

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Date: [redacted]

**Town of Middleton, NH
Budget Committee Meeting**

February 7, 2020

Attendance:

Budget Committee:

Roxanne Tufts-Keegan, BC chair
Tracy Donovan-Laviolette, BC member
Scott Ferguson, BC vice chair
Bonnie Gagnon, BC member

Jon Hotchkiss, BOS representative
Mary Knapp, SB representative
Janet Kalar, SLVD representative

Absent:

Becca Brownell-Smith

6:30 pm, meeting called to order by Roxanne Tufts-Keegan.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Old Business:

Minutes were reviewed from the January 20, 2020 Budget Committee meeting. Motion to accept was made by Mary Knapp, Tracy Donovan-Laviolette seconded. Motion to accept passed (7-0-0).

Minutes from the January 30, 2020 Budget Committee meeting were reviewed. Scott Ferguson made a motion to accept, Mary Knapp seconded. Motion to accept passed (7-0-0).

Roxanne Tufts-Keegan asked if the Budget Committee would like to discuss and revote on the warrant article (article 20) pertaining to the town salt shed, stating that we now have more information on it. The reply was yes. Jon Hotchkiss filled us in on new details. The shed would be built on the town lot on Ridge road and would be a 40x40, 2 bay shed, with one bay for salt and one bay for a salt mix. The shed would not cost more than \$175,000 to build, that price coming from an engineering firm. They do not have bids yet but Jon stated that the bids will need to come in at that amount or less. Jon said that they have had two discussions with the property owners adjacent to where the salt shed is now, because the salt does leach down into their property. The owners have said it didn't matter to them if the shed is moved or not, but the town is worried about what could happen if they sold the property. The selectmen have spoken to the road agent Rick Washburn, he does not think the shed needs to be moved because it will make it harder for his crew to take their trucks a quarter mile

down the road to fill them. Joe Varga also spoke on the reasoning as to why moving the shed would be a good idea, basically backing up what Jon had said.

This is a special warrant article where the money could only be used for the salt shed. Majority vote is required. Mary Knapp made a motion to revote on Warrant Article 20; To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars (\$175,000) to replace the Highway Department salt shed, with said funds to come from unassigned fund balance. Majority vote required. It was seconded by Scott Ferguson. (7-0-0).

The MS-737 was reviewed and signed.

Follow up discussion was done on the school deliberative session. It was suggested for next year that the budget committee does a presentation to show their numbers and why they chose them.

The Middleton Elementary School is 36 students away from being at capacity. There are 15 years left on the bond.

Mary Knapp, school board rep, stated that, at the school board meeting, one hour before the school deliberative session (let it be noted that this meeting was not posted anywhere as stated in RSA 91-A:2), is the first time she saw the booklets, flyers, papers and powerpoint, that were handed out. This information was done by the SAU and Mary said, should have been given to them sooner to give them time to review it. (Note: Mary stated later that she did receive the powerpoint in an email before the meeting).

Mary Knapp suggested that Kathy O'Blenes come to at least a couple of the budget committee's meetings next fall, so that she can answer questions as they come up, instead of having to wait for answers. It would be very beneficial. Scott Ferguson stated that we pay a considerable amount to the SAU, we should be able to get this.

Roxanne Tufts-Keegan said we were still waiting for a breakdown of salaries for the school employees, from the SAU. She will send Kathy O'Blenes another message tomorrow.

Roxanne Tufts-Keegan suggested the budget committee having a meeting after the school deliberative session next year, to see if the BC wants to change any of their recommendations.

Tracy Donovan-Laviolette asked, if it was not voted on last year to give the teachers raises, why does it look like they received one? It was stated at the deliberative that there were no raises given.

New Business:

School Budget:

The schools budget at this point should be at approximately 58.3 %, they are at 64.71 % spent.

It was asked- How can there be an encumbrance on salaries? Roxanne Tufts-Keegan will ask Kathy O'Blenes.

Town Business:

Jon Hotchkiss said there were several mistakes on the town warrant articles that needed to be fixed, they should read as follows:

Article 1: To choose all necessary officers for the stated terms:

- Selectman for one, three (3) year term
- Selectman for one, two (2) year term
- Town Clerk/ Tax collector for one, three (3) year term
- Budget Committee for one, three (3) year term
- Budget Committee for one, three (3) year term
- Trustee of Trust Funds for one, three (3) year term
- Trustee of Trust Funds for one, three (3) year term

Article 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the Budget Committee's recommended amount of the sum of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for Culture and Recreation operations. The Selectmen recommended \$5,000. This article does not contain appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed. (Majority vote required)

	<u>Recommended By Budget Committee</u>	<u>Recommended By Selectmen</u>
Beach Maintenance	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Other Culture / Rec	\$ 3,501	\$ 3,500
Patriotic	\$ 500	\$ 500
Totals	\$5,001	\$ 5,000

Article 25: And to transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

Motion to close was made by Bonnie Gagnon and seconded by Scott Ferguson. All in favor (7-0-0) Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Next Budget Committee Meetings

- March 10, 2020, voting at Old Town Hall 7am-7pm
- March 14, 2020, Town Meeting at Old Town Hall
- March 16, 2020, regular Budget Committee meeting, 6:30 pm at the Municipal building.

Respectfully Written by:
Bonnie Gagnon
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