



TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY

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

Regular Meeting Minutes Wednesday March 11, 2020 Shepardson Community Center Room 26

Present: William Stowell, Chairman
Rita H Smith, Board Member
Dawn Albizu-Calabrese, Board Member
Stephen Ruccio, Board Member
Joseph Drauss, Board Member
Vincent Cipriano, Board Member

Absent: Keli-Ann Bollard, Alternate

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

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

Approval of February 5, 2020 Meeting Minutes

VOTED: Unanimously on a motion by Rita Smith and seconded by Joseph Drauss to
APPROVE February 5, 2020 meeting minutes.

Approval of February 26, 2020 Meeting Minutes

VOTED: Unanimously on a motion by Rita Smith and seconded by Dawn Calabrese to
APPROVE February 26, 2020 Special Meeting Minutes

Reports

• Chief Financial Reports

Robin Stanziale stated the reports were included in their packets. She said she isn't concerned about any of the departments at this time. She said that revenue is coming in and they are keeping an eye on the incoming taxes. There has been no word on the state grants yet. They should be receiving \$821,000 for the ECS grant, unless the state decides to change that amount. Everything else is on track.

On the expense side there are a lot of positives this year, for example, the mild winter. However, she is seeing an increase on equipment maintenance.

- **Tax Collectors Reports**

Included in packets.

Bill Stowell said he received an email from Brenda stating she would not be able to attend tonight's meeting.

Robin reviewed the special duty report. She noted they received \$55,000 from Asplundh tree. She said since the end of February there is \$62,000 in receivables.

Bill thanked Amy, who was at tonight's meeting, and told her she was doing a great job.

Old Business

- **Discussion to Finalize Budget for Public Hearing**

Robin Stanziale reviewed some changes that have been made since the last meeting. She explained that they are trying to get a better handle on the Park and Rec budget. They are trying to get an understanding on what it will cost to maintain the parks. She said Dan has suggested taking over the maintenance side of the parks. She said she will be creating a line in building and grounds specific to the park and greenway maintenance. Her overall goal is to stay on budget.

Bill Stowell passed out two hand outs, one regarding ECS showing the projections in the upcoming years and another of a chart showing the past 25 years of the percentage of town and education expenses. He noted this was just an informational item regarding where the education stands.

Bill reminded the board that the Joint Boards of Education and Board of Finance are meeting on March 25, 2020 and he strongly encourages members to attend and to ask any questions they may have. He explained there is a 3.59% increase for their proposed budget, \$75,806,607 gross budget. Bill reviewed the Region 15 proposed budget with the board. Vincent Cipriano thought it would be a good idea if one of their members of Region 15 attend one of this boards meetings. A discussion regarding the school budget ensued.

Ed St John said this year's proposed budget has a 2.71% or \$304,000 increase, which does not include the region budget. He noted that they are currently seeing substantial savings in fuel cost right now.

New Business

- **Vote on Budget to send to Public Hearing**

VOTED: Unanimously on a motion by Joseph Drauss and seconded by Rita Smith to **APPROVE** the proposed budget and send to Public Hearing on April 7, 2020 with an increase of 2.71% plus the projected Region 15 Budget.

VOTED: Unanimously on a motion by Joseph Drauss and seconded by Stephen Ruccio to **APPROVE** the Capital items for consideration for \$248,000 to be added to the ballot.

A discussion ensued regarding Fenn's Farm.

Public Comment

None

Adjournment

VOTED: Unanimously on a motion by Rita Smith and seconded by Dawn Calabrese to **ADJOURN** the meeting at 7:58 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