



TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY

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

Special Meeting Minutes Wednesday January 24, 2024 – 7:00 PM Town Hall Conference Room

Present: Vincent Cipriano, Chairman
Rita H Smith, Board Member
John Jenusaitis, Board Member
Stephen Ruccio, Board Member
Natrajan Kuppuraj, Alternate
John Moriarty, Alternate
Brendan Browne, Alternate

Absent: Dawn Albizu-Calabrese, Board Member

Also Present: Ed St Johh, First Selectman
Jennifer Mahr, Selectman
Rachel Primus, Recording Clerk
Dan Norton
Peter Vaccarelli
Betsy Anderson
Chief Pat Deely
Lieutenant Ronald Hunt
Fire Chief Bret Kales

Vincent Cipriano called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. He appointed John Moriarty as a regular voting member in place of Joseph Drauss and Natrajan Kuppuraj in place of Dawn Albizu-Calabrese.

New Business

- **Discussion with Park & Recreation re: 2024-2025 Budget**

Betsy Anderson gave an overview of what the department is responsible for and what the budget covers. She discussed the self-sustaining accounts. She noted there are some changes to the adult children and summer programs due to revenue adjustments. Betsy Anderson said things are picking up since Covid-19. She noted that temporary salaries had a big increase but she lowered the hours for the park attendants cutting back their hours from 30 to 25 hours a week. Ed St John said he wanted everyone to see what the cost to run the MRA was, which will be in more detail with the Selectman budget. Betsy Anderson said there is a decrease in the telephone and security account because they are now able to tie into the Police Departments Wi-Fi at some of the parks. She is asking for \$3,000 more for the recreation program expenses because of the

credit card fees. She feels they should be coming out the self-sustaining accounts.

- **Discussion with Department of Public Works re: 2024-2025 Budget**

Dan Norton gave an overview of what the department takes care of in town. He reviewed the increases at the town hall, the historical society budget, the dog pound maintenance, and building and grounds. He noted that the salary increases are contractual and the temporary salaries reflect the minimum wage increase. He said he has a break down of the contractual line items that he provided to the board. Dan Norton said the town hall maintenance needs to be increased due to unexpected repairs. He reviewed Department 52. He provided a spread sheet of the road maintenance. Jennifer Mahr questioned the percentage increase in the contractual salary line.

- **Discussion with Middlebury Public Library re: 2024-2025 Budget**

Vincent Cipriano explained that JoAnn Lorusso was unable to attend the meeting this evening.

- **Discussion with Police Department re: 2024-2025 Budget**

Chief Deely reviewed the budget which covers the salaries and computers, as well as legislated mandates. He said he is requesting 2 additional officers for the department. He noted that personal training increase is due to mandated training requirements. A discussion ensued regarding fuel cost and usage. Ed St John noted that the Department of Public Works maintains the vehicles for the Police Department. There is an increase in maintenance supplies.

- **Discussion with Middlebury Fire Department re: 2024-2025 Budget**

Chief Bret Kales reviewed what the department does in town and reviewed the budget. He noted that he is looking to increase the volunteer incentive plan and the GPS Systems.

Ed St John said this is the department requested budget that was presented tonight. He said the Selectman budget will be less of an increase. He welcomes any input from the board.

A discussion ensued regarding the self-insured program.

Ed St John noted the Police Department and Clerical contracts will be in the new fiscal year.

Public Comment

None

Adjournment

VOTED: Unanimously on a motion by Steve Ruccio and seconded by Rita Smith to **ADJOURN** the meeting at 8:42 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