



## **TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY**

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

**Joint Meeting Minutes  
Board of Selectman and Board of Finance  
Tuesday March 15, 2022 – 7:00 PM  
Town Hall Conference Room**

BOF Present: Vincent Cipriano, Chairman  
Joseph Drauss, Board Member  
Dawn Albizu-Calabrese, Board Member  
John Jenusaitis, Board Member  
John Moriarty, Alternate

Absent: Natrajan Kuppuraj, Alternate  
Stephen Ruccio, Board Member  
Rita H Smith, Board Member  
Brendan Browne, Alternate

BOS Present: Ed St John, First Selectman  
Elaine Strobel, Selectman  
Ralph Barra, Selectman

Also Present: Rachel Primus, Recording Clerk

Vincent Cipriano called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM. He appointed John Moriarty as a regular voting member in place of Stephen Ruccio.

### **Discussion and Action on 2022/2023 Budget**

Vincent Cipriano explained the point of tonight's meeting is to discuss the proposed budget and to address any questions the board may have.

Ed St John noted that last week's meeting was cancelled, but he just wanted to review the February financials. He reviewed the revenue side first. Ed St John said the property tax collected to date is \$33,744,000.00, and real estate conveyance is \$184,000.00. All other numbers are consistent. He said the building department is also over budget. Ed St John said they have not received the rest of the money from ECS. They have only received \$500,000.00 but expect an additional \$300,000.00 to \$400,000.00. He said there is \$150,000.00 scheduled to be transferred from reserves for medical insurance. They have already put in the first half of the \$75,000 and they will watch and see how it goes toward the end of the year. Ed St John said on the expenditure side nothing stands out. He said the two biggest fuel users are Public Works and the Police Department. He said he wants to see what's left in the budget, if anything. He said they budgeted last year for a lower price per gallon than what they are paying now. He did note

the price of fuel dropped over \$20.00 a barrel since last Wednesday. He said the market will spike and then level out. Ed St John said the budgets are in good shape. Public Works always has an issue with overtime, but that's normal. The Snow and Ice control account still has \$109,000.00 for salt not bought yet, but they will purchase salt and start the year off with a supply. Ed St John said the Capital items are within budget. There are two police vehicles on order. A discussion ensued regarding the American Rescue Plan Fund.

Vincent Cipriano started the budget discussion. Ed St John said he talked to the board members and asked what their concerns were. He said the biggest concerns are inflation and energy spikes. Ed St John said they matched revenues with expenditures. He said they have a line item for building upgrades and have sufficient money for this year. He would like to change it to an Energy and Inflation account and create a reserve in the operating budget. Ed St John said the budget increase is 2.82% and he would like to do their best to keep the bottom line less. He said they don't know what the school budget will be yet. Once they receive the numbers they will need to adjust the mill rate. Ed St John said they may also get an adjusted number from the grand list due to appeals.

There were no questions from the board. Vincent Cipriano asked about the increase in the IT budget and if it was due to Mitel phones. Elaine Strobel said the phone accounts were divided up and part of the phone account is Verizon cell phones. They took money from the Public Works budget and put it into the IT account. There is still money for the phones which covers cell phones, radios and switches. Elaine Strobel said the telephone and IT account increased because the building department got new equipment this year, the switches had to be replaced, and they typically purchase 5 new computers a year. She also noted they lease the phones at \$2.00/per phone per month. Vincent Cipriano said he had a lot of his questions answered. He noted that he would like the Fenn Farm budget to be decreased a little. Ed St John said they are trying to raise money through a non-profit. He said they have a person with life use of the property and they recently installed a new sewer system.

### **Public Comment**

None

### **Adjournment**

VOTED: Unanimously on a motion by John Jenusaitis and seconded by Joseph Drauss to **ADJOURN** the meeting at 7:48 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