Middlesex Budget Committee
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, December 16, 2025
4:00 PM
Location

Present: Sam Beaudoin, Elias Gerdner, Mark Harris, Matt Rkiouak, and Zara Vincent
Guest: Dorinda Crowell

Meeting Minutes

4:02 Call to Order - Amendments - none offered
4:05 Other Business:

- Review and approve November meeting minutes
  - 2025-11-18 Budget Committee Minutes.rtf
  - Zara moved to approve the November minutes as written, and Elias seconded
  - The motion passed, 5-0
- Review Action Items -
  - Zara distributed a job description for the new Town Administrator position on Dec 10th. (Action Item 76 was closed)
  - The job will include various duties currently undertaken by volunteers, plus other current duties performed by others
  - Cheryl and Brenda are drafting lists of duties they can transfer to this new position
- FY 2027 Budget Challenges -
  - We're currently at a 19% increase, from the 1st draft provided by Dorinda
  - The State is forecasting a 12% increase in property taxes due to education spending
  - Next year looks like another double-digit increase in property taxes
  - Matt asked what town budget increases for Middlesex have looked like for the past 5 years
  - Mark didn't have the numbers handy, but thought they hovered around 10% annually
  - There was consensus that there aren't many places where $$ can be cut (i.e., discretionary categories)
  - Mark said the current $$ budget increase is just over $370,000, and that even attempting to reduce the increase down to 10% would require spending cuts totaling $200,000
  - Mark said his first look , restricting cuts to just a small number of categories, resulted in a maximum of $110,000 in reductions
  - Mark also mentioned that carrying the debt service for flood loans is adding 3% to the budget each year
  - Matt questioned whether cutting much from 19% was realistic, given the needs to the town; perhaps an increase in the high teens is required to right-size where Middlesex is financially at the present time
- Local Option Tax (LOT) potential for revenue down the road - **tabled until next meeting**

- Posting minutes to the town website for 2025 - Mark has sent all meeting minutes from 2025 to Cheryl to update the town site
- Other Business - none was discussed
- Scheduling next meeting - will be held Tuesday, January 6th, at 4:00 PM

The meeting adjourned at 4:49 PM.

Action Item #	Assignee	Action Item	Due Date	Date Closed
76	Zara	Get a rough sense of what a Municipal Administrator will do	12/16/25	12/10/25
77				