

**MILTON TOWN COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING
MILTON THEATRE, 110 UNION STREET
MONDAY, AUGUST 19, 2008, 6:30 P.M.**

1. Call to Order – Vice-Mayor Betts at 6:38 PM
2. Moment of Silence – Vice-Mayor Betts
3. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was said by all in attendance.
4. Roll Call Vote: C Martin-Brown “present”; C Duby, “present”; C Hudson, “present”; C Prettyman, arrived late; C Abraham, absent; Vice-Mayor Betts, “present”; Mayor Don Post, absent
5. Vice Mayor Betts: Thanked everyone for attending. “Before we get started hearing comments, I would like to remind everyone to please come forward to the microphone; state your name and address. All comments should be given in a professional manner and kept within a 3-5 minute time period. If you agree with anyone that has spoken prior to you, please simply state that you agree with the other party. Your questions will be monitored by the staff and if the answer is not immediately available, we will get back to you with the answer. The Council will give all comments full consideration which will be addressed at our next Workshop on Wednesday, August 27, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. at the Mariner’s Middle School off of Route 5.”

Cliff Newlands, Oysterman Drive, Wagamon’s West Shore, Milton. I think the budget is about \$334,000 in deficit, not \$261,000. Suggesting you take another \$5,000 from the overtime. Temporary Labor: I think with 24 employees, I don’t think you need any temporary labor; Insurance: I think that employees should start paying at least 25% of their insurance; Parks: you have \$85,000 in park spending. We’ve yet to see the playground and gazebo changed and that was supposed to be done before the 200th anniversary. That’s going to be done soon, so I think we can wait another year for any additional park enhancements. Lawnmower: I think if we’ve been doing without a lawnmower, we can do another year without it for \$15,000. Chlorine expense: I think it is a mistake in the budget. It’s always been \$5,000 for the last few years. It’s listed as \$10,000, all of a sudden; I think that may just be an error of \$5,000. George Dickerson: I was simply going to state that Allen Atkins informed me that the prices of chlorine have doubled. That’s the reason for the increase. Cliff Newlands: Okay, then that’s my mistake. Postage: listed as \$22,400 for the year; the actual since mid-June was \$13,000, so I think if you reduce that by \$9,000, you should be doing pretty well on that. Radio Meters: just to cut costs; the cut in maintenance and to cut labor, hold that off for another year. Supplies: The actual in June was about \$29,000, so you take about \$10,000 off and that will save some more money. Donations: for some reason donations was set up as \$17,000 in the previous budget, and all of a sudden in May it became \$32,000. I don’t know where these other donations are going to. Nothing was detailed in the May presentation, so right there, that’s another \$15,000. I think you can get down to at least out of the \$334,000 in deficit; you can get down to at least \$250,000, somewhere around there with these proposals. Thank you.

Norman Lester, 111 Morgan Way, Milton: Health insurance payments: two options in the budget, 25% and a 50% solution. Impact fees and water fees: last year it was \$82,000 in the budget; this year it jumped to \$116,000 of revenue. Disconnect fees: last year were

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budgeted at \$500 of income – collected zero. This year there's \$5,000 in the budget to be collected. C DUBY: What was the last fee you were talking about that went from \$500 to \$5,000? NORMAN LESTER: It was the line item for disconnect fee. I see the police fines are down pretty dramatically. I certainly hope given the problems on the last police report that means we're going to have more patrols and fewer speed traps. Then there was the administrative and code consulting fees: there's a pretty big increase in dollars, and it was zero in last year's budget. Printing & Postage: I don't know if my friend, Cliff, mentioned this, but last year for the water department there was \$1,000 budgeted; \$92 spent; and this year you guys are going to spend \$14,000 on Printing & Postage. Salaries are going to have to be carefully reviewed, very carefully reviewed. There are things in there – it is very difficult to read this budget, because there are some items that we: obviously the payroll, we can't get into those details. There are some tax implications on the take home cars. There's one item that I think obfuscates the fact that there is a \$5,000 miscellaneous operating expense which is apparently the Town Manager's fund. Of that fund, \$3,000 was spent last year at Irish Eyes. Thank you.

RALPH ANDERSON, 532 Union Street, Milton: I got a big problem with the take home vehicles. I don't know who votes on it or when you voted to give everybody, it seems, that works for Milton a vehicle to drive home. VICE MAYOR BETTS: Does anyone else wish to comment?

JOHN COLLIER, 301 Coulter Street, Milton. I thank you for this opportunity to speak. I think that the Town Manager and his budget have defined what is essential, and what is not; and I would like to see the Town adhere to that. Something nobody has addressed yet and I'm kind of concerned about it, I notice that we're taking a 68% increase in water fees. The water department has always carried its own weight. Now you're going to put the burden on them to carry where other departments can't make ends meet. I noticed in the budget there was a line for mileage and I'm wondering with all the municipal vehicles we own, why would anybody ever need to be reimbursed for mileage, particularly if you're going to park some of them? We pay somebody to process payrolls. I'm just wondering with all the employees we have in the administrative office, if we couldn't absorb some of that cost by training someone within house to take care of that; that would be \$5,000 realized. The other thing that I would like to make a comment about, I noticed in the budget that there is a preparation of comparisons of salaries. I think that's all well and good, but I think if you're going to truly and honestly evaluate what employees get here; you have to include everything; and that would be the considerations for health insurance and so on and so forth. There's a total compensation factor and I think what you'll find when you add that in on top of their salaries, that Milton has some of the better paid people in the County. And, finally, the only other thing I would offer; I would like to see the Council return their Council salary for the year. That \$7,500 you budgeted would certainly be a nice little knock off the top, because I'm sure none of you took this job for the money. Thank you. VICE MAYOR BETTS: Let the record show that C Prettyman has arrived.

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Michaela Kafaro, 608 Union Street. I want to say thank you to the Council. I hope your \$7,500, whatever you're spending it for, I'm sure it's necessary. So thank you for your work.

Vice-Mayor Betts: Do I see any other hands that would like to speak? At this time, I would like to hear a motion to close the public hearing. Do I hear a motion? C Martin-Brown: I make a motion to close the public hearing. C Prettyman: Second. Vice-Mayor Betts: All in favor. So ordered. The public hearing is closed at 6:55 p.m. and I would like to advise anyone that's interested, that the mosquito control unit will be spraying within the town limits this evening. Thank you all for coming. We really appreciate it. All comments will be taken into full consideration. C Duby: Madame Chair, can I just ask a question, probably of Mr. Dickerson? Is there any other way in which the public can comment on the budget? Are we taking written comments at all? George Dickerson: The procedure normally followed, this was the public's opportunity to speak with regard to budget issues. Vice-Mayor Betts: Remember, there is another Workshop on Wednesday, August 27, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. at the Mariner's Middle School out on Route 5 and I would encourage you all to attend.

Norman Lester: Will we be permitted to speak at that? Vice Mayor Betts: The public is not permitted to speak at the workshop. Norman Lester: When will they address the gentlemen that asked the questions tonight? Vice Mayor Betts: They will address each and every comment that was made and there will be a Workshop for all of us to go over and decide what we're going to do for the proposed budget. Norman Lester: We will not have any input at that meeting? Vice-Mayor Betts: No. This is your input, tonight; if you would like to give it, Norman. Norman Lester: Norman Lester, again. Three minutes is probably unreasonable. What I would do is go down every budget item. There's a tremendous amount that needs to be discussed and the Town needs to know what these items are. If you read the budget, so many things have been moved from department to department, that the average person reading it, it is very difficult to find what the town is really spending. It's a three-card Monty, so next time, I would suggest the Town set up a meeting, even if you call it in the morning someday or late in the afternoon and you will have to allocate several hours to give everybody reasonable time to discuss the budget. Vice-Mayor Betts: This is the public hearing and you're welcome to speak. Norman Lester: It may be the public hearing, but you said everybody had 3-5 minutes. Vice-Mayor Betts: I'm sure I would not have cut you off. Norman Lester: We could spend 3 or 4 hours here going through this thing. Vice-Mayor Betts: The problem is, if we had everyone speak, it would take quite a long time at 5 minutes each. So, if you want to speak longer, you're welcome to come up and address this again. Norman Lester: Then let me get up now. C Martin-Brown: You can come again before the next Town Council meeting. Vice-Mayor Betts: I will answer this gentlemen's question.

Vice-Mayor Betts: Does the Council want to reopen it? C Duby: If we have people who want to speak, I think we should. Vice-Mayor Betts: Okay, that's what I'm saying. Give me a motion to reopen it. C Duby: Madame Chair, I move that we reopen the public hearing at this time. C Martin-Brown: Second. C Duby: Excuse me. Just for Parliamentary Procedure, we need to vote. Vice-Mayor Betts: I said all in favor and no one said anything. C Duby: Oh, I didn't hear you say it. Vice Mayor Betts: All in favor. Aye. The public hearing was reopened at 6:58 p.m.

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Roy Tersey: 212 West Shore Drive in Milton. Due to the brevity of the possibility of the public speaking this evening and this is our last capability of saying anything about the budget, I strongly suggest that whoever brought information forward to the committee tonight, put some response available to the people of the Town of Milton. Whether that be via Internet or written documentation or something, I think the Internet is probably the best thing and there were specific items addressed. I think the group needs to address those specific items. Vice Mayor Betts: We intend to. Roy Tersey: Okay, but we need to have that before the next meeting, so if we can make written comments to the Town Council with respect to what we feel are issues that have not been addressed properly. C Martin-Brown: Madame Chair, I had hoped in the July line by line presentation of the budget, in July, and it being on the web, that many of you would come with interventions on each and every single line that you wanted to have us specifically reconsider or to amplify or to decrease or to eliminate. I must express that I'm very surprised that the detailed presentation you made, which was so helpful tonight, was just one or two. I expected 10, 20, 30 or 40 pieces of paper from people with different line items on them saying we don't agree with this; we don't like that. We've gotten some very good specific areas to address, but I'm surprised. I told my husband to put the midnight candle out, that I expected a lot coming back, because the presentation on the stage at the July meeting was transparent to the point of almost tedium. Between now and our own Workshop, anything in writing or by email or anything else that anybody might want to put on the table for us; because the more we do hear, the better. Roy Tersey: Agree. I did look at the website for specific budget items and it was cumbersome, at best. Personally, I don't want to see any tax increases, so you can take numbers 1 to 5 and you can cross that one off; because I think you'll have more of an issue than you can deal with. It's your job to review the line items and you question what's been out there and what's been presented; not only us, but you. C Martin-Brown: I would just like to respond that that is what will happen in the Workshop coming up and that was what went on in the previous Workshop on the budget, the line by line looking by us. Vice Mayor Betts: Each comment will be addressed fully by the Council. Roy Tersey: I think that's the appropriate thing to do and then post it on the website so we can look at it.

Cliff Newlands: Ms. Brown, in the July meeting it was very, very difficult to go over a proposed budget; not having looked at all the prior budgets. There was a May updated budget that Mr. Dickerson gave; there was the previous budget that was done last September and prior to that in August of last year. It's very difficult to just see one number coming up for this year. I spent three days keying in the September 2007 budget for this year; and the May budget; and this new budget, just to do comparisons; just to create that little reply that I did. It's very difficult just to see one set of numbers going forward, so it's hard for us to sit and make comments without having a lot of material in front of us. Thank you.

Norman Lester: Gathering some of this information and some of it I had to go through the FOIA act because it's in the detail, the budget, and year-to-date comparisons were not on the website. I don't know if that's deliberate or not, but I did put in a request for the most recent year-to-date budget. I received the expenses; they didn't give me the revenue

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because I was told I didn't ask for it. It's been difficult to get all this information together, but I think a group of us could get together and if you want it in writing, we can go detail by detail, line by line, and give it to you and I don't know what's best. Who do we get it to so we know that you get it; because things sometimes have a tendency to get lost in Town Hall? Vice Mayor Betts: I think that if you take it to Town Hall, and give a date for us to have it, I'm sure they will give it to us. C Duby: Norm, before you sit down. When you talk about line by line items you have concerns about, I'm just curious to ask you about the types of concerns you have? Are you talking about things that you think are errors in the budget or are you talking about, for example, Mr. Newlands things, he gives us a number of suggestions that he believes we could cut. And in some cases, there are things that it sounds like he believes and I certainly am going to go back and check every one of them too, but he believes that there's been what looks like a huge increase that doesn't make sense. Norman Lester: All of the above. Some we don't know until we ask the question; and getting the answers is not always easy. Last year you have a small budget item like the water meter revenue, \$500. You collect \$92. How did you come up with \$5,000 of fees to be collected this year. Vice-Mayor Betts: Mr. Lester, at the last workshop we did go line by line. Norman Lester: Which last workshop? Vice-Mayor Betts: The last workshop that we had on July 28th, we went line by line. Norman Lester: When the budget was presented at the last Council meeting, you put it on the overhead and you go bump, bump, bump, bump; and you're done. I would recommend, not because I was on that Finance Committee, maybe next time there is a new Mayor, consideration should be given to a Finance Committee, because it was oversight; it was somebody to talk to; and, I will say this through Jack Bushey's administration, I think that we were listened to. That's a recommendation. C Duby: Have you looked at the finances of that administration as evidence of that, or is it just because you felt listened to? Norman Lester: I don't know that the finances were any better or worse. From what I've been told, by the prior Treasurer, the finances were in a shamble; the books were in a shamble. This Town had audits.

Cliff Newlands: I would just like to submit to you the year over year budget that I did, the comparison, and I only have the one copy with me, but I will email Mr. Dickerson the Excel spreadsheet that this is on. Vice-Mayor Betts: Then Mr. Dickerson can give each of us a copy. Thank you.

Vice-Mayor Betts: Do we have anyone else that would like to speak at this time? C Hudson: I would just like to say that just speaking for myself, I have made an effort to listen, because the last time we voted to approve a budget, I sat here and said no; we're spending too much money. I will say it again; we're spending too much money. I will look at this carefully. Thank you for coming. Vice-Mayor Betts: Does any other Council member have anything to say? C Martin-Brown: Madame Chair, what I would like to do for the people, this is not about the numbers; this is about the presentation of the budget to the Council meeting heretofore. I did want to show that we do have the expenses and the revenues, just to help clarify the information that members of the Council, at least, receive. Thank you, Madame Chair. Vice-Mayor Betts: And I want to thank everyone for coming and I would encourage any one of you, in the coming week, give any written comments to the Council. C Duby: Madame Chair, I would like to just say one thing. I'm a little concerned at sort of what seems to me to be the tone of this room. I think all of us are

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going into this with the same thought that you all have; which is that we don't want the Town to spend too much money; we don't want the Town to waste its money; we know that you and the other citizens of Milton expect certain services; and, we know those have to be provided; and, I don't think there is any deliberate attempt on the part of anybody to get rich off of either serving as an elected or appointed official, or serving as a staff person for the Town of Milton. I would think that at least a few more of you might be willing to say, you know what, I think we shouldn't be spending money on X and giving us that kind of input as Ms. Martin-Brown said. We would like to hear what people think our priorities should be and I would much rather hear it here than see a bunch of nasty letters about it in the Cape Gazette criticizing us for what we've done after the fact. This is the opportunity, so please let us know, so that when we meet next at this Workshop, we can hash some of this out and give you information back, in terms of what you've asked of us; and hopefully by the time we take the vote, we will take it with your concerns being considered. Vice-Mayor Betts: Mr. Anderson, we have one and then I'll call on you.

Roy Tersey: The way I see it, you're going to have a meeting and then you're going to vote on the budget. You're not going to get back to the Town's people, until after you vote on it. Why do you have to vote on it, right away? Why can't you do that in October? I'm just asking, because I don't know. C DUBY: We're bound by our charter to pass the budget by the end of September. Roy Tersey: So why don't you have a meeting in the middle of September, but why don't you get back to the town people? C DUBY: Are you saying that you want answers to questions before we take the vote or are you saying you want more information? Roy Tersey: No, I would like to see the finalized budget; the one that you're going to vote on. C DUBY: It's my understanding that it will be up on the website. Roy Tersey: Have you looked at the budget on the Internet? C DUBY: No. Roy Tersey: It's sideways. You can't read it. C Martin-Brown: You have to print it off to read it. Roy Tersey: I went down to the Town office three times before I finally got it to come up. But when I went to where the numbers are its sideways. C DUBY: Can we do something about that? George Dickerson: It's a simple computer landscaping issue, that's all. C DUBY: Can we let people know how they can fix it? George Dickerson: Most people know how.

Bob Heinrich: 121 Wagamon's Boulevard, Milton. It should be posted the right way. I think there are a lot of people here who know what some people are going to say and they're supporting those people; and we're here to support them. C Martin-Brown: You will be pleased to know that reassessment is in that budget. The public can come before the next Council meeting, in the public participation session; and, if they so choose, again, speak to the budget issue.

Robert Byorick: 232 West Shore Drive in Milton 68% increase in the water, it seems that because we are getting less in the real estate taxes this year, we have to find another way to increase our income; and, that seems to be a point that stuck out with me, when I went through the budget. How much money we are spending on the phones. In the last job I had, we looked at our phone bills and there is this day a lot of competition; even Internet phone usage for the land lines that they have; you could probably bring that down quite a bit. But as for me, looking at the budget; I was here when you did the presentation and

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you went through line by line, or as best you could with the presentation here; and I did go back to the Internet; I did look at the Internet and I saw the budget there; and yes, some of the pages are sideways, but all you had to do was turn it so you could see them that way; and go through the each page that was sideways. I know you're between a rock and a hard place; the other option is raising taxes; which nobody would like to see, if that was the case; but, for me, I irrigate my property and I know the water taxes going up would affect me, so that's one thing I wanted to bring up. Thank you.

Norman Lester: When you ask if people have looked at the budget, there are a lot of us that have access to computers. But then there are a lot of people in Town that don't have access to computers; and if they did, they wouldn't even know how to use them. Before this process started, I sent an email to the Mayor and I said, for those people that don't have access, we should make the budget available. Vice Mayor Betts: It is available at the Town Hall. Norman Lester: For them to look at. I mean, not everybody, which may bring up another issue, if I can talk about the Town Hall; because that affects how much money we spent last year. But not everybody can get into Town Hall. C Martin-Brown: Mr. Lester, would you see it constructive to make 3 physical copies available in a notebook, each in a different notebook, available at the Town library? In other words, you can't take it out, but you have 2 or 3 reading copies. Norman Lester: Yes, I think that would be helpful. C Martin-Brown: I don't think we should get bogged down in how we stop hurting each other, but how we can start helping each other. And, I think there is a consensus that nobody wants taxes to go up, for any reason, and we're looking at a really weird, volatile housing marketplace, where everybody is wondering what their house is worth. The reassessment should be very interesting. There needs to be more attendance at our working sessions, when the Council's talking about these things. You see who says what and where they come down on it. Norman Lester: But we're not allowed to speak. C Martin-Brown: This is your night. Norman Lester: I understand that, but, you as a Council are going to discuss the line items. And if there is something an individual in the audience thinks should be increased; maybe we should spend more money on X and less on Y; it's too late. There's nothing we can do about it. C Prettyman: Excuse me, Mr. Lester. At the September 8th meeting there will be a public hearing and at that time, you can address that, because the budget doesn't have to be passed until the end of the month, so if there are some things that come up, we can have another meeting to approve and get everything in. So you will have a time at the September 8th meeting for the public to come in and to address what they've heard and then Council, at that time, would make a decision after waiting and listening to the public and have a later meeting. Vice-Mayor Betts: Excuse me, Noble. That is public participation; it won't be a public hearing. C Prettyman: Public participation; they still can speak. Vice Mayor Betts: I've talked to Mr. Dickerson and he will supply the library with a copy of the budget and I would encourage anyone that wants to make a comment, do it in writing prior to our Workshop on the 27th. Norman Lester: Would the Town put a notice on the notice board so that people will be aware? It's one thing to put a copy over there, but you have to let some people know. Vice-Mayor Betts: He will put that on the board in front of the Town Hall. C Prettyman: Also, we have the media here tonight so they should also mention that. Vice-Mayor Betts: It will be published on the billboard; there will be a copy to go to the Library for the public to review. And I would encourage anyone that has a comment after that, to get

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their written request to us prior to the Workshop. C Duby: And for those of you who were saying you wanted to hear more about how we were responding to your comments; as Ms. Martin-Brown said, coming to the Workshop gives you that. No, there is not public participation in that, but you're hearing there what our response is to the comments that we are getting tonight and the comments that we will get in writing. C Martin-Brown: Also, hopefully, you could read a draft or the minutes of the last Workshop that we had on the budget, so you would know what our comments were then.

Ralph Anderson: I got a quick question. On this Workshop, why can't you allow time for people to talk? Let's say you go in; you have a meeting for an hour; you take a 10 minute break; you come back; and, you hear what the public's got to say after somebody looks at the budget. C Martin-Brown: I guess it's up to the Mayor. Sometimes people are allowed to speak and sometimes they're not. So it's up to him. Ralph Anderson: Well, we need the Mayor here; or the Vice Mayor. Vice-Mayor Betts: I just feel that the Workshop is for the work of the Council and if we have all the information from the public before that time, we can address it and then at the public participation prior to the September 8th meeting, we can hear your comments. Ralph Anderson: Prior to the meeting? Vice-Mayor Betts: Yes. Public participation. Thank you.

Norma Krause: 116 Morgan Way, Milton. I have to make an observation. While concessions may have to be made in so far as 3% COLA's, plus salaries and benefits, I think it's very important that the employees and the police not be made the scapegoats for this budget. To constantly come up and say we've got to take things away. I'm saying that basically, I'm concerned, that the employees and the police are not made the scapegoats for past and future and present bad management practices. I think that we should be very careful to look thoroughly at that budget, as people have suggested here tonight; many, many line items are in there that may indeed make the effect on the employees, not so great. Thank you very much.

Norman Lester: Town Hall renovations \$85,000 Fire Marshall complaint. The contract to buy that piece of property was negotiated by a real estate agent, and I assume the Town Manager, who had to know what that building was being purchased for; what the purpose was for the building; it's a commercial building. It's a residential contract. Unknown Councilperson: Unfortunately, you're right, it didn't meet Code when it was purchased and we do have to add a fire escape out the back; can't use the third floor for offices; it needed lighted exit lights; it needed fire extinguishers; and improvement on the handicapped accessibility. So unfortunately, yes, when it was purchased it needed quite a bit of renovations and updates and they're being done right now. C Duby: What I do know as a citizen at the time, is that that building was an office building. It had been given a Certificate of Occupancy for a commercial enterprise; so I am assuming that that had something to do with why the Town bought it. But, we're not here to talk about that and I will personally see to it that if you want more information about this and the purchase of the building, we will get it to you under FOIA or without FOIA, whatever, but we've got people lined up who want to talk about the budget; and you've been at the microphone several times and I think it's unfair to them.

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r. Richard Wheeler: 311 Union Street, Milton. 5430 (Printing & Postage), I look at things like your original budget for 2007, was \$13,300 and it went to \$19,400 in May and now it's up to \$22,400. That's the way I look at things. Therefore, I would want to say forget whether its police or administrative, whatever, who cares, at that point, let's look at what's being spent and why. Is there a way that anyone who is interested could get together, look at these kind of numbers, be able to generate questions that would go to Town Hall and be able to get those pieces of data, without having to go through some big rigmarole; make a recommendation list, if you will; and then present it back? How are we going to get to that level of detail, which you need, before the next Workshop, by having a 3 minute discussion before a Council meeting? Is there a way we can do that that works for both of us; for the Town and for the Council? Vice-Mayor Betts: George, can we do that? Is it feasible just to do that? George Dickerson: I'll accept anything you present and pass it on and make sure that Council gets it, as I will with anyone that's in the audience. I want to publicly thank my staff who are sitting over here and looking at you and you people are looking at them; of the hours and dedication that they put in to prepare this budget and went line item by line item looking budget vs. actual; back through a three year review; to come up with the figures that are in that budget, and I thank them publicly for that right now. The other thing that I want to mention, if most of you had been at the Workshop, and saw the work that this Council did at that Workshop; maybe you did not have the document in hand, because that's not the process; the way the process has to work; they had the books; they have the meeting; the Workshop's purpose is for Council to be informed; it's their opportunity to talk with them; no votes can be taken; but I want to tell you that there was some active discussion; and sometimes to the point of what I would call heated discussion, on line items, as to viewpoints that came up at that workshop. I encourage all of you to come to the next Workshop, where these comments, as they were before, will be incorporated from the last Workshop to get them to the point where they work at this. What you see at that Workshop, with the line items that are here; each of those will be addressed; any comments that were made here, they're welcome at any time. I think we would have gone in a much better direction tonight, if you had the opportunity to be there. Is the dialogue that you saw that night, and I'll put the question out to the floor; isn't that what you saw this Council do? [Unidentified Speaker]: It was a good presentation. But, there were no overheads; there was nothing; you just sat here and said that there was \$19,000 in postage. Yes there was some discussion. It was very hard as a bystander, listening, to really understand where you were going. It was broken down in different departments, but we couldn't see that either. It went on for 2 or 3 hours and you just heard numbers, after numbers, after numbers and you couldn't follow it. At least, I couldn't follow it. C Martin-Brown: So if you had copies available to help you while we were sitting there going over it that would have helped. [Unidentified Speaker]: It would have helped. So that you know that it isn't a final budget. C Martin-Brown: But you just made a very good suggestion and that is we could have back up on the screen behind us, for our own Workshop, those pages of the budgets and the line items, so that you have a point of reference about what we're discussing. So what's come out of this is another good suggestion, to make accessible and friendly the discussion that we're having. Would that be helpful to you to look up on the screen behind us? [Unidentified Speaker]: It would have been.

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Richard Wheeler: If you have X amount for the Town, it could be up to the Town Manager, or the Council, throughout the year; you may need to pull something from one department and put it into another. That's standard corporate accounting. But you still have a total budget. George Dickerson: I understand that Mr. Wheeler comes from the corporate world. When I came here there was a Finance Committee that had been previously working; and the history here is important. I think the history states as to why it was; and to perhaps why the Finance Committee, either the members quit or the lack of information or the format in which the information was presented to Council; and those Council Members, one of them being Mrs. Betts; who is here; Don Post, the Mayor, was on the Council; and Mr. Prettyman was here; the documents that were being presented by the Finance Committee, and a well structured budget, as would be the norm in the accounting world; I certainly understand that. I understand how it was being presented, as well. My task was to make sure that all Council members and the public knew the line items and that each department was to be justified in it's spending, per whatever line item it was. Yes, to go back and do totals across all departments, I understand for total spending, what that means. But, the bottom line, what you have here and what I was instructed to do, more importantly; is to create a clear picture of those line items, as to spending and break those down into the departments; because that wasn't done in the past. It was a hodgepodge of numbers that did not mean anything, but more importantly, when I took over as Town Manager, in May of 2006, Council members didn't understand it and that was the first thing they told me. They didn't understand how the budget worked. They wanted something easy to read. I have two members here: Ms. Betts and Mr. Prettyman. I think they will attest to exactly what I just said and how I was instructed to do it. Along with meeting with Mr. Sombar, who is the Town Accountant and wants this format; likes this format; sees it is easy to use because everything goes to the departments where you can see what that spending is. If you have a department that is out of range of spending, with the totals yes, the totals could actually go out of the extension. I understand that. That was not my task. Richard Wheeler: What you did was basically hold responsible each of those major departments; and that is totally understandable why you have that direction and why you did it that way. I was just extending that for the public to understand these numbers, at least me, I have to see it in total. I don't care what the postage for the police is. I want to know what the postage is and say, okay, what are we really sending out? I fully agree that you need it by department. Richard Wheeler: How would someone in the general public make a comment back to the Council, to be addressed? George Dickerson: Present what you have line by line, get it to us and I'll make sure it gets to Council and then at the Workshop it could be discussed. But we will format it as we will from comments from this meeting, as we did from the previous Workshop. Council has in their packets, from that Workshop, all the comments that they had in addressing cuts or what they would like to see put back in. These comments will be also collated and put into a document that Council will get at the next Workshop. Obviously, we could also make that available for the public.

Mary Ann Lester: 311 Mill Street, Milton. I just came here as a citizen tonight to take notes. I actually had not planned to say anything; but, I was disappointed at the confrontational tone at the beginning of this meeting. I have only lived in Milton since I

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bought my house in 1989. I know that these people do not want their taxes to go up, anymore than you or I do. I think that we can all be in agreement, about some things. I think we just saw the beginning of that with the last speaker. It's time to work together on these things. There is no point in talking about what happened 10 years ago; or even 5 years ago; and certainly not 20 years ago. But there is a chance, we've got a very talented bunch of people here; that's obvious; there are a lot of us who have run some pretty big budgets and we all have a lot of ideas about how it could be done better. And I think, though, that this is a group of people; truthfully, I've never seen a group of people more willing to listen. The procedures of Town government are a little awkward, I think, and bulky, sometimes. But I think they are trying to make it work, so let's try to be less confrontational and figure out how we can work and make our goals known together and agree on what we agree on. I think you'll be surprised; there's more that we agree on; then we disagree on. There's no need to be confrontational about this. Thanks.

Jim Groehn: 224 Sundance Lane, Milton. I second the gentleman's view about the public needing a consolidated financial statement to analyze. Consolidated financial statements; current year budget; 2 or 3 previous actual years so that we can give you the input you're asking for and we can't do it with information that's sometimes very difficult to get. Thank you.

Bob Heinrich: I would just like to know what the Town does in regards to checking those kinds of things that happen when we do budgets. We all know that people pad the budget; everybody does it; I've seen it for 25 years in corporate; and I have to believe it's done here too. I just would like to know if there is some oversight on making sure that when these things get put through, like an increase of 50% for postage, or whatever the numbers are, that somebody is really asking the questions and making them shake the piggy bank again. Thank you.

Judy Schandler: 202 Grist Mill Drive, Milton. I was very impressed that we have people in the community that are willing to put in time; to go through budgets; and do things, that frankly, I have no understanding of; I felt like the information was given in a rational and a sensible way; and really in the spirit of helping and growing the community and keeping us all just moving in the right direction. I didn't hear anything that I really felt was controversial or negative and I'm very pleased with the way the events transpired during the evening. Thank you.

6. Adjournment: Vice Mayor Betts: Would anyone else like to speak? If not, do I hear a motion to adjourn? C Martin-Brown: I make a motion we adjourn. C Prettyman: Second. Vice Mayor Betts: We have a motion and a second. All in favor. Opposed. Motion carried. Thank you all for coming and participating and I encourage you all, if you have any comments on the budget; please get them to the Town Hall before August 27, 2008. Adjournment at 8:03 p.m.