

MINUTES

MIDDLEFIELD FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

MARCH 30, 2015

PRESENT: Scott Artioli, Judy Hoag, Dale Hoag and Ed Vivier.

The meeting opened at 7:00 pm.

The committee continues to meet with the various dept. heads to go over their budgets for the upcoming 2016 fiscal year that starts on July 1st. Our agenda tonight is to meet with Ron Radwich, our fire chief, Suzanne Lemieux, our COA lunch coordinator and Skip Savery, our highway superintendent.

We had a very informative discussion with Suzanne regarding her new COA position. She told us that she really enjoys working with our seniors, setting up the meals with all that it entails and just having the opportunity to interact with such great people. She also mentioned that she would like to expand her working time by two hours, making a 4-hour shift that the state grants provides. This will allow her additional time for the necessary detail work to be completed. Suzanne also mentioned that she would be open to taking on additional responsibility, possibly as the COA director or whatever manner the COA committee may decide. Seems to be good news on the COA front.

Our next budget interview was with Chief Radwich who said that his operational budget for the next fiscal year would stay the same but that he was asking for money to fund a fire tanker. After researching the various costs he will be requesting approximately \$220,000. This will be for a new 2000 gal tanker, a 4x4 chassis and a 500-gal/min pto powered pump. This vehicle will also have an automatic transmission, 3-man cab, carry a 2,000 gal drop tank as well as the needed hoses and a ladder. This would give our town and our firefighters a long overdue, safe, easily drivable vehicle to respond not only to our own fires but to safely fulfill our mutual aid requirements. We thank Chief Radwich for his very informative presentation.

Our last interview was with highway superintendent Skip Savery. At a previous meeting he said that he was waiting for some figures to come in before he finalized his 2016 budgets. He presented us with the following budget request:

A 35 cent/hr raise for the road crew bringing them to \$19.75 / hr
A 40 cent/hr raise for the superintendent bringing him to \$22.60/hr.
Combined, a budget of \$3,000 for the above 2016 wages
Increased the snow removal budget by \$5,000
Increased the fuel also by \$5,000

In separate articles the superintendent will be asking to fund:

A snowplow for the new F550 at a cost of \$7,000
A 20 ft storage container at a cost of \$6,000
A change of the transfer case in the Autocar truck or a gear ratio change of the drive axels
The above change would cost \$15,000

Again the finance committee thanks Skip, Ron and Suzanne for their excellent presentations and also their patience while answering our many questions.

After the interviews the committee continued to review the various budget requests. At 8:05 our committee met with the Selectboard to review their budget request for the new fiscal year.

The Finance committee would like to thank the Selectboard for being so cordial, for being well prepared and informative, while, at the same time, expediting the entire budget process.

The meeting closed at 9:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ed Vivier
Secretary