



TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY

*Board of Finance
1212 Whittemore Road
Middlebury, CT 06762*

Special Meeting Minutes Wednesday February 23, 2022 – 7:00 PM Town Hall Conference Room

Present: Vincent Cipriano, Chairman
Dawn Albizu-Calabrese, Board Member
Rita H Smith, Board Member
John Jenusaitis, Board Member
Stephen Ruccio, Board Member
Joseph Drauss, Board Member
John Moriarty, Alternate

Absent: Natrajan Kuppuraj, Alternate

Also Present: Ed St John, First Selectman
Elaine Strobel, Selectman
Ralph Barra, Selectman
Rachel Primus, Recording Clerk

Vincent Cipriano called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

New Business

- **Discussion with Fire Department re: 2022-2023 Budgets**

Fire Chief Brett Kales handed the board a copy of the fire department inventory. He reviewed the proposed budget. He reviewed all the accounts and the ones with changes are as follows:

01-35-01-6006 Fire Chief asking for an increase of \$183.30

01-35-02-6102 Travel & Official Expenses asking for an increase of \$100.00

01-35-02-6113 Water Usage asking for an increase of \$350.00

01-35-02-6133 Radio Repairs asking for an increase of \$500.00

01-35-02-6134 Equipment Maintenance asking for an increase of \$5000.00 but the Board of Selectman changed it to \$3,000.00

01-35-03-6417 Motor Vehicle Maintenance asking for an increase of \$1,000.00 and the Board of Selectman changed it to \$3,000.00

01-35-03-6501 Fire Fighting Equipment asking for an increase of \$2,000.00

Brett Kales reviewed account **01-35-02-6112 Telephone** and said it will stay the same. Elaine Strobel said she received the phone bill today which had an increase for the switches. She said he might need to ask for an increase for that account. Ed St John noted that in regards to the motor vehicle maintenance account, the fire apparatus is not maintained by DPW. He said there hasn't been an increase in labor cost yet, but he thinks they probably will see an increase coming.

Brett Kales said they used grant money to purchase the fire hose which had an increase in cost once it was bought. He said that every ten years the fire gear needs to be replaced, and they are on a good schedule. Brett Kales noted the fire department has been going on mutual aid calls in Watertown. He said that the surrounding area towns have been stepping up their game. Six of Middlebury's people performed lifesaving code save with the paramedics from the ambulance. Ed St John said that membership is continuously shrinking with Middlebury and neighboring towns as well. Everyone is dealing with a man power issue, and that is why it's now neighbor helping neighbor. Brett Kales said they have 7 new people coming on board. A discussion ensued regarding donations from the community for both the Fire and Police Department.

- **Discussion with Police Department re: 2022-2023 Budgets**

Chief Deely handed out a list of vehicles currently in the fleet. He reviewed the proposed budget and went into detail regarding some of the larger increases. In account **01-40-01-6002 Salaries** there is an increase of 4.29% or \$46,359.54. This is because of the Chief of Police and Lieutenant positions. Prior to the Lieutenant position there were just sergeants. Ed St John said they just took one of the sergeant positions and made it lieutenant. He said this is required under the police accountability act. In account **01-40-02-6973 Computer/Technology/Email/IT support** there is an increase of \$12,175.16. Chief Deely explained part of the reason is because of the computerized fingerprint machine which requires IT Support. He said it all involves IT technology, for example the body and dash cameras, etc. Chief Deely said they were the first in the State to become compliant with the legislation for police accountability. In account **01-40-04-6442 Police Accountability** there is an increase of \$3,714.00 because they are incurring the cost for the accountability law which includes mandated psychological and urine testing. Chief Deely said they are increasing the IT personnel's hours from 8 to 16 hours a month. Chief Deely then reviewed the vehicle handout. He noted that the 2 new vehicles delivery is delayed until March. Ed St John said the 2 vehicles that are going to be replaced will be sold at public auction. A discussion ensued regarding the make and models of vehicles used by police departments and the process of equipping them. Ed St John said the maintenance is done through Ford Motor Corp standards and the fleet is maintained by DPW whose mechanics are Ford certified. Ed St John said the budget was presented with the best intent. He said they will have to take a look at the reserve cushion for energy costs. Ed St John said currently the cost of diesel fuel is already \$2.00 a gallon over budget. He said that Eversource is anticipating bringing natural gas through the town. He noted there are only 2 town buildings that burn oil. He suggested taking \$50,000.00 and putting it into an energy reserve instead of spiking the individual budgets up.

Public Comment

None

Adjournment

VOTED: Unanimously on a motion by Stephen Ruccio and seconded by John Jenusaitis to **ADJOURN** the meeting at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rachel Primus, Recording Clerk

Cc: Board of Selectmen

Board of Finance and Alternates

Janine Bowler, Town Treasurer

Email Notification for Website

File