Middlesex Budget Committee Monthly Meeting
Tuesday, May 19th, 2026, 4:00 PM
Middlesex Town Clerk's Office, 5 Church Street, Middlesex, VT 05602

4:01 - Meeting called to order. Elias to facilitate. Elias, Matt & Sam members in attendance. Bill Price & Susan Clark guests in attendance
4:02 - Agenda for May 19th approved, Matt motioned, Sam seconded, all in favor.
4:05 - Discussion on "Lessons Learned Session":

- Comments from Bill Price:
    - Comments regarding how it would likely be much easier for residents to give feedback on the process and feel like their feedback is incorporated into any prepared budget long before Town Meeting Day
- Comments from Susan Clark:
    - Encouraged identifying any lessons learned from the prior year's normal budget process
    - Comments concerning larger town outreach, communication & engagement with Selectboard, solutions committee
- Elias: Comments re: identifying what parts of the budgeting process the Budget Committee is responsible for, documenting the entire process and clearly outline which parts of town government are responsible for which steps. Are the Selectboard, treasurer, others mandatory attendees for this meeting? Seemed like general consensus was yes, and ideally these members could attend a regularly scheduled budget meeting in June.
- Sam commented on need for clarity around what the process is, when it happens and who participates. Likely benefit to clearly mark steps where community input is encouraged early.
- Comments from Cheryl, Town Treasurer, re: normal process, treasurer's role in maintaining budget spreadsheet and department heads roles in submitting and discussing with Selectboard
- Decision to coordinate scheduling of other attendees for June 16th regular budget meeting to hold this session

4:20 Capital Spending plan:

- Discussion of whether numbers are accurate (for example, over the next 9 years, Fire Station will almost certainly require more than $11k maintenance). Likely need formal definition of process for updating estimates and ensuring future estimates account for likely cost increases between estimate date and actual purchase date.
- Discussion of need for FIT estimates concerning Town hall, Garage & offices
- Matt took action item to survey other towns and municipal best practices around % of purchases to pre-fund
- Discussion of interest in at least establishing a target fund rate to benchmark asset funding against
- General agreement that there are two different parts to this: 1. Accurate estimates of 10 year time horizon needs, 2. Some kind of general town and voter agreement on amount to pre-fund, and clear communication of costs expected debt costs at target funding rate

- General discussion of how to encourage town participation. Survey? What does more inclusive (re: larger than Front Porch Forum) look like? Who in town government is responsible for the larger communication push (Budget Committee may not be the right owner).

4:40 Motion to end meeting, Sam motioned, Matt seconded, all in favor