



Special Meeting (Includes Joint Discussion with the Milton Town School Board)

Monday, August 31, 2026, 6:00 p.m.

Community Room, 43 Bombardier Road, Milton, VT 05468

In Person and/or Via Zoom at:

Selectboard Members Present: Darren Adams, Chair; Diane Barrows, Clerk; Leland Morgan, Member; Betsy Paret, Member

Selectboard Members Absent: Michael Morgan, Vice Chair

Town Staff Present: Chris Taylor, Town Manager; Amber N. Baker, Deputy Town Manager and Finance Director; Brittany Tradup, Executive Assistant to the Town Manager

School Board Members Present: Karen Stout, Chair; Jeremy Metcalf, Vice-Chair; Lindsay Lott, Clerk; Melinda Young; Nick DeVita (remote)

School Staff Present: Amy Rex, Superintendent

Others Present: Joseph Duquette (remote); Reed Nye (remote)

I. Call to Order

D. Adams called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

II. Flag Salute

D. Adams led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Agenda Review

No changes.

IV. Joint Discussion with Milton Town School Board

A. Introductions

Members of both boards and administrative staff introduced themselves..

B. Discussion

Act 170 – School Mergers

Superintendent A. Rex provided an overview of Act 170. She clarified that two simultaneous groups are being formed: District Merger Committees (to study and potentially recommend creating larger, unified school districts) and Cooperatives of Educational Service Areas, or CESAs, (loosely aligned

cooperatives of independent districts that work together to purchase shared services or operate specialized schools).

- **District Merger Study Committees:** Participation is mandatory in good faith. Milton has been assigned to Group 19 with Colchester School District and Grand Isle Supervisory Union. N. DeVita is the designated School Board representative to the study committee. The first meeting must be held by October 15, 2026.
- **CESAs:** Loosely aligned cooperatives of independent districts that work together to purchase shared services or operate specialized schools. Participation is voluntary. Milton belongs to the Champlain Valley North CESA (along with Grand Isle Supervisory Union, Maple Run, Missisquoi Valley, Franklin Northeast, and Franklin West). The CESA had its first meeting in early August, with the next scheduled later this week to work on bylaws and asset mapping.

Discussion followed regarding the timeline. Legacy debt was also discussed, with State aid potentially covering up to 75%, though details remain unconfirmed.

Charter Review

D. Adams introduced the discussion on the Town Charter, noting the last amendments were approved in 2022, and best practice is to review it every five years. The Selectboard's objective for their first meeting in September is to decide whether to form a traditional Charter Review Committee or collaborate internally board-to-board. He noted that either path will lead to a series of public hearings for proposed changes before they are included on the March ballot. Some potential recommended changes have already been identified. Those and any other recommended changes must be submitted to the Selectboard by late November to make the March ballot.

Budget Process

Town Manager C. Taylor presented a conceptual timeline for the FY28 budget process. A high-level budget outlook focusing on predicted needs and tax impacts will be brought to the Selectboard in October. The Selectboard and School Board will plan to meet in November and hold a joint budget meeting in January 2027.

Taylor also initiated discussion on utilizing impact fees to mitigate development costs. The school district has not historically utilized impact fees because development has primarily kept enrollment from shrinking rather than expanding it.

Collaborative Data Review

The boards discussed data sharing, agreeing that the Town will share Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) packets with the school district. C. Taylor shared demographic projections from Census data that were highlighted in the Town's Age Friendly Action Plan. A demographic "tipping point" is projected in Milton for 2029, where the population of residents aged 65 and over will exceed the population of residents aged 18 and under.

Housing statistics for the last five years were shared, showing that in 2025, 9 single-family homes and 14 multi-family units were built and occupied. Discussion touched on relaxing ADU regulations to support caregiving and analyzing the origins of 20 new student enrollments in the last two weeks of summer.

E-bikes / E-motos

The boards reviewed the collaborative safety campaign with the School District, Town, and Police Department, noting an apparent reduction in students riding unpermitted high-speed e-motos on sidewalks and school grounds.

Reappraisal Schedule

C. Taylor updated the boards on plans for the next reappraisal. In 2025, the Selectboard authorized a contract with NEMRC to complete a Town-wide reappraisal by 2030. Door-to-door inspections will begin in 2028 and will take two years. Discussion touched on the shifting tax burden onto homeowners due to commercial property and utility values not rising as quickly.

Town Plan for Development

C. Taylor updated the boards on development projects. The Hourglass project is on track to be largely complete in October 2026, with final details wrapped up in December. The Town will issue an RFP to solicit developer proposals for the 4-acre Town-owned parcel in the downtown core for mixed-use development. D. Adams noted the wastewater treatment plant remains underutilized, and the Town is planning a new water tank or tank expansion.

C. Public Forum

No comments were made by members of the public.

The joint discussion concluded at 7:21 p.m..

V. Five-Minute Recess

The Selectboard took a short recess as the School Board members and administrative staff departed. The Selectboard reconvened at 7:22 p.m..

VI. Approval of Warrant #AP-05

D. Barrows noted that she reviewed the warrant and her questions were addressed prior to the meeting by A. Baker and C. Taylor.

Motion made by B. Paret to approve Warrant #AP-05, with a second by L. Morgan. Motion approved unanimously.

VII. Update from Town Manager and Board Members

Chris Taylor provided the following updates:

- The roof and side walls of the salt shed are fully up. Electrical work is underway and will finish this week, with paving inside next week. A formal ribbon-cutting ceremony is planned for Monday, September 21, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. (prior to the Selectboard meeting, which will begin at 6:30 p.m.).
- The new electronic timekeeping system is scheduled to go live on September 6, 2026, running in parallel with the paper system temporarily. Taylor thanked the Finance Department, Amber Baker, HR, and everyone else who has worked to implement the new system.
- The next regular Selectboard meeting will be shifted to Tuesday, September 8, 2026, due to the Labor Day holiday on September 7. Other upcoming conflicts due to holidays will be addressed at the next meeting.

There was a discussion about planning a ribbon cutting for the Hourglass Project in October, in anticipation of completed construction, which should conclude in December).

VIII. Executive Session – HR

Motion made by D. Barrows to find that premature knowledge about HR would cause the Town or person to suffer a substantial disadvantage. Second by L. Morgan at 7:31 p.m. Motion approved unanimously.

Motion made by D. Barrows to enter into executive session at 7:32 p.m. to discuss the appointment or employment or evaluation of a public officer or employee under the provisions of 1 VSA 313 (a)(3) of the Vermont Statutes; to include the following; Selectboard members: D. Adams, D. Barrows, L. Morgan and B. Paret; Town Manager, C. Taylor; Deputy Town Manager & Finance Director Amber Baker. Second by B. Paret. Motion approved unanimously.

Motion made by L. Morgan to close executive session at 8:11 p.m., with a second by B. Paret. Motion approved unanimously.

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

IX. Adjournment

Motion made by L. Morgan to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 p.m., with a second by D. Barrows. Motion approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned by D. Adams.

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

<https://miltonvt.sharepoint.com/:f:/s/TownOfMiltonFilesFolders/IgByGUZPMkBTQKC-vU31NFWZAYvb99FTINQEnnx4o86maj4?e=98sNae>

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

<https://miltonvt.sharepoint.com/:v:/s/TownOfMiltonFilesFolders/IQBWiD2UNnIGRJ8T9NagMrzjAdu3VPsqA2GZqLZYXGvofBY?e=IMtV7N>

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

APPROVED
MINUTES:

Diane Barrows, Selectboard Clerk

Date

ATTEST:

Milton Town Clerk

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