

# ***Town Administrator Update***



***March 4, 2025***

- We have received news from the EOHLC that they are not accepting our Action Plan as submitted by their February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025 deadline. They have determined that Middleton is now out of compliance at this time.
- We will begin the collective bargaining process with the newly formed Library Union this week.
- TA's, Finance Committee Members and Select Board Members from Middleton, Topsfield and Boxford have been meeting to discuss potential impacts from the proposed Masco budget. The group will be attending Masco's meeting tomorrow, Wednesday March 5<sup>th</sup> to offer the Town-side perspective of the budget and associated financial challenges.
- Greenbelt will be in town tomorrow to walk the back portion of the golf course property with members of our team.
- I refreshed my Fraud Awareness Training through the MCPPO program last week as part of the continuing ed component of my MCPPO certification.
- TTU Negotiations are ongoing with collaboration from educators in all three communities, the administration, and Town Administrators from each town.
- I walked the Ginger Mill property with Mr. Garber, Commissioner Fitzpatrick and Planner Burry-Carmer earlier this week. We continue to explore different opportunities for that site, with full recognition that it comes with many challenges and obstacles.
- Town Administration is collaborating with Finance Director Wood to identify opportunities for surgical cuts to our FY26 budget. At this time, we have identified up to \$100,000 in potential reductions, with more to follow as a good faith effort to our taxpayers to tighten the belt.
- We do anticipate the need for an FY26 override totaling in at \$975,000. This is in response to the ongoing Public Safety Staffing Crisis we are experiencing in Middleton and would cover 4 additional Firefighter Paramedics and 3 additional Police officers to our ranks.

Respectfully submitted,

Justin Sultzbach  
Town Administrator