Middlesex Budget Committee
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, March 18, 2025
4:00 PM
Location

Present: Zara Vincent, Mark Harris, Samantha Beaudoin
Absent: Elias Gardner

Meeting Minutes

4:15 Call to Order - Amendments - none offered
4:16 Other Business:

- Elect a Chair for FY 26:
  - Sam motioned to nominate Mark for Chair, and Zara seconded
  - The motion passed 3-0-1
- Review and approve February meeting minutes
  - 2025-02-18 Budget Committee Minutes.rtf
  - Zara motioned to accept the minutes as written, and Sam seconded
  - The motion passed 3-0-1
- Review Action Items:
  - AI 69 - Mark reached out to Jeff, and he didn't know the useful life of the new FD boiler. Mark will follow up.
  - AI 70 - Mark distributed the Wage Range draft on 2/27
- Review draft Hourly Wage Rate range memo - it's ready to send to the Select Board, and Mark will do so this week.
- Road Committee Updates:
  - Portal Road grant status - we won't be getting this grant
  - Other updates -
    - We've applied for a Great Brook Futures Project grant of $25,000
    - If we get it, the match is $6,250
    - Municipal Funding Grant - the Road Committee in conjunction with the Planning Commission has applied for this, to make sure our culverts, ROW and otherwise are all up to codes and standards. The Planning Commission has the match budgeted for that grant..
- FY 27 Capital Budget items
  - Town Hall:
    - Town Server Replacement - $20,000 - this is in next year's (FY 26) Operating budget, Line 60
    - Septic work - $30,000
  - Town Shed - Roof - $20,000
  - Public Works:
    - Freightliner dump truck - $157,250
    - International dump truck (if not replaced in FY 26) - $195,500
- New version of Asset Inventory for FY 26 - we'll discuss this at our April meeting
- LOTs and their impacts -
  - Mark reviewed Local Option Taxes (LOTs) and their use -

        - It's a 1% additional tax, that could be levied on Retail sales, Room & Board sales, and Liquor sales
        - The State takes 30% of the 1% tax and the town gets the other 70% of it
        - About 30 towns have approved some sort of LOT
        - A LOT has to first be approved by the Select Board, and then approved by residents at a special (warned) meeting. They go into effect each July.
        - For the prior fiscal year, Middlesex generated $4.8M in retail sales, which would generate $35,000 in LOT revenue for the town
        - This is something to consider in the future, if retail sales continue to increase. FY 24 retail sales increased 71% over FY 23 in Middlesex.
- Other matters that may come before the committee:
    - Our committee is short one member - let's keep our eyes and minds open for a new member
- Scheduling next meeting - it will be Tuesday, April 15th, at 4 PM

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 PM.

Action Item #	Assignee	Action Item	Due Date	Date Closed
69	Mark	Reach out to Jeff for the useful life of the new FD boiler,	2/21/25	2/21/25
70	Mark	Draft a proposed job rate range memo for review at our next mtg	3/15/25	2/27/25
71				