

Town of Middlebury

Town Meeting 2017

Agenda

Monday, March 6, 2017

MUHS Auditorium

7 p.m. Annual Town Meeting

Tuesday, March 7, 2017

Town Offices – 77 Main Street

Voting by Ballot 7 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Article 1

To act upon the reports of the Town Officers.

Administrative Matters



Request admittance to the meeting for non-resident members of the Town administration:

- Town Manager Kathleen Ramsay
- Assistant Town Manager Chris English
- Director of Public Works Planning Dan Werner
- Director of Public Works Operations Bill Kernan
- Library Director Kevin Unrath
- Recreation Program Coordinator Dustin Hunt
- Director of Planning & Zoning Jennifer Murray
- Fire Chief David Shaw

Administrative Matters



Request admittance to the meeting for non-resident health and human service representatives:

Sherry Greifzu of Addison County Home Health & Hospice; Jessica Danyow Homeward Bound; Miche Chamberlain Modiba, Addison County Restorative Justice Services; and Mark Witten, Addison County River Watch Collaborative

Introduce Selectboard Members

- Brian Carpenter
- Nick Artim
- Susan Shashok
- Laura Asermily
- Donna Donahue
- Heather Seeley
- Victor Nuovo



Dedication of Town Report **Walter Richard Calhoun**



The Town of Middlebury dedicates the 2016 Town Report to Walter Richard Calhoun and thanks him for his extraordinary dedication and outstanding service to the community and the Town of Middlebury.

Bob Collins Award

Outstanding Volunteerism in Recreation



Kellie Thomas

Thank You



Donna Donahue

Thank you, Donna, for your service on the Selectboard from
September 2014 until March 2017.

Article 2 - Budget

Fiscal Year 2018 Budget
(July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018)

Total Budget **\$10,321,456**
Raised by Taxes **\$7,106,034**

FY18 Budget Proposal

Increase in Expenses -- \$198,791 or 2%

Increase in Amount to be Raised -- \$155,879 or 2.2%

Major Budget Drivers

Budget Driver	Increase
Wages & Benefits	\$55,833
Capital Improvements	\$77,994

New this Year

Funds for Downtown Master Planning



New this Year

A half-time Assistant Recreation Program Coordinator was added to the budget to support increased participation in programs



Budget Impact Offsets

Increased Use of Surplus – Surplus applied to stabilize the tax rate increased \$32,500, from \$117,500 in FY17 to \$150,000 in FY18, while retaining an undesignated Fund Balance of over 10% of the annual operating budget, as recommended by Auditors

Increase in Grand List -- 1.7%

Increased Funding for Capital Investments

- Boosted funding for capital improvements by nearly \$78,000
- Increased focus on facilities and addressing deferred maintenance, with an inventory of facilities underway toward scheduling and prioritizing repairs
- Continued funding multi-year program to address deficiencies at the pool, poolhouse and Warming Hut/Teen Center
- Added funding for energy efficiency improvements for older buildings

Increased Funding for Capital Investments - continued

- Funding for sidewalk repair increased and reserves will be tapped to increase sidewalk repair in FY18
- Matching funds for Seymour Street/Pulp Mill Bridge pedestrian and Exchange Street bike/ped grant projects
- In recognition of mandate to improve stormwater management to improve water quality in Lake Champlain, road improvement projects include stormwater management components

Increased Funding for Capital Investments - continued

- In partnership with the East Middlebury Fire District, matching funds for reconstruction of the basketball courts in Harold Curtis Park
- Matching funds for planning for East Middlebury Flood Resiliency Project
- Funding for implementation of Emerald Ash Borer Preparedness Plan

Health & Human Service Agencies



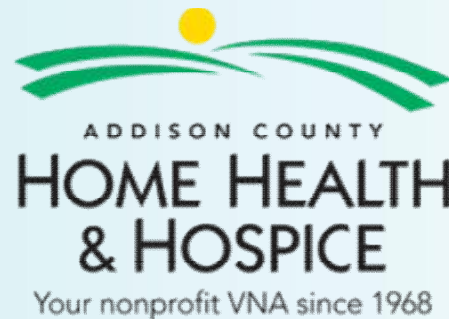
Executive Director Jessica Danyow

- Only registered animal shelter in Addison County
- Serves an average of 700 animals a year
- Offers many community outreach services & programs
- \$5,000 received from the Town of Middlebury goes entirely towards animal-care-related services

Health & Human Service Agencies

Addison County Home Health & Hospice

Providing quality healthcare to the
residents of Addison County since 1968



Contact us: 802-388-7259
Toll-free at 800-639-1521
V/TTY 1-800-253-0191

Sherry Greifzu, Executive Director

- Serves 24 Addison County towns
- Cared for 1,420 patients in 2016, 397 from Middlebury
- Town funds help offset cost of care
- Requesting \$8,542 from the Town of Middlebury

Health & Human Service Agencies



Barbara Doyle-Wilch & Len Rowell

- CSAC was founded in 1959 and serves all Towns in Addison County
- Served 2,100 clients in the last fiscal year
- Funding received from towns helps to pay for the wide range of mental health services for their underinsured or uninsured clients
- Increase in opiate addiction, which creates a huge demand for services
- Trend in funding is the need for higher quality care and increased documentation, but less money from Medicaid, which is their largest funder.
- Requesting level funding at \$4,500

Health & Human Service Agencies

Elderly Services Inc.



Margaret Clerkin & David Dorman

- Town funding provides scholarships for some elders who are unable to afford the fee and offsets transportation costs
- 27% of participants are from Middlebury
- 2016 saw a huge growth in participants
- Requesting \$5,993 from the Town of Middlebury

Middlebury Business Development Fund

- One-cent on the tax rate from 2012 -2017
- Goals not met with current initiative
- Current initiative will end on June 30, 2017
- Newly-formed Economic Health Task Force to recommend a new, more productive economic development approach, with a new set of expectations and milestones, along with a new structure for review and oversight of the effort
- No new money to be raised for Economic Development this year
- Selectboard to bring new effort to voters at Town Meeting in March 2018

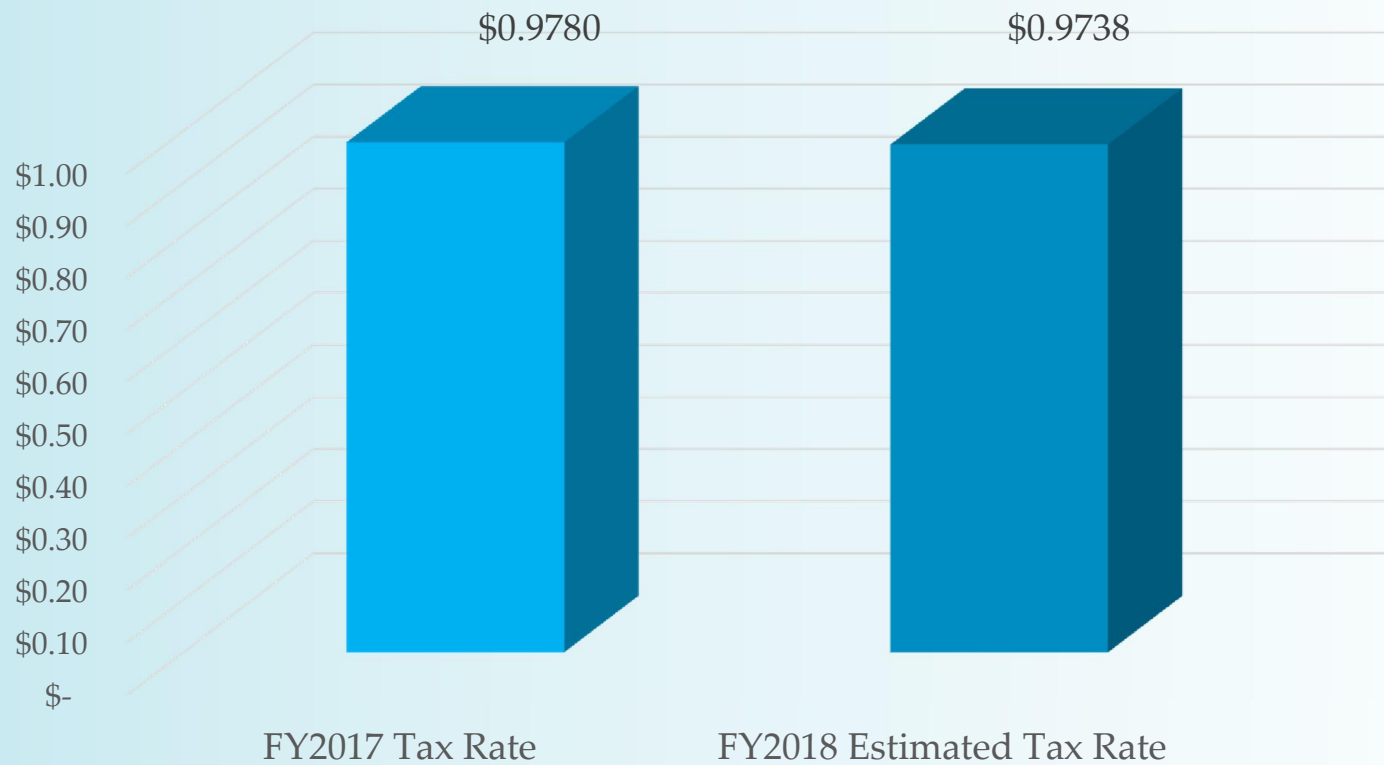
Land Conservation Fund

- One cent on the tax rate from 2006-2011.
- Since 2011, the fund has been generously supported by the Battell Trustees with proceeds from rental income from the cell tower on Chipman Hill.
- We thank the Battell Trustees for their pledge of \$48,754 to the Conservation Fund in FY18.
- As of June 30, 2016, the balance of the fund was \$398,611.

Very Slight Decrease in Municipal Tax Rate

	FY17	FY18	Change FY17 -FY18
Municipal	\$ 0.9464	\$ 0.9522	\$.0058
Voted Exemptions (Veterans)	\$ 0.0017	\$ 0.0017	\$ -
Fire Equipment Fund	\$ 0.0200	\$ 0.0200	\$ -
Business Development Fund	\$ 0.0100	\$ 0.0000	\$ (.0100)
Total Municipal	\$ 0.9780	\$ 0.9738	\$ (.0042)

Very Slight Decrease in Municipal Tax Rate



Looking Ahead

While this is our third year proposing a budget requiring a level or slightly reduced tax rate, keep in mind that increases in the following expenses:

- Health Insurance
- Vehicle & Heating Fuel
- Mandates, including the Clean-up of Lake Champlain

and uncertainty on the future of state and federal funding, will impact budgets in FY18 and beyond.

Questions?

Department Heads are available to answer questions about the budget:

Public Works & Capital Improvements: Public Works Planning Director Dan Werner

Public Safety: Police Chief Tom Hanley & Fire Chief David Shaw.

Parks & Recreation: Parks & Recreation Director Terri Arnold

Libraries: Library Director Kevin Unrath

General Government & Revenues: Kathleen Ramsay

Article 3

Vehicles & Equipment

Authorize the Selectboard to borrow up to \$106,000 to replace two police cruisers and a wood chipper for the Public Works Department.

Two Cruisers



- The Police Department replaces cruisers on a rotating schedule of two cruisers one year, one cruiser the next.
- Estimated cost of replacing two cruisers is \$56,000



One Wood Chipper

- Current Wood Chipper purchased in 1993
- Estimated cost of replacement is \$50,000
- Based on recent annual usage of the chipper, the proposed chipper would have a payback of 3 years based on the rental fees
- In case of emergency, owned equipment can be accessed any time of the day or night

Article 4

Tax Due Dates

Shall the Town vote to collect taxes on real property for fiscal year 2017/2018 in three equal installments due in the Treasurer's Office on the 15th day of August 2017, the 15th day of November 2017 and the 15th day of March 2018?

Article 5 – Other Business

Town of Middlebury Town Meeting Poll

To gauge awareness of town surveys, events, communication options and preferences for various options in an easy "Doyle Poll" check-off style.



Article 5 – Other Business

Ballot Item:

Shall the voters increase the annual Selectboard stipend from \$1,500 per member and \$1,800 for the Chair to \$2,500 per member and \$3,200 for the Chair?

Ann Webster

An increase of \$7,400 is equal to approximately one-twelfth of one-cent on the tax rate, if approved.

Article 5 – Other Business

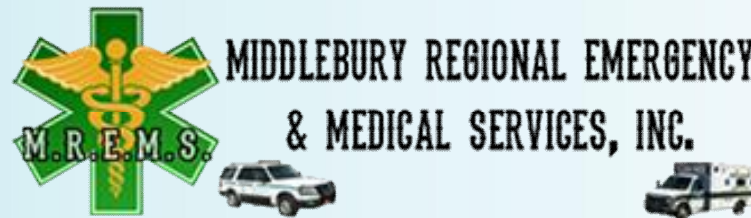


Ballot Item:

Shall the Town appropriate the sum of \$30,610 to support the establishment of a police canine program?

- Proposal in response to voter interest
- Value as an extra set of eyes & ears for a patrol officer, particularly at night
- An increase of approximately four-tenths of one-cent on the tax rate, if approved.

Article 5 – Other Business



Ballot Item:

Shall the voters of the Town of Middlebury vote to exempt the real property of the Middlebury Regional Emergency & Medical Services, Inc. from taxation for a period of five (5) years commencing April 1, 2017?

David Pistilli, President, MREMS Board of Directors

Article 5 – Other Business



Ballot Item:

Shall the Town of Middlebury appropriate \$2,500 for Addison County Restorative Justice Services, Inc (f/k/a Addison County Court Diversion & Community Justice Projects, Inc.) to support restorative justice projects offered to qualified offenders?

Executive Director Miche Chamberlain Modiba and Board Member Dottie Neuberger

Article 5 – Other Business Ballot Item

Addison County River Watch Collaborative

Services provided include:

- Sampling over 30 sites on 6 Addison County Rivers
- Quality-assured, quality-controlled data
- Summertime posting of provisional *E.coli* results
- Technical reports available to public

*Matthew Witten, Managing Director
& Barb Otsuka, Board Member*



Article 5 – Other Business

Ballot Item:

Shall the Town appropriate \$1,200 to the Addison County River Watch Collaborative for the purpose of supporting water quality monitoring work in our local streams and rivers?



Article 5 – Other Business



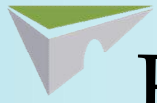
Merchants Row & Main Street Downtown Bridges Replacement Project Update

- Environmental Assessment: Process & Timeline
- Possible New Construction Timeline (depends on Environmental Assessment)
- Update on Condition of Bridges
- Questions? Jim Gish, Community Liaison,
jgish@townofmiddlebury.org



Environmental Assessment Process

- Purpose: Assess all environmental impacts of project and define mitigation measures.
- Examples: Air, water and soil quality; historic building preservation; economic impacts.
- Leading state experts and resource professionals are developing the Environmental Assessment document.



Environmental Assessment Milestones

- Complete draft environmental assessment document: **April 2017**
- 30-day public review and comment period: **May 2017**
- Public hearing in Middlebury: **May 2017**
- Response to comments: **June 2017**
- Final draft environmental assessment document: **June 2017**
- FHWA determination: **August 2017**



2017

2018

2019

2020

2021



Construction Timeline Update

- Schedule was previously presented as 2017–2020
- Current schedule dependent on Environmental Assessment process outcome
- Possible revised target schedule 2018–2021
- Ten-week outage both bridges in Summer 2020

2018

2019

2020

2021



Update on Condition of Bridges

- Quarterly bridge inspections.
- Both roadways remain safe for vehicular traffic.
- Deteriorating conditions on both Main Street and Merchants Row bridge sidewalks.
- Risk to pedestrian safety and to rail safety (debris on railroad tracks).
- Temporary fixes being made.
- VTrans proposing longer-term solutions to ensure public safety and accessibility.



Article 5 – Other Business



ACSD Budget Overview

Ruth Hardy, Addison Central School District Board of Directors

Article 5 – Other Business

Ad-hoc Tree Committee volunteers:

- Leslie Kameny
- Judy Wiger-Grohs
- Sally Thodal
- Terri Arnold
- Chis Olson
- Chris Zeoli

*Contact Tree Warden Chris Zeoli
by calling the Town Offices
388-8100*



Article 5 – Other Business

Ballot Item:

To elect officers as required by the Middlebury Town Charter.

- Opportunity for Candidates to Introduce Themselves

Article 5 – Other Business

Town Offices - Tuesday, March 7

7 a.m. – 7 p.m.

