



Town of Middlefield Board of Selectmen

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Selectboard/Finance Joint Meeting January 17, 2024

The meeting was called to order by Ann Marie Visconti, Chairperson of the Selectboard, at 6:30 PM. Also present from the Selectboard were Curt Robie and Tamarin Laurel-Paine. Finance Committee members present were: Adair Laurel-Cafarella and Jonathan Freiermuth. Sean Curran, Town Administrator was also present, as was Mark Doane, Administrative Assistant.

Town People present were: Logan Judge, Ken Murray, Doreen Black, David DiNicola, Albert Sirard.

The purpose of this meeting was to begin setting budget requirements for the Fiscal Year of 2025. After initial discussions surrounding the condition of the accounts, the computer software currently being used, with it reported that the accountant does not like Springbrook. It was felt that the various departments need to know the condition of their accounts for more informed ability to monitor their budgets. Sean Curran to call Dave Irwin re: auditing the accounts. It was reported that the last audit found the Town in good shape.

Following these opening remarks, the process of line-item budgeting began. The Assessors are asking for 3% raise, but a decrease in expenses, Animal Control Officer is slated for a COA of 3% , the Board of Health is influx, as to whether stay with Berkshire Planning Commission, which is increasing their rates, or whether to go with Northampton Planning Commission, as there is no cost to the Town as it is part of Hampshire County. Sticking point is whether the Inspectors in Northampton will have all the necessary training in place by July 1, 2024.

The Cemetery Commission will need no increase, Zoning and Planning Commissions will remain at their current level, and Sean will talk to Linda Cernik about the Disposal Area. The School Assessment will be available in March, Emergency Management needs \$3000.00, but just for use with grants. Emergency Medical Services will maintain current levels. The Librarian should be raised 3% in salary to bring to minimum state wage. Street electricity will increase from \$500.00, bidding services to go to \$2000.00, Maintenance of Public Buildings will maintain current level of spending.

Website and Technology need to increase to \$10,000.00. This is so meetings can be streamed, Zoom meetings, and question of OWL and for general IT support. Printing with Paradise for the Town Report to increase to \$1,200.00. Town Hall Custodian to receive a 3% wage increase. Moderator will be \$110.00;

Assistant Electrical Inspector will remain unchanged. The Police Department is still working on their budget. The Veteran's budget won't be available until February.

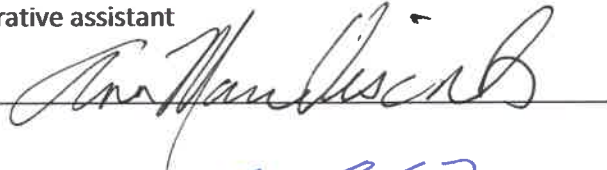
Selectmen expenses are to go up to \$3,000.00, Copier expenses to go up to \$2,000.00, the Recording Secretary will remain at same level. Town Counsel to be at \$15,000.00. No budget items on the Tax Collector, Tax Title Treasurer; (it was recommended to see who is behind in taxes), Treasurer expenses to increase to \$2,000.00.

Capital Items discussed included the need for shelter for the police vehicles, new truck, a 10 Ton Trailer, new snow plow and wing.

There being no new business, old business, or public input, the Selectboard adjourned the meeting at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mark W. Doane, Administrative assistant

Ann Marie Visconti, Chair:



Curt Robie, Member:



Tamarin Laurel-Paine, Member:

