



Town of Milton
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
April 20, 2026

ATTENDANCE:

Members: Andy Rawson, Karen Golab; Excused: Matt Morrill

Staff: Richard Krauss- Town Administrator, Bill Walden- DPW Director

Public: Humphrey Williams, 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. Humphrey Williams extended condolences to the family of Les Elder who recently passed away. He will be missed.
2. Larry Brown- Goodbye to fellow Library Trustee, Les Elder. NH rights of landowners and land use rights.

Announcements and Community Calendar:

1. Please help protect our lakes and drinking water by cleaning up your yard and pet waste.
2. National Prescription Drug Take Back Day will be on April 25, 2026 from 10-2PM at the Milton Police Department. Items accepted are: prescription medication pills, over-the-counter pills, pet prescription medications. Following items are not accepted: vapes, liquids, creams, intravenous solutions, IV bags, nebulizers, inhalers, thermometers, or sharps.
3. Milton Conservation Commission is offering a free Vernal Pool Walk with NH Fish & Game Wildlife Biologist Josh Mageysy on Saturday, April 25th from 10-12PM. Pre-registration for the walk is required.

NEW Business – Discussion and Possible Actions:

1. Department Head Reports:

Public Works- Director Bill Walden:

Gearing up for spring and summer. Mowing season has started. Will be hot patching various pavement areas.

Ms. Golab asked if there is a list of roads to work on? Mr. Walden- They will be looking at all the roads.

Ms. Golab asked regarding the trucks/plows not currently used that are at the DPW? Mr.

Walden- The plan is to do a spring auction.

Mr. Krauss said the Library Director will plan on presenting on a quarterly basis.

2. Approve amendment to Milton Facilities Use Policy: Mr. Krauss said due to a request last winter to use the Townhouse Building after it was closed and winterized, he added a line to the policy about requesting to use the building after it is closed. The line added "if the Board of Selectmen deems appropriate to reopen for an event- please note the old Townhouse is subject to additional fees for dewinterizing or winterizing during the off-season winter months."

Ms. Golab asked if the application included wording around cleaning bathrooms? Mr. Krauss said that information is included in the rules.

Ms. Golab motioned to approve amending the application. Seconded by Mr. Rawson. All were in favor; the motion was approved.

3. Rental Request for Townhouse Building: Mr. Krauss said the NH Farm Museum submitted a request for August 16th from 1-5PM for a lecture. They expect ~50 people to attend as part of Old Home Day and the 250th Anniversary.

Ms. Golab motioned to approve the rental and waive the \$30 fee. Seconded by Mr. Rawson. All were in favor; the motion was approved.

Mr. Rawson motioned to approve the Town Administrator signing the request. Seconded by Ms. Golab. All were in favor; the motion was approved.

4. Sewer Rate Change Preliminary Review: Mr. Krauss said the rate study in 2024 indicated the need to become more self-sufficient and undertake some of the capital projects. Up to 2025, the town collected less revenues than what was budgeted. In 2025, collections projection with the new rates was \$185,000; to-date just \$142,000 has been collected (Budget of \$161,000). There are still outstanding revenues to be received. There is some revenue going into the revolving account.

The rate study indicated rates should increase by 100% for two years (2025 and 2026). Mr. Krauss provided three scenarios for the rate design:

- 1.) low-end increase- \$234,000 (\$10.92 to \$13.82)
- 2.) middle-of-the-road increase- \$255,000 (\$10.92 to \$15.03)
- 3.) 100% increase- \$283,668 (\$10.92 to \$16.71)

The above is just volumetric.

Quarterly rate increases (based on pipe size):

- 1.) \$23.50 to \$29.73
- 2.) \$23.50 to \$32.32
- 3.) \$23.50 to \$35.95)

For the ten houses that use sewer only the rate increases (no meter on well): Quarterly fixed flat rate increases are-

- 1.) \$236 to \$299
- 2.) \$236 to \$325
- 3.) \$236 to \$361

The increases will help to get revenues back into the revolving account to cover capital costs. Currently owed to the town is ~\$39,000.

There are upcoming capital projects as advised and required last year by NHDES.

Mr. Rawson said he favors going with Scenario #2. This will be a big pill for homeowners. This will help move us in the right direction.

Mr. Krauss said even with the increase Milton is still one of the lowest sewer rate charges.

Ms. Golab said there should be a communication plan to help residents understand. It also maybe better to alternate years between the largest increase one year and middle-of-the-road increase the next year.

Mr. Krauss said the study showing all projections will be provided to the residents. He will finalize the numbers (based on Scenario #2- \$255,000) and have data ready for the next meeting. A public hearing will have to be scheduled. New rate changes will go into effect at start of the third quarter. He noted overall we are doing better, but still not covering the budget.

5. **Revival of Economic Development Committee- Selectmen Golab:** Ms. Golab noted commercial revenue is a big challenge to the town. With new residents coming to town, this may be a good time to see if there is interest in the EDC to help attract business to Milton. There is a challenge around the need to meld business into the Master Plan. She recommended the committee be considered "free-form" to allow for creativity. Milton does have a special niche for small businesses as compared to larger business on Rt. 11. There is opportunity.

Mr. Rawson agreed this could be a good opportunity to ask for volunteers. He recommended talking to Joe Kenney who could be a good proponent for this.

Mr. Williams said Joe Kenney was willing to talk to us. The previous EDC committee focused on Exits 17 & 18. There are possible rural grant opportunities to research.

Mr. Rawson acknowledged Milton has limited infrastructure. Ms. Golab said it's important to come up with ways to make it easier for existing small businesses and ways to bring others to town.

Mr. Krauss recommended having a charge document to help members understand the focus and overall direction of the committee.

Ms. Golab will work on developing a charge document.

6. **Creation of Citizens Committee- Selectmen Golab:** Ms. Golab said she has heard from many residents who are looking for ways to become involved in discussions on improving communication and community spirit. This committee could serve as a liaison between the town, residents and the Board. This would not be a complaint committee but rather focus on ideas to help solve problems by identifying issues and developing solutions.
- Mr. Rawson agreed that communication is always good along with transparency. Everyone wants to see improvements. He also said he does not want to focus on the negative but there are only two people from the public currently attending the meeting. He recommended just starting with the EDC.
- Ms. Golab said she will develop a charge document.

7. **Letter from Humphrey Williams interest to fill open Capital Improvement Committee Alternate position:** Mr. Krauss said the CIP should have two alternates from at-large. The charge document also recommends each Board have alternates. The School Board and Budget usually have alternates.

Mr. Williams sent an email expressing his interest in serving as an at-large alternate member. Currently Laura Turgeon and Sean Skillings serve as at-large members.

Mr. Rawson said Mr. Williams would be a huge asset to the committee. He noted anyone can attend a CIP meeting. This committee is very important to the town.

Ms. Golab- Motion to accept Humphrey Williams serving as at-large alternate to the Capital Improvement Program. Seconded by Mr. Rawson. All were in favor; the motion was approved.

Mr. Walden said one of his goals is to develop a plan for replacing the barn at the Transfer Station to present at next year's CIP.

Mr. Williams- It's also important to finalize the Facilities Study. The CIP should look at funding streams.

Mr. Krauss- Regarding the Facilities Study- they are working to finish the study based on feedback that was provided to them.

8. **Open Sealed bids for Cemetery Mowing:** Mr. Krauss said five bids were received for the upcoming mowing season of the cemetery.

- 1.) Morrill & Sons- \$11,200
- 2.) Christopher Pitts- \$12,600
- 3.) Freeman Spriggs- \$11,600
- 4.) Twisted Landscapes- \$11,400
- 5.) ASP Landscaping & Design- \$13,500

Mr. Walden said they all toured the cemetery before submitting their quote. Adding the fifth mowing does help to keep up with leaf collection.

Mr. Rawson noted this paid through perpetual care and not from taxes. He recommended continuing with Morrill & Sons as they have done a great job.

Ms. Golab motioned to accept the bid for cemetery mowing from Morrill & Sons for \$11,200. Seconded by Mr. Rawson. 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:** Update- should be live by end of May, 2026
- 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- Future review and plan creation.** Ms. Golab said the report should be available in May.
- F. **Energy Audit for Town Hall and Fire Station:** Update- Onsite reviews completed, report pending.

Dawson/Silver Streets intersection update: Mr. Krauss said this was from previous discussion around making this a 3-way stop or one-way road. The speed trailer (southbound) was out. Data showed 3,627 cars went through the intersection between April 8-April 15.

Data showed the following:

One car was traveling 46-50MPH; seven vehicles going 41-45MPH; 40 vehicles going 36-40MPH; 247 vehicles going 31-35MPH; all other vehicles traveling below 30MPH.

Less than 10% were going over the speed limit.

The majority of the cars traveled between 6-7PM with the highest volume at 7AM and 2PM.

The speed trailer was moved to the northbound.

Mr. Krauss said looking at all options show there will be issues with the buses' ability to make a turn. Mr. Rawson said he will try the following day to see what happens. Mr. Krauss said there is such a large volume of cars going through the intersection in the morning, if turning the intersection into a 3-way stop will cause increase in backups.

Mr. Rawson said there are speed tables at Dover HS which help slow down traffic. Is that an option for Milton? Mr. Krauss said that could be looked at to determine where best to install them in order to slow traffic.

Communications Received:

1. 25th Annual Strafford County Master Gardener Plant Sale on May 17 from 9-1PM at the Durham Town Hall, 8 Newmarket Rd, Durham.

Other Business That May Come Before the Board:

1. Request from Mr. Morrill to move back the meeting start time to 6:00PM, especially during the spring/summer months. Mr. Rawson agreed with changing the meeting time as it would be helpful for job requirements. In addition, one of the reasons for the move to 4:30 was to hopefully increase meeting attendance. He noted there was no increase in attendance.

Ms. Golab motioned to move the meeting start time to 6:00PM. Seconded by Mr. Rawson. All were in favor; the motion was approved.

Approval of Minutes:

Public Minutes:

April 6, 2026 Selectmen Meeting – Ms. Golab motioned to accept 4/6/2026 meeting minutes. Seconded by Mr. Rawson. All were in favor. The motion was accepted.

Public Comments Relative to Topics Previously Discussed:

There were no public comments.

Expenditure Report:

Mr. Krauss- There have been no major changes since the previous meeting. He plans on doing a deeper dive into the cash flow and expenditure reports.

Regarding Strafford County budget- while it looks like the delegation voted yes on the budget, they voted no on the raise & appropriate portion of the taxation. This means they have not told communities how much they are going to tax. They had also voted down the \$9M contract with ICE with Strafford County Jail. There has been no plan explaining how they will replace the \$9M in revenues. Mr. Krauss said this means they will have to lay off a large majority of their staff and each community will receive a higher tax bill to help close the gap. Milton can anticipate at least \$600,000-\$800,000 increase to the county tax bill (projected increase from \$1.6M to \$2.4M). It is crucial we have the tax rate set as early as possible in November to ensure tax bills are sent to get

payments in early December. Mr. Krauss will meet with the new school superintendent.

Town Administrator:

1. The next regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be May 4, 2026 at 6:00PM.
2. Sealed bids will be accepted for sealing the Fire Department's parking lot.

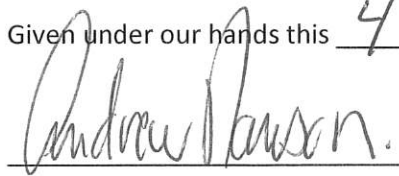
Selectmen Comments:

1. Mr. Rawson- It will be important to move forward with the facilities study. Mr. Krauss said the final report will come back to the Board for approval of the final document.

Adjournment:

Ms. Golab motioned to adjourn the public meeting. Mr. Rawson seconded the motion. All were in favor; the motion passed. The public meeting adjourned at 6:50PM.

Given under our hands this 4 day of May, 2026.



Andy Rawson – Chairman BOS

Matt Morrill - Board Member



Karen Golab- Board Member

END OF MINUTES – April 20, 2026