



Town of Milton
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
March 16, 2026

ATTENDANCE:

Members: Andy Rawson, Matt Morrill, Karen Golab

Staff: Richard Krauss- Town Administrator, Chief Nick Marique- Fire Department, Bill Walden- DPW Director, Grace Wing- MFPL Director

Public: Ann Nute, Lee Howlett, Larry Brown

Andy Rawson opened the public session at 4:30PM.

Pledge of Allegiance: Andy Rawson led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment:

1. There were no public comments.

Announcements and Community Calendar:

1. Please help protect our lakes and drinking water by cleaning up your yard and pet waste.
2. Reminder that the Winter Parking Ban for the Town of Milton and Milton Mills is effective starting December 1st through April 15, 2026. The ban prohibits parking in or on all public ways or public parking lots from 10:30PM to 7:00AM and during all special declared snow emergencies. Each violation will be subject to fines and towing fees.
3. All town roads are currently posted in accordance with Ordinance 00-01 Heavy Hauling over Town Roads. Town roads will remain posted from March 1st to April 30th. Unless specifically permitted by written notice from the Public Works Director or a waiver from the Board of Selectmen, no vehicle with a gross weight over eight (8) tons shall be driven over the Class V roads in the Towns of Milton and Milton Mills.
4. Recreation Department will hold their annual Easter Egg Hunt on March 28th beginning at 11AM at the high school.

5. The Farm Museum will be moving the Old School House up White Mountain Highway from its currently location at the intersection of Bolan Road to the Farm Museum property on March 31st at 9PM. Please be aware of the delays and detours this will cause. Multiple roads will be closed during the move and White Mountain Highway will be closed in both directions, from the Townhouse Road intersection to the Industrial Park Road intersection during the move.
6. Rabies Clinic will be held on April 18th from 1-4PM at the Public Works building.

NEW Business – Discussion and Possible Actions:

Mr. Rawson welcomed Karen Golab to the Board and thanked Stan Nadeau for stepping up to the plate.

Ms. Golab also thanked Stan for helping to keep everything going.

1. **Department Head Reports:**

Public Works- Bill Walden: Mr. Walden thanked the voters for approving one new plow truck – this will help the department maintain service levels.

The roads are posted. It's been a "manageable" mud-season so far. They will start their yearly spring clean up once the winter weather has passed.

Unfortunately the road construction article was voted down. They will work on drainage issues to help slow down further road deterioration.

Fire Department- Chief Nick Marique: YTD, the department has responded to 170 calls (141 medically related- 83% of calls).

Last year, the department responded to 977 calls – their biggest year ever.

With the snows melted, it will be brush fire season. Fire permits are now required.

Chief Marique thanked the voters for approving the department's CRF and Fire Chief Elected to Appointed. He will put together a job description.

Milton Free Public Library- Grace Wing: They have had fantastic turnouts at their events. Ms. Wing thanked the voters for passing their warrant article which will help them continue to work towards ADA compliance. There is an ongoing basket raffle – there has been a lot of support and to date has raised over \$500.

2. **Board of Selectmen Reorganization and Boards/Committee Assignments:**

Mr. Morrill motioned to nominate Andy Rawson as Chair. Seconded by Ms. Golab. All were in favor; the motion was approved.

Ms. Golab motioned to nominate Matt Morrill as Vice-Chair. Seconded by Mr. Rawson. All were in favor; the motion was approved.

Committee assignments:

Ms. Golab asked if there was any consideration to having a representative on Zoning? Mr.

Krauss said this is not allowed as the Zoning Board can evaluate decisions made by the BOS.

Currently the Select Board functions as the Code Enforcement Board. Any decision under appeal goes to Zoning.

Ms. Golab motioned to approve the following committee assignments: Budget- Matt Morrill; Planning- Karen Golab; Recreation- Andy Rawson; CIP- Karen Golab. Seconded by Mr. Morrill. All were in favor; the motion was approved.

3. **Election Results:** Road Construction: Mr. Krauss said there will be a recount to the Road Construction article. With the new machines, more than likely there will be no change; if no change to the vote, this means there is no money for paving or to fix the roads. DPW will only be able to do emergency fixes/repairs, and puts the town further behind in fixing roads. This was a bad winter and the roads are in bad shape. Mr. Rawson said this means next year the costs will be even higher.

Ms. Golab asked if any money is left over from last year? Mr. Walden- ~\$80,000. Typically this is used to stock supplies for the upcoming year. They will be able to do some patching.

Ms. Golab asked about the NH Block Grant? Mr. Krauss said monies come in small portions and is used to purchase salt, sand, etc.

Mr. Walden said they can probably do some small stretches of roads- maybe focus on Governors. Berry Road is in extremely bad shape and to fix as it should be would cost \$1M.

Mr. Morrill suggested the road be returned to dirt. Mr. Walden said some residents have already requested that be done. The roads will settle and flatten out. However that is no long-term solution and the town can't afford a \$1M road budget. Mr. Rawson said other towns include road construction directly as part of the DPW budget.

Bridge CRF (for the in-town bridges) was voted down again this year. Regarding the Winding Road Bridge, the state is asking if the town wants to move the money forward to 2028. At the current 2026 price of \$1.9M, the town's required 20% is \$400,000. Currently there is only \$116,000 in the CRF which will go to finalization of the plan for the bridge. Because the CRF was turned down, next year the ask will be ~\$400,000. All total monies must be ready by 2028 (the town's 20% plus monies for the state which are then reimbursed by the state).

Mr. Rawson asked if some of the fund balance could be used? Mr. Krauss said because there is so much money not being paid to the town, there is nothing in the fund balance. As previously reported by the Town Clerk/Tax Collector, \$600,000 is owed just for 2025. A total of \$1.5M is due.

Mr. Morrill asked for an update regarding auctioning of properties? Mr. Krauss said they continue to work through the process. He said he understands this is a very slow process, however it's important they do their due diligence. He also stressed the town is very willing to work with any property owners on paying their back taxes.

Sewer CRF: Mr. Rawson said the sewer plant is a town-owned entity; the town is responsible and obligated to fix it. Mr. Krauss said last year's state inspection uncovered 3 major issues that have to be fixed. One of those issues will cost \$1M.

Ms. Golab requested the item be added to an upcoming agenda to discuss any possibility or the feasibility of converting properties to private. Mr. Krauss said there are properties,

including the school, in the downtown area that would not allow for their own septic systems. Mr. Rawson said there may be legal reasons why the town could not shut down the plant and force properties to install their own system.

Re-Evaluation CRF: Mr. Krauss said residents should understand that in 2029, the next town-wide re-evaluation will occur and cost the town ~\$130,000. This article was meant to put away monies to help cushion the price tag.

Most other articles that did not pass focused on having monies available to replace items when they break and need fixed or replaced.

4. **2026-2027 Strafford County Budget Update:** Mr. Krauss said the county recently voted not to accept their budget. This was due to representatives wanting to renegotiate current contracts with ICE. Contracts have been in place for a long time and will result in a loss of \$8M in revenues from the \$46M budget. Mr. Krauss does not yet know how much the town's portion will increase. The invoice will come in December. He noted the current county delegation is not doing any favors to the communities nor their residents. The current cost to Milton is \$1.8M and pays for dispatch services (capital projects), jail, rest home, sheriff's department.
5. **Request from NHDOT to move money for Winding Road Bridge forward from 2029 to 2028:** Mr. Krauss said the state is asking if the town is interested in moving the project forward one year to 2028. Should the town agree, this will require Milton be ready to pay by summer of 2027- currently estimated at \$1.9M. Mr. Rawson reminded everyone that the town currently pays \$1,500 each month for the temporary bridge. The issue is how to pay for the bridge. Ms. Golab said this means one election cycle to raise the \$400,000 needed. Mr. Krauss noted we haven't completed the design, the right-of-way acquisition, nor the permitting and it still will need to go out to bid. \$1.9M is only a current estimate of what will be asked of the residents to raise and appropriate. Mr. Rawson said there are other failing bridges in Milton. Mr. Morrill asked what would happen if the decision is to leave it to 2029? Mr. Krauss said this would give more time to complete everything that is required (design, ROW, permitting, etc.). The town is already allocated for 2029. Mr. Rawson recommended tabling further discussion to the next meeting.
6. **Fire Department Quarter 4 Transfer from revolving account:**
Chief Marique explained at each quarter end, all per-diem staffing (charged to PT line), anything over the percentage is charged back to the revolving account. This helps provide true costs to operating the department. The breakdown of 4th quarter:
Operating expenses charged directly to revolving account- \$9,000
Labor expenses (overage for the year)- \$210,000 (Budget- \$170,000). \$40,000 to get transferred from the budget to the revolving account.
Total 4th quarter expenses - \$52,749.
Available balance (1/1/2026)- \$57,000
Amount due to the revolving account- \$43,273
Chief Marique said the overage is due mainly to building maintenance, vehicle and equipment

maintenance. They did not spend anything from equipment purchase or gear line. Chief Marique recommended leave everything in the revolving account. Unused monies from 2026 budget is \$300,000.

Ms. Golab asked what would be left in the revolving account? Chief Marique- \$78,000.

Mr. Krauss recommended transferring \$43,273 back into the operating budget (the budget will still be overspent by \$36,000). Ms. Golab said she does not agree with this recommendation. Mr. Rawson is not in favor of drawing down the revolving account. Ms. Golab asked if Chief Marique foresees anytime that this would not be the situation? Chief Marique- If the presented budget to the committee is passed.

Mr. Rawson noted there are monies leftover in the overall budget due to budget freezes in 2025. He stressed all department budgets are bare-boned. He recommended following Mr. Krauss' suggestion.

Mr. Morrill motioned to move \$43,273.32 back to the revolving account. Seconded by Ms. Golab. All were in favor; the motion was approved.

7. **Phone Systems at Town Hall, Police and Fire Departments:** Mr. Krauss said he received two quotes. Harbor Networks (current service provider)- \$17,000 without discount; \$11,000 with discount. The discount is good to the end of March. He noted they have done a good job with the current system. The second quote from Showtime Technologies is missing some necessary information. He will get final numbers from Showtime and provide all information to the Board.

8. **Recreation Department Request Board of Selectmen review date for closing gates at Town Beach:**

Mr. Krauss said the Recreation Department requested a date to close the gates as the parking lot has become a mud pit. Mr. Morrill said he is fine with closing the gates now.

Mr. Morrill motioned to close the gates March 17, 2026. Seconded by Ms. Golab. All were in favor; the motion was approved.

EVENT PERMITS:

1. **Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony:** Mr. Krauss said the parade, May 25th, will be on Rt. 125. We will also need to apply for a permit with NHDOT as the road will be shut down with detours in place.

Mr. Morrill motioned to approve the Town Administrator signing the authorization for the special permit for NHDOT and for the Board to sign the annual permit for the parade. Seconded by Ms. Golab. All were in favor; the motion was approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. **Winding Road Bridge:**

- B. **Long Term Goal – update Town Website to improve functionality –solicitation of vendors:**
This will be a 2026 project.
- C. **Work on Insurance Buy-Out (12/16/2024):** Mr. Krauss said there are five or six employees who currently take the buyout. To meet any new buyout put into it, that would require at least one employee on the family plan to change and take the buyout. The cost difference would just cover the five people already taking the buyout. To see a decrease in the cost of insurance would require 1-2 currently on the family plan making that change to buyout. We will need to find an amount that employees will want to move to the buyout option; fine the point where it's both a saving to the town while providing a benefit to employees to step off the plan. Mr. Krauss said he looked at other communities; some are higher, others lower. The family plan costs \$32,000 per employee; the current buyout option is \$3,200. He will continue to work through the numbers.
- D. **Beach Gates December Opening for Winter usage of property to follow snowmobile club plans.**
- E. **SolSmart Feasibility Report- Summary comments submitted on 12/22/2025.**
- F. **Energy Audit for Town Hall and Fire Station is scheduled for March 2nd.**

Communications Received:

1. No communications.

Other Business That May Come Before the Board:

1. There was no other business for discussion.

Approval of Minutes:

Public Minutes:

March 2, 2026 Selectmen Meeting – Mr. Morrill motioned to accept **3/2/2026** meeting minutes. Seconded by Mr. Rawson. Ms. Golab abstained. The motion was accepted.

Public Comments Relative to Topics Previously Discussed:

Larry Brown- Has supported the necessary costs of governing. A 2% cap destroys the town.

Taxpayer vs. citizen- the taxpayer should not control entire budgets. State reps vote to decrease the business tax and increases administrative fees.

Expenditure Report:

Mr. Krauss- There are no numbers yet as the budget just passed. There are no big department expenditures. Overtime costs for DPW are currently higher; this is normal as they typically are inflated due to storm coverage. Those costs do even out over the year.

Town Administrator:

1. The next regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be April 6, 2026 at 4:30PM.

Selectmen Comments:

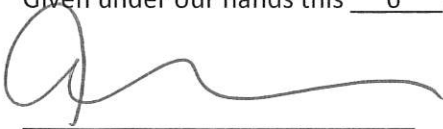
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1. Mr. Morrill congratulated all those who won their races.
2. Mr. Rawson thanked the voters who came out to the recent election. If residents have questions, they should reach out to the Board. Grace Wing asked for an update for upcoming school move to Farm Museum. Mr. Rawson noted the road will be shut down overnight to allow for the very slow move. There will be no parking on the road. The Farm Museum may open their parking lot as an option.

Adjournment:

Ms. Golab motioned to adjourn the public meeting. Mr. Morrill seconded the motion. All were in favor; the motion passed. The public meeting adjourned at 7:00PM.

Given under our hands this 6 day of April, 2026.



Andy Rawson – Chairman BOS



Matt Morrill - Board Member



Karen Golab- Board Member

END OF MINUTES – March 16, 2026