

**DECLARATION OF LIMITED LOCAL EMERGENCY
FOR THE TOWN OF NEW MILFORD, CONNECTICUT**

WHEREAS, there is an active railroad line owned by the Housatonic Railroad Company, Inc. that passes over a Culvert on West Street through which a watercourse known as Great Brook flows (the Culvert). A public sewer pipe (the Sewer Pipe) runs through the Culvert that carries raw sewage to the New Milford Sewage Treatment Plant (the Plant), having served that purpose for many years and a second Pipe (the Culvert Pipe) was installed for the protection of the Sewer Pipe to relieve water flow pressure, and

WHEREAS, in the early morning hours of July 1, 2026 the Culvert Pipe was physically moved, and due to that and subsequent storm events, its effect was and remains blocked by debris such that it was placed in a position resulting in impeded flow and severely increased water pressure on the Sewer Pipe, thereby impairing the Culvert Pipe's protective purpose, and

WHEREAS, New Milford Department of Public Works personnel have observed that the pressure on the Sewer Pipe, the impeded flow of Culvert Pipe and the accumulation of storm run-off debris create such a state that the Culvert's current condition present serious vulnerabilities that indicate the potential for and likelihood of failure, and

WHEREAS, Should such a failure occur, it will likely result in a catastrophic breach of the Sewer Pipe and the inundation of the Town with tons of raw sewage. Such an event will create a health and environmental catastrophe that will have a devastating effect on the safety, health and welfare New Milford residents and property, including destruction of the Plant, pollution of Great Brook with raw sewage and flooding of the Town center, and

WHEREAS, because of the July 1 and subsequent storm events and the effect thereof on the Culvert Pipe and the potential effect on the Sewer Pipe, the United States Army Corps of Engineers (the USACOE) concurs that the New Milford Director of Public works must take swift, proper and reasonable action to undertake repairs so as to ameliorate the clear and present threat, and

WHEREAS the Culvert Pipe, Culvert and Sewer Pipe in their present state presents grave and imminent risk to New Milford residents and property in the event of the Pipe's failure, and in respect to the instructions of the USACOE, it is critically important that the Town, through its Mayor, have authority to efficiently and effectively take such steps and actions as are reasonably necessary, with advice of New Milford professional engineers to address and ameliorate the risks set forth above,

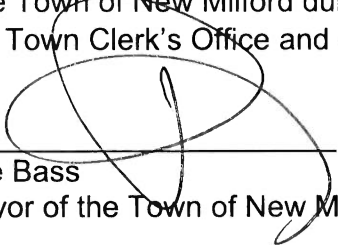
NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY DECLARED pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Sections 28-1(8), and New Milford Charter Section 502, that the Town is in a state of a limited local emergency as a result of the conditions hereinbefore described.

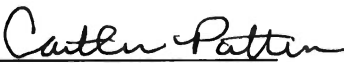
IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that, during the existence of said state of emergency as to the Culvert and Pipe I, Pete Bass, as the Town of New Milford's mayor and chief executive officer, shall assume and exercise the powers, functions, and duties prescribed and provided by law, including but not limited to Connecticut General Statutes Sections 28-8a(a) and 28-1(8), New Milford Charter Sections 808(d), 501 and 502, including all rights and authorities provided for under the Town's Code of Ordinances and pertinent constitutional, statutory, regulatory and Charter provisions, and

IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that the New Milford Director of Public Works, (the Director) in consultation with the USACOE and any other engineering consultants he deems appropriate, take such necessary action as the Director determines to mitigate this emergency; and

IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that this limited state of emergency shall remain in effect until the conditions are remediated and the risk ameliorated or terminated by further order; and that this Order shall be available for review and inspection in the Office of the Town Clerk of the Town of New Milford during regular business hours and shall be posted at both the Town Clerk's Office and on the Town's website at www.newmilford.org

Dated: July 6, 2026


Pete Bass
Mayor of the Town of New Milford, CT

Attested: 
Caitlin Patterson
Town Clerk
Town of New Milford

