Middlesex Budget Committee
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, December 17, 2024
4:00 PM

Present: Zara Vincent, Mark Harris, Elias Gardner, Samantha Beaudoin, Dorinda Crowell

Meeting Minutes

4:08 Call to Order - Amendments - none added
4:05 Other Business:

- Review and approve November meeting minutes
    - 2024-11-19 Budget Committee Minutes.rtf
    - Elias moved to approve the minutes as written, and Zara seconded
    - The motion passed, 4-0
- Review action items - items 62 & 63 were closed during November.
- Road Committee Update - this agenda item was skipped over; Zara did mention that the committee has applied for a $200K grant to fix the Portal road slide-off issue. If the grant is awarded, our Town will have to match @ the 25% level, or $50K.
- Review revised WNM Site for Budget Committee:
    - The revised page on the WNM site looks great, and Elias addressed Mark's verbiage change
    - The last item is to embed the FY 2026 Capital Budget presentation in the web page, and Elias will work with Mark to complete that (*Action Item 64*)
- FY 2026 budget discussion
    - Depts remaining to be reviewed - remaining areas to be reviewed at the 12/17 SB meeting:
        - General Government
        - Administration
        - Recreation
    - Thus far, the known large increases are in Ambulance Services (50+%) and Health Insurance (23%)
    - The 1st draft of the entire budget will also be reviewed during the SB meeting
    - The Budget Committee will hold an ad-hoc meeting to review the finalized draft budget and determine recommendations for budget changes to the Select Board. Date is TBD; to be held between finalization of the draft budget and the Select Board meeting on Tuesday, January 7th.
- Annual Budget Committee Report - Mark will draft this as soon as the budget is finalized
- Other matters that may come before the committee -
    - Dorinda noted that there are still some unknowns in the FY 2026 budget:
        - Salaries - decision needed on the annual increase. Currently budgeted for 4%.
        - Flood Recovery Debt Service - Principal and Interest estimates for FY 2026 haven't been addressed yet
        - Debt service -

- The new excavator was purchased in the current budget year, and another piece of equipment was fully paid this year, so the offsetting payments are basically a wash for the FY 2026 budget
- The new dump truck hasn't been purchased yet, and if it's purchased before July 1, 2025 it will have to be added to debt service in the FY 2026 budget

- Next meeting - the next monthly meeting will be Tuesday, January 21st, at 4 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 PM

Action Item #	Assignee	Action Item	Due Date	Date Closed
62	Mark	Put a copy of the FY26 Capital Plan in the Current Versions folder	11/22/24	11/20/24
63	Elias	Make a first pass at updating the Capital Planning page on the WNM web site	11/22/24	11/19/24
64	Elias Mark	Imbed the FY 2026 Capital Budget presentation in the WNM Capital Planning page	12/17/24	12/17/24
65				