Middlesex Budget Committee
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, February 20, 2024
4:00 PM

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

Meeting Minutes

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

- Review and approve January meeting minutes
  - 2024-01-04 Budget Committee Minutes.rtf
  - No changes were noted. Elias moved to approve and Zara seconded.
  - Motion to approve passed 5-0
- Updates to the Asset Inventory
  - For FY 2024.1:
    - Capital Fund updates - Mark will get current numbers from Dorinda
    - Rescue Vehicle purchase in Oct. 2023
      - Was bought from Hyde Park in Oct. 2023 for $135,000
      - Randy mentioned that the Select Board is still in discussion on how to pay for it - i.e., out of which fund(s)
      - Dorinda has suggested paying out of the remaining ARPA monies (approx. $345,000)
    - After much discussion, it was decided to assign 15 years as the useful life of the vehicle, owing to its low mileage (approx. 6,000)
  - For FY 2025.1:
    - Pending excavator purchase ($200,000) - this is on the Warning as Special Article 7
    - International Dump Truck ($195,500) -
      - There has been some discussion about keeping a current truck instead of trading it in, as a backup, due to the maintenance problems we've had this budget year. No decision has been made.
      - We will purchase the new truck after July 1, 2024, and it won't appear in the budget under debt service until FY 2026 because the first payment won't be due until then
  - FY 2026 items:
    - Town Shed - overhead doors ($11,000)
    - Highway - Komatsu Loader ($85,000)
- Prep for March 5th Town Meeting -
  - Consensus was the 11.36% increase would likely pass
  - Mark noted that the increase is split into 3 parts:
    - 3.63% operating increase ($58,223) to run the town, which is remarkable, because it includes a 13% health care cost increase for town employees
    - 3.75% for interest ($60,000) on the loans to-date for road remediation due to the July flood

        - 3.98% Capital increase ($70,000) for the new Asset/Equipment Fund, and repairs to the town elevator
    - There was more discussion on FEMA and Phase 2 / C of road repairs next budget year -
        - Dorinda reported that FEMA will now cover 90% of the road repairs, up from the original 75%, and that the State would reimburse for some of the remaining 10%
        - Mark asked about the difference between the initial and permanent work on the roads, recommended by FEMA -
            - Dorinda responded that 'B' type work done last summer was emergency work, and that 'C' type work slated for FY 2025 is permanent, long-term upgrades, comprising 13 separate projects
            - It's likely we'll follow through with Phase C work recommended by FEMA, at an estimated cost of $2.6 million
            - Dorinda also noted that a lot has been learned from the Phase B work and stringent reimbursement requirements from FEMA. The expectation is that invoicing from contractors for the 'B' work will adhere to the standard set by FEMA, avoiding rework bottlenecks/delays encountered the first time around.
- Other matters that may come before the committee - Randy mentioned that he is not running for Budget Committee, due to his Select Board and family commitments. He will pop in on Budget meetings when he can in the future.
- Scheduling next meeting - will be Tuesday, March 19th, at 4 PM

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 PM

Date Created	Action Item #	Assignee	Action Item	Due Date	Date Closed
	47				