Middlesex Budget Committee
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, February 17, 2026
4:00 PM
Location

Present: Elias Gardner, Mark Harris, Matt Rkiouak, and Zara Vincent
Guest: Dorinda Crowell

Meeting Minutes

4:13 Call to Order - Amendments - Mark added the Town's cost share for the 2023/2024 flood costs
4:15 Other Business:

- Approve today's agenda
  - Matt moved to approve the revised agenda as-is and Zara seconded
  - The motion passed 4-0-1
- Review and approve January minutes
  - Elias noted one change needed in the minutes - changing 'agenda' to 'minutes' in the statement approving the December meeting minutes. Mark noted the change.
  - 2025-12-16 Budget Committee Minutes.rtf
  - Elias moved to approve the minutes with the one change, and Matt seconded
  - The motion passed 4-0-1
- Review action items -
  - Action Item 77 -
    - Dorinda distributed the last Septic invoice, by Kingbury, in April 2022
    - The invoice noted the 1000 gallon tank was in good condition
    - From this document, it appears that all that is needed for the septic system at this time is to schedule another pumping
- Scheduling final budget blast via FPF -
  - Mark reported that he had corresponded with Dorinda on how the estimated town tax rate was calculated, and it involved subtracting Anticipated Receipts from the overall budget amount (budget plus Special Articles)
  - Anticipated Receipts contain the following:
    - General Govt receipts for things like licenses &fees, PILOT payments, and delinquent tax penalties & interest
    - Highway State Aid
    - These are estimates, so the actual Town rate will vary by a small amount
  - From the new Town Report, the estimated Town tax rate is 84 cents
  - It may change a little, depending on the new Grand List amount on April 1st
  - Mark will post on FPF the week of February 23rd, with a short summary of what comprises the 11.6% increase, and a short how-to on calculating the impact on homeowners' municipal tax amount
- Sales LOT - Next Steps
  - Mark reviewed what the Dept of Taxes lists for steps in implementing a LOT:
    - Review its impact with residents and businesses
    - Check with other Town that have implemented an LOT

        - Obtain a Select Board majority vote on the LOT
        - At either and annual Town Meeting or Special meeting, approved the LOT
        - Provide the Dept. of Taxes at least 90 days' notice before the quarter start-date of a new LOT
    - There was agreement that if we went forward with a 1% Sales LOT, it would be effective 7/1/2027, and be approved at the 2027 Town Meeting
    - Feedback on possible LOT implementation included:
        - We should consider revenue options like this one, to relieve some of the property tax burden
        - We should consider how the revenue would be spent - lowering tax bills as one option.
        - We have to take into consideration that businesses may decide not to open in Middlesex due to this additional tax
        - We still have the zip code issue - we share the same zip code (05602) with Montpelier and parts of Berlin, East Montpelier, and Moretown. This has to be resolved before we can implement it.
- 2026 Budget Committee membership:
    - Sam and Dorinda are running for 2 open seats, for 3-year terms
    - There is an open seat for 2 years of a 3-year term. Matt is comfortable with being written in for this seat.
- Other Business -
    - Flood Costs (2023/2024) and our town's share -
        - Our share for 2023 repairs is 2.5% of costs, and 7.5% for 2024
        - Zara reported that FEMA overestimated several projects, and that the town will have around a $1MM surplus from the repayments
        - Liz confirmed that the total town share from repairs is approx. $400K
        - How we'll pay for our share is TBD, as it's possible that some of the surplus could be used to pay our share
- Scheduling next meeting - it will be Tuesday, March 17th, at 4 PM
- Motion to end meeting -
    - Elias moved to end the meeting, and Zara seconded
    - The motion passed 4-0-1
- The meeting adjourned at 4:40 PM

Action Item #	Assignee	Action Item	Due Date	Date Closed
77	Dorinda	Locate the latest Septic invoice/report and distribute	02/17/26	02/17/26
78				