



TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY

Board of Finance
1212 Whittemore Road
Middlebury, CT 06762

RECEIVED FOR FILING

March 24 20 21 at 8:00 A.M.

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
MIDDLEBURY, CT

Brigitte M. Bessett
TOWN CLERK

**Joint Meeting Minutes
Board of Selectman and Board of Finance
Thursday March 18, 2021
ZOOM**

Present: Ed St John, First Selectman
Elaine Strobel, Selectman
Ralph Barra, Selectman
William Stowell, Chairman
Rita H Smith, Board Member
Joseph Drauss, Board Member
Vincent Cipriano, Board Member
Dawn Albizu-Calabrese, Board Member
Stephen Ruccio, Board Member
Natrajan Kuppuraj, Alternate
John Moriarty, Alternate

Absent: John Jenusaitis, Alternate

Also Present: Robin Stanziale, CFO
Rachel Primus, Recording Clerk

William Stowell opened the meeting at 7:00 PM with the pledge of allegiance.

Declare a Quorum of both boards are Present

It was determined that both boards had a quorum.

New Business

• **FY 21-22 Budget Discussion**

Bill Stowell said he did not receive any inquiries regarding the budget, nor did Robin or Ed St John. Ed St John said he had sent out a narrative to board members regarding the Capital Plan items. Robin said the budget is a 3.23% increase, but noted they have brought in revenue items to offset that increase. Ed noted that at the last meeting they made several deductions so the impact is actually a negative number and will be a reduced mill rate budget. He said they have a reduction in the school budget this year as well.

- **Vote on the FY21-22 Budget to be presented to Public at Budget Public hearing to be held on April 6, 2021**

VOTED: Unanimously on a motion by Ed St John and seconded by Elaine Strobel to **APPROVE** the FY21-22 budget in the amount of \$11,919,736.24 to be presented to the public at the Budget Public hearing to be held on April 6, 2021.

VOTED: Unanimously on a motion by Rita Smith and seconded by Steve Ruccio to **APPROVE** the FY21-22 budget in the amount of \$11,919,736.24 to be presented to the public at the Budget Public hearing to be held on April 6, 2021.

- **Board of Finance Chairman to announce result of the two votes.**

Bill Stowell reported that both boards voted unanimously to put the budget amount to public hearing.

- **FY 21-22 proposed appropriation for Capital Items in the amount of \$250,000 to be presented to public for a vote at the budget referendum to be held on May 5, 2021.**

- **Discussion**

Bill noted that Ed had asked that the vote for the budget referendum be a separate question for the Capital items. Robin said she sent out a revised description of the items. Vinnie asked if there was a description of the infrastructure. Elaine said it was building, roads, etc. Ed St John said that the \$50,000 is just for painting the town buildings. They will be starting to do maintenance on the buildings, but have nothing big planned, just regular maintenance. Vinnie asked if the board could get an update on the Capital Projects. Ed said he is waiting for the audit to be completed so it could be included in the annual report. Steve asked that if these are ongoing items why they were included in the Capital plan and not included in the budget. Bill said it has been done this way in the past, but Steve is correct and that it should be a budget item if they are ongoing items. Bill said that next year these should be in the budget. He will ask for legal clarification. He is recommending that tonight they continue to do as in the past, but moving forward, with legal opinion, they should be budget items. A discussion ensued regarding the reserve funds for specific budget items. Bill said he will bring this before the BOF at the regular meeting to discuss and he will also ask the opinion of the auditors.

- **Vote on the FY 21-22 proposed appropriation for Capital items in the amount of \$250,000 to be presorted to public for a vote at the budget referendum to be held on May 5, 2021.**

VOTED: Unanimously on a motion by Ed St John and seconded by Elaine Strobel to **APPROVE** the FY21-22 proposed appropriation for Capital items in the amount of \$250,000 to be presented to the public for a vote at the budget referendum to be held on May 5, 2021.

VOTED: Unanimously on a motion by Joseph Drauss and seconded by Rita Smith to **APPROVE** the FY21-22 proposed appropriation for Capital items in the amount of \$250,000 to be presented to the public for a vote at the budget referendum to be held on May 5, 2021.

Public Comment

None

Adjournment

VOTED: Unanimously on a motion by Joseph Drauss and seconded by Vincent Cipriano to
ADJOURN the meeting at 7:26 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