

**Middlesex Budget Committee
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, December 7, 2021
4:30 PM**

Minutes

Bill, Randy, Mark, Elias

4:30 Call to Order - Amendments - Welcome Guests

Other Business

- Approve 2021-11-16 & 2021-11-30 Meeting Minutes
 - Elias moves to approve the 2021-11-16 and 2021-11-30 Meeting Minutes incorporating the edits suggested by Mark and Randy. Bill 2nds. Passes 4-0-1.
- Correspondence: none
- Any other matters that may come before the committee
 - Town Report
 - Randy suggested the Budget Committee's report should include high points in the budget, areas that are significantly changed and that this will be a more active committee next year with the capital planning process.
 - Mark added that we can redefine our role for the community in 10 sentences or less and offered to write a draft for the next meeting.

Discuss recommendations to Select Board and Budget Workshop

- Randy suggested not including the analysis as a part of it but offering it separately if Select Board is interested so that we do not come off as telling them what to do.
- Mark offered to include wording that would be perceived as supportive vs directive and added that the budget committee can do the busy work. Mark also plans to incorporate Bill's suggestion to include other industries like the State in the analysis.
- Elias said the more we present options, and take work off their plate the better and suggested we clarify that our suggestions are for next budget year.
- Mark commented the 2022 Supplemental Security Income cost of living increase is 5.9%. The Select Board did a 3% mid year increase and is looking at another 3% which aligns with the SSI increase but asked what the impact will look like for people's tax rate. Most towns do a flat rate increase a little above cpi.
- Bill moves to approve the recommendation letter incorporating our discussion tonight to be sent out to the select board. Randy seconds. Passes 4-0-1.

Budget Workshop

- The committee joined the Select Board Meeting for a Budget Workshop at 5:00 see Select Board meeting Minutes for that discussion.

Adjourn at end of Budget Workshop