

TOWN OF MIDDLESEX VERMONT

Annual Report for the
Year Ending June 30, 2020



Due to COVID-19, there will be no "in-person" Town Meeting this year. All active voters are being mailed Town and WCUUSD early/absentee ballots. You can also vote in person from 7 AM - 7 PM, Tuesday, March 2, 2021, at Town Hall, 5 Church Street.

TOWN OF MIDDLESEX REMOTE PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL HEARINGS PUBLIC NOTICE

The Middlesex Select Board will hold two (2) public informational hearings by electronic means on February 16, 2021, and February 23, 2021 at 6 PM to discuss the Australian ballot articles on the 2021 Town Meeting Warning.

Information on how to access the remote hearing:

- By telephone: dial 1-646-558-8656 OR 1-301-715-8592
- By computer: go to <https://zoom.us/>, either create a FREE account, or log in, and click JOIN A MEETING. Input the Town's ID: 739 338 0675 in the pop-up window.
- Or, simply go to: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7393380675>
- You may also call in by smartphone, tablet, or other device by using one tap mobile +13017158592,,7393380675# US (Washington DC)
- The ZOOM meeting ID is: 739 338 0675

To ensure smooth access, we recommend that you test your remote hearing software in advance of the meeting. **If you have difficulty accessing the hearing, please call the Middlesex Town Clerk at 802-223-5915 or email mdxclerk@comcast.net**

For agendas and more information, please visit the Town of Middlesex website – middlesexvermont.org.

COVER PHOTO CREDIT: Yellow crocuses – photo by Eric Scharf. Check out whatsnextmiddlesex.org and have a look at all the great photographs submitted by our neighbors here in Middlesex!

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TOWN OF MIDDLESEX FEES

ZONING AND ACCESS PERMIT FEES

Zoning permits are required for erecting, constructing, enlarging or moving any buildings or structures, excavation or landfill, any change in the use of any building or other structure, or land or extension of use of land.

Applications for Zoning Permits and Access Permits are at the Town Clerk’s Office or online at: www.middlesexvermont.org.

ZONING FEES:

Residential project or alteration/addition/accessory structure under \$25K	\$ 80.00
Single-family dwelling, garage or other construction over \$25K	\$ 205.00
Commercial project (new construction or alteration/addition) over \$25K	\$ 330.00
Change of Use	\$ 80.00
Home Industry	\$ 130.00
Sub-Division Fees (per lot = the altered original lot plus each new lot)	\$ 155.00
Boundary Line Adjustment (seperate application required)	\$ 80.00
Appeal to Zoning Board of Adjustment or Planning Commission	\$ 105.00

(Above fees include a \$15.00 recording fee. There will be an additional \$10.00 recording fee if a Certificate of Occupancy is required.)

FEES DOUBLE FOR PROJECTS WHICH HAVE INITIATED CONSTRUCTION PRIOR TO ISSUANCE OF A PERMIT.

ACCESS PERMITS:

Access permits are required for the installation of driveways.

Access Permit Fees:	\$ 35.00
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DOG LICENSES AND FEES:

All dogs 6 months of age or older must be licensed on or before April 1, 2020.

Neutered/Spayed	\$ 9.00
Non Neutered/Non Spayed	\$ 13.00

If registered after April 1, 2020:

Neutered/Spayed	\$ 11.00
Non Neutered/Non Spayed	\$ 17.00

MARRIAGE LICENSE:

\$ 60.00

If requesting a certified copy add \$10.00 for a total of \$70.00

RECORDING FEES:

Certified copies of Birth, Death, and Marriage Certificates (each)	\$ 10.00
Land Records (per page)	\$ 15.00
Survey Maps (Mylar)	\$ 25.00

IMPORTANT NUMBERS - KEEP THEM HANDY!

Fire Warden (Burn Permits): Contact Jason Merrill.....	793-6069
Middlesex Fire Department..... Emergency	Dial 911
Middlesex Fire Department..... Non-Emergency	223-5525
Middlesex Fast Squad.....	Dial 911
Montpelier Ambulance..... Emergency	Dial 911
Vermont State Police..... Emergency	Dial 911
Vermont State Police..... Non-Emergency	229-9191
Zoning Administrator (Kevin Thompson)	595-3464

TOWN CLERK’S OFFICE:

Office Hours: Monday - Wednesday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
 Thursday 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
 Closed on Friday

Office..... 223-5915
 Fax..... 223-1298
 Clerk Email: mdxclerk@comcast.net
 Asst. Clerk Email: mdxassistantclerk@comcast.net
 Treasurer/Tax Collector Email: middlesxtreas@comcast.net
 Website: www.middlesexvermont.org

LISTERS:

Office Hours: Wednesday (Hours vary or by appointment.)
 Telephone: 223-5915 E-mail: middlesxlisters@comcast.net

TOWN HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT:

Town Garage, Shady Rill Road.....229-0838
 Road Foreman: Shane Brickey (802) 522-0426
 Email: shane.brickey@middlesexvermont.org

STATE REPRESENTATIVE:

Kimberly Jessup
 Cell: (802) 249-9306
 Email: jessupkimberly@gmail.com

MEETING SCHEDULES

Middlesex Select Board.....	1 st & 3 rd Tuesday
Fire Department.....	1 st & 3 rd Tuesday
Conservation Commission.....	1 st Thursday
Planning Commission.....	3 rd Wednesday

TOWN OF MIDDLESEX CONTACTS

All numbers are 802 area code unless otherwise noted.

Animal Control Officer:

Erika Holm, 249-2127

Bandstand: "Martha Pellerin & Andy Shapiro Memorial Bandstand"

Elliot Burg, 272-4920

Delinquent Tax Collector:

Dave Smith, 223-5915

Cemetery Contacts:

Middlesex Cemetery Commission
(Carr Cemetery, North Branch Cemetery, and Middlesex Village Cemetery)
Evelyn Gant, 223-6488
Gary Lamell, 223-2710
Janet McKinstry, 223-5997

Middlesex Center Cemetery
(Lot Sales): Steve Martin, 371-8697

**Central VT Regional Planning
Comm. Rep.:** Ron Krauth, 229-5496

**Central VT Solid Waste Management
Dist. Rep.:** Vacant

**Central VT Solid Waste Management
Dist. Office:** 229-9383

Churches:
Middlesex United Methodist Church
223-5118, www.middlesexUMC.org

Shady Rill Baptist Church:
For more information call Tonya Brett,
229-5458 or Charles Brett, 223-6706.

E-911 Coordinator:

Mitch Osiecki, 760-9674

Emergency Phone Numbers:

Middlesex Fire Department: 911
Montpelier Ambulance/Middlesex Fast Squad: 911
VT State Police (K-Troop): 911
Use these numbers for non-emergencies:
Fire Chief: Doug Hanson, 229-6361
Fire Warden: Jason Merrill, 793-6069
Emergency Management Coordinator:
Paul Otenti, 505-5272
VT State Police (K-Troop): 229-9191

Food Shelf:

(Middlesex United Methodist Church)
Ethan Scharf: escharf20@gmail.com

**Girls/Boyz First!! Community-Based
Mentoring Program:**

Wendy Freundlich, 224-6500

Green Up Day:

Lee Rosberg, 309-1629
Green Up Vermont, 229-4586

Health Officer:

Dr. Robert Penney, 734-6075

Historical Society:

Patty Wiley, 272-8074
Sarah Seidman, 223-4828
Richard Alderman, 223-3953

Justices of the Peace:

Dorinda Crowell, 223-7781
John Demeter, 272-3548
Theo Kennedy, 223-4748
Chris McVeigh, 223-6558
Kate Olney, 438-5018
Jan Thouron, 793-1177

TOWN OF MIDDLESEX CONTACTS (continued)

Listers:

Amy Whitehorne, 229-2082

Eric Young, 229-9908

Vacant

Moderator: Susan Clark, 223-5824**Recreation Director:**

Mitch Osiecki, 760-9674

Road Commissioner:

Peter Hood (Acting), 371-8042

Road Foreman:

Shane Brickey, 229-0838 (w),

522-0426 (c)

Town Service Officer:

Liz Scharf, 223-9189

Wrightsville Beach Picnic Shelters**Reservations:**

Collin O'Neal, Beach Manager, 223-7774

Laurie Emery, Central VT Regional
Planning Commission, 229-0389**Zoning Administrator:**

Kevin Thompson, 595-3464

Middlesex Boards and Committees*Budget Committee*

Bill Dorigan, 223-1030

Elias Gardner, 778-0899

George Longenecker, 229-9787

Conservation Commission:

Sorsha Anderson, 595-0069

Larry Becker, 229-0296

Heather Katz, Treasurer, 613-3174

Ross Lieblappen, 781-424-7268

George Longenecker, Vice Chair, 229-9787

Adele McDonough, 229-9874

Conservation Commission continued:

Lee Rosberg, Chair, 309-1629

Dave Shepard, Secretary; 229-1744

John Udis, 272-8842

Planning Commission:

Elias Gardner, 778-0899

Theo Kennedy, 223-4748

Sandy Levine, Chair, 223-1192

Mitch Osiecki, 760-9674

Vacant

*Select Board:*Peter Hood, Chair 223-6518 (h),
371-8042 (c)

Phil Hyjek, 223-0521

Mary Just Skinner, Vice Chair, 223-7123

Steve Martin, 371-8697

Liz Scharf, 223-9189

Sarah Merriman, Assistant, 223-5915

Town Clerk: Sarah Merriman, 223-5915

Dave Smith (Asst. Clerk), 223-5915

*Town Meeting Solutions Committee /
What's Next Middlesex?*

Susan Clark, 223-5824

*Wrightsville Beach Recreation District**Board:* Jane Dudley, 229-0177*Zoning Board of Adjustment:*

Sarah Birgé, 689-0719

Charlene Bohl, 229-9908

Jess Clark, jwcmdx@gmail.com

Roger Hirt, 223-0531

Vacant

ELECTED OFFICIALS

OFFICE	NAME	EXPIRES	TERM
Moderator	Susan Clark	2021	1 yr
Selectboard	Peter O. Hood, Chair	2021	3 yr
	Mary Just Skinner, Vice Chair	2022	3 yr
	Phil Hyjek	2023	3 yr
	Steven K. Martin	2021	2 yr
	Elizabeth Scharf	2022	2 yr
Budget Committee	William Dorigan	2021	3 yr
	Elias Gardner	2022	3 yr
	George Longenecker	2021	3 yr
	William McManis*	2023	3 yr
	Vacant	2023	3 yr
Listers	Richard Alderman	2021	3 yr
	Amy Whitehorne	2023	3 yr
	Eric Young	2022	3 yr
Town Clerk	Sarah Merriman	2023	3 yr
Treasurer	Dorinda Crowell	2021	1 yr
Delinquent Tax Collector	Dave Smith	2021	1 yr
Cemetery Commission	Janet McKinstry	2021	3 yr
	Evelyn Gant	2022	3 yr
	Gary Lamell	2023	3 yr
Planning Commission	Sandy Levine, Chair	2021	3 yr
	Elias K. Gardner	2022	3 yr
	Theo Kennedy	2023	3 yr
	Mitch Osiecki	2021	3 yr
	Vacant	2022	3 yr

*Appointed

APPOINTED OFFICIALS

Animal Control Officer	Erika Holm
Assistant Town Clerk	Dave Smith
Board of Adjustment	(Vice Chair) Charlene Bohl Sarah Birge Jessica Clark Roger Hirt Vacant
Central VT Regional Planning Commissioner	Ron Krauth
Central VT Solid Waste Management District Rep.	Vacant
Conservation Commission	(Chair) Lee Rosberg (Vice Chair) George Longenecker Sorsha Anderson Larry Becker (Treasurer) Heather Katz Ross Lieblappen Del McDonough (Secretary) Dave Shepard Jon Udis
E-911 Coordinator	Mitch Osiecki
Emergency Management Committee	(Coord.) Paul Otenti Shane Brickey Elizabeth Fortman Erika Holm Jeff Koonz Chris McVeigh Liz Scharf
Fire Warden	Jason Merrill
Health Officers	Dr. Robert Penney (Asst.) Elizabeth Fortman
Recreation Director	Mitch Osiecki
Road Commissioner	(Acting) Peter O. Hood
Town Service Officer	Liz Scharf
Wrightsville Beach Board Member	Jane Dudley
Zoning Administrator.....	Kevin Thompson

TOWN MEETING BALLOT: MARCH 2, 2021

OFFICIAL BALLOT TOWN OF MIDDLESEX ANNUAL TOWN MEETING TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 2021		
INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use BLACK PEN or PENCIL to fill in the oval. • To vote for a person whose name is printed on the ballot, fill in the oval <input type="radio"/> to the right of the name of that person. • To vote for a person whose name is not printed on the ballot, write or stick his or her name in the blank space provided and fill in the oval <input type="radio"/> to the right of the write-in line. • Do not vote for more candidates than the "VOTE for NOT MORE THAN #" for an office. • If you make a mistake, tear, or deface the ballot, return it to an election official and obtain another ballot. DO NOT ERASE. 		
<p style="text-align: center;">ARTICLE 1.</p> <p>To elect all necessary officers for the ensuing year.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">BUDGET COMMITTEE 3-YEAR TERM Vote for not more than TWO</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Write-in) <input type="radio"/></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">ARTICLE 2.</p> <p>Shall the Town of Middlesex authorize payment of all property taxes to the Town Treasurer, as provided by law and without discount, in four installments as follows: the first installment will be due on or before 5:00 PM, August 20, 2021; the second installment will be due on or before 5:00 PM, November 20, 2021; the third installment will be due on or before 5:00 PM, February 20, 2022, and the fourth installment will be due on or before 5:00 PM, May 20, 2022, except if post marked by the US Postal Service on or before the aforementioned dates accordingly? (32 VSA Sec. 4773)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">MODERATOR 1-YEAR TERM Vote for not more than ONE</p> <p>SUSAN CLARK <input type="radio"/></p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Write-in) <input type="radio"/></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">CEMETERY COMMISSIONER 3-YEAR TERM Vote for not more than ONE</p> <p>SARAH BIRGÉ <input type="radio"/></p> <p>JANET H. MCKINSTRY <input type="radio"/></p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Write-in) <input type="radio"/></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">YES <input type="radio"/></p> <p style="text-align: center;">NO <input type="radio"/></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">TREASURER 1-YEAR TERM Vote for not more than ONE</p> <p>DORINDA CROWELL <input type="radio"/></p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Write-in) <input type="radio"/></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">LISTER 3-YEAR TERM Vote for not more than ONE</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Write-in) <input type="radio"/></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">ARTICLE 3.</p> <p>Shall the Town of Middlesex charge an interest at the rate of 0.5% per month or fraction thereof on overdue tax installments from the applicable due dates? (32 VSA Sec. 5136)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">COLLECTOR OF DELINQUENT TAXES 1-YEAR TERM Vote for not more than ONE</p> <p>DAVID W. SMITH <input type="radio"/></p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Write-in) <input type="radio"/></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">PLANNING COMMISSIONER 3-YEAR TERM Vote for not more than TWO</p> <p>SANDRA LEVINE <input type="radio"/></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">YES <input type="radio"/></p> <p style="text-align: center;">NO <input type="radio"/></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">SELECT BOARD 3-YEAR TERM Vote for not more than ONE</p> <p>VIC DWIRE <input type="radio"/></p> <p>PETER O. HOOD <input type="radio"/></p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Write-in) <input type="radio"/></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">MITCH OSIECKI <input type="radio"/></p> <p style="text-align: center;">CHRISTOPHER THÉROUX <input type="radio"/></p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Write-in) <input type="radio"/></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">ARTICLE 4.</p> <p>Shall the Town of Middlesex vote to accept a fiscal year 2021-2022 budget of \$1,382,738 to meet the expenses and liabilities of the Town and authorize the Select Board to set a tax rate sufficient to provide the same?</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">SELECT BOARD 2-YEAR TERM Vote for not more than ONE</p> <p>GARY LAMELL <input type="radio"/></p> <p>STEVEN MARTIN <input type="radio"/></p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Write-in) <input type="radio"/></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">PLANNING COMMISSIONER 1 YEAR OF A 3-YEAR TERM Vote for not more than ONE</p> <p>PHILIP COMEN <input type="radio"/></p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Write-in) <input type="radio"/></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">YES <input type="radio"/></p> <p style="text-align: center;">NO <input type="radio"/></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">BUDGET COMMITTEE 1 YEAR OF A 3-YEAR TERM Vote for not more than ONE</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Write-in) <input type="radio"/></p>	<p>TURN BALLOT OVER AND CONTINUE VOTING</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">BUDGET COMMITTEE 2 YEARS OF A 3-YEAR TERM Vote for not more than ONE</p> <p>WILLIAM MCMANIS <input type="radio"/></p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Write-in) <input type="radio"/></p>		

TOWN MEETING BALLOT: MARCH 2, 2021

ARTICLE 5.	ARTICLE 14.
Shall the Town of Middlesex voters authorize the Select Board to purchase a new grader in an amount not to exceed \$290,000 to be financed over a period not to exceed 15 years? (24 V.S.A. § 1786a (c))	Shall the Town of Middlesex appropriate the sum of \$10,000 to support the Waterbury Senior Center's Meals on Wheels program?
YES <input type="radio"/>	YES <input type="radio"/>
NO <input type="radio"/>	NO <input type="radio"/>
ARTICLE 6.	ARTICLE 15.
Shall the Town of Middlesex appropriate the sum of \$2,500 to the Middlesex Conservation Fund?	Shall the Town of Middlesex appropriate the sum of \$5,017 to support the following organizations
YES <input type="radio"/>	American Red Cross \$250.00
NO <input type="radio"/>	Big Heavy World \$250.00
ARTICLE 7.	CV Adult Basic Ed \$250.00
Shall the Town of Middlesex appropriate the sum of \$600 to the Central Vermont Economic Development Corporation?	CV Council on Aging \$250.00
YES <input type="radio"/>	The Children's Room \$250.00
NO <input type="radio"/>	Circle \$199.00
ARTICLE 8.	Community Harvest of CV \$250.00
Shall the Town of Middlesex appropriate the sum of \$4,050 to Central Vermont Home Health and Hospice?	Family Center of Wash. Cty \$250.00
YES <input type="radio"/>	Good Beginnings of CV \$250.00
NO <input type="radio"/>	Good Samaritan Haven \$250.00
ARTICLE 9.	Green Mt. Transit Agency \$249.00
Shall the Town of Middlesex appropriate the sum of \$3,000 to Community Connections?	Green Up Vermont \$100.00
YES <input type="radio"/>	Montpelier Veterans Council \$250.00
NO <input type="radio"/>	MOSAIC \$250.00
ARTICLE 10.	(Sex Assault Crisis Team)
Shall the Town of Middlesex appropriate the sum of \$1,500 to Girls/Boyz First Mentoring?	Our House of Central VT \$250.00
YES <input type="radio"/>	VT Association for the Blind \$249.00
NO <input type="radio"/>	VT Center for
ARTICLE 11.	Independent Living \$195.00
Shall the Town of Middlesex appropriate the sum of \$29,801 to the Kellogg-Hubbard Library?	VT Family Network \$250.00
YES <input type="radio"/>	VT Rural Fire Protection
NO <input type="radio"/>	Task Force \$100.00
ARTICLE 12.	Wash. County Diversion \$250.00
Shall the Town of Middlesex appropriate the sum of \$7,000 to the Montpelier Senior Activity Center?	Winooski Natural
YES <input type="radio"/>	Resources District \$250.00
NO <input type="radio"/>	Youth Service Bureau
ARTICLE 13.	of Wash. County \$175.00
Shall the Town of Middlesex appropriate the sum of \$2,000 to the North Branch Nature Center? (By Petition)	YES
YES <input type="radio"/>	NO
NO <input type="radio"/>	ARTICLE 16.
ARTICLE 14.	Shall the Town Voters authorize that all Special Articles requesting Town taxpayer funding, except the Annual Municipal Town Budget, be voted on by Australian ballot starting at the March 1, 2022 Town Meeting? (By Petition)
YES <input type="radio"/>	YES <input type="radio"/>
NO <input type="radio"/>	NO <input type="radio"/>
ARTICLE 15.	YOU HAVE NOW COMPLETED VOTING
Shall the Town of Middlesex appropriate the sum of \$2,000 to the North Branch Nature Center? (By Petition)	
YES <input type="radio"/>	
NO <input type="radio"/>	

WARNING FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING: MARCH 2, 2021

The legal voters of the Town of Middlesex are hereby warned and notified to meet at the Middlesex Town Hall, 5 Church Street, in the Town of Middlesex on Tuesday, March 2, 2021, between 7 o'clock (7:00 a.m.) in the forenoon, at which time the polls will open, and seven o'clock (7:00 p.m.) in the afternoon, at which time the polls will close, to vote by Australian ballot upon the following Articles of business as permitted by the Vermont Legislature's (COVID-19 Emergency) Act No. 162:

- ARTICLE 1: To elect all necessary officers for the ensuing year.
- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Moderator | 1-year term |
| Treasurer | 1-year term |
| Collector of Delinquent Taxes | 1-year term |
| Select Board | 3-year term |
| Select Board | 2-year term |
| Budget Committee | 1 year of a 3-year term |
| Budget Committee | 2 years of a 3-year term |
| Budget Committee | 3-year term |
| Budget Committee | 3-year term |
| Cemetery Commissioner | 3-year term |
| Lister | 3-year term |
| Planning Commissioner | 3-year term |
| Planning Commissioner | 3-year term |
| Planning Commissioner | 1 year of a 3-year term |
- ARTICLE 2: Shall the Town of Middlesex authorize payment of all property taxes to the Town Treasurer, as provided by law and without discount, in four installments as follows: the first installment will be due on or before 5:00 PM, August 20, 2021; the second installment will be due on or before 5:00 PM, November 20, 2021; the third installment will be due on or before 5:00 PM, February 20, 2022, and the fourth installment will be due on or before 5:00 PM, May 20, 2022, except if post marked by the US Postal Service on or before the aforementioned dates accordingly? (32 VSA Sec. 4773)
- ARTICLE 3: Shall the Town of Middlesex charge an interest at the rate of 0.5% per month or fraction thereof on overdue tax installments from the applicable due dates? (32 VSA Sec. 5136)
- ARTICLE 4: Shall the Town of Middlesex vote to accept a fiscal year 2021-2022 budget of \$1,382,738 to meet the expenses and liabilities of the
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WARNING FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING (continued)

Town and authorize the Select Board to set a tax rate sufficient to provide the same?

ARTICLE 5: Shall the Town of Middlesex voters authorize the Select Board to purchase a new grader in an amount not to exceed \$290,000 to be financed over a period not to exceed 15 years? (24 V.S.A. § 1786a (c))

ARTICLE 6: Shall the Town of Middlesex appropriate the sum of \$2,500 to the Middlesex Conservation Fund?

ARTICLE 7: Shall the Town of Middlesex appropriate the sum of \$600 to the Central Vermont Economic Development Corporation?

ARTICLE 8: Shall the Town of Middlesex appropriate the sum of \$4,050 to Central Vermont Home Health and Hospice?

ARTICLE 9: Shall the Town of Middlesex appropriate the sum of \$3,000 to Community Connections?

ARTICLE 10: Shall the Town of Middlesex appropriate the sum of \$1,500 to Girls/Boyz First Mentoring?

ARTICLE 11: Shall the Town of Middlesex appropriate the sum of \$29,801 to the Kellogg-Hubbard Library?

ARTICLE 12: Shall the Town of Middlesex appropriate the sum of \$7,000 to the Montpelier Senior Activity Center?

ARTICLE 13: Shall the Town of Middlesex appropriate the sum of \$2,000 to the North Branch Nature Center? (By Petition)

ARTICLE 14: Shall the Town of Middlesex appropriate the sum of \$10,000 to support the Waterbury Senior Center's Meals on Wheels program?

WARNING FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING (continued)

ARTICLE 15: Shall the Town of Middlesex appropriate the sum of \$5,017 to support the following organizations:

American Red Cross	\$250.00
Big Heavy World	\$250.00
CV Adult Basic Ed	\$250.00
CV Council on Aging	\$250.00
The Children’s Room	\$250.00
Circle	\$199.00
Community Harvest of CV	\$250.00
Family Center of Wash. Cty	\$250.00
Good Beginnings of CV	\$250.00
Good Samaritan Haven	\$250.00
Green Mt. Transit Agency	\$249.00
Green Up Vermont	\$100.00
Montpelier Veterans Council	\$250.00
MOSAIC (Sex Assault Crisis Team)	\$250.00
Our House of Central VT	\$250.00
VT Association for the Blind	\$249.00
VT Center for Independent Living	\$195.00
VT Family Network	\$250.00
VT Rural Fire Protection Task Force	\$100.00
Washington County Diversion	\$250.00
Winooski Natural Resources District	\$250.00
Youth Service Bureau of Wash. County	\$175.00

ARTICLE 16: Shall the Town Voters authorize that all Special Articles requesting Town taxpayer funding, except the Annual Municipal Town Budget, be voted on by Australian ballot starting at the March 1, 2022 Town Meeting? (By Petition)

THE MIDDLESEX SELECT BOARD:


Peter O. Hood, Chair


Mary Just Skinner, Vice Chair

Philip Hajek

Steven Martin

Elizabeth Scharf

Approved as warned agenda item at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Middlesex Select Board on January 19, 2021.

I attest that this Warning for the March 2, 2021, Town Meeting was approved by the above Select Board members and recorded in the Middlesex Town records on January 21, 2021.


Sarah Merriman, Middlesex Town Clerk/Select Board Assistant

MINUTES OF ANNUAL TOWN MEETING: MARCH 3, 2020

The legal voters of the Town of Middlesex are hereby notified and warned to meet at the RUMNEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL in said Town of Middlesex on Tuesday, March 3, 2020 at 4:30 p.m. to act on the following business: (Voting by Australian ballot will be from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the Rumney School gym.)

4:31 P.M. Introductions of the Middlesex Select Board: Chair Peter Hood, Vice-Chair Mary Just Skinner, Elizabeth Scharf, Steve Martin, and Phil Hyjek. Elizabeth Scharf encouraged residents to complete the 2020 Census questionnaires which will be arriving via mail in late March. Elliot Burg of the Middlesex Band Stand Committee announced the summer concert series is booked and can be found on the Middlesex Bandstand website. Susan Clark of the Town Meeting Solutions Committee, announced that virtual attendance to Town Meeting was offered to all Middlesex residents. No residents requested this service this year, but the opportunity will continue to be available for every Town Meeting. She offered special thanks to Liz Scharf, the Middlesex Food Shelf and Rumney for the post-Town Meeting dinner. She also reminds attendees that child care is free this year, and to please pick kids up before the dinner. Susan then gave a brief overview of Robert's Rules of Order.

Susan called the meeting to order at 4:40 P.M. The Civil Invocation was read by Eric Scharf and Eva Jessup, both seniors at U32. Afterward, Eva and Eric asked for volunteers to help staff the Middlesex Food Shelf on Saturday mornings.

ARTICLE 1: To elect a Moderator for the ensuing year. Jeff Koonz moved to nominate Susan Clark. Julie Moore seconded. No other nominations. All in favor and Susan Clark will serve as moderator.

ARTICLE 2: To elect a Grand Juror and Town Agent for the ensuing year. Matthew Gould moved to nominate Todd Daloz; Mary Skinner seconded. All in favor.

ARTICLE 3: To elect all necessary officers for the ensuing year. Voted by Australian ballot:

ARTICLE 4: To receive and act upon the reports of the Town Officers. So moved by Liz Scharf; Jeff Koonz seconded. Phil Hyjek provided an update on CVFiber. Moretown has been added to the communications district and they have closed the membership at this time. They have received \$100,000 in various grants. The most important grant was a State of Vermont grant for \$60,000, half for a feasibility study and the other half for the district's official business plan. They have received the first phase of the grant and hired Interisle Consulting Group to do the feasibility study, which is currently underway. Voting commenced on Article 4. All in favor.

ARTICLE 5: Shall the Town voters authorize payment of all property taxes to the Town Treasurer, as provided by law and without discount, in four installments as follows: the first installment will be due on or before 4:30 PM, August 20, 2020; the second installment will be due on or before 4:30 PM, November 20, 2020; the third installment will be due on or before 4:30 PM, February 20, 2021, and the fourth

MINUTES OF ANNUAL TOWN MEETING: MARCH 3, 2020 (continued)

installment will be due on or before 4:30 PM, May 20, 2021, except if post marked by the US Postal Service on or before the aforementioned dates accordingly? (32 VSA Sec. 4773) So moved by Laura Lyle; Amy Whitehorne seconded. All in favor.

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will charge interest at the rate of .5% per month or fraction thereof on overdue tax installments from the applicable due dates. (32 VSA Sec. 5136). So moved by Amy Whitehorne; Jess Clark seconded. All in favor.

ARTICLE 7: To vote a fiscal year 2020-2021 budget of \$1,323,867 to meet the expenses and liabilities of the Town and authorize the Select Board to set a tax rate sufficient to provide the same. (THIS ARTICLE WILL BE CONSIDERED AS A SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS AT 5:15 PM). This item was put on hold until 5:15 P.M. The budget discussion began at 5:25. So moved by Jeff Koonz; Nancy Reilly seconded. Deb Jerard asked about the increase in the amounts for the Lister wages. Peter Hood replied the increases more accurately reflect the amount of time they need to do their work. Vic Dwire asked for details regarding the additional money earmarked for another excavator and truck. Steve Martin replied that increased storms in recent years have made it difficult to keep up with regular road maintenance. The money is for a new position and new equipment.

Vic requested more specifics on where they anticipate the work, who will be hired and who will oversee this work. Steve replied that they would need to rent a couple of trucks and hire an operator for the one-month period the work will be done. The main arteries would be highest priority and they would move out from there. Ray Hickory added that the \$40,000 increase is significant, but the road crew is overloaded. He asked if the town is able to bid out some of the larger jobs so the road crew won't fall behind regular maintenance. Ray also questioned the 4-day work week. Peter Hood thanked Ray for the input and replied that the road crew is working the same number of hours as a 5-day work week. He reiterated that two storms in the past year resulted in regular maintenance being delayed. He added that an independent contractor was hired to reopen Macey Road. The hope is that by hiring short-term people and renting the equipment will be a more cost-effective way of catching up. Matt Dwire, a former Select Board member, remembers being on the Select Board when the first excavator was purchased and that the added work did not interfere with the continued maintenance of the roads. Matt questioned the current management, particularly the ability to maximize a worker's potential in the 10-hour work day. Kyle Landis-Marinello asked if this increase is expected to be a one-time catch up or is it a permanent increase. Peter replied that the Town budget increases have been kept to 3-4% in most recent years. However the weather this past year created a deficit. He could not guarantee that the increase would be one-time. Sarah Merriman, Town Clerk, added that it is not just the road crew in need of help. She said the highway department building cannot be insulated, that Town shed is in poor shape. She said that Town Hall radon level in the vault is 44, where 4 is an acceptable limit. The Fire Department needs air packs that are \$50,000 a piece. The lift in Town Hall is past his prime and several residents have been stuck in the lift in recent years. There is duct tape over the windows in Town Hall to help insulate. Sarah said there are big costs coming

MINUTES OF ANNUAL TOWN MEETING: MARCH 3, 2020 (continued)

up and asked voters to keep in mind that there are \$73,000 in special articles on top of the budget. She spoke in favor of supporting the town budget and asked voters to truly consider the need of the special articles. Ray Hickory echoed Matt Dwire's concern of the current road crew management. He spoke against the \$40,000 increase for road work and related equipment. He asked the Select Board to reprioritize basic maintenance. Gordon Grunder spoke in praise of the road crew, noting that after making a change in the way the road crew worked on the roads about 5 years ago, there has been a great improvement in road conditions especially during mud season. Elliot Burg expressed concern about the issues Sarah Merriman raised. He said town employees should not be working in an unsafe environment. Elliot asked Select Board members their thoughts on these longer-term issues? Is there a long-term plan? Peter Hood responded that the board spend a lot of time this year trying to work on these issues. He said another issue that had not yet been mentioned is the need for a new road grader. Five years ago, the Board decided not to purchase a new grader and instead rebuilt it to make it last another 5 years – now the 5 years are up. These machines are costly at about \$250,000. The Select Board is working on a long-term plan and welcomes ideas and participation in their bi-monthly meetings. August Burns asked if the Town might consider a capital campaign for infrastructure and wondered if there are other ways to raise money in town without raising taxes. Sarah Seidman proposed that the Select Board come back next year with a long-term plan. Peter replied that they are in the process of gathering information to do just that. Amy Whitehorne echoes Sarah's concerns. She spoke on the issue of raising the Listers compensation, explaining that one of the Listers lives out of state most of the year and much of the heavy lifting falls to herself and Eric Young. She notes that the Grand list is how the Select Board manages its budget. The Town cannot make efficiency improvements with the current state of the Town buildings. She asked attendees to please alert the Town when making home improvements. Ms. Whitehorne also spoke for moving the budget item to Australian ballot so everyone in town can vote on the town budget. She then again talked about the Lister budget, explaining it went up because there is a lot more work than there used to be and in past years had not been asking for reimbursement for all of their time. Heidi Lucas spoke in favor of concentrating on the needs of Middlesex and not outside of Town special interests. Lauri Scharf, former School Board member, mentioned the long-term process of the improvements to Rumney School and suggested the Select Board involve the town in planning before the next Town Meeting. Vic Dwire brought the conversation back to the additional road crew increase and asked why are we talking about money we don't know how to spend yet? He also asked why the town did not stick to the Town Road Plan and instead did work on Notch Road. Steve Martin declined to answer the question. Vic followed up that the priority should be fixing main arteries, not Class 3 roads. Becca Mandel asked a procedural question. She wanted to know if the comments concerning management of town employees should be better addressed somewhere else? Susan Clark asked Select Board members when it is best to receive these types of questions or comments. Peter invited everyone to please come to the Select Board meetings twice a month. Warnings for the meetings are posted in the school, Town Hall and

MINUTES OF ANNUAL TOWN MEETING: MARCH 3, 2020 (continued)

on the website. He offered that anyone can contact Sarah Merriman for additions to the Select Board agenda. Wendy Freudlich asked the Select Board please add Front Porch Forum to announce Select Board meetings. Peter said he would look into it. Randy Drury asked about the percentage increases for road gravel and road side mowing line items. He asked if any pools of money were available via the State or other for some of these costs? Peter replied the Select Board keeps an eye out for grants. Steve Martin responded on the increases, noting it is a large increase percentage wise, but not a huge amount dollar wise. Randy Drury commented that a little here and there adds up. Ronald Brown asked who came up with the idea of the 10-hour work days for road crew employees? Steve Martin replied he believed that the town does get the full value out of the 10-hour days and that the change was made due to the workers requested. He added that the 10-hour, four-day work week is a common practice in many Vermont towns. He addressed the Friday off saying that he and Paul Cerminara, Road Foreman, worked at the end of last summer to make use of good weather days by shifting some work hours to the weekend. Matt Dwire asked if those weekend hours were billed at time and a half? Steve Martin said they were working it out so that it is straight time whenever possible. Matt Dwire explained that he felt bringing up the road crew oversight at Town Meeting was appropriate because it has a direct effect on the budget. Eric Silvers praised the road crew saying Macey Road was put back together very quickly. Matt Dwire clarified that the Macey Road job was contracted out. Eric Silvers responded that they still deserve credit for managing a job well done. He added that by driving slower, the town would need less repair work. Susan Warren appreciates the road crew and would support the increase but is concerned about the long-term issues raised by Sarah. Peter offered that the Select Board has budget hearings in the fall. Liz Scharf added that the budget committee is a subcommittee of the Select Board and that there are vacancies. Ms. Scharf noted that the budget committee fully supported the \$40,000 increase. Susan Clark asked if Susan Warren would like to make a motion to reduce the budget? John Puelio asked for a point of clarification – if the budget were amended down, would the town specify the \$40,000 reduction to ditch digging and mud mitigation? Peter clarified the increase is just for ditching. John asked if that is the \$40,000 the town would amend. Vic Dwire asked if it would it be fair to amend the budget to 3% over last year's budget? Peter Hood replied that, yes, that can be done, but he would greatly prefer that the town specify where to make the cuts if they were going to amend the budget. Vic moves to cut the budget by \$100,000; Dexter Lefavor seconds. Paul Zabriskie spoke against the amendment saying no, it was not fair. He said if the town residents want to decrease the budget, they should take responsibility for where money is spent and where it's not. Jim Covino asked if the town can call on the State for help in times of distress? Peter Hood replied that the State does help. Middlesex received a \$72,000 storm grant to help with repairs. Dorinda Crowell reminded the attendees that there is \$73,000 in special articles, the majority of which does not go to the town. She urged voters to look for cuts without hurting the town. Elliot Burg asked the Select Board to explain the impact of taking that much out of the budget. Peter replied it is unclear. The decrease will have to be made up somewhere. Voting on the amendment begins. The

MINUTES OF ANNUAL TOWN MEETING: MARCH 3, 2020 (continued)

amendment fails. Now voting Article 7 as proposed. William McMannis moved to call the question; Jeff Koonz seconded. Voting to call the question. All in favor. Voting on Article 7. Nos were heard, but the ayes have it. The Article passes. At 6:25 P.M. Susan Clark called for a 60-second stretch break.

Meeting resumes at 6:27 P.M. Assistant Town Clerk Maryke Gillis recognized Ruth Pope, whose artwork is graces the 2019 Middlesex Town Report. Liz Scharf reminded us all the invocation and invites everyone to stay and enjoy the spaghetti dinner together after the meeting, adding thanks to Susan Warren for the rolls.

John Puelio said he heard a lot from the audience about long-term planning. But respectfully, felt that the Select Board fell short in their response to the long-term planning process. He asked how can we, as a town, come back to the drawing board and deal with these critical issues? Peter Hood added his agreement. Mary Skinner said that they have been wanting to set up a capital fund and we have not had the fortitude to go out and get estimates on some of these major expenses. Ms. Skinner said that after hearing Sarah's plea to the community, she feels a great sense of urgency to get these estimates. She said a building committee would be a good first step. Liz Scharf also agreed and added that she was sure that this will be the subject of the Select Board's first meeting. All members agreed. Back to Article 9.

ARTICLE 8: Shall the Town voters appropriate the sum of \$5,000 to the Middlesex Conservation Fund? (By Select Board). So moved by Julie Moore; Joanne Mankoff seconded. Gordon Grunder asks how much is in the Conservation Fund. Lee Rosberg, Chair of Conservation Commission, said the fund has about \$9,000. Last use was \$10,000 to the Hunger Mountain Headwaters Conservation Fund. Prior to that, \$20,000 was used to help purchase land that added to the Middlesex Town Forest. All in favor.

ARTICLE 9: Shall the Town voters authorize expenditures of up to \$8,000 to purchase two Radar Speed Feedback Signs to be installed on the north and south lanes of VT Route 12 in Putnamville? (By petition.) So moved by Karen Gennette; Dave Shepard seconded. Jeff Koonz said that since the town already pays the county to monitor speeding, perhaps they could increase monitoring? Robert Lucas agreed adding that the Sheriff's department only used 50% of their budget this year. He inquired who will be monitoring and using the feedback garnered from these new signs? Albie Borne agrees the Sheriff only used 50% the budget, however, the volume of traffic on Route 12 is high and the speeding is problematic. He discussed steps already taken by the State to improve the situation. He said the accident rate is high and that the area includes a blind school bus turnaround. Safety is the concern. He asked for the community's support to help raise awareness. Brian Prendergast spoke in favor of the purchase. Dave Lawrence asked if a speed study had been done? Carol Maloney said that yes, a speed study was done. She said she had asked the State to reduce the speed limit through Putnamville to 25mph, but the State rejected the appeal. However, the State did adjust the placement of the speed limit signs. Carol said they would we welcome a mobile unit that can be shared throughout Middlesex. Amy Whitehorne

MINUTES OF ANNUAL TOWN MEETING: MARCH 3, 2020 (continued)

pointed folks to page 36 of the Town Report. She spoke in favor of the motion. She asked how much did the speed study cost and who paid for it? Peter Hood said there was no cost to the town; the State did the study. Kathy Shapiro asked what evidence was available that these signs reduce speed? Albie replied it is just a basic reminder. LED lights at night seem to work and he asked for support. John Puelio anecdotally admitted that the flashing speed sign works for him. He spoke in favor of the motion. Jane Dudley moved that they change the wording to include the rotation of the devices throughout Middlesex. Sarah Seidman seconds. Discussion ensued on whether the amount is correct if the wording is changed. Robert Lucas offered that the portable speed carts are significantly more expensive than the permanent units. The current amount may purchase one, but not two. Ray Hickory agreed that the portable units are more expensive. Lisa Carlson echoed John's comment on the signs being a helpful reminder. She spoke in favor of the permanent signs. Albie asked if the Sheriff's budget is only half used, could the unused portion be reallocated. John Puelio called the question on the amendment; Dexter Lefavor seconds. All in favor. Voting now on the amendment to change the wording to include mobile units – the no's have it and the amendment is defeated. Discussion moves back to the Article as written. The discussion was interrupted at this point, 5:25 P.M., to move to the budget, Article 7.

This discussion is resumed at 6:27 P.M. Amy Whitehorne again referred voters to page 23 and the \$73,000 in special articles. She reminded voters that there is already more money in the Sheriff's budget for better oversight. Liz Scharf explained that the issue isn't the money available in the Sheriff's budget, there is a staff shortage. Robert Lucas added that there are other resources out there other than the Sheriff's office. He said State police could provide additional oversight and other towns can supplement. Peter replied that in the past Middlesex has contracted with the State and other departments, but they often run into the same staffing issues that do not allow them to fulfill the duties of the contract. Brian Prendergast said that the list of special articles does serve Middlesex residents. He added that he is a mentor for Boys and Girls First and this serves Middlesex students. He encourages the community to support these articles. Karen Gennette, Putnamville resident, added that after the budget discussion, she felt this Article may be in jeopardy, but wanted to use this is an education issue. She said Putnamville residents don't often see the State police in the area. She explained that last summer there was a car flipped over in the middle of the road which landed within feet of a family home – with three children. The response time to these occurrences is slow. Residents were out on the roads directing traffic. She recounted other near misses in recent memory and feels it is just a matter of time before a major incident occurs. She added, that whether it's an up or down vote, she hopes the community will eventually be able to do something to help this area. Emily Smith moved to call the question; Jeff Koonz seconded. Vote to call the question – nos were heard but the ayes have it. Voting begins on Article 9. Standing vote. Ayes have it and the article passes.

ARTICLE 10: Shall the Town voters authorize expenditures of \$600 for the Central Vermont Economic Development Corporation? (By Petition). Jeff Koonz moved; Eric

MINUTES OF ANNUAL TOWN MEETING: MARCH 3, 2020 (continued)

Benedict seconded. Peter Hood said he has been involved with the CVED for many years and pointed attendees to the report in the Town Meeting booklet. He spoke to support the organization. Vic Dwire asked the amount of the organizations total budget? Mr. Hood responded it is around \$800,000 and has two full-time employees. John Krezinski asked for an example of this organization benefiting anyone in town. Mary Skinner replied that the Red Hen Bakery has been a recipient. Peter Hood said that these funds are used to help local businesses in town and nearby businesses that employ Middlesex residents. Some examples include: Red Hen, Keurig and Cabot Cheese. Voting commences. Nos were heard but the ayes have it. Article passes.

ARTICLE 11: Shall the voters authorize expenditures of \$4,050 to support Central Vermont Home Health and Hospice? (By Petition)

So moved by Dave Shepard, Lisa Carlson seconded. Wendy Freudlich spoke for the article. All in favor.

ARTICLE 12: Shall the Town voters authorize expenditures of \$3,000 to support Community Connections? (By Petition) So moved by Jeff Koonz; Brian Prendergast seconded. Chris Malone, director of Community Connections at Rumney, spoke for the organization saying it serves about 50% of Rumney students. All in favor.

ARTICLE 13: Shall the Town voters authorize expenditures of \$1,500 to support Girls/Boyz First Mentoring? (By Petition) So moved by Brian Prendergast; Laura Lyle seconded. Jeff Koonz said this organization has been supporting about ten Middlesex kids a year and moved that we reduce the amount to \$500. Matt Dwire seconds. Wendy Freundlich spoke against the amendment. She said this program has been in the community for many years. It serves about thirty or forty kids a year, nine are from Middlesex. This year, eleven kids went to sleep away camp, and eight of them were from Middlesex. She spoke for the program to help the neediest kids in the community. Brian Prendergast shared some of his experience mentoring a twelve-year-old. He suggested that if you vote not to do this, buy yourself some coffee with the \$2.50 you will save. Lisa Carlson spoke against the amendment. She said if we can end up with students who are more likely to grow up and pay taxes and contribute to our economy, the better off we all are. She feels this is money very well spent. Voting an amendment commenced. The nos have it and the amendment fails. Voting on Article 13 as written. All in favor.

ARTICLE 14: Shall the Town voters authorize expenditures of \$29,801 to support the Kellogg-Hubbard Library? (By Petition). So moved by George Longenecker; John Puelio seconded. Sarah Seidman, new representative for the KHL, spoke for the article. She acknowledged John Puelio's service as the previous representative. Amy Whitehorn said that last year she recommended the community reduce this amount. She stated that the town is paying per household for people that do not have library cards. She said KHL is a private library with an endowment and recently had a successful capital campaign. She encourages people vote no on this article and requests paper ballot voting. Susan Clark asks for a show of hands for paper ballot. Seven agreements are needed. More than seven people raised their hand; paper balloting is

MINUTES OF ANNUAL TOWN MEETING: MARCH 3, 2020 (continued)

approved. Benjamyn Carlson discussed that usage numbers do not accurately reflect what goes on in a library. The library provides a safe and warm after- school and meet up place. He argued that the library serves the community in many ways and spoke for a favorable vote. Jess Clark is a school bus driver and has information from a fellow driver who drives the KHL route that five Rumney children are dropped at the library on some days. These children will still be welcome whether Middlesex pays this amount or not. Middlesex is overpaying per person usage with this amount. She moved that the limit be reduced to \$15,000; John Krezinski seconds. Hugo Lieppman offered that he is in and out of the library multiple times a week. He urged support for the full amount. August Burns said that every year there is a discussion on the library. She honors the argument that those on fixed income have difficulty supporting these increases. She asked the Select Board what, if anything, is available for tax relief at this time? What is the property tax relief mechanism for this town? Peter Hood responded that there is nothing available to mitigate town taxes. The property tax adjustment is for school taxes only. He wondered if a non-profit Middlesex Town organization to fund some of these things could be formed. Possibly. Wendy Freundlich said she wanted to make the connection that we are struggling as a town and as a state because of what is happening federally with our tax dollars. John Krezinski moves to call the question; Jeff Koonz seconds. Motion to call the question. Nos were heard, but the ayes have it. Voting on the amended article commences. The nos have it. The amendment fails. Back to the original article. John Puelio, echoes August Burns's sentiment. And he wanted to clear up a few things – the KHL is not a private organization. It is a private-public organization. If Middlesex only funded the folks in town with cards, it would reduce the amount going to KHL by \$5,000/\$6,000. He did not know how this would affect the library's operation. He added that not only Rumney, but many U32 students use the KHL. The money that Middlesex pays to support KHL only supports 3.2% of the KHL budget. He spoke in favor of the amendment. Vic Dwire said he feels the passion for this library but can still hear Sarah Merriman's plea. He argued that this money is better spent helping those working in the Town Hall. Fred McCullough said he has been listening to the KHL debate for many years but is not sure it is in the town's purview to deal with the library as a town instead of as an individual. He said there is nothing to stop individuals from donating. He added that a lot of this argument is not about the KHL, but about priorities and where everyone is struggling to pay their taxes. Lisa Carlson said that the town is not being given a choice on the radon or the KHL. She said she knows there are residents that are struggling to pay taxes. She hopes the Select Board can figure out tax relief because she wants to be able to support the library. She added that in terms of lower income people having access to information, libraries are the great equalizer. Kathy Shapiro, echoes what Wendy said regarding the connection between our struggles as a town and the use of our federal tax dollars. She encourages everyone to visit the library and take advantage of the community resource there. Since the hour is late and paper balloting requires some time, it is decided that dinner will be served during the meeting. Voting now on paper ballot (and enjoying dinner!). 80-31 in favor. Article passes.

ARTICLE 15: Shall the Town vote to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of \$7,000 for the support of the Montpelier Senior Activity Center to provide services to residents of the

MINUTES OF ANNUAL TOWN MEETING: MARCH 3, 2020 (continued)

Town? (By Petition). So moved by Susan Sussman; Julie Moore seconded. Linda Fenton said she and her husband do go to the Montpelier Senior Center and they signed a petition request for \$5,000. Why is it now at \$7,000? Hugo Liepmann responded that on page 72 of the Town report they acknowledge they are increasing their funding request. He said that there is an increase in Middlesex residents using the Senior Center and they have increased their class offerings at great prices. Peter Hood confirmed that the petition the town received was for \$7,000. Voting commences. All in favor.

ARTICLE 16: Shall the Town voters authorize expenditures of \$10,000 to support the Waterbury Senior Center’s Meals on Wheels program? (By Petition). So moved by Eric Benedict. Lisa Carlson seconded. Vote. All in favor.

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town of Middlesex will appropriate a sum not to exceed \$4,368 to support the following organizations:

American Red Cross	\$250.00
Big Heavy World	\$250.00
CV Adult Basic Ed	\$250.00
CV Council on Aging	\$250.00
CV Disaster Animal Response Team	\$100.00
Circle	\$199.00
Community Harvest of CV	\$250.00
Good Beginnings of CV	\$250.00
Green Mt. Transit Agency	\$249.00
Green Up Vermont	\$100.00
Montpelier Veterans Council	\$250.00
Our House of CV	\$250.00
People’s Health & Wellness	\$250.00
Sexual Assault Crisis Team	\$250.00
VT Center for Independent Living	\$195.00
VT Family Network	\$250.00
VT Rural Fire Protection Task Force	\$100.00
Wash. County Diversion	\$250.00
Winooski Natural Resources District	\$250.00
Youth Service Bureau of Wash. County	\$175.00

So moved by Lisa Carlson; Kyle Landis-Marinello seconded. Liz Scharf addresses the issue of organizations asking for small amounts. She explained that these are often token request that helps raise visibility of the organization and can also be used as leverage when applying for larger grants or donations. Susan Bettmann asks if anyone knows about the organization called Big Heavy World. Bennett Shapiro replied that the organization provides support for the artists of all kinds. Voting commences. All in favor.

MINUTES OF ANNUAL TOWN MEETING: MARCH 3, 2020 (continued)

ARTICLE 18: To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

Mary Nealon asked everyone to please take the survey Middlesex Trails. Liz Scharf thanked everyone for supporting the Middlesex Food Shelf. Susan Clark thanked the microphone runners!

Meeting adjourned at 8:13 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by Sorsha Anderson.

The following approved by email:

Peter O. Hood, Chair Middlesex Select Board

Susan Clark, Moderator of the 2020 Middlesex Town Meeting

TOWN OF MIDDLESEX ANNUAL AUDIT

On December 21, 2020, Batchelder Associates, PC of Barre, Vermont, issued its audit report of the Town's finances for the fiscal year running from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020. At its January 5, 2021, meeting, the Select Board reviewed and approved the audit report which showed the Town's books are in balance and there were no significant weaknesses or deficiencies found.

In an effort to save resources along with printing and postage costs, we no longer print the full Audit Report in the Town Report. However, a copy is available for anyone's review at the Town Clerk's Office, 5 Church Street, Middlesex. In addition, a copy is available online at middlesexvermont.org.

- Sarah Merriman, Town Clerk/Select Board Assistant
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SELECT BOARD PROPOSED FY2021-2022 BUDGET REPORT

This has been a stressful year for everyone. The pandemic has created emotional, physical and financial hardships for our community, state and country.

The Select Board tried very hard to keep this year's budget as low as we could. Our budget increase is 4.45 percent over last year's budget. As you review the budget, please remember that some items will reflect significant percentage increases, however, these represent minimal actual costs that may not have been explained in this report.

General Government decreased by 1.09 percent due to decreases in property and casualty insurance, election costs and county taxes.

Administration increased by 41.35 percent, primarily due to a reorganization in personnel. We need more bookkeeping services together with a part time grants management position. Our town departments apply for and receive numerous grants to support and upgrade services for our community. From repairing roads to studying the possibility of bike paths, from capital planning grants to support with the town plan, these grants require coordination, financial tracking, state and or federal reporting and accountability. This part time position would allow us to provide necessary financial controls and to take advantage of more grant opportunities. We think you may agree that applying for money from sources other than you, the taxpayer, is a solid approach to governance.

In addition, the State has mandated that we acquire software that will be compatible with a new State system for property valuation and taxation.

Town Hall decreased by 8.23 percent as a result of infrequent use during the pandemic.

Public Safety decreased by 3.70 percent due to reduced need for services.

The Fire Department increased by only 1.21 percent. This was due to a decrease in debt service on the fire station and tanker as well as property and casualty insurance.

The **Public Works** budget decreased by .01 percent. Winter maintenance decreased significantly because we opened our own sand pit, thus reducing the cost of trucking and purchase of sand. Specialized services decreased by half because much of this work was accomplished during FY2020. Also, the debt service on our trucks decreased.

SELECT BOARD BUDGET REPORT (continued)

Zoning/Board of Adjustment had an increase of 8.60 percent bringing worker's compensation and mileage reimbursement in line with actual spending.

Planning reflects an increase of 88.89 percent which is for a VTRANS grant match to study the scope of bike paths. Additionally, consulting fees were increased related to the Town Plan.

In closing, we feel that we have prepared a reasonable budget which continues to provide the services our community needs.

The Select Board encourages your input. You are always welcome to attend our meetings on the first and third Tuesday of every month. Instructions for attending our Zoom meetings are included on every agenda. We look forward to your participation.

A BLAST FROM THE PAST!

Middlesex, Vt., June 15, 1953

TAX NOTICE

Rate		
Town Tax \$2.93	}	Your Grand List \$1,920.00
School Tax 3.72		Your Property Tax \$ 157.44
Highway Tax 1.35		
Special Tax .20		
Total Tax \$8.20		

This tax may be paid in three installments. Your choice of the first two installments; balance to be paid Nov. 10, 1953. After this date a tax is delinquent and 8% will be added as provided by law. 1/2% per month interest charge will be added to delinquent taxes.

ALL PROPERTY TAXES PAID IN FULL BY JULY 1ST, 1953 WILL RECEIVE A 2% CASH DISCOUNT.

Date	Amount	Rec. Payment	Collector
July 1, 1953		.....	Collector
July 10, 1953		.....	Collector
Sept. 10, 1953		.....	Collector
Nov. 10, 1953	157.44	.....	Collector

I will be at the following places to collect taxes: *Thank you!*

For those wishing to take advantage of the 2% discount I will be at the Town Clerk's Office June 30th from 1 P. M. to 4 P. M.

July 10, Sept. 10 and Nov. 10 at the Town Clerk's Office at Middlesex from 10 A. M. to 4 P. M.

I will receive taxes at my home at all other times.

WILLIAM M. HILL, Tax Collector.
Mailing address: Middlesex Ctr., Vermont

..... Logan Crowell (Artie Est)

..... Middlesex, Vt

SELECT BOARD REPORT

Despite the unprecedented challenge of being unable to gather in person as a Select Board last year due to COVID-19, the Board was heartened to see a significant uptick in community participation at its regular meetings. In fact, even after the pandemic is over, it's very likely remote access will become a permanent form of attendance.

The pandemic had an immediate impact on how Town business was conducted. In response to growing concern about what was rumored to be a contagious and occasionally deadly virus, the Board decided to hold its March organizational meeting via speakerphone, moving to Zoom for every subsequent meeting.

As the pandemic spread into Vermont and the Governor issued protocols closing schools and requiring social distancing, the Board found it needed to address unusual issues such as whether employees of the Highway Department needed to keep a minimum distance between them while working on road projects and how the Zoning Administrator should handle site visits.

Soon, meeting on Zoom became, if not ideal, then a familiar way to meet. The Board approved 58 Center Road as an "approved site" for a 150KW solar array. It considered citizen complaints about parking for the Town Forest at the upper end of Notch Road and what was to be done about a troublesome beaver pond on a stretch of Class 4 road where North Bear Swamp meets East. Those were the everyday, normal issues.

What wasn't normal was the virus and its continued impact on Middlesex which was – and is – so difficult to gauge. Many residents had been laid off from work or had to reduce their hours to care for children no longer able to attend school. In light of these hardships and upon the recommendation of the Town Treasurer, the Board enacted provisions allowed in S. 334 and waived the 8% penalty imposed on delinquent 2019 taxes until August 2020. (The Board would revisit that deadline and push it to January 2021.)

Later in the summer, the Board permitted the Washington Central Unified Union School District to use Town-owned land behind Rumney Memorial School as outdoor classrooms..

In July, the Board set a 2020 Municipal Tax Rate of \$0.5269 per \$100 of property valuation to pay for the 11.59% budget increase approved by voters at the March 2020 Town Meeting. Thankfully, some of this hit was offset by lower-than-expected education tax rates, which always represent the lion's share of a tax bill.

The Board also signed off on applying for several grants, including a Capital-Planning Grant that was later approved by the State which will guide the Town on how best to save (and spend) on much-needed major municipal improvements including buildings for the Highway Department and Town Hall.

At the suggestion of the Planning Commission, the Board agreed to go forward with grants that will help pay for a project studying the feasibility and cost of installing

SELECT BOARD REPORT (continued)

sidewalks along US Route 2 from Camp Meade to Roots Farm Market.

The Board ended the year by making an historic decision to hold the March 2021 Town Meeting entirely by Australian ballot as permitted by Act 162, emergency COVID legislation passed by the Vermont Legislature. Prior to reaching this conclusion, the Board discussed many other options that would have provided for a traditional floor-vote meeting, including postponing Town Meeting until later in the spring. However, with an increase in local COVID cases and no assurance of wide-spread vaccinations and/or immunity by summer, the Board decided paper ballots were the safest route.

To that end, the Board also eliminated requirements that organizations seeking funding at the March 2021 Town Meeting submit petitions with signatures from 5% of the Town's registered voters. This was not necessary this year as long as the organizations had been approved for the same amount of money at the 2020 Town Meeting. That is why the Warning lists the North Branch Nature Center's request for \$2,000 as "by petition," because the NBC did not request funding in 2020 and, so, solicited petitions.

The other petitioned article on the 2021 Warning is Article 16 which asks if all Town Meeting articles requesting money – separate from the Town budget – be voted on by Australian ballot in the future. If this article passes, starting with the March 2022 Town Meeting, only the Town budget and non-moneyed articles such as setting dates to collect tax rates or determining what monthly interest to charge on late taxes and perhaps other Town matters, would be decided during the traditional floor vote. Funding requests from non-profit organizations and the Town for expenditures outside the budget would be voted on by Australian ballot.

The Board looks forward to a time in the not-too-distant future when we can meet again, when not only Town Meeting but also regular Board meetings can be held in person. In the meantime, we heartily encourage anyone who's interested to attend its meetings via Zoom. Login-information is posted on Front Porch Forum and on the Town's website at middlesexvermont.org. The Town's Zoom ID is 739 338 0675. Or, you can find the next meeting by going here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7393380675>

Finally, the Board would like to note the former employees who stepped down in 2020: Maryke Gillis (Assistant Clerk), Paul Cerminara (Road Foreman), Mitch Osiecki (Zoning Administrator) and Steve Martin (Road Commissioner). Thank you for your service to the Town and good luck in your next endeavors!

Respectfully,

THE MIDDLESEX SELECT BOARD

Chair, Peter O. Hood, Vice Chair Mary Just Skinner, Members Phil Hyjek, Steve Martin and Liz Scharf with Select Board Assistant Sarah Merriman.

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

You knew 2020 was going to be trouble when the normally routine task of buying hand sanitizer for the March Town Meeting turned into a frantic scavenger hunt. That was the last time we gathered as a Town under one roof, a dire precursor of the year ahead.

The following week, we closed our tiny Town Clerk's Office to walk-in traffic until the ever-resourceful David Crowell and Charlie Merriman built a safety counter with reclaimed material and a new Plexiglas barrier. The computer station for recording land documents was moved upstairs to Town Hall to maximize space, thereby allowing staff and researchers to socially distance.

COVID makes every task twice as long and twice as hard. By closing the office to walk-ins, new Assistant Clerk Dave Smith and I ended up fetching hundreds of documents researchers otherwise would have obtained themselves. Quarantined at home, many residents took renewed notice of their neighbors' activities, calling the office to find who was building what and why. We scanned lots of zoning permits.

Weird stuff happened. Many people took out marriage licenses and never married. In contrast, one Massachusetts couple drove up for a marriage license they signed through the window, went to the house of a friend in Middlesex who married them in his driveway, got back in their car and drove home – all before dinner. Lots of babies were born. People totally forgot about licensing their dogs. A portion of Brook Road turned into a drive-through zoo featuring geese with bad attitudes.

With a surging virus, we had no idea how we were going to pull off two major elections, events that naturally involve humans gathering to not only cast, but also count, ballots. The challenge of making sure everyone's voice was heard while keeping their mouths masked seemed daunting, if not impossible.

The solution was to strongly encourage early/absentee voting for the Statewide Primary in August and then mail ballots to every active registered voter for November. It was a crazy plan. And, yet, the results were earth shattering. In what often is a meh election, the Statewide Primary in August attracted a record 634 absentee voters of a total 745 who cast ballots, representing more than half of the Town's checklist.

November, of course, was even more stunning. With a fairly interesting Presidential contest at stake, 1,121 voters out of a potential 1,504 cast absentee ballots. The remaining 140 who came to the polls adhered to the State's sanitization guidelines,

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT (continued)

wore masks and were delightfully cooperative. By the end of the night, the turnout was at an unheard of 83%. Of those, 997 voted for Joe Biden, 231 for Donald J. Trump, 12 for Jo Jorgensen and three for Kanye because, hey, 2020.

This year, voting will once again be historically transformed when we cancel gathering in person and hold the March 2, 2021 Town Meeting via Australian ballot. This is a one-off granted by the Legislature to towns like ours that traditionally meet in person to debate and vote. I am confident Middlesex voters will rise to the occasion.

As I enter my ninth term as Town Clerk, I want to extend my deepest gratitude to all who made this year so much more tolerable than it otherwise would have been. A shout out to David Crowell for his ingenuity and resourcefulness, Assistant Clerk David Smith for his reliable work and professional service, and to Treasurer Dorinda Crowell who slogged through mountains of ballots, staying until the bitter end until every vote was recorded.

Though she knows where all the bodies are buried, former Crack Assistant Town Clerk Maryke Gillis embarked on a well-deserved retirement (aside from laying out this Town Report) right before the pandemic hit. Great timing on her part, though sometimes I feel as if I've lost a limb with her absence.

Mostly, I want to applaud the members of this community for being fair and kind to one another, for participating vigorously in local democracy while maintaining a civil discourse despite differing views and perspectives in an incredibly stressful time. All I can say is other Town Clerks should be so lucky.

We shall meet again!

Sarah Merriman
Town Clerk/Select Board Assistant

ROAD FOREMAN HIGHWAY REPORT

The Middlesex Highway Department deviated from the 2020 summer maintenance and construction season as outlined in our 5-Year Plan. The reason for this was to open up a new area in our town owned Notch Road pit to get our winter sand. We have developed an area to extract bank run material to be screened that we believe will last several years. By developing this area and screening sand for the 2020/2021 winter season netted a savings for the town. By not buying our sand and trucking it in, this should save an estimated \$15,000 per year for the next 2 to 3 years that can be spent on much needed gravel. However, this came at a cost of not being able to complete some of the work scheduled in our 5-year road plan, such as Bolduc Road, Tangletown Road and mud mitigation on East Hill. The year brought other challenges as well. The COVID-19 pandemic did not stop us from working, but forced us to work in a completely different manner that slowed down our productivity in some cases because of getting parts for equipment and new signs for our roads.

The solar panel speed signs and associated permits for Route 12 in Putnamville were approved by the State of Vermont Agency of Transportation in late fall and ordered. The signs are anticipated to be delivered in mid-January 2021, due to COVID-19 pandemic and winter construction, a tentative date for installation will be mid-April by F. R. LaFayette.

We are planning to replace our aging road grader that is 23 years old. We have placed on the Warning of the Annual Town Meeting, Article 5, that is asking the voters to authorize the Select Board to finance the purchase of a new road grader for an amount not to exceed \$290,000 for a period not to exceed 15 years. We would take receipt of the new road grader after July 1, 2021, with our first payment due after July 1, 2022.

We are planning on using the special services section in the budget approved at our last town meeting to do as much ditching as possible prior to July 1st. We are also planning on the early summer construction to include some of our normal maintenance issues like upgrading/replacing some culverts in various locations, filling more pot holes, cutting brush, grading roads, and other miscellaneous equipment maintenance items.

Our road foreman, Paul Cerminara, resigned for personal and family reasons as of October 16, 2020. He has taken a managerial position with a central Vermont company with added duties, responsibilities and a regular schedule. Paul was a great asset to the town and will be missed. We wish him well in his new endeavor. Peter Hood and Liz Scharf, from our Select Board, interviewed and hired with the approval of the Select Board Shane Brickey as our new road foreman. Shane comes with experience and knowledge that should prove to be an asset to the town of Middlesex. Shane started in this position on January 4, 2021. I resigned from the position of road commissioner on that same date, January 4, 2021, because of the nepotism clause in our town policy. Shane is my son. Peter Hood is the interim road commissioner until a new road commissioner is appointed.

We would like to thank Paul Cerminara again for his dedicated service to the town, and thank all of the Middlesex residents for their on-going support.

*Sincerely, Steve Martin and the Entire Middlesex Highway Department
(Shane Brickey, Bruce Fitch, Jay Files and Charles Pelcher)*

FIVE-YEAR ROAD-CONSTRUCTION PLAN

Summer 2021**May & June – Full Service**

Complete McCullough Hill

July - Full Service

Bolduc & Tangletown Road

August – Mud Season Mitigation

East Hill Road

September & October – Service Work

Center Road, South Bear Swamp, North Bear Swamp Road

Summer 2022**May, June & July – Full Service**

South Bear Swamp & North Bear Swamp Road

August – Mud Season Mitigation

Center Road

September – Full Service

Macey Road

October – Service Work

Culver Hill Road

Summer 2023**May – Full Service**

Culver Hill Road

June & July – Service Work

East Hill & Center Road

July – Service Work

Center & East Hill Road

August – Mud Season Mitigation

Portal Road

September & October – Service Work

West Hill & Nellie Chase Road

Summer 2024**May – Service Work**

Lower Sunny Brook Road, Lower Barnett Hill Road

June – Pavement Preparation

Center Road

July – Paving & Finish Work

Center Road

August – Mud Season Mitigation

Center Road

FIVE-YEAR ROAD-CONSTRUCTION PLAN (continued)

September – Mud Season Mitigation

Portal Road

October – Service Work

Center Road

Summer 2025

May – Service Work

East Hill Road

June – Service Work

Daniel’s Farm Road

July – Service Work

Norton Road

August – Service Work

3 Mile Bridge Road, Cross Road, Rich Road

September – Service Work

Upper Sunny Brook Road & Davy Road

October – Mud Season Mitigation

To Be Determined

Note: All structures/paving projects are pending grant funding and/or permitting approval.

Full Service = Minor gravel, brush cutting, culvert replacement, ditching

Mud Season Mitigation = Excavation, drainage, fabric, gravel

Service Work = Shoulder cutting, ditching, culvert replacement

CAPITAL PLAN FOR EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT

Equipment Name	Replacement Schedule	Replacement Year
1983 Tanker/Chloride Truck	As Needed	No Date
1989 Morbark Chipper	As Needed	No Date
1997 Caterpillar 140H Grader	24 Years	2021/2022
2014 Western Star Dump Truck	8 Years	2022/2023
2008 Kobelco 140SR Excavator	16 Years	2024/2025
2018 International Dump Truck	7 Years	2025/2026
2014 Komatsu WA-270 Loader	12 Years	2026/2027
2019 Freightliner Dump Truck	8 Years	2027/2028
2007 Caterpillar 420E Backhoe	21 years	2028/2029 2021
2021 Pick-up	8 Years	2029/2030

The 1953 Middlesex Bill of Poll and Old Age Assistance Taxes in my hands is now due and payable on or before June 2nd, 1953. After this date these taxes will be delinquent and subject to additional charge of 8% or 90 cents. Please note 1/2% interest per month or 6% per year will be added to delinquent taxes.

I will receive taxes at the Town Clerk's Office on June 1, from 10 A. M. to 5 P. M., and at my home in Shady Hill any day before June 1.

Poll Tax \$8.20
 Old Age Assistance 3.00
 Total \$11.20

If you wish a receipt please send stamp.

BERNICE M. MAXHAM, Tax Collector, Middlesex, Vt.
 Mailing address, Montpelier, R. 1.

Received Payment

*June 1, 1953 - Bernice Maxham
 Tax Col
 RFD # 1*

PLEASE DO NOT DESTROY THIS CARD

J. A. & Artie M. Crowell Middlesex, Vt., June 2, 1941.

Town Tax *47.38* Your Grand List *20.60*
 School Tax *30.90* Your Property Tax *84.46*
 Highway Tax *6.18*

This tax may be paid in 4 equal installments.

Dated	Amount	Rec. Payment	Collector
July 10th, 1941	<i>21.12</i>	.....	Collector
Sept. 10th, 1941	<i>21.12</i>	.....	Collector
Nov. 10th, 1941	<i>21.11</i>	.....	Collector
Dec. 31st, 1941	<i>21.11</i>	.....	Collector

After Dec. 31, 1941, 8% added for collection.

I will be at my residence on each of the above dates and at Miles Store, Middlesex, Vt., July 9, Sept. 9, Nov. 8, and Dec. 30 to receive said taxes. If you wish receipt by mail send stamp.

KENNETH HOLMES, Collector, Montpelier, Vt., RFD 1

COLLECTOR OF DELINQUENT TAXES REPORT

Unsurprising in a year of pandemic, the unpaid property tax debt has crept up from last year.

The \$37,877 in delinquent taxes owed to the town of Middlesex on Dec. 29, 2019, stood at \$44,000 on Dec. 31, 2020. This includes all principals, penalties and interest accrued before fiscal year 2020 started in late May.

In my first months as delinquent tax collector, the Select Board responded to growing layoffs and lost income of the COVID-19 lockdown by agreeing to suspend the annual 8% late penalty for unpaid taxes in May. Thanks to a ruling by the State Legislature, the town decided not to penalize all debt from fiscal 2019 and earlier, although the normal 0.5 % monthly interest still applied.

The state was a bit tardy in issuing Homestead Property Tax Adjustments this year, pushing back the town's date for issuing property tax bills and subsequently the due date for the first payment. This caused some confusion, but the second payment went back to normal, due Nov. 20.

Property assessments normally kick in April 1 each year. By state law, the property owner(s) of record should receive the bill by that date. Please contact the town office at mdxclerk@comcast.net, or 229-5915 for a tax bill if you are a new Middlesex property owner, or you've misplaced your copy. It is your responsibility as a property owner to make sure your mortgage company has a copy of the bill.

My job as delinquent tax collector is to make sure the town receives all property taxes it is owed. I notify people regularly and try to help them come up with payment plans and arrangements for catching up on debt. In some cases I must take formal collection actions, including conducting tax sales of a property. I'm also responsible for collecting legal fees and court costs associated with a collection action.

It's been a tough year for all Vermonters, and it's no mystery why more people are finding it tough to keep up with expenses and make plans to find their way to better financial footing. If you're behind on taxes, please give me a call at 229-5915. I believe open communication makes uncomfortable situations better for everyone involved, and a simple payment plan may prove a relatively easy path to improve the situation.

A reminder that all taxpayers should file the Vermont Homestead Declaration and Property Tax Adjustment Claim Form HS-122 by April 15, even if you do not file a tax return or are filing for an extension. This form identifies a property as the homestead of a Vermont resident and is used in creating the state's education tax rate. Failure to file may result in a penalty.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Smith, Collector of Delinquent Taxes

ESTIMATED TOWN TAX EFFORT

2021-2022 General Government			
Expenses			
Budget	613349.00		
Special Articles	65468.00		
	0.00		
Total	678817.00		
Anticipated Receipts			
Interest	1000.00		
Zoning	5000.00		
Licenses and Clerk Fees	20250.00		
RR Tax	2500.00		
PILOT/Hold Harmless Payment	61000.00		
PILOT/ Agy of Natural Resources	40000.00		
Delinquent Tax Interest	3000.00		
Delinquent Tax Penalty	4000.00		
Fund Balance Reduction	0.00		
Total	136,750.00	Total General Government	\$ 542,067.00
2019-2020 Highway			
Expenses			
Budget	769389.00		
Receipts			
State Aid to Highways	117000.00		
Other		Total Highway	\$ 652,389.00
Sub-total			\$ 1,194,456.00
Total Municipal Tax Effort			\$ 1,194,456.00
2020 Grand List*	\$ 2,296,659.40		
2020 Homestead Tax Rate*	1.7951	(State of Vermont)	
2020 Non-Residential Tax Rate*	1.6456	(State of Vermont)	
2021 Municipal Tax Rate*	0.5177		
2021 Local Agreement Rate*	0.0024		
Total Town Tax Rate*	0.5201		
Total Non- Residential Rate*	2.1657		
Total Residential Rate*	2.3152		
*NOTE: This is only an estimate based on the 2020 Grandlist and anticipated financial receipts, 2021 Grand List (property values as of April 1, 2021) and 2021 State Education Rates will be used in determining the actual 2021 rates			

TREASURER'S REPORT

For the year ending June 30, 2020 a budget was approved for the General Fund of \$1,187,891 exclusive of special articles. Total expenditures of \$1,223,498 resulted in an \$35,607 increase over the Fiscal Year 2019/2020 budget. Special Articles in the amount \$64,222 approved by the voters were also expensed accordingly.

The accounting firm of Batchelder Associates completed a full review of the financial records for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2020. There were no significant weaknesses or deficiencies found. A copy is available for review at the Town Clerk's office.

Based on budgets presented by town departments and committees, along with general expenses for the town, the Select Board is presenting a budget for fiscal year 2021-2022 in the amount of \$1,382,738 (before Special Articles) for consideration of the voters. The proposed budget is an 4.45% increase over 2020-2021. In addition, "Special Article" requests totaling \$65,468 is being presented to the voters for consideration. This is a 10.71% decrease over requests received last year.

If approved, Proposed Article #5, requesting approval to purchase a town highway grader and finance for a period not to exceed a 15-year period, will have no effect on the 2021/2022 budget.

A detailed overview of the proposed 2021/2022 budget presented can be found in the Select Board report.

Respectfully submitted,

Dorinda Crowell
Treasurer

BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT

Town Proposed Budget for FY 2022, July 1 2021 - June 30 2022

The Select Board's proposed budget for FY 2022 is \$1,382,738, this represents a 4.45% increase over the FY 2021 budget amount of \$1,323,867. The Select Board and Budget Committee devoted a substantial amount of time considering the proposed budget including six budget workshops during Select Board meetings. The most notable changes in the budget include a 2.0% increase in town employee wages, the addition of a 28hr/week bookkeeper position, and a required upgrade to the lister's software system.

This budget does not include special articles which are subject to approval by voters on Town Meeting day. The Budget Committee would like to thank the Select Board members for all of their hard work.

Budget Committee

Bill Dorigan (Chair), George Longenecker, and Elias Gardner

WHAT EACH LINE ITEM MEANS FOR YOUR TAXES

Town of Middlesex - What each item means for your taxes*						
Appraised Value of Property		\$100,000	\$200,000	\$300,000	\$500,000	
Grand List (2020*)		\$229,665,940	\$229,665,940	\$229,665,940	\$229,665,940	
Proposed Town Budget		\$1,194,456	\$1,194,456	\$1,194,456	\$1,194,456	Including Special Articles net of anticipated receipts
Proposed Town Tax		\$0.5201	\$0.5201	\$0.5201	\$0.5201	
*Estimated municipal taxes		\$520	\$1,040	\$1,560	\$2,600	
**NOTE: This is only an estimate based on the 2020 Grandlist and anticipated financial receipts						
2020 Grand List (property values as of April 1, 2020) will be used in determining 2020 town tax rate						
Town Government	Article 4	\$1,128,988	\$491.58	\$983.16	\$1,474.73	\$2,457.89 General Government and Highway - net of anticipated receipts
Other Articles	Article 6	\$2,500	\$1.09	\$2.18	\$3.27	\$5.44 Middlesex Conservation Fund
	Article 7	\$600	\$0.26	\$0.52	\$0.78	\$1.31 CV Economic Development
	Article 8	\$4,050	\$1.76	\$3.53	\$5.29	\$8.82 CV Home Health & Hospice
	Article 9	\$3,000	\$1.31	\$2.61	\$3.92	\$6.53 Community Connections
	Article 10	\$1,500	\$0.65	\$1.31	\$1.96	\$3.27 Girls/Boyz Mentoring
	Article 11	\$29,801	\$12.98	\$25.95	\$38.93	\$64.88 Kellogg-Hubbard Library
	Article 12	\$7,000	\$3.05	\$6.10	\$9.14	\$15.24 Montpelier Senior Activity Ctr
	Article 13	\$2,000	\$0.87	\$1.74	\$2.61	\$4.35 North Branch Nature Center
	Article 14	\$10,000	\$4.35	\$8.71	\$13.06	\$21.77 Waterbury Area Senior Meals on Wheels
	Article 15	\$5,017	\$2.18	\$4.37	\$6.55	\$10.92 Misc Organizations (\$250 or less)
Estimated Municipal Tax**			\$520.08	\$1,040.17	\$1,560.25	\$2,600.42
2020 Residential School Rate /Tax**		0.017951	\$1,795.10	\$3,590.20	\$5,385.30	\$8,975.50
TOTAL ESTIMATED TAXES			\$2,315.18	\$4,630.37	\$6,945.55	\$11,575.92
each additional		\$1,000	\$0.44	\$0.87	\$1.31	\$2.18
**NOTE: Estimated Municipal Tax is only an estimate based on the 2020 Grandlist and anticipated financial receipts						
Estimated Residential School Tax is based on the 2020 Residential Rate						

TOWN OF MIDDLESEX 2021-2021 PROJECTED SALARIES

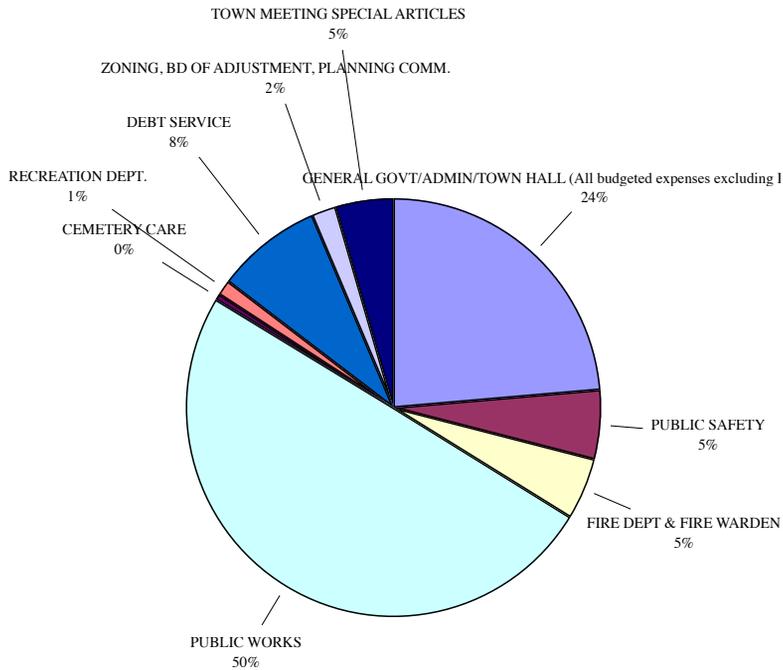
Select Board		Budgeted Annual Hours
Chairman	\$ 844.38	Flat Rate
Vice Chair	\$ 675.51	Flat Rate
Road Commissioner	\$ 844.38	Flat Rate
Member	\$ 675.51	Flat Rate
Member	\$ 675.51	Flat Rate
SB Assistant	\$ 23,327.97	848
Administration		
Clerk	\$ 22,447.67	816
Assistant Clerk	\$ 14,708.40	700
Treasurer	\$ 8,086.05	250
Financial Accountant/Bookkeeper	\$ 47,093.16	1456
Listers		
Lister	\$ 1,948.00	90
Lister	\$ 14,177.08	655
Lister	\$ 14,177.08	655
Highway		
Foreman	\$ 63,830.00	2305
Asst' Foreman	\$ 54,088.56	2305
Crew	\$ 53,137.00	2305
Crew	\$ 53,137.00	2305
Delinquent Tax Collector	\$ 2,836.62	100
Zoning Administrator	\$ 7,034.43	325
Recreation Director	\$ 5,411.10	250
Animal Control Officer	\$ 520.00	26
Health Officer	\$ 520.00	26
TOTAL	\$ 390,195.41	

DEBT SERVICE / NOTES PAYABLE

As of June 30, 2020			
Item	Outstanding Principal Amount	Interest Rate (%)	Matures F/Y
Highway:			
2018 International Hwy Truck	\$ 81,419.00	3.15	2024
2019 Highway Dump Truck	\$ 128,451.00	3.25	2025
Total	\$ 209,870.00		
Fire Department:			
Freightliner Fire Truck	\$ 87,447.00	3.00	2026
Fire Station	\$ 400,000.00	4.19	2029
Total	\$ 487,447.00		

WHERE THE \$ GOES

Proposed Budget & Special Articles F/Y July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022
See line by line detail on Town Budget Pages



Municipal Budget:	\$1,382,738
Special Articles:	\$ 65,468
Total:	\$1,448,206

THE LAST FIVE YEARS					
Fiscal Year	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Grandlist	2,001,778	2,217,564	2,234,154	2,262,264	2,296,659
Town Budget \$	1,076,808	1,099,071	1,160,515	1,187,891	1,323,867
Special Articles	59,821	63,071	66,297	64,222	73,319
Town Tax Rate	\$ 0.4528	\$ 0.4196	\$ 0.4198	\$ 0.4724	\$ 0.5269
School-Homestead Tax Rate	\$ 1.8113	\$ 1.6613	\$ 1.8097	\$ 1.8008	\$ 1.7951
School-Non -Residential Tax Rate	\$ 1.6250	\$ 1.4794	\$ 1.5606	\$ 1.6382	\$ 1.6456

COMPARATIVE BUDGET REPORT

2021/2022 Budget Report	Budget FY - 2019/2020	Actual FY-2019/2020	Budget FY - 2020/2021	Budget FY - 2021/2022	\$ Increase (Decrease)	Percentage Change
GENERAL GOVERNMENT						
Wages: Selectboard	3536	3536.33	3642	3715	73	2.01%
Wages: Selectboard Clerk	21382	21737.60	22019	23328	1309	5.94%
Wages: Payroll Tax(SS&MED)	2177	1848.31	2242	2353	111	4.95%
Wages: Retirement	1229		1321	1458	137	10.37%
Insurance: Health	6768	6998.71	7646	7872	226	2.96%
Insurance: Property & Casualty	10296	10301.08	11188	8538	-2650	-23.69%
Insurance: Workers Compensation	1000	364.50	750	863	113	15.08%
Insurance: Unemployment Comp	154	43.92	154	181	27	17.77%
Advertising/Printing	1250	-18.26	600	500	-100	-16.67%
Selectboard Courses	200	0.00	200	200	0	0.00%
Town Property Maintenance	2000	2100.00	2600	2500	-100	-3.85%
Welch Park	1000	1001.02	1000	500	-500	-50.00%
Discretionary Fund	8000	2077.89	8000	8000	0	0.00%
Legal Fees	3000	874.40	2000	2000	0	0.00%
Town Report	3000	2454.94	2000	2800	800	40.00%
VLCT Dues	3097	3097.00	3224	3224	0	0.00%
County Tax	18149	18149.00	19000	18500	-500	-2.63%
CV Solid Waste	1757	1756.00	1738	1724	-14	-0.81%
CV Reg Planning Comm	2077	2077.20	2184	2207	23	1.04%
Conservation Commission	500	94.06	500	500	0	0.00%
Elections	1500	1707.53	2500	1500	-1000	-40.00%
Misc Expense	500	420.47	500	500	0	0.00%
Town Hall Building Fund (Moved from Town H	0	0.00	10000	10000	0	0.00%
Grant Match- Capital Plan	0	0.00	0	900	900	100.00%
Covid-19	0	1881.32	0	0	0	0.00%
Tax Abatements	0	7.70	0	0	0	0.00%
TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT	92572	82510.72	105009	103864	-1145	-1.09%
ADMINISTRATION						
Office: Wages (Clerk, Ass't Clerk, Treas, Bookkeeper)	54464	51778.28	58293	93160	34867	59.81%
Listers: Wages	14420	12248.23	29705	30302	597	2.01%
Delinquent Tax Collector: Wages	2060	788.50	3266	2837	-429	-13.15%
ADMIN: Payroll Tax (SS&MED)	5428	5165.42	6982	9662	2680	38.38%
ADMIN: Unemployment	211	51.28	217	470	253	116.45%
ADMIN: Retirement	1183	2567.40	1271	1403	132	10.38%
ADMIN: Insurance: Life/LTD/AD&D	371	281.97	381	381	0	0.00%
ADMIN: Insurance: Health	6548	6238.76	7346	7564	218	2.96%
ADMIN: Insurance: Workers Comp	406	0.00	387	425	38	9.82%
Office Supplies	3500	2474.25	3500	3000	-500	-14.29%
Equipment Repair	0	34.21	0	1000	1000	100.00%
Equipment Purchase	0	4448.67	0	1000	1000	100.00%
Lister Computer Upgrade	0	0.00	0	15000	15000	100.00%
Telephone	4800	4950.14	4800	5000	200	4.17%
Postage	3000	3124.00	3000	3000	0	0.00%
Auditing	7400	7650.00	7400	8200	800	10.81%
Listing Mileage/Expenses	2500	2990.91	3000	2500	-500	-16.67%
Clerical Mileage	0	153.60	0	175	175	0.00%
Clerk's /Listers Courses & Training	300	446.25	100	1000	900	900.00%
Lister/ParcelMapping	750	0.00	750	0	-750	-100.00%
Copier Lease	2100	1795.40	2100	2000	-100	-4.76%
Computer Maintenance	10000	14273.17	14000	19000	5000	35.71%
Consultant Fees	0	163.87	0	0	0	0.00%
TOTAL ADMINISTRATION	119441	121624.31	146498	207078	60580	41.35%
TOWN HALL						
Electricity	2700	2881.05	2800	3000	200	7.14%
Heat	2000	806.51	2000	1500	-500	-25.00%
Grounds	2500	1190.00	2500	1500	-1000	-40.00%
Building Repairs	5000	5935.95	5000	5000	0	0.00%
Building Fund (*Moved to Gen Gov)	10000	10000.00	0	0	0	0.00%
Street Lights	2200	1917.90	2000	2000	0	0.00%
Janitorial	1500	1331.07	1500	1500	0	0.00%
TOTAL TOWN HALL	25900	24062.48	15800	14500	-1300	-8.23%

COMPARATIVE BUDGET REPORT (continued)

2021/2022 Budget Report	Budget FY - 2019/2020	Actual FY-2019/2020	Budget FY - 2020/2021	Budget FY - 2021/2022	\$ Increase (Decrease)	Percentage Change
PUBLIC SAFETY						
Wages: Health Officer	1040	0.00	1040	520	-520	-50.00%
Wages: Animal Control Officer	1040	0.00	1040	520	-520	-50.00%
P/S : Payroll Tax (SS & MED)	159	0.00	159	80	-79	-49.96%
P/S: Workers Compensation	94	0.00	94	38	-56	-59.06%
Courses/Seminars	100	0.00	100	0	-100	-100.00%
Ambulance	67871	67870.00	67871	67871	0	0.00%
Speed Enforcement	7500	4253.73	7500	7500	0	0.00%
Dog Pound	600	210.00	600	300	-300	-50.00%
Emergency Management	3705	350.99	1900	500	-1400	-73.68%
TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY	82109	72684.72	80304	77329	-2975	-3.70%
					0	
FIRE DEPARTMENT					0	
FD-Insurance: Property & Casualty	7810	7834.90	8395	6871	-1524	-18.15%
FD-Insurance: Workers Compensation	1145	1174.69	1217	1217	0	0.00%
FD-Supplies	200	485.12	200	300	100	50.00%
FD-Equipment Repair	7000	9466.65	7000	10000	3000	42.86%
FD-Equipment Purchase	3000	6555.84	3000	4200	1200	40.00%
FD-Telephone	1100	1249.24	1100	1560	460	41.82%
FD-Fast Squad	1000	346.22	1000	1000	0	0.00%
FD-Electricity	1600	1802.91	2000	2400	400	20.00%
FD-Fuel - Heat	4000	2401.77	4000	4000	0	0.00%
FD-Building Maintenance	3000	2500.97	3000	3000	0	0.00%
FD-Radio Dispatch	24405	25371.42	26224	26630	406	1.55%
FD-VSFA/Dues/Accounting/Training	1000	965.00	1000	1000	0	0.00%
Courses & Seminars	1000	360.00	1000	1000	0	0.00%
FD-Forest Fire Warden	250	0.00	250	250	0	0.00%
FD-GAS & Diesel	2000	178.70	2000	1750	-250	-12.50%
FD-Stipends	3000	1895.00	3000	3000	0	0.00%
FD-Communication/Radio	1200	0.00	1200	1200	0	0.00%
E911 Signs	0	59.99	0	0	0	0.00%
FD Sub-Total	62710	62648.42	65586	69378	3792	5.78%
FIRE DEPARTMENT DEBT SERVICE						
Fire Station Bond	40000	40000.00	40000	40000	0	0.00%
Fire Station Interest	19844	18541.53	17487	15833	-1654	-9.46%
VTECH Freightliner Tanker - PRIN	14594	14593.43	14594	14594	0	0.00%
VTECH Freightliner Tanker - INT	3056	3556.86	2629	2187	-442	-16.80%
Equipment Note FD	2000	2000.00	0	0	0	0.00%
Equipment Note FD Interest	57	54.64	0	0	0	0.00%
F/D DEBT SERVICE Sub Total	79551	78746.46	74710	72614	-2096	-2.80%
TOTAL FIRE DEPARTMENT	142261	141394.88	140296	141992	1696	1.21%

COMPARATIVE BUDGET REPORT (continued)

2021/2022 Budget Report	Budget FY - 2019/2020	Actual FY-2019/2020	Budget FY - 2020/2021	Budget FY - 2021/2022	\$ Increase (Decrease)	Percentage Change
PUBLIC WORKS						
Winter Maintenance						
Road Salt	12800	9333.17	13745	15280	1535	11.17%
Winter Sand	37500	41493.50	37500	21000	-16500	-44.00%
Trucking	32000	33178.40	32000	20400	-11600	-36.25%
Weather Consulting	0	0.00	0	600	600	0.00%
WINTER MAINTENANCE SUBTOTAL	82300	84005.07	83245	57280	-25965	-31.19%
Summer Maintenance					0	
Seed	3000	3935.64	3342	3342	0	0.00%
Hot Mix/Cold Patch	1000	245.82	1000	1000	0	0.00%
Stone Ditch Lining	3000	14609.46	7000	7812	812	11.60%
Hay, Mulch, Netting	5000	0.00	7200	8400	1200	16.67%
Road Gravel	5000	9531.00	14046	27171	13125	93.44%
Roadside Mowing	10000	49.10	18927	14000	-4927	-26.03%
Chloride	14250	15700.46	16000	21840	5840	36.50%
Rental Equipment	2500	3200.00	1500	3000	1500	100.00%
Tree Service	2000	0.00	1000	5000	4000	400.00%
Green-Up	500	851.71	500	500	0	0.00%
Storm Water Discharge Fee	1350	1350.00	1350	1350	0	0.00%
Miscellaneous Summer Maintenance		715.94	0		0	0.00%
Unforeseen Road Repairs	0	920.00	0	5000	5000	0.00%
SUMMER MAINTENANCE SUBTOTAL	47600	51109.13	71865	98415	26550	36.94%
Equipment Maintenance						
Equipment Repairs & Vendors	21500	90079.08	24000	24000	0	0.00%
Equipment Parts & Supplies	15000	26683.00	8500	8500	0	0.00%
Plow & Sander Equipment	8000	690.16	8000	8000	0	0.00%
Bulk Oil & DEF	5000	3791.61	5000	5000	0	0.00%
Inspections	400	318.20	400	500	100	25.00%
Tires	9000	6147.50	8000	9000	1000	12.50%
EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE SUBTOTAL	58900	127709.55	53900	55000	1100	2.04%
Specialized Services						
Trucks	0	0.00	24000	0	-24000	-100.00%
Excavator Rental	0	0.00	10000	0	-10000	-100.00%
1 Month Wages	0	0.00	6000	0	-6000	-100.00%
Sub Contractor	0	0.00	0	20000	20000	100.00%
SPECIALIZED SERVICES SUBTOTAL	0	0.00	40000	20000	-20000	-50.00%
Garage Maintenance						
Shop Supplies (Towels, Rags, etc)	1382	3990.30	1800	2000	200	11.11%
Waste Disposal	1000	1823.47	1650	1700	50	3.03%
Air Gas Services	775	236.80	775	775	0	0.00%
Vermont State UST Fee	50	0.00	0	0	0	0.00%
Fuel Tank Maintenance	300	0.00	1000	2500	1500	150.00%
Garage Door Maintenance	1000	95.98	500	500	0	0.00%
Office Supplies & Misc	500	826.97	500	500	0	0.00%
Small Tool Purchase (moved to this sub group fr	3500	153.50	3500	3500	0	0.00%
Building Maintenance			0		0	0.00%
GARAGE MAINTENANCE SUBTOTAL	8507	7127.02	9725	11475	1750	17.99%
Utilities						
Electricity	2500	2984.89	4000	4000	0	0.00%
Heat	6000	3549.70	5000	5000	0	0.00%
Phone	1500	556.58	1000	1000	0	0.00%
UTILITIES SUBTOTAL	10000	7091.17	10000	10000	0	0.00%

COMPARATIVE BUDGET REPORT (continued)

2021/2022 Budget Report	Budget FY - 2019/2020	Actual FY-2019/2020	Budget FY - 2020/2021	Budget FY - 2021/2022	\$ Increase (Decrease)	Percentage Change
Gas & Diesel	43675	34897.09	55000	0	-55000	-100.00%
GAS	0	0.00	0	5500	5500	100.00%
Diesel	0	0.00	0	49500	49500	100.00%
Gas & Diesel Sub-Total	43675	34897.09	55000	55000	0	0.00%
Wages & Benefits						
Wages	209853	199189.92	216149	224193	8044	3.72%
P/W : Payroll Tax (SS & MED)	16054	15730.63	16535	17151	616	3.72%
Unemployment Taxes	650	78.08	519	519	0	0.00%
Retirement	12067	11848.57	12969	14012	1043	8.04%
Life & ADD& Long Term Disability	1825	1151.81	1547	1547	0	0.01%
Health Insurance	22021	24000.43	24927	39051	14124	56.66%
Uniforms, Safety Equip, DOT Compliance	7400	8159.85	7548	7548	0	0.00%
Property & Casualty Insurance	11330	13315.33	12200	13300	1100	9.02%
Workers Comp Insurance	22000	16154.00	19453	16200	-3253	-16.72%
Courses & Seminars	300	0.00	300	300	0	0.00%
Wages & Benefits Sub-Total	303500	289628.62	312148	333820	21672	6.94%
HWY/MISC						
Culverts	20000	10449.60	15848	17788	1940	12.24%
Signs	3500	3579.45	3500	4000	500	14.29%
Bridge Fund	6000	6000.00	6000	6000	0	0.00%
Paving Fund	30000	30000.00	30000	30000	0	0.00%
Construction & Paving	20000	43065.86	0	0	0	0.00%
Small Equipment Purchase (Moved to Garage Maintenance)			0		0	0.00%
Equipment Purchase	0	7434.57	1500	1500	0	0.00%
Grants: Town Match	0	0.00	0	0	0	0.00%
Town Garage Building Fund	5000	5000.00	5000	5000	0	0.00%
HWY/MISC Sub-Total	84500	105529.48	61848	64288	2440	3.95%
CONSTRUCTION						
Gravel	0.00	0.00	6000	7000	1000	16.67%
Ditch Stone	0.00	0.00	1600	1600	0	0.00%
Hydro Seeding	0.00	0.00	1550	1750	200	12.90%
Ledge Removal	0.00	0.00	6000	6000	0	0.00%
Erosion Matting	0.00	0.00	600	600	0	0.00%
Mud Season Mitigation	0.00	0.00	7500	0	-7500	-100.00%
CONSTRUCTION SUBTOTAL	0	0.00	23250	16950	-6300	-27.10%
Public Works Sub Total	638982	707097	720981	722228	1247	0.17%
PUBLIC WORKS DEBT SERVICE						
2019 Freightliner Dump	21409	21408.57	21409	21409	-0	-0.00%
2019 Freightliner Dump-INT	4857	4857.10	4179	3475	-704	-16.84%
2018 International Dump-PRIN	20355	20354.80	20355	20355	0	0.00%
2018 International Dump-INT	3197	3178.01	2568	1921	-647	-25.18%
P/ W DEBT SERVICE -Sub Total	49818	49798.48	48511	47161	-1350	-2.78%
TOTAL HIGHWAY	688800	756895.61	769492	769389	-103	-0.01%

COMPARATIVE BUDGET REPORT (continued)

2021/2022 Budget Report	Budget FY - 2019/2020	Actual FY-2019/2020	Budget FY - 2020/2021	Budget FY - 2021/2022	\$ Increase (Decrease)	Percentage Change
CEMETERY					0	
Labor	6900	6900.00	6900	6900	0	0.00%
Materials	0	0.00	0	0	0	0.00%
Repair to Cemetery	0	0.00	0	0	0	0.00%
TOTAL CEMETERY	6900	6900.00	6900	6900	0	0.00%
					0	
RECREATION					0	
Wages: Recreation	6180	2892.74	5305	5411	106	2.00%
REC: Payroll Tax	473	244.66	406	414	8	1.96%
REC:Workers Comp Insurance	345	432.50	318	248	-70	-22.07%
Dues, Conferences, Travel	275	0.00	250	100	-150	-60.00%
Wrightsville Beach Dues	2710	0.00	2750	2750	0	0.00%
Town BOR- mowing, brush hog, aerating	3520	4247.50	3520	3580	60	1.70%
Recreation Supplies (seed, soil, fertilizer)	480	0.00	500	500	0	0.00%
Portalet Rental Recreation field	600	0.00	600	600	0	0.00%
Learn to Swim Program	500	0.00	500	500	0	0.00%
Recreation Equipment (nets/hardware)	0	0.00	0		0	0.00%
Walter Kelly Park-Mowing & Portalet	2920	1288.00	2940	2600	-340	-11.56%
Facility Maintenance Fund			500	500	0	0.00%
TOTAL RECREATION	18003	9105.40	17589	17203	-386	-2.20%
ZONING/BRD OF ADJUSTMENT						
Wages: Zoning	6180	5004.16	6896	7034	138	2.01%
Zoning: Payroll Tax	473	390.04	528	538	10	1.92%
Zoning: Workers Compensation	27	0.00	31	260	229	739.59%
Mileage/expenses	25	61.65	25	150	125	500.00%
Advertising		48.03	0	50	50	0.00%
Zoning: Legal/enforcement	1000	2140.55	2000	2000	0	0.00%
Courses/Seminars	200	120.00	250	500	250	100.00%
Total Zoning/BRD of Adjustment	7905	7764.43	9729	10533	804	8.26%
PLANNING COMMISSION						
Advertising	500	350.14	500	500	0	0.00%
Mail Drop/Postage	500	135.45	500	500	0	0.00%
Printing & Copying	500	69.75	500	500	0	0.00%
Consultation	2500	0.00	7500	9500	2000	26.67%
Grant Match - VTTRANS Bike/Sidewalk Scopir	0	0.00	0	6000	6000	100.00%
Total Planning Commission	4000	555.34	9000	17000	8000	88.89%
TOTAL TOWN BUDGET	1187891	1223497.89	1323867	1382738	58871	4.45%

BANDSTAND CONCERT SERIES

Middlesex Bandstand Looks to Reopen!

Last year's summer concert series at the Martha Pellerin-Andy Shapiro Memorial Bandstand, in what would have been our 15th consecutive season, was cancelled due to the pandemic. We had booked a super lineup—Myra Flynn, High Summer, The Larkspurs, Renegade Groove, the Green Mountain Playboys, and Honey & Soul—but putting the series on pause was the only responsible thing to do.

This year we hope to return to our Gazebo in the Meadow with renewed resolve and an equally terrific schedule of performers, on six successive Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. starting the first Wednesday after July 4. Of course, when we do come back, we'll be sure to follow all state guidelines, to keep the concerts safe for all our friends and neighbors. Keep an eye out for announcements this spring on Front Porch Forum, our Facebook page, and our website, middlesexbandstand.com.

Also, another piece of good news: renovations to improve the acoustics in the Rumney gym were completed last year, so whenever we're able to safely move concerts indoors in the event of rain, we'll have an appropriate space to do that in. Sincere thanks to all the community, School Board and District people who helped out on that project!

Middlesex Bandstand Committee

Dick Alderman
Paul Boffa
Elliot Burg
Mary Nealon
Margot Prendergast
Ron Sweet

Contacts: Elliot at 272-4920 and Paul at 522-4810

CEMETERY COMMISSION

The Town of Middlesex Cemetery Commission believes that the three town owned cemeteries, Carr Cemetery, Village Cemetery, and North Branch Cemetery, are in good condition, despite the Covid-19 pandemic-instituted rules and regulations of this past summer.

Our town clerk's e-mail reminder for yearly reports suggested that 'impressive' measures were used in town job performances, in this crazy, pandemic year. Although 'impressive' is not a word generally used to describe the work of a Cemetery Commission, some 'creativity' on the Commission's part went a long way in providing much needed services to our lot owners.

Our Governor's 'Stay Home/Stay Safe' policy certainly kept our State's residents safe, but made cemetery maintenance a little 'tricky.' Thank you to our mowers for keeping our cemetery grounds looking their best. Maintenance done on an impromptu/as needed basis was put on hold, neglected for a time, or forgotten all together. Brush cutting at Carr Cemetery seemed to fall by the wayside. Stone repair and resetting, an ever-present need, was accomplished at all three cemeteries. Stone cleaning scheduled at the Village Cemetery was done. Amazing how a good cleaning allows stones to 'sing and dance in the sunshine.' Thank you to our cleaning service. We hope our Village Neighbors noticed the clean stones at Village Cemetery.

We continued to receive calls asking if cemeteries were open, and if burials could happen. Travel from distances, and quarantine rules, put lot sales and some burials 'on hold until next summer.' Because of this, lot sales and three cremation burials are tentatively scheduled for 2021. The Vermont Cemetery Association continued to be available with guidelines and answers to questions we had.

With the 'Gatherings of 10 or fewer participants' rule, we were finally able to accommodate families in need of burial services. 'Planning-over-the-phone' leaves a lot to be desired, over the 'show-and-tell' method, to which we are accustomed. Small gatherings, mask wearing, and social distancing needed to be observed. Families gathered in their own small groups, at gravesites. Nevertheless, six burials were conducted successfully at North Branch Cemetery, with fees and vital record paperwork filed at the town clerk's office. We were able to operate within our budgets.

We thank the taxpayers and voters of the Town of Middlesex for their continued support for Cemetery Commission Members, and for Carr, Village and North Branch Cemeteries.

Report respectfully submitted,
Town of Middlesex – Cemetery
Commission

Evelyn Gant, Chair

Gary Lamell, Field Expert

Janet McKinstry, Clerk/Treasurer

CVFIBER

CVFiber is a Communications Union District (CUD) representing the following twenty Central Vermont communities: Barre City, Barre Town, Berlin, Cabot, Calais, Duxbury, East Montpelier, Elmore, Marshfield, Middlesex, Montpelier, Moretown, Northfield, Orange, Plainfield, Roxbury, Washington, Williamstown, Woodbury, and Worcester. Three towns (Duxbury, Moretown, and Washington) were added to our CUD in 2020. Currently, many residences and businesses in Central Vermont have limited access to high-speed broadband, and in those areas served, the current internet service is slow or only offered in populous areas. This has been brought to light even more with the pandemic. As students and employees shifted to remote learning and working, it highlighted our areas limitations. The lack of truly high-speed broadband access stifles economic development, creates risk for public safety, reduces telehealth services, reduces property values, and restricts residents' abilities to access common online services.

Beginning in 2019 and culminating in 2020, CVFiber conducted a community survey regarding the current state of broadband, experiences with internet providers, and future interest in offerings. Through the survey CVFiber collected valuable information on a wide variety of topics to help guide its high-speed broadband feasibility and business planning.

The survey compiled nearly 2,000 responses with varied response rates based on location and current broadband offered. There were six communities with greater than a 15% return rate, which likely means these communities are desperate for improved broadband speeds. A more detailed breakdown of a number of the questions we asked across all communities can be found here: <http://bit.ly/CVFiberSurvey2020>

CVFiber received grant funding from USDA Rural Development and the State of VT to conduct a feasibility study and build a business plan to guide the next steps on improving internet connectivity in Central VT. The feasibility study affirmed a financially sound business case and demonstrated a need for high-speed broadband in the underserved and unserved areas of our communities.

CVFiber has joined nine other CUDs in VT in the VT Communications Union District Association (VCUDA). The volunteer group is an advocate for the mission of the CUDs. These efforts have advanced the legitimacy and financial support of CUDs throughout Vermont. CVFiber has been working closely with the VT Department of Public Service and the Legislature to share our story and identify the financial means to begin serving our communities.

We received some federal CARES Act (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act) funding allocated by the state. This has prepared us to really ramp up in 2021. Additional funding opportunities we're pursuing include a loan of up to \$4 million through the VT Economic Development Authority (VEDA) Broadband Loan Expansion Program. This money would be used for an initial pilot project identified in our feasibility study. Required matching funds would come through additional state grants. In anticipation of this funding, CVFiber has sent out queries to a number of internet service providers to gauge interest in running our pilot project once funded and built.

CVFiber's goal is ensuring everyone in its twenty-town area has access to internet speeds of at least 100 Mbps (megabits per second) for both uploading and downloading data. This far exceeds the federal standard for "high-speed broadband" of 25 Mbps for downloads and 3 Mbps for uploads.

Respectfully submitted, *The CVFiber Governing Board*

CENTRAL VT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

The Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC) is a consortium of 23 towns and cities in Washington County and western Orange County. CVRPC provides planning, development, and project implementation assistance to communities. All municipalities in the region are entitled to equal voting representation by a locally appointed member to the governing Board of Commissioners.

2020 Middlesex Activities

- * Updated online map of parcel, zoning, and natural resource data.
- * Provided assistance for zoning bylaw revision.
- * Assisted with Local Emergency Management Plan update including development of sharing permission form.
- * Updated draft enhanced energy plan to include comments from community members.
- * Coordinated with Energy Committee on a Button Up Campaign.
- * Provided application support for successful Bicycle and Pedestrian Grant.
- * Provided data for streetscape study project.

CVRPC Projects & Programs

- * Municipal plan and bylaw updates: Focus on predictable and effective local permitting through education, bylaw modernization, and plan updates.
 - * Brownfields: Complete environmental site assessments so properties can be sold, developed or redeveloped to benefit the community, stimulate the economy, create/protect jobs and increase housing opportunities.
 - * Transportation planning: Coordinate local involvement in transportation decisions through the Transportation Advisory Committee and provide studies, plans, data collection, and counts.
 - * Emergency planning: Better prepare our region and state for disasters by coordinating with local volunteers and the state on emergency planning, exercises, and training.
 - * Energy conservation and development: Foster projects that support energy conservation to save energy and tax dollars and identify opportunities for renewable energy generation.
 - * Natural resource planning and projects: Implement activities to protect water resources/supplies, enhance recreational opportunities, maintain the forest products industry, and enhance environmental health.
 - * Regional plans: Coordinate infrastructure, community development, and growth at the regional level through the development, adoption, and implementation of a regional plan.
-

CENTRAL VT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION (continued)

- * Geographic Information System services: Provide municipalities, state agencies, and regional groups with mapping and data analysis in support of their projects.
- * Special projects: Complete special projects, such as downtown revitalization, recreation paths, farmland preservation, economic development, and affordable housing projects.
- * Grants: Identify appropriate grant sources, define project scopes, write applications, and manage projects.

The Commission has no regulatory or taxing authority; each year, we request a per capita assessment from our members in support of local and regional planning activities and to help offset costs and provide local matching funds needed for state and federal funding. Your continued support for local and regional planning is appreciated!

CVRPC is your resource -- please contact us at 802-229-0389 or cvrpc@cvregion.com for assistance.

CENTRAL VT SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

The Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District (CVSWMD) serves 19-member cities and towns and approximately 52,000 residents to reduce and manage solid waste. Anita Krauth represents Middlesex on the CVSWMD Board of Supervisors. CVSWMD is committed to providing quality programming, meeting state mandates and providing information and resources to our member communities.

In recognition of COVID-19 related fiscal challenges faced by our members, the CVSWMD Board reduced the FY21 per capita assessment to \$.50 (fifty cents) from \$1.00, beginning on July 1, 2020. The per capita assessment will likely return to the \$1.00 level next year.

In FY20, CVSWMD provided \$10,604.00 in School Zero Waste and Organizational Waste Reduction & Reuse Program Grants, and \$1,779.00 in Green Up Day Grants. The District invites all member municipalities to apply for an annual non-competitive Green Up Day Grant each spring. Rumney Memorial School received \$485.77 in School Zero Waste Grant funds to purchase reusable dishware for the cafeteria. CVSWMD also provided \$9,400.00 in Municipal Services Program grants. The District invites all member municipalities to apply for an annual Municipal Services Program Grant.

The District continues to provide award-winning programming, including:

- **Residential Composting:** CVSWMD sells Green Cone food digesters, Soil Saver composting bins and kitchen compost buckets to district residents at discounted rates.
- **Outreach and Education:** In FY20, we provided 21 workshops and webinars on topics such as recycling, composting, safer cleaning, and reducing toxins in the home.
- **School Programming:** Our School Zero Waste Program works with 26 schools in the District, teaching solid waste lessons in classrooms and facilitating the recycling of paint, bulbs, electronics, batteries and more. In FY20, we provided 1 classroom lesson, provided support for the school's Green Team, and made 2 cafeteria visits to support students in separating their lunchtime-generated waste at Rumney School. School Program Coordinators work with maintenance staff and teachers to help schools compost on site and mentor student groups who lead initiatives toward zero waste in their schools.
- **Household Hazardous Waste (HHW):** In FY20, CVSWMD provided 5 collection events in which we collected household hazardous waste.
- **Additional Recyclables Collection Center (ARCC):** The ARCC, at 540 N. Main St. in Barre, is open M, W, F 10:30am-5:30pm and every third Saturday from 9am-1pm. The ARCC is a recycling drop-off for hard-to-recycle materials. *Blue bin recyclables are not accepted at the ARCC.* More info at cvswmd.org/arcc.
 - In FY20, 157 visitors from Middlesex recycled at the ARCC.
- **Web Site:** CVSWMD posts useful information on what can be recycled, what can be composted, how to dispose of hazardous waste, leaf and yard waste disposal, Act 148, details of our special collections, and an A to Z Guide listing disposal options for many materials. For specific questions, call 802-229-9383.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Middlesex Conservation Commission's (MCC) mission is to conserve the town's natural and cultural resources. The MCC works with the Town's other governmental entities, public, and other conservation groups to identify and assess natural resources, offer the town and landowners guidance on planning for the conservation of these resources, and educate the residents of Middlesex the importance of conserving these resources. The Town has a modest conservation fund to help conserve the Town's natural, scenic, recreational and historic and cultural resources. The MCC's volunteer members are appointed by the Middlesex Selectboard for staggered terms of three years. The MCC normally meets at the Town Hall on the first Thursday of every month (except July) at 7:00 p.m. With the COVID-19 pandemic, the MCC, like other Town organizations conducted meetings via Zoom.

Summary of 2020 Activities:

Middlesex Town Forest (MTF) – The pandemic didn't allow for organized hikes in the MTF but the Forest and the Chases Mountain Trail seemed to get a lot of use, especially as many seemed to want to recreate closer to home. Unfortunately, the MCC did not receive a recreational trails grant that was applied for from the VT Dept. of Forests, Parks and Recreation to fund heavier work by a trail crew. We will continue to monitor the condition of the trail and try to take on some of this work with volunteers, albeit at a slower pace. Nonetheless, MCC volunteers working individually were able to keep the trail clear for walking. The trailhead kiosk was outfitted with a new display with a map of the MTF and information about the Forest. The display was paid for with the remaining funds from a small grant the MCC received from the VT Assoc. of Conservation Commissions. Thanks to the efforts of volunteer Sarah Birgé, the Chases Mountain Trail now has signs mounted at the trailhead and at key locations around the summit and viewpoints. There was discussion about parking and access to the MTF including upgrades to the current parking area or creating a new parking area for both the Wildlife Management Area (WMA) and the MTF but no decisions have been reached. The town highway department did expand the current WMA parking area to add about three additional spaces and incorporated some drainage around the perimeter.

Green Up – This annual event was moved from the usual first weekend in May to the end of the month this year due to COVID concerns. MCC members staffed the Town Garage to accept roadside trash collected by town residents and to segregate landfill and metal recycling waste streams. Thank you to all who participated and a shout out to the Middlesex road crew for providing trucks and hauling the collected trash to the transfer station and to Bolduc's Salvage for providing a metal recycling container. A special thank you to the anonymous donor who helped pick up the tab for tire disposal. In addition to cleaning the roadsides, a small group also cleaned up a significant dump site on Portal Road.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION (continued)

Three Mile Bridge Road Parcel – In 2020, the Cross Vermont Trail Association (CVTA) installed an information sign and bench and mowed and removed invasive species on this Town-owned parcel next to the bridge on Three Mile Bridge Road.

Middlesex Conservation Fund – The MCC received an application from the Vermont Land Trust for a \$5000 appropriation from the Fund to support a conservation easement for an agricultural land conservation project involving sale of a portion of the Pease Farm. The MCC recommended providing the funding to the Select Board; however, the original proposed buyer decided not to purchase the property and the funding request was withdrawn.

Middlesex Trails Committee – This is a sub-committee of the MCC. Our primary mission is to identify and promote trails that Middlesex citizens can access and enjoy. During 2020, the Committee worked with the Road Foreman, Paul Cerminara, to figure out how to decrease the flooding on North Bear Swamp Road caused by beavers. During the summer, the VT Dept. of Fish & Wildlife beaver expert visited the site. He designed and installed a beaver exclusion fence that allows the water to flow and keep the beavers from blocking the culvert. Our focus for 2021 is to develop, maintain, sign and make accessible various Class 4 roads and right of ways in town. The Committee meets on the second Monday of each month. If you are interested in joining or receiving information about our work, email Mary Nealon, mnealon@myfairpoint.net or Jon Udis, jonudis@together.net.

Water Quality Projects – MCC member Larry Becker represented Middlesex on the Central VT Regional Planning Commission's Clean Water Advisory Committee. Through a grant obtained by the Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District significant bank restoration and protection has been planned for Martin's Brook at the Shady Rill Picnic area and will be completed during 2021.

Outstanding Conservationist Award – The MCC presents this award to a Middlesex resident who has made an exceptional contribution to conservation in Middlesex. In 2020, this award was given to Wendy Knapp for her many years of educating residents about the annual spring salamander migration, putting up salamander crossing signs and helping the salamanders across the road during the nights of their migration.

Additions - The MCC welcomed new member Jon Udis in 2020.

Agendas and minutes for MCC meetings and member contact information are posted on the Town of Middlesex website at <http://middlesexvermont.org>. If you would like to find out more about the MCC, please feel free to get in touch with any one of us.

Middlesex Conservation Commission

Sorsha Anderson, Larry Becker, Heather Katz, Ross Lieblappen, George Longenecker, Del McDonough, Lee Rosberg, Dave Shepard and Jon Udis

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

In 1986 Congress passed the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA), also known as Title III of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA), (42 USC Chapter 116). The Middlesex Emergency Management Committee is a product of this federal legislation and defined as a local emergency planning committee (LEPC).

The Select Board established the Middlesex Emergency Management Committee (EMC), appointed members, and tasked those members to fulfill the requirements of the legislation. Under this legislation, the Town is responsible for the integration of hazardous materials planning and response within its jurisdiction. This includes conducting a hazard analysis, planning for hazardous materials incidents, assessing local capabilities and developing incident response capabilities using local resources, mutual aid and private contractors. In support of these functions, the town bears a responsibility to train responders and to exercise the plan.

The Middlesex EMC serves as a contact point in the community for information about hazardous substances, the associated health and environmental risks, and response planning. The current 2020 plan is on file and available to view at the Town Clerk's office. This committee is made up of town officials and citizen volunteers and meets on a regular basis to make adjustments to the Local Emergency Plan and to review the plan annually. Anyone who is interested in joining the Middlesex EMC can submit their contact information to the Town Clerk.

Last year the EMC started its work on the six goals it had identified at the beginning

of the year. The six could be grouped into three specific areas: developing a neighbor to neighbor support system for disrupting events (flooding, ice storms, and blizzards), further developing our evacuation and shelter procedures, and increasing community involvement in emergency planning. While the Pandemic helped push aside the sheltering goals, it directed laser focus on our Middlesex Neighbor to Neighbor (MN2N) project, and as a consequence, saw an increase in the Middlesex community becoming involved.

The planning for the MN2N project began in early March. The town was divided into service areas and volunteers acted as area captains to coordinate volunteers, distribute information, and be a resource for our residents. A mass mailing went out to over 600 households on March 31st. Area captains and other volunteers delivered handouts to each residence in their area while adhering to the recommended health and safety guidelines. The mailings as well as the handouts contained information on local and state resources and phone numbers to request assistance. This MN2N project can be used during other events, flooding, ice storms, and blizzards. Basically the committee has created a playbook for the future disrupting events.

A remarkable feat pulled off by the EMC and its many volunteers. A huge debt of gratitude is due these individuals, our neighbors, as they have created a mechanisms to serve the residents in the future and for any disrupting event. They showed it can get down when we all pull together.

Respectfully submitted,
*The Middlesex Emergency Management
Committee*

FAST SQUAD

Middlesex FAST Squad provides local, early response to EMS emergency calls in Middlesex. The name FAST stands for First Aide Stabilization Team, and the service has evolved to a staff of fully credentialed and licensed EMTs.

There were 118 EMS calls to Middlesex in 2020, which is about our average. Bob and Marge Bower moved out of town, leaving the FAST Squad with 2 Middlesex EMT members. The FAST squad is looking for licensed EMT's to join. When a 911c all is made, the FAST squad and Montpelier Ambulance are dispatched. FAST squad members if available will first respond and assist the ambulance crew. Responses vary, but average about 30 minutes total. If you are a licensed EMT and able to occasionally take a short break in your activity and respond to your neighbors and Middlesex community please contact the interim EMS director below. A loud THANK YOU shout out for the EMS providers of Montpelier Fire and Ambulance who are doing the lions share of EMS care in Middlesex. We are appreciative of the Montpelier Ambulance, who now usually respond with paramedic level service.

2020 was a slow year for our JD Picard/ R.Krauth Community EMS Fund, we were unable to provide community CPR due to COVID. Stay tuned for community CPR once the pandemic is over.

Stay safe. Clean Hands, tight masks and distancing work. Call 911 when you need emergency help, Be prepared for questions - Dispatchers have punched the button to get us going! Have your driveway marked so we don't waste time "guessing", Turn on all the house lights also says "I'm Here!" Secure pets away from doors and paths to the patient for their safety and comfort if you can. EMS may provide an evaluation from the door way, and limit the number entering your house. If you call 911 and have exposure or symptoms of COVID 19, please let the dispatcher know to prepare the crew responding.

For more information about joining the fast squad, or general EMS, e911 signs or CPR: email Marge Bower, interim Administrative Director of the Fast Squad.
margebower@comcast.net

FIRE DEPARTMENT

We have had a total of 67 calls, four less than last year. The break-down is as follows:

Vehicle accidents I-89:	8	Outside fire sighting	6
Vehicle accidents Non I-89:	9	Station coverage mutual aid	1
Vehicle Fire I-89:	2	Gas odor:	1
Vehicle Fire Non I-89:	1	Smoke detector	2
Vehicle vs animal I-89	7	CO detector	4
Hazard:	1	False fire alarm	14
Trees on power line	4	Brush fire:	1
Structure fire Middlesex:	4	Man power for EMS	2

In addition to the calls members of the Fire Department responded to, members also volunteer training and service hours to the Department and Middlesex. This year was much different with COVID and the State mandate of not having in-person meetings and training.

We are always in need of new members and not just fire-fighters and EMTs. We have many jobs around the station which residents could join the department to help do. Some of the things we could use help with are: vehicle and equipment maintenance, input call reports, keeping our computer updated, cleaning trucks, and cleaning the station. If you believe you can help the Department in any way we would like to talk with you.

Our annual schedule is as follows: all events start at 7:00 PM, 1st Tuesday of the month fire training, 3rd Tuesday business meeting, 4th Tuesday work session. In December the Annual Meeting and business meeting take place on the 1st Tuesday and training takes place on the 3rd Tuesday.

As for the future, we will be looking at replacing our 35 year old rescue with a new rescue truck next year. We are looking into the requirements we need. The rough cost estimate is in the \$70,000-100,000 range. We no longer have a local build option with the closing of Vermont Fire Technologies in Williamstown. We will keep you updated as we get closer. With the purchase of a new rescue our vehicle replacement requirements will be complete and we should not have to replace any of our vehicles for many years.

In addition to replacing the rescue, we need to replace our self contained breathing apparatus which is about 16 years old and some of our turnout gear, which is over 13 years old. We are pursuing grants for funding most of the replacement cost of this personal protection equipment.

Doug Hanson, Chief, Jeff Koonz, President

FOOD SHELF

In response to Covid, the food shelf shifted its mission in 2020 from food distribution to financial relief. In April, after many weeks of zero attendance at its longstanding Saturday morning distribution from the Middlesex Methodist church, the directors of the food shelf decided to close the doors and to dedicate the remaining funds in the account to cash grants for residents of Middlesex to help them with food purchases.

Thanks to donations throughout the Covid crisis, as of this writing the food shelf has given out 62 grants of \$200 each for a total of \$12,400. In August, the food remaining in the food shelf—a substantial amount—was donated to the thriving Montpelier Food Pantry, to which we now refer former Middlesex customers. There are no plans at this time to reopen the food shelf for food distribution. The grant program will continue as long as funds allow, though we hope that this year a more comprehensive independent charitable nonprofit, the Middlesex Community Fund, will assume this grant operation and take on other projects as well.

Middlesex residents who have been financially affected by the pandemic and are in need of help for food purchases and other essential bills should write to the food shelf treasurer and make a simple request for a grant at davidcarkeet@hotmail.com, or call David at 229-9496. Donations can be made by mailing them to David Carkeet, 418 Macey Road, North Middlesex, VT 05682. Make checks payable to “Middlesex Food Shelf.”

Submitted by:

David Carkeet, treasurer, for Eric Scharf and Eva Jessup, retired co-directors, and Liz Scharf, idea person.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Middlesex Historical Society was incorporated in November, 1993, to help townspeople understand and preserve the history of the people who have lived and worked in Middlesex, and the buildings, roads, cemeteries, institutions and culture of this community. Our current membership stands at over 200. Members meet three times per year in January, May, and September to share photographs, memorabilia and stories; dates and times are posted on the Middlesex town website, as well as on the Front Porch Forum community email service and in The World newspaper. We welcome donations of old photos and documents; they are stored safely and are available to anyone who wishes to study them.

In 2020, the Society suspended operations due to the global Covid-19 pandemic. We postponed plans to present a slide show and talk on “The Missing Village of Wrightsville” and were not able to give a community talk at Red Hen Bakery on the history of Camp Meade and the CCC camps in Middlesex. A viewing of Susan Bettmann’s short film about a Middlesex native, “Joe Picard: Man of the Land”, had to be delayed as well.

The Society continues to discuss how to do an expanded third edition of our first complete history of our community, Middlesex in the Making, co-authored by Patty Wiley and Sarah Seidman. Designed by former resident Kate Alberghini, the book includes over 200 photographs as well as over 70 interviews with the town's oldest residents. It traces the history of the town from its earliest Abenaki roots to the changes of the 1950s and 60s. Digitizing the book is a possibility the group will explore in 2021.

The railroad station’s roof requires additional repair and owner Nicolas Hecht is raising funds to complete that essential task as well as other improvements in 2021. We report with sorrow that David Newhall, a loyal MHS member, died in 2020 of natural causes.

We continue to seek a space for the Society’s collection of valuable documents, artifacts and memorabilia. These items document our community’s history and belong to all of us; they deserve and will reward public viewing. We would be honored to have a designated area at Camp Meade to display our town’s history.

We offer a 25-mile self-guided bike/auto tour of the town's historic places on the Middlesex website. A small traveling exhibit about Middlesex past and present is available for educational uses by any resident.

Membership is open to anyone interested in Middlesex history and costs one dollar (\$1) per person per year, \$15 for businesses. New active members are needed! We hope our efforts will help citizens increase their sense of pride in our town's traditions and their sense of responsibility in planning for the future. While our Town Meeting will be held virtually this March, we hope to again be able to greet our neighbors in person and ask for your support by pledging \$2 in dues in the spring of 2022.

*Patty Wiley, President, Sarah Seidman, V.P./Secretary
Dick Alderman, Treasurer*

LISTERS REPORT

In 2020, the Town's Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) was calculated by the State to be 95.89%. This compares with 98.93% the previous year. Also, the Coefficient of Dispersion (COD) was adjusted to 12.01%; in 2019 it was 10.08%. Both of these indicators are within specified state limits, but it is worth noting that they are on the rise, suggesting another town-wide reappraisal is likely in the near future. Taxable properties in town numbered 908 in 2020, for a town-wide assessment totaling \$244,552,873; this is up from \$241,414,100 in 2019.

The number of properties enrolled in the Current Use program increased by one to 101 in 2020. The value of Current Use exemptions now totals \$14,016,260.

In 2020, there were 10 Veteran Property Exemptions, for a total of \$400,000 in exemptions. The Veteran Property Exemption equates to a \$40,000 deduction in the property tax owed on the particular property for which the owner is eligible (one deduction per eligible veteran).

Seven grievance hearings were held in June, resulting in a change to the fair market value for 4 of the 7 properties. One grievance decision was appealed to the Board of Civil Authority (BCA), who increased the assessed value that the Listers had determined for the property. The BCA decision has been appealed to the Superior Court, and proceedings are currently pending.

Thirty-two residential sales were recorded in Middlesex between April 1, 2019 and March 31, 2020, compared with just 23 sales in the previous period. Sales of residential properties ranged from \$13,674 (tax sale: house and 10.8 acres on Tamarack Rd) to \$750,000 (house and 25.15 acres on McCullough Hill Road). Land sales ranged from \$100 (17.0 acres on Notch Road) to \$75,000 (25.10 acres on Brook Road).

Dick Alderman, Amy Whitehorne, and Eric Young
Middlesex Listers

PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT

The Middlesex Planning Commission, with the assistance of a Municipal Planning Grant from the State of Vermont completed work on study that looks at how the Village area can better support walking, biking and slowing traffic. We were awarded a VTrans grant to look further at the cost of this work going forward. These efforts can help Middlesex bolster business development in the Village area while making the area safer and more pleasant for residents and visitors.

With assistance from the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission, and the Middlesex Energy Committee, we completed an Enhanced Energy Plan to be part of our Town Plan. We forwarded the Plan to the Select Board for adoption. This will guide energy development in Town.

We also began work on updating our Zoning and Subdivision regulations. We started with looking at the Village, Mixed Use & Industrial area west of the Village. We gathered feedback through an online survey and comments at our meetings. We have assistance from the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission. We will next review the other parts of town and administrative changes.

The Middlesex Planning Commission nominated a new Zoning Administrator, Kevin Thompson, who was appointed in November. We also reviewed permit applications for additional development in the Village area at Camp Meade and across the street, as well as subdivisions in the rural areas. We also reviewed and provided a letter of support for a solar facility at 58 Center Road next to the Kingsbury offices.

Middlesex Planning Commission

*Sandy Levine, Chair; Elias Gardner, Vice-Chair; Mitch Osiecki, Secretary;
Theo Kennedy; Dick Alderman*

RECREATION DEPARTMENT REPORT

The Middlesex Recreation Department continued work on some ongoing infrastructure projects. In particular:

- Incremental improvements to the baseball/soccer field turf.
- Some modest improvements have been made to Walter Kelley Park.

Thanks as always to the Select Board for its continued support for the Learn to Swim Program. We offer discounted swim lessons in partnership with the Montpelier and Waterbury Recreation Departments.

Plans for 2020 include:

- We are continuing to explore opportunities to develop the facilities at the Walter Kelley Park, located off of US Route 2 in Welch Park.
- We're also searching for grant funding to assist with the long-overdue resurfacing of the town basketball and tennis courts.
- The return of a popular recreation program from days gone by is in the works. Stay tuned for news on that.

Respectfully submitted,

Mitch Osiecki , Recreation Director

Email: MiddlesexRec@gmail.com Phone: 760-9674

TOWN MEETING SOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

By now you've read a few (gazillion) times that 2020 was a strange year for everyone, and our committee was no exception. The Solutions Committee has been working since 2001 as an ad hoc group of volunteers, with the goal of improving participation in Middlesex's town meeting and, by extension, our civic affairs in general. As we head into 2021—in which Middlesex will take a one-year break from our face-to-face town meeting due to the pandemic—here's a quick review of our efforts in 2020.

Town Meeting: We worked to ensure that 2020 Town Meeting would be an inclusive and productive part of Middlesex's democracy. To that end, we:

- Coordinated with the Town Clerk and Selectboard on our annual "Welcome New Voter" letter about how to get involved in Middlesex
- Distributed information on Front Porch Forum and other social media on how to participate in Town Meeting
- Helped organize and promote childcare for community meetings, provided by Rumney Community Connections
- Coordinated Remote Town Meeting Participation (via phone and internet), offered to voters who'd like to attend town meeting but couldn't, whether due to health or mobility issues or because they are away in the military or public service
- Offered transportation for town meeting
- Helped coordinate a post-Town Meeting spaghetti supper hosted at Rumney to benefit the Middlesex Food Shelf (thanks to Liz Scharf, Susan Warren, and other volunteers!).

Communications: In January, 2020, the Solutions Committee merged with the Communications Team (one of the groups that emerged from the 2018 "What's Next Middlesex?" event). With the belief that more people can get involved if we understand when groups meet and what they do, we worked to increase use of Middlesex's online calendar. We collaborated with the Town Clerk's office to place the calendar on the Middlesex website, and encouraged town committees to post their meetings. (Hint: Did you know that by hitting "Event" on your Front Porch Forum posting, it's added automatically to the Calendar? Cool, right?)

We were delighted by gorgeous, heart-warming, and often hilarious photos submitted by Middlesex residents to attract attention to the Calendar—with a spring "Hunkering Down" and a fall "Yards and Gardens, Fields and Forests" series. Special thanks to Lauri Scharf and Mark Bushnell for coordinating the calendar photos. Enjoy these great photo collections under the Calendar/Pictures tab at www.whatsnextmiddlesex.org .

"What's Next Middlesex?" follow-up: In 2020, community members continued the work they began at the "What's Next Middlesex?" community visioning event in

TOWN MEETING SOLUTIONS COMMITTEE (continued)

October, 2018. Four action groups emerged from the event, and you'll find evidence of their work in multiple places in this town report. The Trails group has become an active subcommittee of the Middlesex Conservation Commission. The Economic Development and Infrastructure group has collaborated with the Planning Commission on a variety of grants and studies in Middlesex Village. The Community Spaces and Events group's "Middlesex Mud Season Event Series" began with well-attended events, but was forced to go dormant with the onset of the pandemic. The Communications Team has continued its work by merging with the Solutions Committee (described above).

The What's Next Middlesex website continues to function as a home for a variety of local projects; and for contact information to get involved in these groups, please visit it at www.whatsnextmiddlesex.org. (For official municipal topics, visit the official town website www.middlesexvermont.org.)

Front Porch Forum: Since we launched our Front Porch Forum (FPF) in 2010 with a grant coordinated by the Solutions Committee, Middlesex residents have posted about 27,514 messages, and use of this free online "bulletin board" continues to grow. As of January 2021, Middlesex's FPF had 1,403 members from an estimated 690 households (we added about 84 members just this year). This year we posted approximately 3,271 messages with great stuff to sell, give, or borrow, selectboard updates and road discussions, local events, suggestions about plowing, window washing, foxes, escaped livestock, lost and found cats and dogs, and more. If you have email, you can join Front Porch Forum. Go to www.FrontPorchForum.com. While FPF is a great place to air ideas and begin conversations, it is not designed for controversial debate—that is better accomplished at facilitated meetings. The Solutions Committee is committed to creating additional venues for discussion and we welcome your ideas for improving communication in Middlesex.

Thank You: Many thanks to Solutions Committee members Tim Murphy, Lauri Scharf, Dave Shepard, and Barb and Greg Whitechurch, and to Communications Team participants Marsha Bancroft, Mark Bushnell, Elias Gardner (caonvener), Nancy Reilly and Ursula Stanley.

The Solutions Committee meets on an as-needed basis, and we welcome your participation!

Have a suggestion we could help with? Please contact Susan Clark, 223-5824, sclarkmountains@gmail.com.

Respectfully submitted, *Susan Clark, Chair*

WASHINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

The Washington County Sheriff's Department has assisted with public safety within your community for many years. In our Annual Report I normally talk about what the Department has done, County wide, as well as with in your community. This year I thought it might be interesting to give you a little history of Washington County and the Sheriff's Department.

In 1810 Jefferson County, Vermont was established. The first Sheriff took office in 1811. At that time Sheriffs served a term of two years. In 1814 the name was changed to Washington County, renaming the County after George Washington. Washington County is approximately 695 square miles and is one of two Counties (Washington and Lamoille) that are not bordered by another State or Canada. Montpelier is the Shire Town and is also the State Capital. The current State House is actual the 3rd, as the first two burned down. In 1820 there were 14,113 people in living in Washington County. The 2019 numbers show 58,409 people now living in the County.

Washington County's first jail was built into the dwelling erected by Montpelier's founder, Jacob Davis, shortly after his arrival as the first settler in 1787. That building was given to the County by his son Thomas Davis and was rebuilt in granite in 1832. Another jail was built in what is now known as Jail House Common, at 24 Elm Street, Montpelier. Completed in 1900, a new Jail and Sheriff's residence was built at its current location, 10 Elm Street, Montpelier. The Sheriff's house is now the Sheriff's Office and the Jail had been remodeled into Probate Court, but now houses the County Offices and Passport office.

There have been 43 Sheriffs since 1811. Three Sheriffs held office for two terms, but their terms were separated by other Sheriffs holding the office. Sheriff Henry Lawson was the longest serving Sheriff, holding office from 1927 to 1953 - 26 years. I have held the office since July of 2004. My uncle, Harold Potter, held the Office of Sheriff between 1960 and 1968. He left office to become the first director of the Vermont Police Academy, which I have been teaching at for twenty-one years.

The Sheriff's Office currently has six full time Deputies, two office staff members, the Sheriff and many part time Deputies. The Office performs its statutory functions of transporting prisoners, mental health patients and juveniles as well as serving civil process. We also are responsible for security at the Civil Court in Montpelier. The office contracts with 10 towns within the County for motor vehicle patrol as well as performing a multitude of security and traffic details throughout the County. The

Sheriff's Department also regularly assists other County law enforcement agencies when needed.

The Sheriff's Office is funded in three ways. First, we receive funds from the County budget which pays for our basic office support and staff. Second, the state pays the salaries of the Sheriff and the two state transport Deputies. Third, all other funding to support the office and pay deputy salaries comes from revenues raised by the Department. Vermont Sheriff's Departments are tasked, by statute, with transporting prisoners and serving civil process, but are given no vehicles or equipment to do so. Thus, Sheriff's Departments must raise revenues in support of the Office, in order to perform State mandated functions.

County wide, our patrol efforts during fiscal year 2020 generated 2229 total incident reports, to include 695 Vermont Traffic Citations and 1333 Traffic Warnings. In the course of our patrol efforts in Middlesex the following Vermont Traffic Complaints, Warning and Incidents were recorded by the Washington County Sheriff's Department while on patrol in your town.

We are proud of the work we do and take pride in our efforts in making Washington County a safe place to live and work.

W. Samuel Hill

Washington County Sheriff

Table 1

Traffic		
<i>Count</i>	18	
1		FYY - Stop Sign
1		INC - Operating without proof of financial responsibility
2		NR - Persons Required To Register
10		SL2 - 11-20 MPH Over Speed Limit
1		SL3 - 21-30 MPH Over Speed Limit
3		VNI - Vehicle Not Inspected Within 15 Days Of Vt. Registration
Warning		
<i>Count</i>	52	
7		DEF - Condition Of Vehicle
1		DP - Failed To Display Front Registration Plate
1		SL1 - 1-10 MPH Over Speed Limit
27		SL2 - 11-20 MPH Over Speed Limit
16		VNI - Vehicle Not Inspected Within 15 Days Of Vt. Registration

WRIGHTSVILLE BEACH RECREATION DISTRICT

The Wrightsville Beach Recreation District was formed in 1985 and is made up of the four member “District” towns of East Montpelier, Middlesex, Montpelier and Worcester. A five-member Board with representatives from each town (Montpelier has two) provides oversight for the District. Administrative and Bookkeeping assistance is contracted through the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission. The Beach Manager, Collin O’Neil, has responsibility for all operations and staffing. In 2019 the Beach District had a total budget of \$83,727, 58% came from User Fees, the rest comes from the following three sources, the Town Fees (\$1.50 per capita) charge from each of the District Towns, Washington Electric Coop (WEC), and from the State of Vermont for annual maintenance of the Shady Rill Recreation Area.

The season started two weeks late due to significant spring flooding, and the year ended with a second significant flood. The spring flood was the 2nd worst we’ve experienced in 35 years, and resulted in varying amounts of damage to 5 of 7 structures. In the interim, it was a beautiful summer at the beach. and many locals and visitors enjoyed time within the park and reservoir. Attendance was steady all summer, but we lacked the really hot weekends that usually generate great revenue. So revenue was a little less than expected. Fortunately, we have a diversified revenue stream, and this year’s highlight was the 93 rentals of the two Picnic Shelters. We continue to be frugal with expenses, and our budget is very tight. We needed to replace our 4-wheel drive garden tractor in 2019 for about \$7,500.00 which was paid for with our limited savings.

For 2020 we look forward to providing the services that a wide spectrum of people use regularly. We are currently working on permits, plans and funding to construct a third (smaller) picnic shelter above the beach area. Our picnic shelters provide people and organizations the ability to plan their events, regardless of precipitation, and the demand for these amenities continues to grow.

Thanks to the member communities for your continued support of Wrightsville Beach. **For 2020 we will continue to offer all residents of the member communities a 10% discount off Season Passes, and a 15% discount off boat rentals, this means any Season Pass holding District Resident gets 25% off boat rentals.** The Board welcomes suggestions and feedback about the operations and facilities at Wrightsville Beach.



*Carl Witke, Worcester, Chair
Jon Copans, Montpelier*

*Kim Kendall, East Montpelier
Jane Dudley, Middlesex*

Collin O’Neil, Beach Manager

ZONING REPORT

Permitting activity was busier than usual in 2020, with 57 applications submitted, covering some 70 projects. The number of applications for zoning permits fluctuates from year to year. This past year saw an increase in activity of more than 50% compared to recent years. Much of this increase appears attributable to the COVID-19 shutdown.

Seven homes and one accessory dwelling were approved. Six new building lots were created via subdivisions (an additional 4-lot subdivision is pending). The remaining projects were mostly minor residential permits (garages, sheds, additions, etc.).

Seven applications were referred to the Zoning Board of Adjustment (five for conditional use approval, one for a waiver of setbacks, and one appeal of a decision of the ZA). Five projects were referred to the Planning Commission (two were commercial projects needing site plan review, two subdivision applications, and one for a modification of a previously-approved Planned Unit Development).

Zoning Applications Approved in 2020

7	Single-Family Dwellings (plus 1 accessory dwelling)
26	Residential alteration, addition, garage, accessory structure, etc.
9	Subdivision or Boundary Line Adjustment
5	Hearings (Zoning Board of Adjustment/Planning Commission)
64	Total Projects Submitted (some permits included multiple projects)

An additional six permit applications were either denied or returned as incomplete.

A reminder about Vermont's Residential Building Energy Standards (VT-RBES). Any new construction of a residential dwelling or garage, or additions/alterations of a conditioned (heated or cooled) space require that the builder complete an RBES Certification. In order to obtain a Certificate of Occupancy, which is required upon completion of your building project, you must first file a copy of your RBES Certification in the Middlesex Land Records, in accordance with 30 V.S.A. §51.

In December of 2020, I was appointed to the position of Zoning Administrator. I am a 31 year resident of Middlesex and reside just north of the village of Putnamville. I would like to thank Mitch Osieki for his past years of service as ZA, his assistance in a smooth transfer and writing this report. I can be contacted at zamiddlesex@gmail.com or (802) 595-3464.

Respectfully submitted,
Kevin Thompson, Zoning Administrator

Special Articles and Funding Requests \$250 or Less

ARTICLE 6: MIDDLESEX CONSERVATION FUND

In recognition of the hardships that COVID-19 has on our community, the Middlesex Conservation Commission has reduced its annual request from \$5,000 to \$2,500.

We also recognize the importance of the fund in conserving our Town's natural resources and want to build on the successes of recent conservation efforts. Recently, interest in the conservation fund has become more frequent and we anticipate additional requests for these scarce funds that are critical to the success of important conservation projects.

For more detailed information, please see the Middlesex Conservation Commission's Annual Report on page 51.

On behalf of the Middlesex Conservation Commission,
Lee Rosberg, Chair

ARTICLE 7: CENTRAL VT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORP.

As 2021 begins, we can look back and recognize that this upheaval is something we have never before experienced--and has challenged us in ways we never contemplated. With that said, we have also experienced the very best in people. We have seen how communities have pulled together to support one another. We have also witnessed innovation in our businesses as you have adapted, learned new protocols, and had the flexibility to meet the challenges in an ever-evolving landscape. In short, the response of our regional businesses has been inspiring.

Since mid-March 2020, when we all had our worlds turned upside down, CVEDC's board and staff have worked to be the primary resource for information critical to business decision-makers. At the start, we were focused on helping businesses navigate the Payroll Protection Program and SBA EIDL grants. As these programs were largely being delivered "on the fly," policies and processes were changing daily--and our web site was updated multiple times per day in response. Next came Vermont's Recovery Grant Program, followed shortly after by the Sole-Proprietor Grant. Late summer the RDCs worked with the administration to design and standup the ReStart Vermont Technical Assistance Grant Program (ReVTA). Since the Governor's Stay at Home Order issued in March, CVEDC has had direct contact and has supported over 350 regional businesses.

Through ReVTA, CVEDC was able to provide grants to over 50 regional companies, while contracting with over 35 service providers for the technical assistance. Small and medium-sized companies gained capacity in marketing, HR, accounting, architectural services, and more. At the same time, local firms gained much needed business and began new relationships with the companies they were supporting. This network of service providers was created to address today's crisis, but will continue to exist as an added resource and B to B referral system for Central Vermont.

So, despite the challenges of working in a largely virtual world, CVEDC has worked hard to be the trusted resource for the Central Vermont Region's business community.

Contact:

Jamie Stewart, Executive Director
CVEDC, PO Box 1439
Montpelier, Vermont 05601
(802) 223-4654
Email: jstewart@cvedc.org
Website: www.cvedc.org

Funding request: \$600

ARTICLE 8: CENTRAL VERMONT HOME HEALTH & HOSPICE

Central Vermont Home Health & Hospice (CVHHH) is a not-for-profit Visiting Nurse Association serving 23 communities in central Vermont with skilled nursing care, physical, speech, and occupational therapy, medication management, social work support, and personal care to central Vermonters of all ages in the comfort and privacy of home. The organization is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors, each of whom lives in CVHHH's service area. CVHHH is guided by a mission to care for all central Vermonters regardless of a person's ability to pay, their geographic remoteness, or the complexity of their care needs. CVHHH embraces new technology and collaborates with other local providers to ensure that central Vermonters' care needs are met. In addition to providing medically-necessary care, CVHHH promotes the general welfare of community members with public flu and foot-care clinics and grief and bereavement support groups. To learn more, visit www.cvhhh.org.

CVHHH Services to the Residents of Middlesex

Jan 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020*

<u>Program Type</u>	<u># of Visits</u>
Home Health Care	942
Hospice Care	21
Long Term Care	466
Maternal Child Health	14
TOTAL VISITS/CONTACTS	1,443
TOTAL PATIENTS	50
TOTAL ADMISSIONS	59

**Audited figures are not available at the time of report submission. Preliminary figures are prorated based on the number of visits from January 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020 and are not expected to vary significantly.*

Contact:

Kim Farnum, Director of Community Relations & Development
 600 Granger Road, Barre
 (802) 224-2234
kfarnum@cvhhh.org

Funding Request: \$4,050

ARTICLE 9: COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS (RUMNEY)

Community Connections at Rumney School is a community-supported and fee-based program that provides safe, enriching programs for students and families to supplement the age appropriate school-based offerings. These programs help families to navigate school and work schedules. We provide preschool care to students after the 10-15 hour school programming. For Kindergarten through Sixth grade, we offer morning care from 7:30 a.m. to the start of school and Afterschool care from the end of school to 5:30 p.m., as well as school vacation camps for families.

This past year we have struggled, like other organizations, because of health concerns and the constant change of information, to maintain a level of student attendance that keep programs viable and offer our staff a constant employment schedule. Though we have struggled and had to adjust some program hours, we have consistently provided an option for childcare for Essential Workers during remote learning and polled families to provided programs to meet the needs of the majority of the community.

The funds your community provided has helped struggling families to access our programs and to ensure that those programs are staffed at the needed level. The funds given to us next year will continue to allow struggling families to access our program and for us to attract staff that offer enriching activities.

Thank you for your continued support, both in the area of funding and words of encouragement, they have helped to move us through the rough times.

Thank you!

Contact:

Kimberly J. L. Bolduc
Community Connections Director
EMES CC Site Coordinator
1130 Gallison Hill Rd.
Montpelier, VT 05602
802/223-7936 x305 EMES
802/223-3456 cell
Fax 802/223-3736

Funding request: \$3,000

ARTICLE 10: GIRLS/BOYZ FIRST MENTORING

Girls/Boyz First Mentoring (GBF) has served youth in Washington Central Unified Union School District and Montpelier for the past 21 years. Mentees benefit from an extra healthy adult relationship in their lives and meet weekly with their mentors to build strong decision making skills and healthy life choices as they move through adolescence. Youth who have mentors are more likely to graduate high school, get along better with their siblings and parents and avoid risky behaviors like alcohol and drugs.

Currently, we have four mentors from Middlesex and five mentees. During the pandemic, GBF Mentors have diligently kept in touch with their mentees, virtually and socially distanced as per Governor Scott's orders. Our mentors read their mentees bedtime stories, take them outside for walks, bike rides and snow adventures, cook the same recipes with them virtually and also teach their dogs tricks over the internet, do yoga, etc. The creativity and love that exists between our pairs and their families is strong. During these challenging times, this support is more important than ever for our youth's mental health and sense of connection.

GBF Mentoring looks forward to the pandemic's end so that we can resume recruiting new matches, meeting in person and get back to group activities. We would like to request \$1500 to sustain our program.

Girls/Boyz First's annual budget is \$60,000.

Middlesex's \$1,500 contribution will go towards general operating expenses.

Contact:

Girls/Boyz First Mentoring

Wendy Freundlich,

802-224-6500,

73 Main St, #33 Montpelier, VT 05602

wendy.freedom51@gmail.com

Funding request: \$1,500

ARTICLE 11: KELLOGG-HUBBARD LIBRARY

The Kellogg-Hubbard is an independent nonprofit Library, multipurpose community center and hive of information that serves six communities, including Middlesex. Our collection includes over 72,000 books, audiobooks and DVDs, plus tens of thousands of online resources. We meet the information needs of our communities in diverse ways beyond library lending: from public computers, WiFi, printing & copying to online classes, reference services and programs for children and adults. During the pandemic we have maintained a robust curbside lending service, while moving our programs and Middlesex book group to virtual formats. Since March our Outreach program has delivered materials weekly to Middlesex residents via Red Hen Bakery.

Last year 617 Middlesex patrons borrowed 9,126 items and downloaded hundreds of eBooks and audiobooks. Middlesex residents also enjoyed our 431 adult and children's programs, including story times, the Summer Reading Program, the *First Wednesdays* lecture series, and the *League of Women Voters* lectures as well as new digital resources including downloadable magazines and streaming movies. Library program attendance exceeded 11,000 in fiscal year 2020.

Sarah Seidman is the Middlesex representative on the Library's Board of Trustees.

We receive 56% of our income from our member communities, 26% from endowment earnings, 16% from fundraising and donations and 2% from miscellaneous income.

The library budget is \$887,672 and we are asking Middlesex for \$29,801, the same amount that voters approved for the past three years. Our request for library support remains at \$17 per capita, much less than the statewide average of over \$30 per capita.

Contact:

Carolyn Brennan, Co-Director
Kellogg-Hubbard Library
135 Main St.
Montpelier, VT 05602
(802) 223-3338
Email: cbrennan@kellogghubbard.org
Website: www.kellogghubbard.org

Funding request: \$29,801

ARTICLE 12: MONTPELIER SENIOR ACTIVITY CENTER

Everyone 50+ is welcome at MSAC, a place where vibrant programming promotes lifelong learning, healthy aging, socialization, falls prevention and resource access. MSAC's mission is to enhance the quality of life for the older adults in the Montpelier area through opportunities that develop physical, mental, cultural, social, and economic well-being in a welcoming, flexible environment.

In March 2020, MSAC pivoted from in-person services to pandemic-safe operations. Despite COVID-19, MSAC is still a vital resource for the community. MSAC currently provides home-delivered and to-go meals, referrals to area services, two dozen of our usual six dozen weekly, online, affordable classes, free groups and safely-distanced group gatherings in-person when possible. MSAC offers financial aid, technology assistance, tax preparation, foot care clinics, wellness calls and more. There's a new Aging in Place Americorps member collaborating with community partners. Staff and volunteers look forward to eventually re-starting more programs in-person and remains dedicated to supporting socialization, safety and wellness.

In FY20, MSAC served at least 70 Middlesex residents, down from 85 pre-pandemic (and some free activities don't track town data). MSAC appreciates Middlesex voters' and residents' support and hopes to welcome more of you in the coming year! We recognize Waterbury Senior Center's importance to your residents and believe in working collaboratively. Thank you for considering our level-funded request. More info: <https://www.montpelier-vt.org/1142/MSAC-and-surrounding-communities>. To learn more, register for a program or be added to our weekly e-list, visit www.montpelier-vt.org/msac, call 223-2518 or email msac@montpelier-vt.org.

Contact:

Janna Clar, Director
Montpelier Senior Activity Center
58 Barre Street
Montpelier, Vermont 05602
(802) 223-2518
Email: jclar@montpelier-vt.org
Website: www.montpelier-vt.org/msac

Funding request: \$7,000

ARTICLE 13: NORTH BRANCH NATURE CENTER

North Branch Nature Center's mission is Connecting People with the Natural World. For 25 years, NBNC has offered nature education and community science programs for people of all ages, as well as free year-round access to our 28-acre preserve on Elm Street in Montpelier, less than two miles from the Middlesex town line.

Each year we serve at least 250 Middlesex residents through programs including our summer camps, after-school programs, Forest Preschool, and our wide array of festivals, classes, lectures, community science opportunities, and outings for youth and adults. Additionally, in the summer of 2020, as schools worked to expand outdoor learning as a safe and healthy antidote to the pandemic, NBNC helped secure funding from a private donor for outdoor classrooms at Rumney Memorial School, benefiting the school's 110 students. NBNC is offering professional support to five of Rumney's classroom teachers from our ECO (Educating Children Outdoors) Program Director.

Annually, more than 3,720 people attend our programs, and we estimate 27,000 trail visits. NBNC strives to make our programs open and accessible to all by keeping prices as low as possible and offering scholarships. In 2020 we adapted much of our programming due to the pandemic, and have received very high marks for the continued quality of ECO and other programs.

We are currently fundraising to build an ADA-accessible trail on our property and make accessibility improvements to all our trails.

Contact:

Emily Seiffert, Development & Communications Director
NBNC
713 Elm Street
Montpelier, VT 05602
NorthBranchNatureCenter.org.

Funding Request: \$2,000

ARTICLE 14: WATERBURY AREA SENIOR CENTER

The mission of the Waterbury Area Senior Center is to enrich the lives of older people by providing services and activities that sharpen the minds and improve the physical and emotional health of its members and keep them active and involved in the life of the community.

During non-COVID-19 times, The Center offers weekday Meals on Wheels deliveries and congregate meals, low impact exercise classes, Bingo, Mexican train dominoes, movie nights, and sing-alongs with local school and daycare groups. We provide monthly foot care clinics, yearly AARP safe driving classes and AARP tax return assistance, as well as presentations and events with the Waterbury Historical Society. We have an annual Fall Dinner, a Mother's Day Brunch, and a Stew Supper while our community parades by in the River of Light Parade.

Meals on Wheels are delivered daily Monday through Friday to homebound seniors or physically challenged residents by volunteer drivers. More than 90% of our clients are physically challenged or live in low to moderate income households in Waterbury, Duxbury, Moretown, Middlesex and Bolton.

We are on track to deliver 20,000 meals this year. The government reimburses us at \$3.76 per meal. Although we can accept donations from meal recipients, we are prohibited by Federal regulations from charging those over 60 years of age for meals because we receive funding under Title III of the Older Americans Act. Our total cost per meal is \$12.36, which means we need to raise the remaining \$8.76 per meal. Last year, The Center delivered over 1,800 meals to 8 recipients in Middlesex, at an average cost of \$12.36 per meal, or \$22,248.

2021 is not going to be an easy year for anyone. The Senior Center staff will continue working "to enrich the lives of older persons". Our volunteer drivers will continue giving of their time (and gas money). The newly established fundraising committee will continue working on plans to supplement our funds during Covid restrictions. The Senior Center Board will continue to provide oversight for the financial wellbeing of the Center and provide guidance for our members of staff. With support from our communities and towns, the Center will thrive. Annual Budget \$225,000. \$75,200 in Title III Federal Reimbursement for 20,000 meals for FY 2021

Contact:

Vicki Brooker

Waterbury Area Senior Center

14 Stowe Street, Waterbury, Vermont 05676

(802) 244-1234

Email: director@wasca.org

Website: www.wasca.org

Funding request: \$10,000

ARTICLE 15: FUNDING REQUESTS \$250 AND UNDER

Shall the Town of Middlesex appropriate the sum of \$5,017 to support the following organizations:

American Red Cross	\$250.00
Big Heavy World	\$250.00
CV Adult Basic Ed	\$250.00
CV Council on Aging	\$250.00
The Children's Room	\$250.00
Circle	\$199.00
Community Harvest of CV	\$250.00
Family Center of Wash. Cty	\$250.00
Good Beginnings of CV	\$250.00
Good Samaritan Haven	\$250.00
Green Mt. Transit Agency	\$249.00
Green Up Vermont	\$100.00
Montpelier Veterans Council	\$250.00
MOSAIC (Sex Assault Crisis Team)	\$250.00
Our House of Central VT	\$250.00
VT Association for the Blind	\$249.00
VT Center for Independent Living	\$195.00
VT Family Network	\$250.00
VT Rural Fire Protection Task Force	\$100.00
Wash. County Diversion	\$250.00
Winooski Natural Resources District	\$250.00
Youth Service Bureau of Wash. County	\$175.00

Descriptions of these organizations and their services can be found starting on page 77.

AMERICAN RED CROSS OF NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND

Supported primarily by volunteers, the American Red Cross of Vermont provides emergency support for victims of fire, flood and other disasters, as well as instruction in health, safety and aquatics.

In the July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020 fiscal year, the American Red Cross responded to 10 disaster incidents, assisting 23 residents of Washington County. The organization collected 3,929 pints of blood. It supported 18 members of the Armed Forces through the Red Cross's Service to the Armed Forces program in Washington County and even installed 87 free smoke alarms.

Since the Red Cross is not a government agency, it relies on the financial support of individuals, businesses and local communities because it receives no federal or state funding. Its request this year is based on town population.

All money from town appropriations goes directly to disaster relief. The Red Cross is often the only organization to arrive on site during disasters to help families cope during the first hours and days and to provide first responders with water, hot beverages and food. The support from Middlesex and other contributing towns is vital to support the Red Cross's services.

Contact:

Rachel Zellem, Regional Development Specialist
American Red Cross of Northern New England
www.redcross.org/nne

Funding request: \$250

BIG HEAVY WORLD

Big Heavy World is a volunteer-run nonprofit organization that archives and promotes original music from Vermont. It creates resources for musicians from all towns to have exposure and become part of Vermont's historic record. Big Heavy World has an annual budget of \$43,145 which pays for overhead costs that allow us to operate a Vermont music archive, a radio station with Vermont music radio shows and podcasts; directories of the state's music industry, a tiny museum, and special projects including music sector analysis; state inclusion in the Make Music Day international music festival; professional development workshops for artists; and in 2020 a statewide book discussion about preventing and addressing harassment in cultural spaces. Every artist in Middlesex making original music is welcome in our band directory, in rotation on our radio station which broadcasts and streams, and to be our guest on a weekly live Vermont music interview and performance radio show. Big Heavy World is a very inclusive organization, respecting and supporting music of every kind and skill level. The organization has been creating an ever-growing representation of Vermont's musical talent and scope since 1996 and invites Middlesex artists into our work.

Contact:

James Lockridge, Executive Director
Big Heavy World
PO Box 428
Burlington, VT 05402-0428
(802) 865-1140
info@bigheavyworld.com.

Funding request: \$250

CENTRAL VT ADULT BASIC EDUCATION

Central Vermont Adult Basic Education, Inc. (CVABE), a community-based nonprofit organization has served the adult education and literacy needs of Middlesex residents for fifty-five years.

CVABE serves as Washington, Orange and Lamoille Counties' resource for free, individualized academic tutoring for adults (ages 16- 90+) in:

- Basic skills programs: reading, writing, math, computer and financial literacy
- English Language Learning and preparation for U.S. citizenship
- High school diploma and GED credential programs
- Academic skill readiness for work, career training and/or college

Children of parents with low literacy skills have a 72% chance of being at the lowest reading levels themselves, and 70% of adult welfare recipients have low literacy levels. By helping to end the cycle of poverty, your support changes the lives of Middlesex residents for generations to come.

Last year, 4 residents of Middlesex enrolled in CVABE's free programs, engaging in over 100 hours of service. Additionally, 2 Middlesex residents volunteered with CVABE. Teachers instruct students one-to-one and/or in small groups.

CVABE's total program budget for Fiscal Year 2021 is \$1,323,745. One hundred percent (100%) of support from Middlesex will be used for direct student services (instruction and educational materials). It currently costs CVABE \$2,942 per student to provide a full year of instruction.

For more information regarding CVABE's adult education and literacy instruction or volunteer opportunities, contact:

Barre Learning Center, 46 Washington Street- Suite 100, Barre, VT 05641
(802) 476-4588

Montpelier Learning Center, 100 State Street- Suite 3, Montpelier, VT 05602
(802) 223-3403

Contact:

Brian Kravitz

CVABE Development and Outreach Coordinator

Central Vermont Adult Basic Education, Inc.

46 Washington St., Suite 100, Barre, Vermont 05641

(802) 476-4588

Website: www.cvabe.org, Email: bkavitz@cvabe.org

Funding request: \$250

CENTRAL VT COUNCIL ON AGING

Central Vermont Council on Aging is the primary agency serving older Vermonters aged 60 and over as well as their families and caregivers throughout Central Vermont. Our mission is to support Central Vermonters to age with dignity and choice. All services are made available to our clients at no charge, without regard to health, income or other resources.

Some of the options we make available include:

- CVCOA Help Line - (800) 642-5119 responds to hundreds of common questions from older Vermonters, and their families and caregivers.
- Information & Assistance staff counsel older Vermonters and families on the available benefit programs and services, such as 3SquaresVT, seasonal fuel assistance, and more.
- Case Managers work with clients in their homes to assess needs and develop, implement and coordinate individualized long-term care plans.
- Nutrition Services oversees the menu development and technical assistance for home-delivered and Community meals and provides the largest source of funding for the 14 meal sites that prepare and deliver these meals.
- State Health Insurance Program (SHIP) provides personalized Medicare counseling, Medicare & You workshops, and enrollment assistance for Medicare Part D plans.
- Family Caregiver Support promotes the well-being of the family members serving as caregivers to loved ones, including administration of the Dementia Respite Grant.

During the last year, Central Vermont Council on Aging provided one or more of the above services to **25 Middlesex residents**. **Case Manager, Lisa Mercurio was designated to work directly with the seniors in Middlesex**. All of us at CVCOA extend our gratitude to the residents of Middlesex for their ongoing commitment.

Contact:

Mary H. Hayden
Director, Development and Communications
Central Vermont Council on Aging
59 N. Main Street, Suite 200
Barre, Vermont 05641
(802) 476-2739

Funding request: \$250

CHILDREN'S ROOM (THE)

The Children's Room appreciates annual support from Middlesex Town, and requests your continued support in 2022, at \$250.

We are a 35+ year old, volunteer-run nonprofit that serves families and caregivers with young children (birth - 6 yrs). Our drop-in center is a hub of parenting/caregiving resources, programming, playgroups and educational opportunities.

Our annual budget is under \$25,000. We receive no federal or state funding, instead relying on local resources and volunteers. The funds raised allow us to offer free programs to all. Covid has temporarily changed our programming. By March of the 2020 school year (when in-person meetups were suspended), our drop-in center had hosted about 200 families (at least 10 from Middlesex). We've met COVID restrictions by finding new ways to reach families. Our adapted services so far include:

- Live-streaming storytimes and playgroups
- A weekly zoom support group for new and expecting parents
- Outdoor playgroups and stroller strolls
- Outdoor Halloween party
- Workshops with early education experts to support parents and providers in talking with children about issues of race.

As the pandemic raises isolation and stress, we recognize area families' heightened need for social support and community resources. We are committed to continue offering support and connection by sharing information and bringing young children and caregivers together however possible; virtually, in-person outdoors, and, hopefully soon, back in our center for regular programs.

It is a pleasure providing this valuable resource to Middlesex families. We deeply appreciate your support and thank you for your consideration.

Contact:

Naomi Alfini, Executive Director
47 Stowe Street, Waterbury, VT 05676
802-241-1374
childrensroom@huusd.org

Funding request: \$250

CIRCLE

Circle is a small, community-based organization dedicated to ending all forms of domestic violence by providing services to all victims regardless of their gender, age, sexual orientation, religion or ethnicity. This year, Circle is requesting \$199 in funding from the Town of Middlesex.

If you are in danger, use a safe computer, call 911, or Circle's hotline 1-877-543-9498, or the US National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-7233 and TTY 1-800-787-3224.

Contact:

Karol Diamond

Circle

P.O. Box 652

Barre, VT 05641

Administrative office: (802) 476-6010

Email: staff@circlevt.org

Funding request: \$199

COMMUNITY HARVEST OF CENTRAL VERMONT (CHCV)

Since 2014, CHCV has worked throughout Central Vermont to donate more than 350,000 pounds, equivalent to a million servings of fresh local produce. More than 300 community volunteers coordinated by CHCV's two full-time staff glean produce from 40 local farms. By bringing the community together through gleaning, CHCV also increases awareness and appreciation of the local food system, healthy eating, and waste reduction. The produce CHCV recovers is donated to 30 organizations throughout Washington County that serve more than 11,200 individuals with limited access to healthy, nutritious food. In 2020, we regularly donated to several organizations which serve Middlesex residents. These sites include the Montpelier Food Pantry, FEAST senior meals at the Montpelier Senior Activity Center, the Waterbury Area Food Shelf, the Waterbury Area Senior Center, and the Worcester Community Kitchen and Food Shelf.

CHCV looks forward to continuing to serve even more Central Vermonters, including those in Middlesex, as we work to expand the amount of food we can glean and donate each season. In response to increased need in 2020, CHCV expects to donate more than 130,000 pounds of fresh food this year, doubling our previous record of 65,000 pounds in 2019.

Contact:

Allison Levin, Community Harvest of Central Vermont
146 Lord Road
Berlin, VT 05602
802-229-4281
CommunityHarvestVT@gmail.com
www.comunityharvestVT.org

Funding request: \$250

FAMILY CENTER OF WASHINGTON COUNTY

The Family Center of Washington County provides services and resources to all children and families in our region. Our mission is building resourceful families and healthy children to create a strong community, and our vision is acceptance and hope for all families. Our 5 STAR Early Childhood Program (ECP) serves children from 6 weeks to 5 years as a traditional early childhood program as well as a therapeutic program for children with special physical or behavioral health needs. Our ECP also works in partnership with Washington County Mental Health to provide intensive services to children recovering from trauma backgrounds. Other Family Center services and programs include: Children's Integrated Services-Early Intervention; Child Care Financial Assistance; Child Care Referral; Hello Baby Outreach to new parents; Family Supportive Housing Services; Reach Up Job Development; Family Support Home Visiting; Food Shelf and Diaper Bank; and our new Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project. Community Playgroups and Parent Education classes are resuming on Facebook and Zoom during COVID-19.

The Family Center of Washington County served 49 Middlesex residents from July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020. All services are available to Middlesex residents. The most frequently used last fiscal year were: consulting our child care and other resource and referral supports to families, assistance paying for child care, participation in community playgroups, services such as home visits from Children's Integrated Services-Early Intervention and CIS Family Support, and support from our food pantry and/or diaper bank. See attached sheet for details.

Total Budget for 2019-2020: \$2,503,522.00

Funds from Middlesex and other communities will be used to support the prevention and community development services offered by the Family Center.

Contact:

Joseph Ferrada and Claire Kendall, Co Executive Directors

Family Center of Washington County

383 Sherwood Drive

Montpelier, VT 05602

Email: josephf@fcwcv.org and clairek@fcwcv.org

Telephone: 802-262-3292, Ext. 126 and Ext. 151

Web site: www.fcwcv.org

Funding request: \$250

GOOD BEGINNINGS OF CENTRAL VERMONT

We are a small local nonprofit with an annual budget of \$110,319. Our mission is to bring community to families and their babies. We do this through in-home and community-based services available at no charge to any local family with a new baby. Our largest program, the Postpartum Angel Family Support Program, matches families with a trained volunteer for up to 12 weeks of in-home support and respite. Our Journey Into Parenthood workshop series covers a range of early parenting topics, and our Nest parent drop-in space hosts formal and informal gatherings for parents with infants and toddlers, in a welcoming and developmentally appropriate space. Families are also eligible for assistance through our Emergency Fund and Free Carrier Programs. During COVID, our Postpartum Angels continue to provide extensive phone-based support, make mental health referrals, deliver food and essential supplies to families' doorsteps, and help them access other resources and financial assistance. Our peer support groups and early parenting workshops now meet online.

Eleven Middlesex families accessed our services last fiscal year (16 adults and 13 children). Four families were matched with volunteers and received a combined 52 hours of in-home support. Ten families visited the Nest and/or participated in our free community events. Two families received support with babywearing: one received a free infant carrier, and another purchased a carrier at cost and had a babywearing consultation/fitting session at the Nest.

Funding from the Town of Middlesex supports our Postpartum Angel program by helping cover expenses related to recruiting and training volunteers, conducting outreach to referral sources, and matching families with volunteers. Town funding also covers expenses associated with our peer support groups and free early parenting workshops.

Contact:

174 River Street, Montpelier, VT 05602

info@goodbeginningscentralvt.org

www.goodbeginningscentralvt.org

802.595.7953

Funding request: \$250

GOOD SAMARITAN HAVEN

Good Samaritan Haven has welcomed thousands of people in need since we opened our doors in 1986. We provide the basics – a bed, warm food and case management to help individuals move towards stability. Last winter we provided 76 shelter beds each night through four shelter sites in Barre and Montpelier.

With COVID-19, everything changed. Due to the pandemic, Good Sam was unable to utilize our shelters for several months or accept the help of volunteers. Despite this, we have managed to provide support for approximately 250 homeless individuals and families who have been staying in area motels since April. This work continues in the motels and in two Good Sam shelters, operating at reduced capacity.

Winter is fast approaching. In anticipation for an increased need in our services, we have opened an emergency overflow shelter in Montpelier for those with no other option. It is clear that the need is great, and so we are turning to area towns and private individuals to help us respond.

Thank you for your consideration and please stay well.

Contact:

Theresa Fennell, Donor Manager
Good Samaritan Haven
105 North Seminary Street
PO Box 1104
Barre, VT 05641
(802) 479-2294
www.goodsamaritanhaven.org

Funding Request: \$250

GREEN MOUNTAIN TRANSIT AGENCY (GMTA)

Each year, GMT provides thousands of rides to members within our community through traditional public transit services and coordinated special services. Each ride provided is a personal story of a need being met. Whether it's offering affordable commute options, access to essential medical services, adult day care and senior meals or convenient trips for daily services, we are proud to be a viable solution for so many.

In FY20, GMT provided ongoing individual special transportation services to Middlesex residents who qualified for Medicaid and/or Elderly and Disabled transportation totaling 21 trips.

Our ability to maintain our role as a trusted public transportation provider within the region would not be possible without our partnerships. Since 2003, GMT has relied on relationships with area organizations, state and federal agencies, local municipalities and the private citizens to keep us strong. Without these partnerships, we would not be able to provide the critical services that we offer.

It is with recognition and appreciation for all levels of support that Green Mountain Transit (GMT) would like to submit a request of *level funding* for FY22 from the Town of Middlesex. **We respectfully request \$249 for FY22 to be placed before the Town of Middlesex voters for consideration.** The requested funding directly supports GMT's ongoing operations and the amount is based on a fair share calculation applied to the municipalities GMT serves.

Contact:

Jenn Wood
Public Affairs & Community Relations Manager
GMTA
Green Mountain Transit
802-540-2451
jwood@ridegmt.com

Funding request: \$249

GREEN UP VERMONT

Green Up Vermont celebrated its 50th Anniversary of Green Up Day on May 30, 2020. Although 99% of all events were cancelled due to Covid-19, Green Up Day was successfully executed with social distancing by 14,000+ volunteers, cleaning up over 241 tons of litter, and 9,000 tires statewide. It is imperative for all of us to keep building awareness and stewardship for a clean Vermont environment. Green Up Vermont is a private nonprofit organization that relies on your town's support to execute the tradition of cleaning up our roads and waterways, while promoting civic pride and engagement.

Support from municipalities is essential to our program. Funds help pay for administration, supplies (including 65,000 Green Up trash bags), promotional outreach, and educational resources including activity books, poster and writing contests, and a \$1,000 scholarship.

Early awareness initiatives for Green Up Day tripled the number of submissions to our annual poster art and writing contests and produced 184 applicants for our first scholarship. We were able to offer "Greener" bags made with 70% post-consumer waste; add a Green Scuba team to clean in Lake Champlain; and had over 100 editorial stories in the news as well as a national mention in the *Washington Post*.

Donations can be made to Green Up Vermont on Line 23 of the Vermont State Income Tax Form or anytime online at www.greenupvermont.org.

Visit our website and follow us on Facebook (@greenupvermont) and Instagram (greenupvermont).

Green Up Day, May 1, 2021

Thank you!

Contact:

Green Up Vermont

IPO Box 1191

Montpelier, Vermont 05601-1191

(802) 229-4586

Website: www.greenupvermont.org

Email: greenup@greenupvermont.org

Funding request: \$100

MONTPELIER VETERANS COUNCIL

The Montpelier Vermont Veterans Council has been placing flags and markers at local cemeteries for the past 37 years. Each year, the organization places over 2,500 flags in 26 local cemeteries including 2 in Middlesex.

The cost of these flags and markers has been covered by personal contributions and funds from the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 792, American Legion Post #3 in Montpelier, the Montpelier Elk #924 as well as tax-payer contributions from Montpelier, East Montpelier, Middlesex and Worcester. Due to the escalating costs of flags and markers, the Montpelier Veterans Council needs to ask towns to assist in these costs.

Because of rising costs, we ask for assistance with this annual memorial honoring our families and friends who served their country. Unpaid volunteers place these flags and markers and consider it their privilege. Will you please support our effort with a donation today? Any donation will help and be greatly appreciated.

Contact:

Carole Baker, Secretary/Treasurer
Montpelier Vermont Veterans Council
1 Pioneer Street
Montpelier, VT 05602
(802) 229-9028

Funding request: \$250

MOSAIC VERMONT (Formerly Sexual Assault Crisis Team)

For 36 years, we've been known as the Sexual Assault Crisis Team of Washington County delivering emergency services to people who have experienced harm. We heard from you, our community, that a new name would make us more approachable and better represent the variety of services that we are now offering and working to build. We changed our name to Mosaic Vermont, Inc. because a mosaic can be used to represent the variety of ways people respond to sexual harm and the elements of healing that can come together to create an individualized work of art; a unique human. In addition to the name change, our team worked hard to create a 5-year strategic plan that centers our community and our values.

In the 2019-2020 fiscal year, we supported and empowered 335 people (this includes direct services only and does not include prevention and community work) impacted by sexual harm to take steps toward healing, by accessing their hopes and supporting their concrete needs. Through the provision of services such as our 24-hour helpline; safety planning; advocacy at Sexual Assault Nurse Examinations; emergency shelter; assistance applying for victim's compensation; support in court hearings or at crime related appointments or interviews; referrals to and support in accessing community resources; parent, friend, and caregiver support; and case management; we helped people begin to heal from harm. Mosaic offered support groups and meetings focused on the impacts of trauma, resources available, and tools for creating community change. We provided additional specialized services for people who have experienced sex trafficking, adult survivors of child sexual abuse, and children and youth who have experienced sexual violence.

Mosaic performed a variety of community-wide outreach and prevention efforts to connect and share resources, increase accessibility to programming for all people, and to help end violence. Our prevention programming included Mosaic Advocate engagement in more than 100 sexual violence prevention meetings or presentations, engaging more than 280 youth across five public schools and one public library. Mosaic was an active member program of the Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, working for statewide solutions for people who have been harmed, as well as an end to violence.

Mosaic's services are highly confidential and people are not required to disclose their town of residence in order to receive services.

Contact:

Jan Lloyd, Director of Outreach
Mosaic Vermont
4 Cottage Street, Barre, Vermont 05641
jan@mosaic-vt.org
(802) 476-1388

Funding request: \$250

OUR HOUSE OF CENTRAL VERMONT

OUR House of Central Vermont is a non-profit children's advocacy center and special investigations unit serving all of Washington County. Its mission is to provide a safe and supportive setting for child victims of sexual abuse, their non-offending family members, and adult survivors of sexual assault. The OUR in OUR House stands for One Unified Response and to that end the organization works closely with the Vermont Department for Children and Family Services, as well as local and state law enforcement, the State's Attorney's Office, Washington County Mental health and other organizations.

This year, we did see a decrease due to COVID and, sadly, we forecast quite an uptick in cases over the next year as children are given the opportunity to see someone and reach out for help.

By October 2020, OUR House handled one case in Middlesex. OUR House saw 82 cases in which physical or sexual abuse occurred and required a formal investigation. 60 of these cases involved children under the age of 18. Out of those cases, 75 were cases of sexual abuse and 9 were severe cases physical result resulting in long-term or permanent injuries. There were 22 cases of adult sexual assault.

While it is difficult to monetarily quantify a child-abuse investigation, national statistics show that on a per-case basis, traditional investigations were 36% more expensive than investigations conducted by agencies like OUR House.

Contact:

Rebecca Duranleau, Executive Director
OUR House of Central Vermont, Inc.
38 Summer Street
Barre, VT 05641
(802) 476-8825
Email: ourhousebarredirector@gmail.com

Funding request: \$250

VT ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED

For many years, the town of Middlesex has supported our mission to help Vermonters with visual impairments to be more independent, cultivate adaptive skills, and improve their quality of life. With your support, the Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired [VABVI] has completed another successful year. Thank you for your on-going support!

The number of clients we serve increases every year, and it costs approximately \$1,000 to provide one year of service to each individual adult client. During Fiscal Year 2020, we served 1,804 clients from all 14 counties in Vermont. This included 1 student in Middlesex, and 89 adults and 17 students in Washington County. An estimated 14,000 Vermonters are currently blind or visually impaired. As the “Baby Boomer” generation ages, this number is expected to increase to at least 25,000 by 2030. People are living longer, so we anticipate that the increase in demand for our services will continue well into the future. As a result, our neighbors, family and friends are among those who may be coping with vision loss.

Last year, our local towns and cities provided us with over \$30,000 in support. These funds went directly to services for clients. We hope that you will consider supporting VABVI again this year with an allocation of \$249 to help fund our services in your township. If you have any questions or would like any more information, please feel free to contact me by phone at (802) 863-1358 extension 217 or by e-mail at sturgeon@vabvi.org.

Contact:

Shannon Turgeon
Development Assistant
VABVI
60 Kimball Avenue
So. Burlington, VT 05403
(802) 863-1368 ext. 217
sturgeon@vabvi.org

Funding request: \$249

VERMONT CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (VCIL)

For 41 years, VCIL has been teaching people with disabilities and the Deaf how to gain more control over their lives and how to access tools and services to live more independently. VCIL employees (85% of whom have a disability) conduct public education, outreach, individual advocacy and systems change advocacy to help promote the full inclusion of people with disabilities into community life.

In FY'20 (10/2019-9/2020) VCIL responded to thousands of requests from individuals, agencies and community groups for information, referral and assistance and program services for individuals living with a disability. VCIL Peer Advocate Counselors provided one-on-one peer counseling to **236** individuals to help increase their independent living skills and **5** peers were served by the AgrAbility program. VCIL's Home Access Program assisted **124** households with information on technical assistance and/or alternative funding for modifications; **89** of these received financial assistance to make their bathrooms and/or entrances accessible. Our Sue Williams Freedom Fund provided **61** individuals with information on assistive technology; **36** of these individuals received funding to obtain adaptive equipment. **573** individuals had meals delivered through our Meals on Wheels program for individuals with disabilities under the age of 60. We are also home to the VT Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program which served **41** people and provided **30** peers with adaptive telecommunications enabling low-income Deaf, Deaf-blind, Hard of Hearing and individuals with disabilities to communicate by telephone. Due to the pandemic VCIL was able to start a new (temporary) program, Resilience and Independence in a State of Emergency (RISE) which served **12** people in its first few months. The RISE Program can help provide an array of items or services if the needs are directly related to the Covid-19 epidemic.

VCIL's central office is located in Montpelier which also houses the VT Interpreter Referral Service (VIRS) and provides statewide interpreter referral services for sign language, spoken English and CART services for assignments in medical, legal, mental health, employment, educational, civil and recreational settings.

During FY'19, **1** resident of **Middlesex** received services from the following program: •Information Referral and Assistance (I,R&A)

Contact:

Sarah Launderville, Executive Director

VT Center for Independent Living

11 E. State Street

Montpelier, VT 05602

(800) 639-1522

Email: info@vcil.org

Website: www.vcil.org

Funding request: \$195

VERMONT FAMILY NETWORK

The Vermont Family Network is a state-wide organization whose mission is to empower and support all Vermont families of children with special needs. Town funding would support our Family Support Program, through which we offer families a variety of services such as trainings, parent matches, school meeting support, and a helpline. Our Family Support Consultants are all experienced parents of children with special needs, allowing them to relate to and understand the unique needs of families before, during and after their child's diagnosis.

As the state's Family Voices and Parent Training and Information Center, we have continued to be involved in advocacy efforts around early intervention programs, special education, and budget decisions that impact families of children with special needs.

Last fiscal year we supported 1400 families. Thank you for your consideration of funding, together we can continue to support families all over the state who have children with special needs.

Contact:

Vermont Family Network
600 Blair Park Road
Suite 240
Williston, VT 05495
Claire Giroux-Williams, Development and Communications Manager
Claire.giroux-williams@vtfn.org
802-876-5315, ext. 201
www.vermontfamilynetwork.org

Funding request: \$250

VERMONT RURAL FIRE PROTECTION TASK FORCE

On behalf of the Vermont Rural Fire Protection Task Force, I am writing to request your support of the Vermont Rural Fire Protection (RFP) Program, formerly called the Dry Hydrant Grant Program. The RFP program helps Vermont communities protect lives, property and natural resources by enhancing fire suppression resources.

Program Manager and Engineering Technician Troy Dare helps local fire departments identify appropriate sites for dry hydrants and other rural water supply systems, design installations, and find financial support to support the costs of construction. During the **23+ years** of the program, nearly **1200 grants** totaling **\$2.6 million** have been provided to Vermont towns for installation of new rural fire protection systems, as well as for replacements and repairs.

We have made a number of adjustments to the Rural Fire Protection Grant Program in recent years, including changing the name from Dry Hydrant Grant Program to Rural Fire Protection Program to better reflect the diverse range of projects we support. We have increased the maximum grant award amount from \$5,000 to \$10,000 per project. New Rural Fire Protection systems along with repair, replacement, relocation, and upgrades of existing RFP systems are eligible for grant funding on an ongoing basis. And we now consider applications from Vermont towns and fire departments on a revolving basis throughout the year rather than just once a year.

The annual expense of the Rural Fire Protection Program in FY 2020 was \$200,432, of which \$107,524 was paid in grants to Vermont communities for construction costs. The remaining budget covers site assessments, project design and program oversight. Most of our funding comes from the Vermont Department of Public Safety through annual appropriations by the Vermont Legislature.

Contact:

Tom Maclay, Chair Rural Fire Protection Task Force

(802) 426-3265

Website: www.vacd.org

Email: dryhydrantguy@yahoo.com

Funding request: \$100

WASHINGTON COUNTY DIVERSION PROGRAM, INC.

This is a request on behalf of the Washington County Diversion Program, for Middlesex to support our work with a stipend of \$250.00. These funds will help us provide our programs and services to the all the citizens of Washington County, including Middlesex residents.

The Washington County Diversion Program (WCDP) is a voluntary, confidential restorative justice program that provides an opportunity for participants (individuals charged with a crime or delinquency) to make amends and avoid a criminal record. Cases are referred by the State's Attorney to Diversion on an individual basis. Diversion follows a balanced and restorative justice model by putting right the wrongs that have been done and addressing the needs of all stakeholders, including the victim, the community and the offender. Participation is voluntary; but requires individuals to accept responsibility for their unlawful action(s).

Our philosophy is that ordinary citizens who volunteer their time and energy are more effective in addressing those who have committed crimes than our court system can be, especially for low-level offenders charged with an illegal act.

WCDP runs six separate programs: Court Diversion, the Tamarack Program, Pretrial Services, the Youth Substance Abuse Safety Program, the Balanced and Restorative Justice Program, and the Driving with License Suspended Program.

Due to a heavy caseload, the financial and volunteer support of our local communities is critical to our success. Thank you for providing the support of our work that you have in the past, and for taking the time to consider this request.

Contact:

Catherine Kalkstein
Washington County Diversion Program, Inc.
322 North Main Street, Suite 5
Barre, VT 05641
(802) 479-1900 ext. 1
Website: www.wcdp-vt.org
Email: Catherine@wcdp-vt.org

Funding request: \$250

WINOOSKI NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Winooski NRCDC is an organization that serves forty three communities in Chittenden, Washington and Orange counties. Our mission is to promote the wise use, sustainable development, and conservation of our District's natural resources. We provide education and technical assistance for communities and residents implementing on-the-ground projects for water quality, soil health, forest integrity, and wildlife habitat.

Our watershed-wide work improves the quality of life for all District residents. By improving water quality in the Winooski and Lamoille watersheds we create opportunities for outdoor recreation and protect clean drinking water. By working with farmers to build healthy soils we bolster a resilient local food system that is able to provide nutritious food to Vermonters. By providing technical assistance to homeowners we help people make their properties more resilient to increasingly intense rainstorms and ease pressure on municipal stormwater systems. The benefits of our work are not limited to our human neighbors, but also help beloved wildlife like trout and migratory birds thrive. Finally, we host an annual summer internship to train and mentor the next generation of conservationists.

We serve residents of Middlesex by offering free assistance to homeowners and farmers. On an ongoing basis, we offer *Storm Smart* assessments to residents within the Winooski watershed (including Middlesex). This program helps residents find ways to slow down and sink in stormwater, thereby building community-wide resilience to increasingly stronger storms. We also offer Kitchen Table Talks for farmers to provide free one-on-one site visits in which we answer questions about water quality and state regulations and identify potential opportunities for clean water projects. This year we also facilitated the completion of a 100% design for floodplain restoration at the Shady Rill Picnic Area in partnership with the Select Board, Conservation Commission and other partners.

Contact:

Kristen Balschunat, Conservation Specialist
Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District
300 Interstate Corporate Center Suite 200
Williston, VT 05495
802) 288-8155 x104
kristen@winooskinrcd.org,
www.winooskinrcd.org

Funding request: \$250

YOUTH SERVICE BUREAU OF WASHINGTON COUNTY

The Bureau's mission is "To provide a wide range of innovative and effective programs that empower and enrich the lives of youth and families in Washington County, and to provide leadership and support to other youth programs throughout Vermont." We accomplish this through the following services: youth & family counseling; emergency shelter for runaway and homeless youth; transitional living support for homeless youth; support for pregnant/parenting teens; adolescent substance abuse treatment; transitional living support for young men exiting from jail; a teen center; support for youth involved in foster care; and a 24 hour on-call service. Last year, **17 Middlesex** residents were served through one or more of the services identified above.

The Bureau has been providing services to Middlesex residents for 46 years. This year's funding request represents a cost of approximately \$10/person served. This is only a small fraction of the cost of the services provided by the Bureau. Most services provided to Middlesex residents have involved multiple sessions, counseling services were provided by licensed counselors, and emergency temporary shelter included 24-hour supervision, meals, and transportation. For example, one night of emergency shelter if needed is \$30; and round-trip transportation for services provided from our main office directly in Middlesex are approximately \$16/trip. The Bureau's annual operating budget is \$1,998,064. The \$175 requested will be applied to services delivered to Middlesex residents.

Contact: Nicole Bachand
Associate Director of Operations
Washington County Youth Service Bureau/Boys & Girls Club
PO Box 627
Montpelier, VT 05601
802-229-9151 (office)
802-229-2508 (fax)
wcysb@wcysb.org
www.wcysb.org

Funding request: \$175

2020 DOG REPORT

Total Number of Dogs Registered 1/1/2020 – 12/31/2020: 136

Total Fees Collected: \$1,263

Total Fees to State: \$673

More and more people are failing to license their dogs, a violation of 20 V.S.A. § 3581, the state law requiring that all dogs be licensed by April 1st. In 2020, 16 fewer dogs were licensed than the year before. This means there are many, many dogs in Middlesex who might not be up to date on their rabies vaccinations. It also means if dogs are lost - or found - our Animal Control Officer cannot locate their owners.

Licensing your dog is easy, affordable and, also, the law. One tag is good for a year and costs less than a week's worth of puppy chow - \$9 per spayed/neutered animal; \$13 for all others. For your peace of mind and the safety of our community, please license your dog today. No one wants to start confiscating beloved pets for lack of tags.

Here are just some of the advantages of licensing:

- 1) Helps the town maintain a record of each dog, including its owner and phone number, in case the dog is lost.
- 2) Insures that all dogs are current on their vitally important rabies vaccines at a time when rabies cases are increasing in Vermont.
- 3) Offsets the cost of maintaining a town Animal Control Officer, while \$5 from each license funds the state's spay and neutering program.

By Vermont law, all dogs must be licensed by April 1st. Please call 223-5915 for more information.

Middlesex ACO, Erika Holm: Cell: 249-2127.

TAKE NOTES HERE!

TOWN OF MIDDLESEX
5 Church Street
Middlesex, VT 05602

PRESORTED STANDARD
U S POSTAGE
PAID
THE MAILING CENTER
05641

FPO