

Middletown Springs Selectboard • Approved Minutes Special Budget Meeting • December 21, 2023

BOARD PRESENT: At the Town Office: Herb Childress, Terry Redfield, Patty Kenyon, Peter Stevenson. via Zoom: none.

TOWN OFFICERS PRESENT: via Zoom: Sarah Grimm – Auditor. At the Town Office: Jenny Talke Munyak – Treasurer, Bill Reed – Road Commission/Road Foreman.

PUBLIC PRESENT: None.

CALL TO ORDER: Herb called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

BUDGET: Primarily Highway –

Jenny reviewed the past meeting budget numbers and filled in some holes on numbers that were in question.

Relative to Town Meeting in general, she posed the question about how the town wanted to manage the Memorial Day Parade money that the town is holding. Earlier in the year the board had a conversation about whether to officially set up a special reserve account for the parade. If the board would like to do that, now would be the time to put that request on the ballot for voter approval.

Jenny also had some questions about the library budget, mainly about adding the library grounds upkeep (plowing & mowing) into the town's overall Buildings & Grounds budget. The board explained that the change came at the request of the library board. There was a discussion about best practices, transparency and tracking into the future. Jenny believes that keeping the cost in the library budget offers the best form of transparency in terms of overall costs to maintain a town library. The board would like to have that discussion with members of the library board before making a final determination on categorizing and managing this piece into the future. Herb will invite library staff and board members to the next budget meeting to discuss.

The board then moved on to review and fill in the proposed highway budget.

Before adjournment, Patty brought up the information she shared with the board about the appropriations and the options the board has for managing those. Voting each appropriation separately adds a significant amount of articles to the town ballot and warning – last year 38 articles. The expense to publish, program and manage those articles is not insignificant. The town's current practice is not required by state law. The question is, does the board want to put an advisory question on this year's town warning to gauge the current climate? If we believe we should ask the voters before we make a change, now is the time. The board will revisit this at the next budget meeting.

OTHER BRIEF BUSINESS:

Setting budget board session for Thursday 12/28, 6pm – The board scheduled the next budget meeting for 6pm next Thursday, December 28.

Next regular Board meeting—7PM Thursday December 28, 2023

ADJOURN Herb moved to adjourn at 9:34pm, Peter 2nd. Meeting adjourned at 9:34pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Kenyon, Clerk