

Public Hearing for the Middleton Town 2020 Budget Warrant Articles
MIDDLETON BUDGET COMMITTEE
January 30, 2020

Scott Ferguson called to order/open the meeting for the Public Hearing for the Middleton Town 2020 Budget Warrant Articles at 6:34 pm.

Budget Committee Members:

Scott Ferguson, Vice Chair	Bonnie Gagnon
Rebecca Brownell-Smith	Tracy Donovan-Laviolette
Mary Knapp, School Board Rep	Janet Kalar, SLVD Rep
Jon Hotchkiss, BOS Rep	Roxanne Tufts-Keegan, Chair

Roxanne Tufts-Keegan will be attending later at 6:45 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

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 Building Capital Reserve Fund. (Majority vote required)

There was question as to weather or not this was for a new highway building and/or fixing and repairing the existing highway building. Selectman representative thought it was for only a new building. Questions were raised as to what line electrical repairs to the highway building was paid from previously. No other line seemed to cover repairs to the highway building. This warrant article was tabled for later.

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, 2024, whichever is sooner. (Majority vote required)

The board discussed why the majority of funds were not spent in 2019. It was stated that there were issues in getting the paving company in in a timely manner before the weather changed. Funds will be used this coming year to do more and make up for roads that did not get paved in 2019.

Scott Ferguson made a motion to accept the warrant article as read. Seconded by Mary Knapp. Vote was taken. (8-0-0)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) to be placed in the Highway Department Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund. (Majority vote required)

There is approximately a \$15,000 balance currently. A highway department vehicle was paid off just this past year.

Mary Knapp made a motion to accept the warrant article as read. Seconded by Jon Hotchkiss. Vote was taken. (8-0-0)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of two thousand dollars (\$2,000) 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. (Majority vote required)

The board discussed the asking amount being lower than last year. The conservation committee has money to also help out with treating the lake. Mary Knapp made a motion to accept the warrant article as read. Seconded by Rebecca Brownell-Smith. Vote was taken. (8-0-0)

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. (Majority vote required)

Current balance is approximately \$3,500.

Mary Knapp made a motion to accept the warrant article as read. Seconded by Rebecca Brownell-Smith. Vote was taken. (8-0-0)

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. (Majority vote required)

The entire town is reevaluated every five years. Every year 25% of the town gets evaluated. Current balance approximately \$13,900.

Scott Ferguson made a motion to accept the warrant article as read. Seconded by Mary Knapp. Vote was taken. (8-0-0)

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. (Majority vote required)

Approximate current balance is \$25,000. The fire department purchase them on a rotation.

Mary Knapp made a motion to accept the warrant article as read. Seconded by Rebecca Brownell-Smith. Vote was taken. (8-0-0)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) to be placed in the Fire Department Addition Capital Reserve Fund. (Majority vote required)

Balance is primarily \$10,000. A bathroom will be added to the new addition.

Mary Knapp made a motion to accept the warrant article as read. Seconded by Jon Hotchkiss. Vote was taken. (8-0-0)

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. (Majority vote required)

Approximate current balance is \$13,400.

Scott Ferguson made a motion to accept the warrant article as read. Seconded by Jon Hotchkiss. Vote was taken. (8-0-0)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of six thousand dollars (\$6,000) to replace the kitchen roof at the Old Town Hall, with said funds to come from unassigned fund balance. (Majority vote required)

There was discussion of what if any other projects still are required at the Old Town Hall. This will be the last major project. There is still a need to replace the sump

pump in the basement and add a dehumidifier and general maintenance for the building. Mary Knapp made a motion to accept the warrant article as read. Seconded by Scott Ferguson. Vote was taken. (8-0-0)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred seventy-five thousand dollars (\$175,000) to replace the Highway Department salt shed, with said funds to come from unassigned fund balance.

The selectman have an estimate that will not go above \$175,000. There has not been a final decision if the salt shed will be made out of wood or concrete or if it will be located in the current location or at the new highway garage site on Ridge Road. There was discussion of adding the words *up to* to the warrant article.

Mary Knapp made a motion to accept the warrant article as read. Seconded by Jon Hotchkiss. Vote was taken. (3-5-0)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-one thousand dollars (\$21,000) to install a security and fire detection system for the Town buildings (Municipal Building, Old Town Hall, Fire Department, and Highway Garage) with said funds to come from unassigned fund balance. (Majority vote required)

This amount is just for installation only. There is no line built into the budget to cover any fee for monitoring.

Rebecca Brownell-Smith made a motion to accept the warrant article as read. Seconded by Mary Knapp. Vote was taken. (7-0-1)

To see if the Town will vote to discontinue the Cemetery Capital Reserve Fund created in 2014. Said funds, with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal are to be transferred to the Towns general fund. (Majority vote required)

Approximate current balance is \$37,500.

Mary Knapp made a motion to accept the warrant article as read. Seconded by Bonnie Gagnon. Vote was taken. (8-0-0)

To see if the Town will vote to increase the Elderly Exemption income limits to: Single – thirty thousand (\$30,000) Married – forty thousand (\$40,000) and Asset Limit – seventy-five thousand (\$75,000). Majority vote required)

The town currently stand at an elderly exemption of Single - \$21,000, Married - \$33,000 and Assets - \$50,000. There was discussion if there had been a study on the impact of raising the exemption rates and how much of the towns population was at the 65 years and older age. There has been no study of impact.

Tracy Donovan-Laviolette made a motion to accept the warrant article as read.

Seconded by Jon Hotchkiss. Vote was taken. (5-2-1)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of thirty-three thousand, two hundred seventy-nine dollars (\$33,279) for the purpose of purchasing new hydraulic rescue tools (also commonly known as the “Jaws of Life”), new rescue stabilization struts, new rescue air bags and mounting hardware for the fire department. (Majority vote required)

Mary Knapp made a motion to accept the warrant article as read. Seconded by Rebecca Brownell-Smith. Vote was taken. (8-0-0)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of five thousand (\$5,000) to be placed in the Fire Department Rep Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund. (Majority vote required)

The approximate current balance is \$16,800. Engine 1 is the oldest vehicle the fire department has.

Mary Knapp made a motion to accept the warrant article as read. Seconded by Jon Hotchkiss. Vote was taken. (8-0-0)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of seventy-five thousand (\$75,000) for the purpose of purchasing a roadside mower, with said funds to come from the unassigned fund balance. (Majority vote required)

The town has always rented the mower in conjunction with another town. This year the mower broke down and the town was unable to use it. The rental price is approximately \$15,000 a year. The town has employees that can operate the mower attachment.

Janet Kalar made a motion to accept the warrant article as read. Seconded by Jon Hotchkiss. Vote was taken. (2-5-1)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) for the purpose of purchasing and installing radio communications repeater and radios for the improvement of Highway Department communications. (Majority vote required)

This is a solid figure. 9 radios also include having one at the municipal building and the police department.

Jon Hotchkiss made a motion to accept the warrant article as read. Seconded by Janet Kalar. Vote was taken. (2-4-2)

The board revisited the very first article.

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 Building Capital Reserve Fund. (Majority vote required)

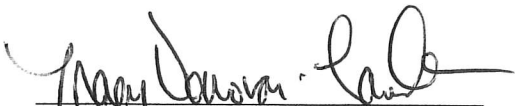
The board concluded the warrant is for both new and/or repairs to the current highway garage.

Rebecca Brownell-Smith made a motion to accept the warrant article as read. Seconded by Scott Ferguson. Vote was taken. (5-2-1)

The sheet provided did not included the ending line of "And to transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting". The budget committee mentioned it at the public hearing so that it could be discussed at the town meeting if needed.

Bonnie Gagnon made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:14 pm. Seconded by Mary Knapp. Vote was taken. (8-0-0)

Respectfully Submitted By,


Tracy Donovan-Laviolette