Middlesex Budget Committee
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, March 24, 2026
4:00 PM
Location

Present: Sam Beaudoin, Dorinda Crowell, Elias Gardner, Mark Harris, and Matt Rkiouak
Guest: Kevin Thompson

4:00 Call to Order - Amendments - Kevin Thompson asked to speak during the Capital Planning part of the agenda
4:05 Other Business:

- Approve Agenda - Dorinda motioned to approve the agenda, and Sam seconded. The motion passed, 3-0-2.
- Welcome new members -
    - Dorinda and Sam were elected to serve on the committee
    - Matt was a write-in candidate, and will become an official member after the Select Board appoints him later today
- Elect Chair - Dorinda motioned to propose Mark as the Chair, and Sam seconded. No other motions were entertained. The motion passed, 3-0-2.
- Review and approve February minutes - this will be delayed until the April meeting, as there are not enough voting members present at this time
- Capital Planning - revisiting annual allocations to funds:
    - Facilities Improvement Team (FIT) Update:
        - Kevin Thompson asked about the current Capital funds, specifically related to the Town Garage and maintenance of the Town Hall, for the near future
        - Mark replied that large ticket items, like a replacement of the Town Garage, would be bonded. There is money in the Town Hall Building Fund for maintenance-type work.
        - Kevin explained that the current focus of the FIT group is the Town Garage, expanding it, or replacing it with a modular structure.
        - Kevin also asked about surveys, and if any $$ from current funds, like the Town Garage Fund, could be used to fund them. Dorinda reported that she didn't think so, but the wording for use of the fund would have to be reviewed from the time it was approved @ Town Meeting. Dorinda offered to investigate for Kevin.
        - Kevin also reported that the plan for the Town Hall is to maintain it for up to 5 years, including reconfiguring work stations to add the Town Admin workspace, fixing the lift, replacing some windows, and painting.
        - Kevin suggested the committee increase the Town Bldg Fund annual allocation to fund this work.
    - Annual Fund Contributions:
        - Dorinda ran down the list of Capital Funds -
            - $6K annually to the Bridge Fund
            - $10K currently to the Town Hall Bldg Fund (it's usually $30K)
            - $30K annually to the Paving Fund
            - $50K annually to the Asset/Equipment Fund

- Mark reported that the estimate for the next paving job, Shady Rill Section 1, was $650,000 in 2024. This is scheduled for 2028, so the estimate will increase.
    - Dorinda confirmed that the cost share for paving is 80% State / 20% Town
    - There was discussion about the 2028 date for Shady Rill - could the new patch mixes being applied to potholes prolong the road's life? Mark will reach out to Eric (*Action Item 78*).
    - Matt asked about costs of paving vs. maintaining gravel/dirt roads. It's not known what the gravel road cost is per mile; Mark will include that question in his outreach to Eric.
- Sales LOT - next steps:
    - Mark reported that the $5.5M in retail sales reported for Middlesex as of FY 2025 (year ending June 30, 2025) is a bit cryptic - it might include liquor sales taxes
    - Matt asked the reason for the distinction, and Mark reported that the 1% LOTs can be applied in three categories:
        - Sales
        - Rooms & Meals
        - Liquor
    - Matt asked about consulting business owners about a proposed LOT, and Mark read the Dept. of Taxes suggestions for implementing a LOT, which included consulting residents and local business owners.
    - More clarity is needed on the breakdown of the $5.5M retail sales figure, in order to determine which LOT(s) to pursue. Matt offered to do a deeper dive (*Action Item 79*).
- Other Business - none raised
- The next meeting will be Tuesday, April 21st, @ 4 PM.
- Dorinda motioned to end the meeting, and Sam seconded. The meeting ended at 4:55 PM.

Action Item #	Assignee	Action Item	Due Date	Date Closed
78	Mark	Reach out to Eric re: 2028 date for repaving of Shady Rill Section 1, and whether there's an estimate for maintaining gravel roads	4/21/26	
79	Matt	Get a finer breakdown of what the $5.5M retail sales figure for Middlesex entails	4/21/26	
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