

Middleton Budget Committee Meeting December 6, 2021

Board Members:

Roxanne Tufts-Keegan, Chair	Laura Parker, Vice Chair (Absent)
Tracy Donovan-Laviolette	Christine Maynard
Bonnie Gagnon	Mary Knapp, School Board Rep
Mike Boisvert, Selectman Rep	Janet Kalar (Absent)

Roxanne Tufts-Keegan called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

Bonnie Gagnon asked when the tax rate would be set. Mike replied the BOS was meeting on 12/7/2021 at 5:30pm to set the tax rate.

Roxanne asked Mike if there were any responses to the questions from the October meeting. Mike stated he hadn't seen the questions. Roxanne said she would resend him the email that contained the questions.

Roxanne asked Mike if he knew what made up the \$29,309.71 in the Miscellaneous Revenue line. He stated he would check and let the committee know at the next meeting.

Roxanne asked if the town expected any additional charges to the Assessor line (4150-90-col). This line is over budget by \$870.90. Mike commented that the town didn't expect any additional charges to come through this line for 2021.

The budget committed was provided with the MES proposed budget.

The Health/Life, Dental, and Disability line decreased by 17.89%, 32.69%, and 17.63% respectively. Roxanne stated she would send an email to Kathy O'Blenes for an explanation of the decreases.

A teacher's salary matrix was provided to the budget committee. Tracy asked if the steps in the matrix are capped. Scott Ferguson stated the steps are capped. Mike asked if the town is obligated to this pay scale.

Bonnie asked how many out of district students Middleton currently has. Roxanne stated she would send this question to Kathy O'Blenes.

Tracy asked if the budget committed would be provided the current pupil counts and teacher's salaries. She stated this has been provided in previous years. Roxanne stated she would send this request to Kathy O'Blenes.

Bonnie asked why there was such an increase in the Testing Materials line (611).

Roxanne stated she would include this question in the email she was sending to Kathy O'Blenes.

Roxanne suggested Tuesday, 1/11/2022 for the Public Hearing for both the town and school budgets. Everyone agreed this date was acceptable.

Roxanne asked Mike if the BOS discussed the ARPA funds and how they could be used. Mike stated this would be discussed at the 12/13/2021 BOS meeting.

Andrea Bowden asked what the balance of the unreserved fund balance was. Mike stated he thought it was approximately \$1.4 million.

Andrea Bowden asked if any money was pulled for last year from the unreserved fund. Mike commented he wasn't aware that any money was used from the unreserved fund.

Andrea Bowden asked about last year's tax rate. She commented that last year's tax rate was estimated. She asked about the audit for 2019 coming back and if it had any effect on the tax rate. She asked what the actual rate should have been and if there were any adjustments due to the estimate rate. Mike commented the actual rate was the same as the estimated rate. Tracy asked Mike that the estimated rate was the exact same as the actual rate, 100% down to the penny. He stated yes, the rate was the same as last year.

Bonnie made a motion to close the meeting and adjourn at 7:18pm. Mary seconded, all in favor, 6-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Roxanne Tufts-Keegan