

Town Administrator Update



December 19th, 2023

- Thank you to our Middleton first responders for all of their efforts year round.
- I met with the leadership of the Tritown School Union at their Central Office last week as part of an early budget discussion. It is noteworthy that they have expressed interest in applying for the MSBA rapid repair program for the Fuller Meadow roof. The acceptance period for LOI's opens on Friday, January 12th, 2024, a cost has not yet been determined.
- The new 62/38 health insurance split went live during last pay period. Thank you to ATA Bresnahan, Finance Director Wood, Treasurer Federico and Asst. Treasurer Alley for the work that went into planning and implementing this change. Also a huge thank you to the Select Board for their continued support of our employees.
- I joined the Board of Library Trustees at their Monday, December 11th meeting. I thank them for their hospitality, and I look forward to being a regular participant over the next several months.
- We received word from our statehouse delegation that HB4204 was signed by Governor Healey last week. This included "Section 48", which extended our deadline to use funds for the Rt114/South Main Street sidewalk relocation into June of 2024.
- We continue to collaborate with our partners in Boxford and Topsfield to administer the Shared Health Grant. Traci Mello and ATA Bresnahan are currently working out the details for Middleton to take a larger leadership role in this process.
- I have identified a qualified firm that is interested in carrying out the Locust Street Appraisal. A more in depth update will be provided at your next meeting in January.
- The 300k from the State for the Peabody Street Bridge has officially been released, returning recently appropriated ARPA funds to a previously committed water project.
- We have received news that Middleton will be receiving a \$158,766 boost to our FY24 CH90 apportionment as part of the Fair Share Amendment.
- Following the affirmative vote for additional funding for the Municipal Campus, we received news from Mr. Roger Bourgeois in mid-November that he would be stepping down from his duties on the Building Committee. I wanted to take a moment to recognize his service to the community and thank him for his heavy lifting on the Building Committee.
- Thank you to those who joined the Legion Post, Legion Riders, and Patriotic Observances Committee for Saturday's Wreathes Across America. Over 575 wreathes were placed in Oakdale Cemetery. Special thanks to volunteers Coral and Paul Stieger for their fundraising and coordination efforts and to VSO Kevin Welch for his support of the event.

- The Affordable Housing Trust has been meeting since March of 2023 and will be working on public outreach beginning in January on their 5 year strategic plan. More information will be available in the new year on the website as well as hardcopy in Memorial Hall, the COA, and the Flint Public Library for those who would like to participate.
- A very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to our Staff, Volunteer Boards and Committees, and the people of Middleton.

Respectfully submitted,

Justin Sultzbach
Town Administrator