Middlesex Budget Committee
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, November 7, 2023
4:00 PM

Present: Randy Drury, Elias Gardner, Mark Harris, Zara Vincent, George Longenecker, Dorinda Crowell

Meeting Minutes

4:03 Call to Order - Amendments - none added
4:04 Other Business

- Review and approve October meeting minutes
- 2023-10-12 Budget Committee Minutes.rtf
    - Zara motioned to accept the minutes as written, and Elias seconded
    - The motion passed 5-0-0
- Road Repair Costs Update:
    - Dorinda reported that the Phase B (Emergency) road work was completed
    - Currently in the process of compiling the documentation for FEMA reimbursement, and the plan is to submit the requests to FEMA no later than November 15th
    - Our FEMA contact will then review the submissions, sign off, and send on for approval
    - So far, the Dumpster project has been approved, for about $6,000
    - Phase C (Non-emergent) work has begun, and 2 bids have been finalized thus far, with 1 completed
    - Several more bids for Phase C will follow, as approximately 18-20 roads are slated for this work
    - Phase C work will extend well into 2024
    - Costs thus far for Phase B work total just under $2M dollars
    - The turnaround time for FEMA reimbursement is unknown, and likely variable, depending on the project $$
    - Zara also mentioned the possibility of the VT Flood Response & Recovery Fund as an option for obtaining funding in addition to FEMA. She'll contact them to determine whether Middlesex is eligible for funding. *(Action Item 44)*
- FY 2024/25 Budget Items
    - The initial WCUUSD school budget increase for next year was 13%, and the school board is working on reducing this proposed increase. One cost saving being explored is cafeteria out-sourcing vs. in-sourcing.
    - Last year, the school budget increase was 9.9%, which for Middlesex was a 11.6 cent increase per $100 of assessed value
    - Establishing a target for Town Budget increase:
        - Last year's budget increase approved by the voters was 10.24%, before Special Articles. Including the Articles, it was around 12.55%.
        - The consensus was to target capping next year's increase at 10%. There were thoughts to cap this including and excluding Special Articles, but no final decision was made.
- Next year's elections / budget committee seats:
    - Everyone's seats are up for renewal, as follows:
        - George - 1 year term
        - Zara - 2 year term

        - Elias - 3 year term
        - Mark - 3 year term
        - Randy - 2 year term
    - George, Zara, Elias, and Mark committed to running for their seats again
    - Randy hasn't made a decision yet
- Other matters that came before the committee:
    - Mark proposed that the committee send the Select Board an excerpt from the Capital Funding presentation made on October 12th, detailing the Capital funding items for FY 2024/25
    - The group agreed, and Mark will send this week *(Action Item 45)*
- Scheduling next meeting
    - The plan is to hold our next meeting immediately prior to the next SB meeting, on Tuesday, November 21st, at 4:30 PM, if there is a need to discuss items prior to the SB meeting..

Date Created	**Action Item #**	**Assignee**	**Action Item**	**Due Date**	**Date Closed**
11/07/23	44	Zara	Explore VT Flood Response & Recovery Fund as a source of reimbursement for our flood damage	11/21/23	
11/07/23	45	Mark	Send SB Capital Funding details for FY 2024/25	11/10/23	
	46				