



Regular Meeting

Monday, January 5, 2026, 6:00 p.m.
Community Room, 43 Bombardier Road, Milton, VT 05468
In Person and/or Via Zoom

Selectboard Members Present: Michael Morgan, Vice Chair; Brenda Steady, Clerk; Leland Morgan, Member; Diane Barrows, Member

Selectboard Members Absent: Darren Adams, Chair

Staff Present: Chris Taylor, Town Manager; Brittany Tradup, Executive Assistant to the Town Manager; John Bartlett, HR and Operations Director; Amber N. Baker, Finance Director; Kyle Brouillette, Public Safety Director; Hannah Luman, Recreation Director (remote); Sean McCann, Rescue Chief

Others Present: Betsy Paret; Dakota LaFrance; Bonnie Whitlock; Lonnie Poland (remote); Shannon Gunderson (remote); Joseph Duquette (remote); "Mike M" (remote)

I. Call to Order

M. Morgan called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

II. Flag Salute

M. Morgan led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Agenda Review

- A discussion regarding the Town's ambulance situation and remedy was added before the Consent Agenda.
- A discussion regarding Personnel was added under a necessary Executive Session before the FY27 Budget Discussion.

IV. Public Forum

None.

V. Discussion Regarding Ambulance Situation and Warrant Item

Sean McCann, Rescue Chief

Town Manager Chris Taylor and Rescue Chief Sean McCann presented information on ongoing ambulance issues, specifically noting that one ambulance (A1) is out of service due to engine failure.

S. McCann further noted that repairing A1 with a new engine would cost over \$30,000, and the unit has an old chassis. The Town is awaiting a new ambulance purchased over two years ago, now expected by September 2026. The Town of Barre has offered to sell a used 2008 Ford F-450 diesel, 4-wheel drive ambulance with 129,000 miles at a very reasonable price. The purchase of the used ambulance,

including necessary work, is expected to be under \$10,000. The unit requires minor work (rear brakes, minor oil leak), which will take an estimated one to three weeks to complete along with stickering and radio installation. The vehicle will serve as a temporary backup to A2. The Selectboard was informed of this situation as the purchase was included in Warrant #14.

VI. Consent Agenda

- **Approval of Selectboard Meeting Minutes of 12.15.2025**
- **Approval of Warrant #14**

Motion made by L. Morgan to approve the Consent Agenda, including the Selectboard Meeting Minutes of December 15, 2025, and the approval of Warrant #14, with a second by B. Steady. B. Steady inquired about thousands of dollars being returned to local people for permits issued between 2021 and 2023. Town staff clarified this represents the remainder of funds held as a surety for legal services related to construction or development permits, which are now being cleared from the Town's books. **Motion approved unanimously.**

VII. Appoint Bonnie Whitlock to Conservation Commission

4-year term expiring 6/30/2029

B. Whitlock introduced herself, noting she has lived in Milton for 2.5 years. She seeks to volunteer on the Conservation Commission due to her background in biology and ecology.

Motion made by B. Steady to appoint Bonnie Whitlock to the Conservation Commission for a 4-year term expiring June 30, 2029, with a second by D. Barrows. Motion approved unanimously.

VIII. Approval of MS4 Stormwater Consulting Services Contract

Chris Taylor, Town Manager

C. Taylor requested approval, as per the following resolution, for a contract with Krebs & Lansing Consulting Engineers to assist with the preparation and submission of the Town's 2025 MS4 Annual Stormwater Report. The firm was recommended because they are already involved in the Town's stormwater projects and possess historical information. The contract is a time and materials agreement.

Approval of MS4 Stormwater Consulting Services Contract

WHEREAS, the Administrative Code Purchasing Policy duly adopted by the Selectboard of the Town of Milton and amended October 5, 2020, requires Selectboard approval for purchases over \$15,000; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Milton must meet ongoing obligations under its Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) General Permit, including preparation and submission of the 2025 MS4 Annual Stormwater Report due by April 1, 2026; and

WHEREAS, Krebs & Lansing Consulting Engineers have submitted a proposal dated December 22, 2025, to provide MS4 stormwater consulting services in an estimated amount of \$15,000, on a time and materials basis, including document review, permit compliance review, BMP tracking updates, stormwater mapping review, and preparation of the 2025 MS4 Annual Report; and

WHEREAS, Krebs & Lansing Consulting Engineers are currently under contract with the Town for planning, design, and construction oversight of stormwater projects associated with the Town's Phosphorus Control Plan, with work funded through the Vermont Clean Water Initiative Program and required to be completed by September 2026; and

WHEREAS, that ongoing contract provides Krebs & Lansing Consulting Engineers with direct involvement in and institutional knowledge of the Town's MS4 stormwater infrastructure, phosphorus reduction

strategies, and regulatory commitments, allowing them to efficiently expedite and facilitate MS4 reporting and ensure consistency with other MS4 and Clean Water obligations; and

WHEREAS, due to this unique continuity, technical familiarity, and prior award, the Selectboard finds that awarding this work as a sole source contract is in the best interest of the Town.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Selectboard authorizes the Town Manager or their designee to execute the necessary documents to award Krebs & Lansing Consulting Engineers a contract for MS4 Stormwater Consulting Services, for the preparation and submission of the 2025 MS4 Annual Stormwater Report and other mandatory MS4 obligations as listed above, in an amount not to exceed \$15,000 to be paid out of the Stormwater Utility fund.

Motion made by L. Morgan to authorize the Town Manager or his designee to execute the necessary documents to award Krebs & Lansing Consulting Engineers a contract for MS4 Storm Water Consulting Services, for the preparation and submission of the 2025 MS4 Annual Storm Water Report and other mandatory MS4 obligations, in an amount not to exceed \$15,000, to be paid out of the Storm Water Utility fund, with a second by D. Barrows. Motion approved unanimously.

IX. Personnel Recognition for Years of Service to the Town

Chris Taylor, Town Manager

C. Taylor publicly recognized staff members who reached milestone anniversaries in 2025, as per the following memo:

The Town of Milton is grateful to have assembled a dedicated team of individuals who do a remarkable job of serving our community in their various roles. On behalf of the Town of Milton, we would like to take this opportunity to publicly recognize a group of Town employees who reached milestone anniversaries in 2025.

- William Bosworth – 25 years
- MaryBeth Peterson – 25 years
- Jason Porter – 20 years
- Tracey Noel – 15 years
- Frank Scalise – 15 years
- John Gifford – 10 years
- Lorraine Kelm – 10 years
- Matthew McQueen – 10 years
- Keith Spaulding – 10 years

The many years of service these individuals have contributed are a true testimony to their dedication to the community. We would like to thank them for their contributions to the Town of Milton.

X. Executive Session

Motion made by B. Steady to find that premature knowledge about Personnel would cause the Town or person to suffer a substantial disadvantage. Second by L. Morgan. Motion approved unanimously.

Motion made by B. Steady to enter into executive session at 6:30 p.m. to discuss Personnel under the provisions of 1 VSA 313 (a)(1) of the Vermont Statutes; to include the following; Selectboard members: D. Adams, M. Morgan, B. Steady, D. Barrows and L. Morgan; Town Manager, C. Taylor; Director of Finance A. Baker. Second by L. Morgan. Motion approved unanimously.

Motion made by L. Morgan to close executive session at 7:01 p.m., with a second by D. Barrows.

Motion approved unanimously.

No action was taken as a result of the Executive Session.

XI. FY27 Budget Discussion and Possible Vote to Approve

During budget presentations, the Selectboard reserves the right to review, discuss and consider any and all aspects of the municipal budget, including both general and specific budget categories, line items, and the municipal budget as a whole and in its entirety.

C. Taylor and A. Baker presented the revised FY27 Town budget, with the following notes:

- The budget was initially at 15.9% increase during early discussions, but significant cuts have been made over the last several weeks across all departments.
- The current proposed budget reflects a 4.2% overall increase in funds raised by taxes in the Town budget, with an estimated annual property tax increase (Town portion only) of \$33.27 per year on a \$350,000 home.
- The reduction of the fund balance was changed to \$625,000.
- Contractual obligations, including healthcare and the first full payment for the new Public Works Facility, were cited as major cost drivers.
- The general contingency line item, which was previously removed, was reinserted at a compromise amount of \$15,000 (down from \$30,000) due to necessary overtime and salt expenditures caused by the hard winter.

Motion made by B. Steady to approve the budget for the Fiscal Year 2027 in the amount of \$12,104,106 of which it is estimated that \$8,192,390 will be raised by local property taxes, with a second by L. Morgan. Motion approved unanimously.

XII. Update from Town Manager and Board Members

Chris Taylor, Town Manager

C. Taylor presented the following updates:

- Sergeant Paul Locke retired on December 29, 2025, after 27 years of dedicated service to the Milton Police Department. A walk-out ceremony was held, with representation from other agencies around the state.
- The Request for Proposals (RFP) for the multi-generational recreation facility received no responses on the intended path. Staff will revamp the RFP and strategize a path forward.
- An RFP for the Town-wide appraisal will be issued on January 12, 2026, with responses due by January 23, to begin the process the next reappraisal, currently planned for 2030.
- A special meeting is needed on March 23, 2026, for the Selectboard to hold one of two hearings required for the Town Plan, which is currently under review by the Planning Commission and Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission.
- A public informational budget meeting, which will include the School Board, is going to be planned for the first week of February to inform residents prior to the start of early voting.
- A discussion regarding placing a Local Option Tax on the ballot must occur at the January 20 meeting, which is the deadline for making a decision on ballot articles. The tax could generate an estimated \$550,000 annually, potentially dedicated to infrastructure and facilities in the capital improvement plan.
- An article will be presented on the Town Meeting ballot to change property tax collection from the "mailbox rule" (postmark date) to "in hand" receipt by the deadline, primarily due to unreliable USPS postmarks.

B. Steady made a public comment clarifying her previous statement regarding residents "starving," stating she should have used the word "struggling" instead.

XIII. Adjournment

**Motion made by L. Morgan to adjourn the meeting at 7:32 p.m., with a second by B. Steady.
Motion approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned by M. Morgan.**

All documents pertaining to this meeting may be viewed using the following link:

https://miltonvt.sharepoint.com/:f:/s/TownOfMiltonFilesFolders/IgA_C6uu04p2RjRDHsCRByNIAUGbM8tZPYrG4Akp6dOLgH4?e=x0Kir4

A video recording of this meeting can be found at the following location:

<https://miltonvt.sharepoint.com/:v:/s/TownOfMiltonFilesFolders/IQBKGKx-owPBeS5NG-fR3yjdjQAQPMK70oaTShGgDp7avutPQ?e=fzVL6j>

Minutes recorded and submitted by Brittany Tradup, Executive Assistant to the Town Manager

APPROVED
MINUTES:

Brenda Steady, Clerk

Date

ATTEST:

Milton Town Clerk

Filed this day with the Milton
Town Clerk's Office.