

Middleton Budget Committee
Public Hearing/ Meeting
January 28, 2020

Board Members:

Roxanne Tufts-Keegan, Chair	Laura Parker, Vice Chair
Tracy Donovan-Lavolette	Scott Ferguson (Absent)
Bonnie Gagnon	Mary Knapp, School Board Rep
Joe Varga, Selectman Rep	Janet Kalar (Absent)

Roxanne Tufts-Keegan motions to open the Town of Middleton Public Hearing at 6:00 PM.

Mary Knapp motions to accept the January 19, 2021 minutes as written. Bonnie Gagnon seconds, all in favor, 6-0-0.

Roxanne stated the public hearing was to review the warrant article with the public and get their input. The following articles were presented to the public.

Article 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) for the purpose of road construction and paving of various roads in town. This is a non-lapsing appropriation pursuant to RSA 32:7 VI and will not lapse until December 31,2025, whichever is sooner. (Majority Vote Required)

Recommended by Board of Selectmen

Article 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of four hundred thirty-two dollars (\$ 432) to be added to the Highway Department Building Capital Reserve Fund, with said funds to come from the unexpended fund balance as of December 31, 2020. This amount represents the difference between appropriated to the Highway Department for 2020 and the amount spent. (Majority Vote Required)

Recommended by Board of Selectmen

Article 09: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten thousand dollars (\$ 10,000) to be added to the Highway Department Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund, with said funds to come from the unexpended fund balance as of December 31, 2020. This amount represents the difference between appropriated to the Highway Department for 2020 and the amount spent. (Majority Vote Required)

Recommended by Board of Selectmen

Article 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of five hundred dollars (\$500) to be added to the Milfoil Invasive Aquatic Species Capital Reserve Fund established for the purpose of treating exotic milfoil and other exotic aquatic weeds, with said funds to come from the unassigned fund balance. (Majority vote required)

Recommended by Board of Selectmen

Article 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of three thousand dollars (\$3,000) to be added to the Data & Equipment Capital Reserve Fund, with said funds to come from the unassigned fund balance. (Majority vote required)

Recommended by Board of Selectmen

Article 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) to be added to the Reevaluation Capital Reserve Fund, with said funds to come from the unassigned fund balance. (Majority Vote Required)

Recommended by Board of Selectmen

Article 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) to be added to the Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund, with said funds to come from the unassigned fund balance. (Majority Vote Required)

Recommended by Board of Selectmen

Article 14: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) to be added to the Natural or Man-Made Disasters Capital Reserve Fund, with said funds to come from the unassigned fund balance. (Majority Vote Required)

Recommended by Board of Selectmen

Article 15: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) to be placed in the Fire Department Replacement Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund, with said funds to come from the unassigned fund balance. (Majority Vote Required)

Recommended by Board of Selectmen

Article 16: To see if the Town will vote to establish a Public Safety Complex Capital Reserve Fund per RSA 35:1, for the purpose of building a Public Safety Complex to contain Fire Department; EMS Department; Police Department; and Town Government Offices, and to raise and appropriate the sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) to put in the fund, with said funds to come from the unassigned fund balance. If this article fails, Article "17" will be null and void. (Majority Vote Required).

Recommended by Board of Selectmen

Article 17: To see if the Town will vote to discontinue the Fire Department Addition Capital Reserve Fund Created in 1997. Said funds, with accumulated interest to

date of withdrawal, are to be transferred to the Town's Public Safety Complex Capital Reserve Fund. This article will be null and void if Article "16" fails. (Majority Vote Required).

Recommended by Board of Selectmen

Article 18: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000) for the purpose of purchasing a roadside mower. (Majority Vote Required)

Not Recommended by Board of Selectmen

Article 19: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter a five-year lease purchase for the amount not to exceed two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) for the purpose of leasing a new highway truck with required equipment and to raise and appropriate the sum of forty-five thousand dollars (\$45,000) for the first year's lease payment through taxation. The current highway truck will be traded in which will be used to reduce the cost of the 5-year lease purchase. This lease will have an escape clause. (Majority vote required)

Not Recommended by Board of Selectmen

Article 7 was read and a member of the public asked if any of the public highway department were Road Scholars. Joe Varga replied that the road agent was a Road Scholar. Joe also commented this was a rolling 5-year fund.

Article 8 was read and no there was no discussion.

Article 9 was read and there was discussion as to how often highway vehicles were replaced. Joe commented that the town tried to replace a highway truck every 5 years. Joe commented is \$15,534 in the Highway Department Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund. There was a question regarding how many acres there are where the salt shed is built. Laura commented and said she thought it was 5.

Article 10 was read. Roxanne commented the amount of \$500 was reduced from prior years. Joe commented that the conservation committee has provided funds for the Milfoil removal program. He stated a member from the conservation committee has obtain grant money to help cover the cost of milfoil removal from the lake.

Article 11 was read and there was no discussion.

Article 12 was read. Roxanne stated this was the typical amount requested in the past for the Reevaluation Capital Reserve Fund.

Article 13 was read and there was no discussion.

Article 14 was read. Joe stated the balance in the Natural or Man-Made Disasters Capital Reserve Fun is \$13,539.

Article 15 was read. Roxanne stated the \$20,000 was higher than prior years. It was stated that a new fire truck costs is in the range of \$300,000.

Article 16 was read. Joe commented this was to establish a Public Safety Complex that would contain the Fire Department, EMS Department, Police Department, and Town Government offices. He also stated this for future planning and not something that was going to happen in the next several years. Joe commented that if this article did not pass then Article 17 would be null and void.

Article 17 was read. Laura stated the article needed to have a specific sum that it could not be generic wording. She said the DRA would not accept it as it is written. Tracy asked if the Fire Station addition had a washer/dryer set up for washing gear. Joe commented the initial plans did but the current plans did not include the design for a washer/dryer set up. Joe stated has asked the fire chief to check into options for getting gear cleaned.

Article 18 was read. A member of the public asked why the selectmen are not recommending this article. Joe commented the selectmen did not feel it was a worth buying the equipment when the town could rent a mower. The town would not have to maintain the equipment as well as have the equipment sit idle for a portion of the year.

Article 19 was read. Joe stated the Board of Selectmen did not recommend this article. He stated the selectmen feel the town could get another 1 to 2 years of use from the truck the highway department head was looking to replace. Joe commented the \$45,000 was just an estimate and was waiting for figures from the finance company.

Mary Knapp made a motion to close the public hearing and adjourn at 6:59pm. Bonnie Gagnon seconds, all in favor, 6-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Roxanne Tufts-Keegan