



## TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY

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

**Speical Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday February 26, 2020  
Shepardson Community Center  
Room 4**

Present: William Stowell, Chairman  
Rita H Smith, Board Member  
Dawn Albizu-Calabrese, Board Member

Absent: Keli-Ann Bollard, Alternate  
Stephen Ruccio, Board Member  
Joseph Drauss, Board Member  
Vincent Cipriano, Board Member

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

William Stowell noted there was not a quorum therefore no action will be taken tonight. He opened the meeting at 7:04 PM.

### **New Business**

- **Discussion with Fire Department re: 2020-2021 Budget**

Ed St John suggested that the board review the annual report he passed out tonight before the Fire and Police department present their proposed budget.

Fire Chief Brett Kales reviewed the proposed budget with the board. They are asking for a 2% increase in temporary salaries, as well as the Fire Chief account. They are also looking to increase the Travel and Official Expense account and the GPS unit account, which was denied by the Board of Selectman. The Board of Selectman wants to increase the Personnel training and Cleaning Supplies account. They asked to increase the Radio Repair, Equipment Maintenance, and Motor Vehicle Maintenance accounts. The Board of Selectman increased the Heating Oil & Diesel Fuel and Gas & Propane account.

They reviewed the Capital Plan items for consideration which consist of \$28,000 for SCBA reserve replacement, \$12,000 for Radio reserve, \$26,000 for Automatic Sprinkler Protection System, and \$2,000 for the Dive Team. Bill Stowell said the Dive Team new line item should not be part of the Capital Plan but included in the regular FD account. A discussion ensued regarding the air packs. Brett said he will try and get some of them replaced through grants.

He also explained that in 2008 the radios switched to high band and they had to get all new radios. He explained that it is difficult to get parts for the older radios and is costly. They are hoping to gradually replace the radios. Currently they have 49 portables and 12 mobile. Brett also explained that the Dive Team is run on grant money, but they are asking each town to contribute \$2,000 for maintenance of equipment. Ed St John said that they are supportive of the Dive Team and as long as there is a contract written up where every town agrees they have no issue with this. Bill Stowell asked about the \$11,000 increase to Power and Controls account. Ed St John said he got the number from looking back historically, but it might be able to get adjusted down. Robin said she will get an exact number for the next meeting. A discussion ensued regarding new radios, radio repairs and air packs.

- **Discussion with Police Department re: 2020-2021 Budget**

Chief Dabbo reviewed his proposed budget with the board, noting he had requested an increase of 6.58% and the Board of Selectman had reduced it to a 1.51% increase. He noted they are hoping to budget for 2 new radios per year. They are asking for a \$14,000 increase in Holiday, Vacation and Sick account, \$34,500 in Salaries, \$1,700 in Overtime Salaries, \$1,250 in Education Incentive, \$1,600 in Professional Services, \$2,650 in Dues/Publications, \$700 in Personnel Training, \$492 in Animal Control, \$1,400 in Computer Equipment Maintenance, \$700 in Office Supplies, \$2,130 in Wearing Apparel & Equipment, \$1,100 in Photo and Finger Printing, \$500 in Firearms Maintenance, and \$100 in Police Building – Water. There were also accounts that had decreased as well. There was a discussion regarding contract negotiations and the available reserve account if needed. There was a discussion regarding the new compliance account with a request of \$64,000. Chief Dabbo said that there are security requirements by the FBI and State. It was noted that the First Selectman reduced this to \$18,000 and noted there was also \$18,000 in a reserve account for this purpose.

Bill Stowell noted that no actions can be taken tonight. He said the board needs to finalize the budget at the next meeting. He asked the members to review the budget and ask any questions they may have and notify Robin and himself prior to the next meeting. He is hoping to vote on the budget on the 11<sup>th</sup>. They have a tight time line to follow. He noted that Region 15 Superintendent presented his budget request to the Board of Education for a 3.59% increase which would result in an additional cost of \$1,885,626 to Middlebury above what we are paying this year. He reminded members that there will be a joint meeting of the R15 Board of Education and the Finance Boards of the member towns on March 25<sup>th</sup> and that he is encouraging members to attend the meeting.

### **Adjournment**

Bill adjourned the meeting at 8:17 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Rachel Primus, Recording Clerk

Cc: Board of Selectmen  
Board of Finance and Alternates  
Robin Stanziale, Town Treasurer  
Email Notification for Website  
File