on an article-by-article basis, restrict subsequent reconsideration of the vote on a warrant article. Upon a vote to restrict reconsideration, the moderator will prohibit any further action on that question. The motion to restrict reconsideration does not have to be made immediately after the original vote.
13. An affirmative vote to restrict reconsideration may be reconsidered. If the restriction is overturned, however, by statute the actual reconsideration will take place at a recessed session of the meeting held at least seven days later (RSA 40:10).
14. A petition for secret ballot must be submitted to the moderator prior to the vote by at least five voters. The five voters must be present when the petition is submitted.
15. The moderator shall take a secret yes/no ballot vote when seven or more voters present question any non-ballot vote immediately after the moderator declares the result of the vote and before any other business is begun (RSA 40:4-b).
16. Five voters present may request a recount of any vote taken by secret yes/no ballot if the request is made immediately after the announcement of the result. The moderator will order a recount immediately if the secret yes/no vote margin is less than 10 percent (RSA 40:4-a).
17. The moderator may command a police officer or legal voter to remove from the meeting and detain any person conducting himself or herself in a disorderly manner (RSA 40:9)
18. Any of the Moderator' Rules may be overturned by a simple majority vote.

## 2015 Milford School District Deliberative Session

Peter Basiliere – Moderator – I call to order the 2015 Milford school district meeting according to SB2.

Thank you. Please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance: ... Please be seated.

There are important school board documents where you checked in. Please make sure you have picked them up.

Immediately after the meeting both boards will have meetings to vote on the changes tonight and possibly change their position on an article.

Right now I would like to introduce the School Board Chair Paul Dargie.

Paul Dargie: I am Paul Dargie this is Kevin Drew Board Vice-Chair, Peter Bragdon, Bob Willette and Len Mannino and I would like to ask Mr. Suprenant to introduce the administration.

Bob Suprenant: Bob Suprenant Superintendent, Jen Burke Business Administrator, Lise Tucker School Account, Bill Cooper Director of Building and Grounds, Tony Demarco Middle School Principal, Nancy McGuire Jacques School Principal, Johanna Johnson Special Education Director, Chantal Alcox Heron Pond Principal, Jerry Stidahare Director of Special Technology, Nick Peterson Director of Title One, and Dr. Brad Craven Principal at the High School. Also, to my far left is the School District Attorney Bill Drescher Joan Dargie School District Clerk.

Moderator: Now I will introduce Chairman of the Budget Committee Ron Carvel.

Ron Carvel: I would like to introduce Rick Wood, Tricia Shea, Scott Krause, Ethan Wynn, .

Moderator: Thank you very much. Mr. Dargie do you have a list of non- residents that can answer questions.

Mr. Dargie: I would like to move that the following non-residents be allowed to speak. Johanna Johnson, Brad Craven, Nick Peterson, Nancy McGuire, Tony Demarko Chris Nervik, Mike Hatfield, Jennifer Burke, and Bill Drescher.

Moderator: All those in favor the ayes have it. Motion passes.

Mr. Dargie: I would like to mention that long term School Board Member Peter Bragdon is finishing up his term on the school board after 18 years with 12 years as chair. We would like to recognize him for his commitment to the ATC, the Heron Pond School, Sage School to name a few. His work is greatly appreciated. We are presenting him with this NH Plaque.

Peter Bragdon: Thank you.

Bob Suprenaunt: I would like to have recognize Johanna Johnson Special Ed Director after 22 years is retiring a most challenging job. She has always done a great job with her number one priority being advocating for the students and she has done a great job. Thank you.

Moderator: Our work tonight is to decide the wording including the dollar amounts where appropriate for what will be on the ballot. You will be able to vote on what has been decided on March 10, 2015 at the Middle School.

As per the SB2 rules you are empowered to do two things the first is to debate each article as they come up you can. The second is to take one of two options on the warrant article you can maintain the wording of the article and the article will go on the ballot as is and you can vote to amend an article and then we will take a vote and determine what language goes on to the ballot.

In the packet you will see the moderator's rules and the most important rule is the last one and you can overturn my rules.

Any questions? Seeing none we will proceed.

Mr. Dargie – Mr. Moderator: I move that the proposed question warrant article 1 as printed in the Deliberative Session Guide along with the recommendations of the school board and budget committee be placed on the ballot.

#### **Question 1 – Operating Budget:**

Shall the Milford School District raise and appropriate as an **Operating Budget**, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling **\$38,058,404?** Should this article be defeated, the operating budget shall be **\$37,961,881** which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Milford School District or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. **School Board: Supports (vote 4-1) Budget Committee: Does Not Support (vote 0-9).**

Article 1 Mr. Dargie:

Mr. Dargie : The operating budget. Please refer to the Deliberative Session Handout as I will be highlighting the budget detailed in the handout.

Function 2100 the amount has changed as people have retired by lower paid staff and the NWEA is going to a different account. Function 2200 staff retired again replaced by lower paid staff. Function 2300 hiring a new superintendent and curriculum instruction is going up therefore that function is going up. Function 2400 salaries going up by 1.7% NEASC review is required and the costs are in there. Function 2600 new trash contract, property liability is up, utilities gas and oil are up replacement radios and replaced washer and dryer at Sage. Function 2840 buying fewer replacement computers spending more on infrastructure such as servers. Function 2850 Increase is related to early retirements and the savings from this show up in another area. Function 2900 This a problem area health costs up 4.4% smaller premiums FICA up medicare NH retirement is up 15.67%.

Budget Committee response:

Rick Wood FY16 Base budget. School look at from budget from last year we use a zero base budget philosophy. We pulled out \$400,000, \$545,000, \$323,186 added 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher \$110,379 and 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher \$58,404

School Board adopted \$38,058,407 Budget Committee \$37,758,404 \$300,000 difference

This is why we built the budget the way we did. Last year and this year the budget committee has been unanimous in not supporting the budget. Based on loss in revenue actual est. impact for school is 1.34 by shaving \$300K still growth of .256%. The budget committee wants to reduce the amount.

Ron Carvell \$37,758,404 I move to reduce the amount  
Moderator motion is 2<sup>nd</sup>. Anyone have any comments?

Steve Takacs Whitten Road - The School Board is also not unanimous there is something wrong with the budget.

Mr. Dargie – I want to thank the budget committee for their work and at the end of the day I can't support cutting \$300,000 from this budget. They looked at different object codes example 1110 admin net change in current year we show a decrease budget committee reviewed and agreed. Tuition reimbursement for all various areas there was a large agreement areas of a problem were items that should be there. Health care coverage, First grade teacher, 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher were added back in. A large number \$933,000 difference we took out \$545,000. Outside of budget it added \$819,000. \$348,000 of the additional cuts that need to occur it is tight. We can cut this but it will hurt and eliminate positions. I am not in favor.

Carla Boudreau - Are the teacher positions back in the budget?

Mr. Dargie – yes

Peter Bragdon – quarry circle – I am not supporting the budget committee. At two meetings the budget committee wanted to cut the budget we asked if they had specific ideas as to where they should be cut and they brought nothing to the table again after three meetings they never came up with anything to cut. When they put their budget together they were \$50,000 higher than the school board. In my entire time on the school board we have started with a zero budget Mr. Wood's comment is false. I wish I had rec to build on I do not.

Mr. Wood – We came up with a starting point over history there is \$620,000 that gets returned. Last year they reduced their number to meet ours. We only get to comment on the bottom line we can only offer to the bottom line. We went object by object this was a worksheet. The idea there were cuts \$545,00 removed and for health care a \$963,000 add in. WE had a prem holiday the change was a 11% reduction. We added in the 11.5% and we took out a 6% and that was how we came up with the number. You will notice the number we are proposing is higher than the number on the worksheet. If we don't have the money we can't spend it. At the top there is a removal fund balance. We put it back so there is a balance.

Mr. Vetack Georgetown Drive. - Talking as a taxpayer not a teacher. If the town were to change budget what would have to be cut.

Mr. Dargie – We have not discussed it. We would probably have to cut positions.

Mr. Vetack - I would advise voters to consider that . I advise to consider this.

Suzanne Schedit Oxbrook Road – Level fund cutting fuel 10% up not sure I see it happening. Programs would have to be cut. I don't think there are many with a fuel oil decrease. Level funding does not work. This will hurt.

Mr. Dargie - They agreed on each line item. This will hurt.

Mr. Wood There is money in an 11million dollar line item, every one of us believes this is a good district. We are faced with a 1.5 million increase. We are suggesting shuffling. We have been forth coming . We are not looking to gut anything. Our number still has a big increase.

Walt Bickey 118 Osgood Road – 2.5 million is paid for admin I think you can find it.

Mr. Dargie – It can be done there will be cuts.

Steve Takacs – Surplus where are you reducing surplus.

Mr. Wood – We are not proposing to take \$300,000 out of surplus.

Mr. Dargie – There is no surplus line item. We have to cut \$300K out.

Mr. Takacs – Why can't we put this \$329,000 to reduce the budget.

Mr. Willette Ball Hill - Am I correct to say the balance is used to reduce taxes.

Carla Boudreau - \$300,000 difference put back in \$650,000 of possible reductions. What does town need the cuts to possibly will make a drastic change.

Mr. Wood - We are saying that they could manage this years budget as a factor of revenue to the expense. Unspecified cuts we know there is money.

Mr. Howard – Powers Street – Last year the proposed budget dropped for me the talk of pain of what will happen. Their budget last year is over \$2.5 million wrong as to what was proposed .

Ron Carvell – Stable Road - Teacher contract real tough year putting this together. We don't want to impact children. We are just asking people to tighten up the belts a little bit and put some control on it. Last year we asked it and this year we are asking a little more. So we could not give everything since we wanted to support the contract we asked them to work more had this year and tighten it up a bit.

Suzanne Schedin – I just want to say now I know you put the positions back in so there are 600,000 in cuts we had to add in in the fall a first grade and a 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher without the premium holiday gain we would have been in trouble. That was half of what you wanted to cut right there so we need to cut \$600,000. This will affect the children what programs do you want to cut. Things will be cut. We do not want to do that I get nervous when there is nothing specific being mentioned. This is too vague.

Moderator - Budget Committee

Tricia Shea - We put the positions back in.

Suzanne Schedin – But your asking to still cut \$600,000.

Tricia Shea – We put back in the 3 teachers. The first and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher are in their budget.

Ms. Schedin - That still leaves 2 positions that are cut from the 5 originally proposed.

Martha Saureault – Of the fund balance what % is on the revenue side or expense side?

Jenn Burke - \$329,000 fund balance that we are projecting right now is reduced expense of the 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher and health insurance from the premium holiday that we did not anticipate. The \$300,000 right now is based on the healthcare. We have some money from accounts we have to make unanticipated purchases.

Martha Saureault – You can't just move money around can you.

Jenn Burke - We do have some money from accounts that we can make purchases but generally speaking the purposed that we define by the accounts is how we spend it.

Rick Wood – This becomes a choice. We are faced with a 600-700 tax increase on an average home in Milford. There was money in budget last year for computers for smarter balance testing. The \$329,000 is only from health care premium we only cut \$300K from last year's budget. Last year we had an average return of \$600,000. Folks there are money there. If you want the budget make some cuts. Its 8/10ths of 1 %. That is what we are talking about.

Moderator - Motion on floor to amend warrant article one the budget from \$38,058,404 changing that to \$37,742,404. I have a second. All those in favor? All those opposed. The amendment fails.

Back to original with no changes. Any further discussion. Seeing none I instruct the clerk to place the warrant on the ballot as stated per state statutes.

Mr. Dargie – Mr. Moderator: I move that the proposed question warrant article 2 as printed in the Deliberative Session Guide along with the recommendations of the school board and budget committee be placed on the ballot.

Moderator: It is moved and seconded. Thank you. Question 2

**Question 2 – Collective Bargaining Agreement with Milford Teachers Association:**

Shall the Milford School District approve the cost items included in the Collective Bargaining Agreement (July 2015 through June 2018 reached between the Milford School Board and the Milford Teachers Association, which calls for the following increased costs: for 2015/16, \$441,596; for 2016/17, \$603,244; for 2017/18, \$618,735; and, further, raise and appropriate the sum of \$441,596 for the upcoming 2015/16 fiscal year as more particularly described in



**Article 2 of the School Warrant? School Board: Supports (vote 5-0) Budget Committee: Supports (vote 8-0-1).**

Mr. Dargie – The teachers union negotiated a contract for next year and the following 2 years. 2% / year with no make up for lost increases from last year. \$473,474 net cost 1<sup>st</sup> year, \$487,604 for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year and \$500,123 for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year. Each year the steps up stay. The second change was health insurance. The current health insurance is a low deductible plan we are changing to a high deductible plan. People using the plan will have an incentive to use it less. In total this works to be a net reduction. The hope is that because we are on the high deductible plan that the future increases will be lower. The dental insurance is also changing so we are changing to what they are actually using. This is a onetime change with a cost increase and then there are weights driven benefits. Then once each year the school board will be able to hire a teacher and not pay them the appropriate step in order to save money on someone for example that is retired from another district and would like to work here.

Ron Carvell – The budget committee looked at this and felt it was a fair and good contract so we support it.

Mr. Wood – Is there any data to support the assumption that we will save each year.

Jenn Burke - Less expensive plan is at a percentage less and the rates are going up at a lower rate. Since it is a consumer driven market with a higher deductible that helps to reduce costs. People tend to be more invested in their healthcare and this does lower the money spent. Right now they do not have a deductible.

Mr. Wood – I am in a conundrum I was hoping to avoid. I see the contract and budget as one at the end of the day it all comes from the same pocket. We were trying to come to a balance. But we are unable to have that balance. We were told that the early retirement is a great deal. It costs us money as a district. It costs us a couple of grand/teacher on average. It is a program that benefits 3 people. For retirement there is \$400,000 is allocated and it does not cover healthcare. I abstained from the vote because I was torn. People need to understand it is 43% increase each year and you get a step increase. One half is getting a 16% increase in 3 years. 2% if you are at the top. We pay better than 81 % of the other districts. We can't have 100% of what we want in the budget all the time and hand out a significant labor agreement. This is going to cost us 1.9% before we spend a penny. You need to keep that in mind.

Moderator – Time

Steve Takacs –Interest rates and capital cost I think it is the best contract. I just want everyone that is watching this to know the increase of \$400,000 this year and next year the increase is on top of that? Over a 3 year period this is a 1.5 million dollar increase?

Mr. Wood – Just one correction is a 3.1 million dollar increase over 3 years.

Moderator – With no motions being made I direct the clerk to place the warrant on the ballot as originally directed according to state statutes.

Since there is no other business this concludes our business for tonight  
Thank you.  
Adjorned 9:03