



**Town of Milton**  
**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING**  
**April 6, 2026**

**ATTENDANCE:**

**Members:** Andy Rawson, Matt Morrill, Karen Golab

**Staff:** Richard Krauss- Town Administrator, Chief Tom Hebert- Police Department, Bill Walden- DPW Director, Karen Brown- Recreation Director, Brian Leclerc- Town Clerk/Tax Collector

**Public:** Virginia Long, Jon Hotchkiss, Janet Hotchkiss, Chris Jacobs, 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. Jon Hotchkiss, NH Farm Bureau- The school house has been moved. Thanks to all who helped get the building moved with special thanks to Andy Rawson, Richard Krauss, Chief Hebert, Chief Marique, Bill Walden
2. Janet Hotchkiss, NH Farm Bureau- Thanks for the additional help provided by Chief Hebert and Police Department, along with Scott Ferguson from Middleton. Grateful to the town and so many others with special ornament presented to Chief Hebert, Bill Walden and Select Board members.
3. Larry Brown- Myth of King Arthur, the U.S. Constitution and the 25<sup>th</sup> Amendment.

**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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> to April 30<sup>th</sup>. 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. Rabies Clinic will be held on April 18<sup>th</sup> from 1-4PM at the Public Works building.

#### **NEW Business – Discussion and Possible Actions:**

1. **Department Head Reports:**

Police Department- Chief Tom Hebert: These past few months. There has been an increase in violent assaults and the department has responded to more calls at the Ridge on Governor's Road. Unfortunately because the Ridge's staffing is so low, this is impacting the PD's low staffing. Chief Hebert will reach out to the Academy for conversations.

Rabies Clinic is April 18<sup>th</sup>.

Drug Take-Back Day is April 25<sup>th</sup>, 10-2PM. Items not accepted are syringes, needles, sharps, illegal drugs, liquids, inhalers and medical equipment. The bin is always at the PD to drop off prescription drugs.

Currently the department has 6 full-time officers. There is one going to the Academy in August with one candidate who may also go in August.

Since service calls are increasing with the current low-staff situation, Chief Hebert asked all residents to be patient with non-emergency calls. Service calls will be triaged.

Boating season starts soon. The boat will be in the water.

Reminder the warmer weather means more people walking, biking, and increase of motorcycles on the roadway. Slow down and pay attention.

If a resident wants to have the speed trailer on their road, they should contact the Police Department.

Recreation- Karen Brown: They had 50-75 participants at the recent Easter Egg Hunt- it was a great time. Special thanks to Al Goodwin as this year's Easter Bunny.

Spring Soccer program – holding the Spring Kick-Around program on April 18<sup>th</sup>.

Camp3Ponds- They have 108 registrants; there are still openings in the younger group. Camp runs from June 22<sup>nd</sup> to August 13<sup>th</sup> with Canobie Lake family trip on August 14<sup>th</sup>.

Kid's Night Out is April 17<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-8:30PM at Town Hall.

Fitness groups start up again on April 13<sup>th</sup>- programs are open to all.

Martial Arts continue on Thursday nights and Saturday programs.

Summer Kick-Off- still looking for vendors.

Town Clerk/Tax Collector: Rabies Clinic on April 18<sup>th</sup> from 1-4PM at DPW. This is cash only. Owners can register their dogs during that time. Currently there are 561 unlicensed dogs (must be licensed by April 30<sup>th</sup>).

Taxes- Sewer and water bills just went out.

Delinquency notices were sent out- so far the office received ~\$41,000 in back-taxes payments.

They are looking into a property on Campbell Road that has a \$71,000 lien issued in 2010, researching to see if this is still valid.

2. **2026 Warrant Article 8: 1988 Sewer Capital Reserve Fund (Chris Jacobs):**

Mr. Jacobs said this was in response to recent town vote and Ms. Golab's suggestion to see if the Town could close the plant and have all residents install their own systems. In response Mr. Jacobs said many properties (Cumberland Farms, residents) who do not have enough space to install a leach field. In addition this would cost property owners a lot of money to do this. He asked the Board to consider other options like: Raising sewer rates by \$400/year (revenues of \$163,600); Propose a warrant that would only bond fee's needed to design and permit necessary improvements; Pass as part of the sewer ordinance a reduced septic tank disposal fee for non-sewer plan residents when the plant is built; Stop giving away unassigned fund balances at year-end. He said the Board fails to lead, the state will find the town in default of its wastewater discharge permit and could place the town under an administrative order and go forward with building a newer plant at a cost of \$13-\$15M. He said it's important for residents to educate themselves on this.

Mr. Rawson said he appreciated Mr. Jacobs talking about this as it is a town issue which will not go away. The Board did its due diligence but putting forth a warrant article. This will be paid for one way or another. The BOS will be discussing how best to move forward.

Ms. Golab said it's important to look at all options and discuss the pros, cons, risks and associated costs of each.

Mr. Jacobs said it's important that the town show the state we are doing something.

Mr. Krauss said a rate study was completed and new rates had been updated for 2025. Mr. Krauss stated that now that the budget has passed the process for setting rates for 2026 will begin and there will be the appropriate meetings and a public hearing around rate increases. He has also discussed with Jason and Wright-Pierce on how to fix the safety issues. Because Jason and DPW crew will be able to do a lot of the associated labor, this should help curb some of the expenses.

3. **Review of requested PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) Agreement from Kearsarge Energy:**

Mr. Krauss said this one is slightly different than the landfill one as this one does not have net metering built into it. The town would get ~\$3,440.25/year for twenty years (the first-year would be ~one-half the amount). After talking to assessing and Avitar, Mr. Krauss recommended adding a 2% escalator each year. Without the 2% escalator, 20-years = \$68,800; with 2% escalator= ~\$83,000. The property owner would still pay taxes on the land underneath. This agreement is only for the solar equipment and operation on top of the land. The agreement still needs review by legal; Mr. Krauss will bring back to the next meeting after legal review.

Ms. Golab motioned to approve sending the PILOT Agreement to legal and asking Kearsarge for a 2% escalator on a yearly basis. Seconded by Mr. Morrill. All were in favor; the motion was approved.

4. **2025 Equalization Ration and Certification- Board to sign:** Mr. Krauss said NHDRA completed their equalization and found the town to be at 91.6% for real property and 91.2% for the weighted mean. Documents are available at Town Hall.

Ms. Golab motioned to approve the Select Board signing the documents to show they have been received. Seconded by Mr. Morrill. All were in favor; the motion was approved.

5. **Follow-up on Request from NHDOT to move money for Winding Road Bridge forward from 2029 to 2028; Review cost of completion of Preliminary items for bridge:** Mr. Krauss said based on previous discussion, this would not be a viable option for the town due to recent town vote. Mr. Krauss asked HEB to provide costs to cover the preliminary design phase: Phase 2a) Preliminary design, 2b) Environmental documentation, and 2c) Preliminary project coordination and meetings. Total cost to complete 2a and 2b is \$83,556; 2c - \$14,898 + direct expenses of ~\$25,000. This is required by NHDOT before we could move on to next steps.

Currently there is ~\$114,000 left in the CRF (~\$100,000 for phase 2a-2c). Mr. Krauss said these have to be done in order to get the project moving forward.

Ms. Golab motioned to proceed with Phases 2a, 2b and 2c. Seconded by Mr. Morrill. All were in favor; the motion was approved.

Ms. Golab motioned to approve the Chair signing the contract. Seconded by Mr. Morrill. All were in favor; the motion was approved.

Ms. Golab said there is no time limit on the bridge rental of \$1,500/month. Is there any option to buy the temporary bridge? This could save the rental fee and mitigate costs of future removal by DPW?

Mr. Walden asked for all the money spent (\$300,000 installation and \$1,500 monthly) how does the town not already own the bridge? Mr. Walden said he doesn't think DPW would be able to remove the bridge as they really don't have the necessary equipment or resources to do such an undertaking. In the past year, based on hours worked and materials involved, it cost the town \$3,000 plus the \$1,500 monthly rental fee. While not ideal for traffic, the bridge itself could last a long time. Mr. Walden said this might be a good opportunity to ask the bridge company what are their removal costs and fees.

Ms. Golab asked if a traffic study was done? Mr. Krauss said the state may have done so when they condemned the bridge. If the study was done now, there would not be real data on the actual truck volume. The speed trailer would provide data on what is currently going across the bridge. Mr. Walden said it's hard to turn back now, after going so far down the path with the state. Ms. Golab said it would be good to have a second look at the contract.

6. **Follow-up on Sidewalk LPA Grant Money:** Mr. Krauss said the LPA money has to be attached to a defined planned project to request or spend the money. Originally this was going to do sidewalk in Phase 3 of the Dawson/Silver Street project. The \$573,000 would not pay for a lot of sidewalk (estimated cost of completion- \$2M). Step 1 would include getting a defined plan for approval by NHDOT – estimated cost of Step 1 is \$150,000. There is not enough remaining money in Dawson St. CRF; Getting that money would require a Warrant Article (all prior to 2032). Mr. Krauss said while the money is sitting there for the town to use, there first must be a defined plan (costing \$150,000). In addition the town cannot use any other NHDOT monies. He asked how would the Board like him to proceed? Mr. Krauss noted there are already 3 major projects due to hit the town between 2029 and 2031, along with the re-evaluation in 2029. There is not enough money to move forward. Ms. Golab recommended having this as a Warrant Article.
7. **Follow-up on Phone Systems at Town Hall, Police and Fire Departments:** Mr. Krauss said Consolidated gave the trunk systems at the Town Hall and Police Department. These were not paid for upfront. The contract indicated if the town decided to get out of the contract early, this would require paying for the trunk systems. The contract expires in September. Getting out early means paying for the trunks system and early penalties. Mr. Krauss said Consolidated has not yet provided those exact costs. He will get true costs and provide that information to the Board.
8. **Police Department Cruiser Purchase request:**  
Chief Hebert- This is part of the plan to replace a car each year based on an eight-year cycle. Chief Hebert would like to purchase a 2026 Police Utility vehicle from MHQ at a cost of \$42,684 (this would come out of the remaining \$64,000 line). They would trade in current car #4- trade-in value of \$2,500 (purchased in 2019 with 88,000 miles). The new car's delivery would be July and then be outfitted (radio and MDT from current car would move to new car).

Mr. Rawson said he believed the current car is worth more than \$2,500. Mr. Krauss said in the past they never got more than \$2,500 at auctions.

Ms. Golab asked how many cars were currently at the Police Department? Chief Hebert- 9.

Ms. Golab- How long has the department been staffed at 6 officers? Chief Hebert- Just a few weeks with the plan to fill those open positions.

Ms. Golab said she would like to have future discussion concerning the policy of officers having an assigned take-home car.

Mr. Morrill- Motion to approve Chief Hebert to order a 2026 Police Utility Cruiser at a cost up to \$45,184. Seconded by Ms. Gofab. All were in favor; the motion was approved.

9. **Preliminary conversation transitioning Dawson St at Steeple St into a 3-way stop intersection:** Mr. Krauss said he had a recent discussion with Bill Walden and the idea to turn the intersection of Dawson and Steeple Streets into a 3-way stop. Before this could occur, data would need to be collected by putting the speed trailer there to look at the total number of cars through the intersection each day, etc. This would help determine if this is feasible based on current traffic patterns. Discussion around the PD's ability to enforce the running of the stop-sign as currently there are few spots to allow this to occur. This would in effect turn Dawson into a no stopping/no standing road. Mr. Morrill said a problem is in the area of the Milton Learning Center and the current parking situation. Chief Hebert recommended changing the road into a northbound, one-way road. He asked who are the people having problems on Dawson Street. The department does not get calls concerning this. He said if people are using Dawson as a cut-through to Elm (to Rt. 75), closing off the Silver St end of Dawson would eliminate this.

Ms. Golab asked if Strafford Regional could provide a traffic study of the area? Mr. Krauss said he could ask them if this is part of upcoming year's study. Mr. Rawson said he liked the idea of turning Dawson into one-way; there are a lot of kids on the road. This could be a win/win especially for the residents on Dawson. Mr. Walden agreed with this.

Mr. Krauss said there is a bill moving through the house that would allow communities to drop speed limits to 20MPH. This is just a preliminary discussion and the first step would be putting speed trailer in the area to provide data for review. After they have data, they would bring information back to the Board for further discussions.

10. **2026 Warrant Article 11 Update Employee Pay and Retention Plan work on proposed wording:** Mr. Krauss said as the plan is written, they will use the CPI for October of each year. However, no CPI had been provided for October, 2025. September, 2025 was 3.0 and November, 2025 was 2.7. Mr. Krauss said he took an average of 2.9 and recommended using 2.8 for the COLA. He said the plan wording indicates the CPI would never exceed 4.0. If the CPI hits 4.0, there would be no extra merit raise. He said this was cleared by legal. He will write the wording for the Employee Handbook and provide to the Board for their review.
11. **Request by Conservation Commission to add additional questions to Building Permit-Virginia Long:** Ms. Long said the Conservation Commission had two questions to add and Bruce Woodruff, Town Planner, had recommended some simple changes which would help the Code Enforcement Officer.  
Revision to Q1) Asking if any work is to be done within the 50-ft of a jurisdictional wetland – adding "or within 75-ft of a priority jurisdictional wetland identified on the town zoning map."

The priority wetlands were mandated with a 75-ft buffer in the 2024 Warrant Article. Q2) To ask the landowner if there is a conservation easement on their property.

Ms. Long said by asking these questions this would save the Code Enforcement Officer research time. Mistakes can be very costly to the town. These questions are a good preventative measure.

Mr. Rawson asked if the Board was OK with the changes? Mr. Krauss said he did not think the changes were necessary. The form already asked if code requirements and zoning ordinances are met for the building permit and already meets standards.

Ms. Golab agreed with Mr. Krauss. However, many people will just check off the box and not do their due diligence. This costs the town a lot of money. Mr. Rawson said these just add a few extra boxes. Mr. Morrill said the form is already six pages. Mr. Rawson asked Ms. Long what sparked this request? Ms. Long said they attended a workshop that recommended building permits include questions about conservation easements on properties. Ms. Long said these measures would work better than enforcement. Ms. Golab said she would be in favor of adding the questions.

Ms. Golab motioned to revise the Building Permit and add two additional questions as provided by Milton Conservation Commission: Revision to Q1) Asking if any work is to be done within the 50-ft of a jurisdictional wetland – adding “or within 75-ft of a priority jurisdictional wetland identified on the town zoning map.” Q2) To ask the landowner if there is a conservation easement on their property. Seconded by Mr. Morrill. All were in favor; the motion was approved. .

12. **Request to speak with Board of Selectmen about applying for second year of grant to remove invasive plant species from Town-owned Conservation Easements- Virginia Long:** Ms. Long said they were awarded the grant last year to remove invasive weeds at the Spaulding Turnpike property and Jones Brook Park. At the time they recommended three years of service. MCC is not applying for the 2<sup>nd</sup> grant funding through NHDES for treatment in 2027. The application deadline is April 15<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Morrill motioned to approve the Milton Conservation Commission to apply for the grant and for the treatment to be done. Seconded by Ms. Golab. All were in favor; the motion was approved.

#### **EVENT PERMITS:**

1. None.

#### **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):.**
- 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.** Ms. Golab- It's important to talk about the feasibility study.
- 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. Bill Walden- DPW: Paul Taylor has provided a quote to do aggregate crushing at the Transfer Station's pit. The quote of \$48,000 would be paid from the Operating Supplies line (\$24,000) and from the Road Construction CRF (\$24,000). This is a huge cost savings to the town. Purchasing the materials from outside sources is ~\$200,000. This would also DPW to stockpile 2-3 years of material. Mr. Rawson said this is a great idea, helping to clean up the area and get lots of material.

Mr. Morrill motioned to approve the bid from Paul Taylor, LLC in the amount of \$48,000. Seconded by Ms. Golab. All were in favor; the motion was approved.

2. Bill Walden-DPW: Mr. Walden recommended the road postings be lifted. He said all other towns are doing this and the frost is now out of the roads.

Mr. Morrill motioned to approve lifting the road postings, effective April 7, 2026. Seconded by Ms. Golab. All were in favor; the motion was approved.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Public Minutes:

**March 23, 2026 Selectmen Meeting –** Mr. Morrill motioned to accept 3/23/2026 meeting minutes. Seconded by Mr. Rawson. All were in favor. The motion was accepted.

**Public Comments Relative to Topics Previously Discussed:**

Larry Brown- When Shortridge Academy first came to town they presented themselves as an academic facility. Now it sounds like they are moving to a therapeutic facility. He suggested their Certificate of Occupancy come to the Planning Board and legal contact NH to ensure they have enough staff to address increase in issues.

Dawson Street needs a stop sign at Elm/Dawson.

Budget Law- Any legal judgement against the town is paid regardless of what the operating budget is.



**Expenditure Report:**

Mr. Krauss- They are 20% expended (typically at 25%). The heavy overtime from DPW will balance itself out over the year. The current overage of part-time at the Fire Department is OK (caution that they cannot go over their budget by 30% again this year). Everything else is where it should be.

**Town Administrator:**

1. The next regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be April 20, 2026 at 4:30PM.
2. Welcome to Scott Pike who is the new Code Enforcement Officer. He is doing a good job. Thank you to Peter Gosselin from Wakefield Code Enforcement Office, who filled in until the position was filled. He left the town in a much better situation then he found it.

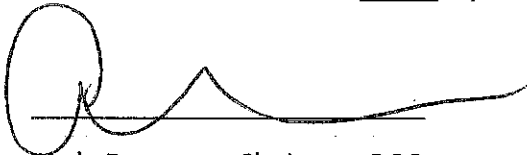
**Selectmen Comments:**

1. Karen Golab- Providing a spreadsheet of items for future discussions. It's important to re-establish the Economic Development Committee.
2. Andy Rawson- Upcoming 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary- The Farm Museum is planning a lot of things. It would be nice for the town to do something. Ms. Golab agreed that while there are a lot of people who want to get involved, there are only a few months left. The Milton Historical Society is also planning activities.

**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 7:20PM.

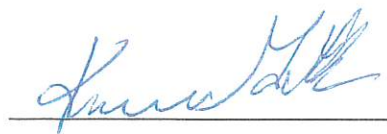
Given under our hands this 6 day of April, 2026.



Andy Rawson – Chairman BOS

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Matt Morrill - Board Member

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Karen Golab', is written over a horizontal line.

Karen Golab- Board Member

**END OF MINUTES – April 6, 2026**