



41 Seeley moved to approve the agenda as amended, and Nuovo seconded the  
42 motion. The motion carried with 7 in favor. **MOTION PASSED.**

43

44

### 3. Approval of Minutes of June 9, 2020

45

46 Khan moved to approve the minutes of June 9, 2020, seconded by Seeley.  
47 Fuentes-George had one change in line 305, the word “should” should be “could”.  
48 The minutes were approved as amended with 7 in favor. **MOTION PASSED.**

49

50

### 4. Citizen Comments

51

52 There were no citizen comments.

53

54

### 5. Local Emergency Management Director/Chief of Police, Update on Pandemic Response

55

56

57 Chief Hanley reported that they’ve had an increase in calls reporting people that  
58 weren’t wearing face masks. He said they are collecting all the reports and will  
59 use them to gauge at what level people are following the recommendation. He  
60 said the State Emergency Management Situation Reports have been scaled back  
61 to only 2 a week now, and the pop-up testing for this Friday is full. He said they’ve  
62 added new testing dates for Middlebury on 6/30, 7/10, 7/17, 7/ 24 and 7/31, and  
63 will continue into August, but they are much more restricted and you must have a  
64 reservation. He said Addison County’s COVID case numbers did go up this week.

65

66 Khan asked if there was a charge for these COVID tests, and Hanley said there’s  
67 no charge, people just need to register. Khan said there is a lot of confusion in  
68 town on the Resolution the Board approved at the last week regarding wearing  
69 face masks, and some people think it was an Ordinance. Hanley said he was  
70 aware of the confusion and they’d had calls on this. He also advised people to not  
71 wear their masks outside in this extremely hot weather, but to put them on when  
72 going indoors.

73

74

### 6. Fred Kenney, Executive Director of the Addison County Economic Development Corporation (ACEDC), Update on Pandemic Recovery: Review of State and Regional Efforts for Economic Recovery

75

76

77

78 Kenney reported that the House and Senate approved the Bill S-350 and it is now  
79 on the Governor’s desk for signing. He said this bill is for \$70 million in grants for  
80 businesses, and gives \$50 million to the Vermont Tax Dept for businesses who file

81 Rooms & Meals and Sales & Use Tax. He said they can automatically compare  
82 last year's tax amount to this year's tax amount and calculate the grant amount  
83 and send it to the business, but the businesses must apply, and that can be done  
84 at myvtax.vermont.gov. He said \$20 million will go to the Agency of Commerce for  
85 businesses that don't pay sales taxes, but in all cases the businesses must show a  
86 loss of 75% for one month compared to the same month in 2019, and have one or  
87 more non-owner employees.

88

89 Kenney said Bill H-966 is another relief bill that has passed the house and is  
90 moving through the Legislature, and this bill provides \$43 million for broadband  
91 programs, \$68 million for housing programs, almost \$85 million in additional  
92 business grants and \$20 million for hazard pay to frontline workers. He said, of  
93 the \$85 million in business grants, \$70 million would again be through the Tax  
94 Department and the Agency of Commerce, but smaller amounts would be  
95 dispersed by other agencies. He said these businesses would have to show a  
96 50% or more loss in a month compared to the same month last year, and one or  
97 more non-owner employees.

98

99 Kenney said that's almost \$140 million for small businesses that meet these  
100 requirements, but self-employed businesses with no employees will not be eligible  
101 for any funds. He said this wasn't as robust as Governor Scott's program, but still  
102 a significant amount of money for relief for these businesses.

103

104 Carpenter asked how much of the CARE Funds are still being held back by the  
105 state. Kenney said he understands that all of the \$1.25 billion dollars has now  
106 been allocated and they're not holding any back.

107

108 **7. Aaron Guyette, P.E., VHB Project Manager, Middlebury Downtown Bridge**  
109 **Replacement Project, with an update on the**  
110 **Middlebury Historic Village National Register Nomination**

111

112 Guyette introduced Britta Tonn and Caitlin O'Shea, historic preservationists with  
113 VHB, and Judith Ehrlich, who is an historic preservationist with VTrans. Guyette  
114 said this is a phase of the Bridge and Rail Project that was discussed back in 2016  
115 and 2017, and since this project is financed mostly with Federal funds, it must  
116 undergo a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) evaluation, as well as a 4F  
117 historic preservation review and a Section 106 review, of historic and cultural  
118 resources and archeological resources. He said this project has both temporary  
119 and permanent impacts on historic resources in the downtown area; one of the  
120 mitigation requirements under Section 106 was to prepare a new National Register

121 of Historic Preservation nomination for an updated Middlebury Village Historic  
122 District.

123

124 Britta Tonn said that the existing Village Historic District is somewhat dated. She  
125 said it was first listed in 1976, amended in 1980 to expand the boundaries and a  
126 new property on North Pleasant Street was added in 2001.

127

128 She said architecturally, most of the buildings included in the original 1976  
129 application are amazingly intact and have not changed. She said back in 1976 the  
130 application did not require as much detail as the current applications do, so an  
131 update to the Historic District will have much more detail and will be a better tool in  
132 understanding the many historic resources in the village. She said this will be a 2-  
133 phased project; the first phase is a survey of the village completed with the  
134 guidance from the Historic Preservation District for nominations and this survey  
135 will inform them of the history and architecture of each building. Tonn said she and  
136 O'Shea would be walking around neighborhoods in Middlebury documenting  
137 details on buildings to be added to the survey, and all work would be from the  
138 public right-of-way, and not on private property. She said they'd also evaluate the  
139 district boundary to see if it should expand, or less likely, be reduced from what it  
140 is now, to be sure that the nomination includes all buildings that are architecturally  
141 and historically significant. She said there are around 400 buildings that they will  
142 be surveying and no new buildings will be added to the list.

143

144 She said completion of the nomination is the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the project, and this is a  
145 standard form that covers the historical and architectural significance of the village,  
146 and the detail of the buildings.

147

148 Guyette said Tonn's and O'Shea's presence in the field will be covered in Jim  
149 Gish's blog so that people will know what they are doing as they walk around the  
150 neighborhoods, and it will be covered in the July 8<sup>th</sup> public meeting.

151

152 Brown mentioned that the carriage house of his property at the Swift House Inn is  
153 not in the district, and it was built by Clinton Smith in the 1880's, one of the most  
154 renowned architects in the area. Tonn said this is an area they have identified as  
155 needing more surveying, so the carriage house would be included in this survey  
156 effort.

157

158 **8. Jim Gish, Community Liaison, Downtown Bridge Replacement Project,**  
159 **request for reduction in 2-hour time limit for parking on Main Street, near the**  
160 **Post Office, during the 10-week Main Street closure period**

161

162 Gish said construction plans provide 11 parking spaces north of the crosswalk on  
163 Main Street for Post Office customers. He said these spaces currently have a 2-  
164 hour time limit, but they are recommending they be changed to a 15-minute time  
165 limit for post office customers so that these spaces turn over quickly. Seeley  
166 asked what the time limit on the spaces south of the crosswalk would be, and Gish  
167 said that once Main Street closes, those spaces will be fenced off and be included  
168 in the construction area.

169

170 Artim moved to approve a temporary 15-minute time limit on 7 parking spaces  
171 alongside the Town Green that are set aside for Post Office customers during the  
172 10-week closure of Main Street. The limit will go into effect on or about Monday,  
173 July 13, and remain in effect until on or about Monday, September 21. Seeley  
174 seconded the motion. The motion carried with 7 in favor. **MOTION PASSED.**

175

176 Gish said he'd be working with Parking Enforcement Officer Jodi Covey to help  
177 educate the people on the new time limit. He said Covey has become a local  
178 favorite with her smile and the way she works with people.

179

180 **9. Dan Werner, Director of Public Works Planning, with updates and**  
181 **recommendations from Infrastructure Committee meetings of**  
182 **June 11th and June 17<sup>th</sup>**

183

184 **9a. Update on Fire Department Purchase of New Pumper**

185

186 Werner said Fire Chief David Shaw and Tim Porter of the Middlebury Fire  
187 Department briefed the Infrastructure Committee on the work of the Fire Truck  
188 Purchase Committee. He said they are looking to replace the pumper truck and  
189 the cost is estimated to be \$600,000 to \$650,000. He said they hope to return to  
190 the Infrastructure Committee with their recommendation and to the Selectboard for  
191 their approval in July or August.

192

193 **9b. Recommendation for approval of Change Orders for Overhead Doors**  
194 **and Fire Alarm Systems for Police Department Building Re-Use Project**

195

196 Werner said the bid packages for the Police Department Re-Use Project included  
197 four bid alternates. He said tonight he is looking for approval for alternate #1 for  
198 two overhead doors for the former control building at a cost of \$7,800, and  
199 alternate #3 for fire alarms for the control building and the cruiser garage for  
200 \$11,000.

201

202 Seeley said that approving these two bid alternatives would still keep them within  
203 the projected bid estimate for the project.

204

205 Seeley moved to approve a Change Order to the contract with VMS Construction  
206 for the Police Department Adaptive Re-Use Project for Alternate #1: Two  
207 Overhead Doors for the original control building, at a total cost of \$7,800. Nuovo  
208 seconded the motion. The motion carried with 7 in favor. **MOTION PASSED.**

209

210 Seeley further moved to approve a Change Order to the contract with VMS  
211 Construction for the Police Department Adaptive Re-Use Project for Alternate #3:  
212 Fire Alarm System for the cruiser garage and control building, at a total cost of  
213 \$11,000. Nuovo seconded the motion. The motion carried with 7 in favor.

214 **MOTION PASSED.**

215

216 **9c. Recommendation on Court Street/Square Water Improvement Project Bid**

217

218 Werner said only one bid was received from Champlain Construction for  
219 \$1,828,654, which is about \$500,000 over the engineers estimate of \$1.3 million.  
220 He said he's asking the Board to not approve the bid and so they can go back and  
221 look at how to do the project and still beat the VTrans schedule for the Rt. 7 paving  
222 project. He said this means they'd do the section from Court Square to Cross  
223 Street, and from Court Square into Washington Street. He said these areas have  
224 been the most troublesome and they believe they can get them done before the  
225 paving project begins in July 2021. He said they will go out to bid in October and  
226 hope to receive more bids since there is more time. He said this means that the  
227 Seymour Street to North Pleasant Street to Court Square section of the project will  
228 not happen prior to the paving project, but some time in 2022, or when the budget  
229 allows.

230

231 Seeley moved to reject the bid from Champlain Construction for the Court  
232 Street/Court Square Water Improvement Project. Fuentes-George seconded the  
233 motion. The motion carried with 7 in favor. **MOTION PASSED.**

234

235

236 **9d. Recommendation for approval of FY21**  
237 **Water Department Budget & Water User Charges**

238

239 Werner said the proposed FY21 Water Budget is \$1,669,977 and includes the first  
principal payment for the \$1 million dollar bond approved 10 years ago, along with

240 the increase in Capital Improvements for the water system improvements  
241 discussed recently.

242

243 Seeley moved to approve an FY21 Water Fund Budget of \$1,669,997, seconded  
244 by Fuentes-George. The motion carried with 7 in favor. **MOTION PASSED.**

245

246 Werner said to fund that budget there would need to be changes to the water user  
247 rates and base rate. He said the proposal is to increase the base rate from \$50 to  
248 \$60 for in-town users, and to \$65 for out-of-town users (Weybridge), and the user  
249 rate would go from \$3.43/1,000 gals to \$3.75/1,000 gals. He said they try to  
250 balance the user rate and base rate to keep it manageable for the residents as  
251 well as the higher industrial users, so no one gets hit too hard. He said for a  
252 typical residential user the increase would be \$12.98/quarter, based on 9,300  
253 gallons usage per quarter.

254

255 Seeley moved to approve an FY21 water base rate of \$60 for in-town users and a  
256 water base rate of \$65 for out-of-town users, and a usage rate of \$3.75 per 1,000  
257 gallons for in-town users and \$3.95 per 1,000 gallons for out-of-town users. Khan  
258 seconded the motion. The motion carried with 7 in favor. **MOTION PASSED.**

259

260

**9e. Recommendation for approval of FY21  
Wastewater Department Budget & WW User Charges**

261

262

263 Werner said the Infrastructure Committee looked at the FY21 Wastewater Budget  
264 proposal of \$2,792,514, and he noted there really aren't many budget drivers in  
265 the coming year. He said Workers Compensation went up by quite a bit, but that  
266 was the same across all departments, and electricity increased by \$30,000 due to  
267 changes in sludge characteristics requiring a longer time to press the sludge and  
268 more heat to get it up to temperature, so this increases the use of electricity. He  
269 said there is a minor increase in Capital Improvements.

270

271 He said they are proposing a \$1.00/quarter base rate, from \$30.00 to \$31.00 and  
272 to retain the usage charge at \$6.78/1000 gals. He said there is no change in the  
273 usage charge due to the agreement with Agrimark negotiated a few years ago to  
274 increase their charges to keep them in line with others in town, so that helps to  
275 stabilize the wastewater charges. He said overall, with the water increases, an  
276 average quarterly bill for users would increase \$13.98. He said there is no change  
277 in out-of-town rates.

278



279 Brown questioned the change in sludge characteristics. Werner said temperatures  
280 impact the microorganisms in the sludge and that impacts how it coagulates, so  
281 sometimes it takes longer to press it and requires more water during that time to  
282 process it.

283  
284 Seeley moved to approve an FY21 Wastewater Fund Budget of \$2,792,514.  
285 Nuovo seconded the motion. The motion carried with 7 in favor. **MOTION**  
286 **CARRIED.**

287  
288 Seeley moved to approve an FY21 base rate of \$31 per quarter and a usage rate  
289 of \$6.78 per 1,000 gallons. Fuentes-George seconded the motion. The motion  
290 carried with 7 in favor. **MOTION PASSED.**

291

292 **9f. Recommendation on Purchase of Street Sweeper**

293

294 Werner said that Director of Public Works Operations Bill Kernan had sent  
295 specifications out to manufacturers and dealers of street sweepers and he  
296 received bids from 4 companies for 6 different machines. He said the  
297 Infrastructure Committee reviewed the bids and are recommending awarding the  
298 bid to Viking Chives for a Freightliner Johnston VT652(B) sweeper for \$278,650.

299

300 Werner said our current sweeper is a mechanical sweeper and the new sweeper  
301 would be a vacuum sweeper. He said the advantage to the recommended  
302 machine is that it has the necessary horsepower needed to run the dual brooms at  
303 the same time, and also this machine is already constructed and we can obtain the  
304 sweeper sooner. He said other sweepers met the specifications, but they would  
305 need to be constructed and we wouldn't have it this year, and with our current  
306 sweeper broken down we would need to spend more money to repair it so it would  
307 work for this construction season.

308

309 Seeley moved to award a contract to Viking Cives for the purchase of a  
310 Freightliner Johnston Street Sweeper for a total cost of \$278,650. Nuovo  
311 seconded the motion. The motion carried with 7 in favor. **MOTION PASSED.**

312

313 **9g. Recommendation on Contractor for**  
314 **Passenger Rail Platform Bike Rack/Information Kiosk**

315

316 Werner said that Director of Planning and Zoning Jennifer Murray had received a  
317 grant for \$10,000 for a bike rack and information kiosk at the passenger rail  
318 platform on Middle Seymour Street. He said Murray had put out a Request for



319 Qualifications and received only one response, from Silver Maple Construction.  
320 He said provided they can complete the work for under \$10,000 they are the  
321 qualified applicant. Ramsay said the project needs to be completed by September  
322 30<sup>th</sup>, and Werner said the tight deadline might have prevented other contractors  
323 from bidding.

324

325 Seeley moved to the Infrastructure Committee's recommendation to contract with  
326 Silver Maple for design and construction of the bike rack and information kiosk at  
327 the Passenger Rail Platform to be completed in 2021. Seeley clarified that the  
328 bike rack and kiosk have to be completed by September 30, 2020, and the rail  
329 platform in 2021. Fuentes-George seconded the motion. The motion carried with  
330 7 in favor. **MOTION PASSED.**

331

332 **9h. Agenda Item on re-naming the Committee deferred to July 9th meeting**

333

334 Werner said the Infrastructure Committee had a brief discussion of this at their last  
335 meeting and voted to retain the name of the Committee with a vote of 5 in favor, 1  
336 opposed and 1 abstention.

337

338 Khan mentioned to Werner that he'd heard from a Charles Avenue resident that  
339 the street lights were out along the steep section of the street, and Werner will look  
340 into this.

341

342 Carpenter asked what was next on Werner's list of projects. Werner said that the  
343 Cady Road culvert replacement project is set to begin with the road closure on  
344 July 6<sup>th</sup>, and has a 3-week construction contract, and there is no start-date yet for  
345 the Dow Pond water line project. He said a fuel tank was found buried in front of  
346 the old control building at the Police Department Reuse Project, and the State has  
347 records of another tank from 1986, so those will both need to be removed and the  
348 cost for the removal will come from the decommissioning funds and not the Reuse  
349 Project budget.

350

351 Seeley said there needs to be a discussion on sidewalks and the rail bridge project  
352 that aren't covered in the project costs. He said he has a list of those and he'll  
353 discuss it at the next Infrastructure Committee in July and then to the Board.

354

355 **10. Members of the Middlebury Quality Youth Development Steering**  
356 **Committee will share their work towards becoming a certified QYD**  
357 **community. Interns Rayven Roark and Kyle Mitchell will be presenting**

358

359 Kyle Mitchell and Rayven Roark, students at Middlebury Union High School, gave  
360 a presentation on the Quality Youth Development (QYD) Project, a community  
361 awareness and engagement campaign developed years ago by the Minneapolis-  
362 based Search Institute. QYD includes 40 Developmental Assets, which are  
363 internal and external factors that help youth to navigate from childhood to  
364 adulthood with healthy decision-making, self-confidence, motivation, and  
365 resilience, to help youth overcome challenges, minimize harm to oneself, and  
366 contribute to the well-being of the community.

367 Roark said in order to become a QYD Community, there are 10 benchmarks for  
368 the community to complete that are used to measure the community's commitment  
369 to quality youth development. She said that Middlebury is very close to meeting  
370 these benchmarks and by the end of the month we should be completely certified.  
371 Mitchell said this certifies that Middlebury cares about our youth and our  
372 neighbors, and promotes leadership and a sense of belonging.

373 Seeley asked if Middlebury would be the first QYD community in Vermont, and  
374 they said we would be.

375 Fuentes-George said that Mitchell and Roark stepped into the process and took  
376 over when pressure from the COVID crisis was impacting others in the group. She  
377 said the group of around 12 youth, ages 13-19, did an amazing job of pulling this  
378 all together in six months, under difficult circumstances. She said they put  
379 together a community forum that Middlebury College and ACTR participated in,  
380 they designed a poster for VT211 that they hope to use throughout the State, and  
381 they engaged with local businesses.

382

383 Brown thanked them for their work and said how impressed he was with the local  
384 youth. Carpenter congratulated them and thanked them for sharing this project  
385 with the Board.

386

## 387 **11. FY20 Year-to-Date Budget Reports**

388

389 Ramsay reported that there were a lot of variations in all the budgets due to  
390 COVID, with decreases in both expenses and receipts, but she's hopeful we'll end  
391 the year in the black, but it will be tight. She said she had expressed some  
392 concern prior to the final property tax deadline on March 15<sup>th</sup>, but the current  
393 delinquent taxes for the year is \$152,000, which is an acceptable range and under  
394 our delinquent tax amounts at the same time in 2017 and 2018. Carpenter said it  
395 will be interesting to see what we collect this quarter in our Local Option Tax.

396

397

398           **12. Application for 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Liquor Licenses for Cattails LLC,**  
399                           **d/b/a Tavern on the Tee at Middlebury Golf Course**

400

401       Carpenter said Tavern on the Tee had to reapply for their licenses due to a  
402       change in their corporate name.

403

404       Seeley moved to approve the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Liquor License and the Outside  
405       Consumption Permit for Cattails, LLC, d/b/a Tavern on the Tee. Artim seconded  
406       the motion. The motion carried with 7 in favor. **MOTION PASSED.**

407

408           **13. Refunding Resolution & Certificate, Water Improvements approved by**  
409                           **Bond Vote on July 13, 2010**

410

411       Carpenter said this bond application is for the final \$1M of the \$3M in bonds  
412       authorized by Middlebury voters in 2010 that were to be issued to fund various  
413       water system improvements. He said the Refunding Resolution before the Board  
414       tonight affirms the Town's intent to liquidate the existing \$1M liability in the  
415       General Ledger, previously authorized by the 2010 bond vote, related to the  
416       completed water system improvements, through the issuance of a 10-year  
417       Refunding Note, at an annual fixed rate of 3.48%, commencing July 1, 2020. He  
418       said the note will be held by the National Bank of Middlebury and payable in  
419       annual installments of \$100,000, and the approval will cover two documents: 1)  
420       the Refunding Resolution, itself; and 2) a \$1,000,000 Capital Improvement Note  
421       outlining the payment schedule.

422

423       Khan moved to the Refunding Resolution and Capital Improvement Refunding  
424       Note for the water system improvements approved by bond vote on July 13, 2010.  
425       Artim seconded the motion, and the motion carried with 7 in favor. **MOTION**  
426       **PASSED.**

427

428

**14. Approval of Check Warrants**

429

430       Artim said under the authority granted by the Selectboard on April 28, 2020, I have  
431       reviewed and approved, on behalf of the Board, total expenditures in the amount  
432       of \$449,481.75, consisting of \$309,244.10 for accounts payable,  
433       and \$140,237.65 for payroll, for the period June 10, 2020 through June 23, 2020,  
434       and move the Board's approval of payment of these expenditures. Seeley  
435       seconded the motion. The motion carried with 7 in favor. **MOTION PASSED.**

436

437

## 15. Town Manager's Report

438

439

440 Ramsay reported that over the course of the last week or so, the Town has  
441 received several letters, both from within and outside of Middlebury, expressing  
442 support for the current movement calling for defunding police departments as a  
443 means of addressing systemic racism in the United States. She said most of the  
444 letters are based on a template, asking the Selectboard to “refuse the FY21  
445 budget increase of \$46,234 for the Middlebury Police Department (MPD) and that  
446 you halt any funding that has already been approved in order to begin defunding  
447 the police immediately.”

448

449 She said given the complexity of the issues raised by the Defund movement and  
450 the Selectboard's long history of transparent and informed community  
451 engagement, the Town staff has begun developing an information packet about  
452 Middlebury Police Department that could be shared with the public and uploaded  
453 to the Town website. She said this could include a fact sheet regarding how the  
454 department is structured and how it functions within the community, historical  
455 information showing PD funding in proportion to Middlebury's total operating  
456 budget, and reports showing Middlebury police activity in a variety of categories  
457 over time.

458

459 She said the Board may wish to begin exploring how it would like to address the  
460 issues and demands/requests reflected in these letters.

461

462 Ramsay informed the Board that the Division of Property Valuation and Review  
463 has published a summary of changes that have been made with regard to the  
464 2020-21 property tax timeline.

465

466 Ramsay said in light of continuing uncertainty regarding how the pandemic will  
467 impact planning for both the August 11th State Primary and the November 3rd  
468 Presidential Election, Town Clerk Ann Webster is encouraging Middlebury voters  
469 to request early or vote-by-mail ballots from the My Voter Page on the Secretary of  
470 State's website. She said this information also appears on the Town Clerk's web  
471 page on the Middlebury website, and Webster has also submitted an ad to the  
472 Addison Independent to further create public awareness around this important  
473 issue.

474

475 In regard to the letters about defunding the police department, Seeley asked  
476 Ramsay if any changes to the budget would require voter approval and a Special  
477 Town Meeting, and Ramsay said it would. Seeley said given that would be difficult  
478 to do at this time, with the budget going into effect July 1<sup>st</sup>, she would like to spend

479 time over the next year discussing possible changes to go into the FY22 budget  
480 that would go into effect July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021.

481

482 Carpenter said we have 8,500 citizens and received maybe 20 letters, and not all  
483 of the letters are from Middlebury residents. He said typically we have not made  
484 brash decisions that are this important, so he thinks it's appropriate given the  
485 national scenario that we look at it and make sure we're in sync with the general  
486 populous and the voters, but feels any kind of discussion about defunding our  
487 police department is premature.

488

489 Fuentes-George said she appreciates that people are having this conversation,  
490 and sees the letters as the start of a bigger conversation within the community.  
491 She said she is part of the Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) Facebook group  
492 and thinks it might be good to reach out to this group and let them know if they'd  
493 like to come to the Board with some more thoughts on the matter that we'd be  
494 willing to engage in a conversation, so that might be the next step.

495

496 Carpenter said it's good to be involved in the conversation and then look at what  
497 we as a community can do to support it.

498

499 Artim said as he was reading the letters he realized they were a form letter and felt  
500 they were geared more to large urban areas, and while we're not immune to some  
501 of the problems, a cross-dialogue of who we are and what some of the issues are  
502 would sort out what the issues are. He said he doesn't even know what defunding  
503 would mean when he looks at what our high-quality officers do, and when you only  
504 have 2 officers on a shift, who's going to that vehicle accident or search and  
505 rescue? He said if there's a problem, we want to know about it, and a cross  
506 dialogue would determine if we have a problem or not. He said we're trying to  
507 understand the problem, but just saying we're going to do something is ridiculous  
508 and we don't do that.

509

510 Seeley said she just didn't want Town staff spending a lot of time looking at a  
511 budget that is already to go into effect, so it's much more reasonable to consider  
512 for the next budget cycle.

513

514 Nuovo said the problem is very deep-seated and there is a very strong element of  
515 racism in this country, and one thing that makes him hopeful is there appears to be  
516 a great awakening and it's a cultural problem. He said we've all come to a  
517 realization of how destructive and terrible this heritage of racism is in our nation's  
518 history, so we need to take the issue seriously, and we need to talk about it.

519

520 Carpenter said what we see police doing in other communities across the country  
521 is not what we see our police doing here, so they needed to look at how to phrase  
522 the discussion. Fuentes-George suggested giving time for others to prepare for  
523 the discussion and not pick a particular date now.

524

525

### **16. Board Member Concerns**

526

527 Nuovo said he hoped everyone stayed well and hopes there is a great awakening  
528 to deal with our deep morale issues. Artim and Brown seconded that.

529

530 Fuentes-George said after reading Ann Webster's note she went to My Voter Page  
531 and it wasn't working properly, so urged people to look into it early.

532

533 Nuovo, Khan, Artim and Brown said they all want to meet in person again.

534 Ramsay said part of the problem would be the requirement that everyone has to  
535 wear masks indoors, and the square footage in the meeting room isn't large  
536 enough to allow for the Board and any members of the public to have the proper  
537 distancing. She said the meeting room also is set up for broadcasting the  
538 meeting, where some other larger spaces wouldn't be.

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### **17. Adjourn**

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542 The meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m. upon motion by Khan, seconded by Seeley.

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544 The next meeting of the Middlebury Selectboard will be Tuesday, July 14, 2020.

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546 Respectfully submitted,

547 Beth Dow

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