

June 16, 2008 - Special Town Council Meeting

At a Special Meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Middletown, RI, held at the Middletown Town Hall on Monday, June 16, 2008 at 6:00 P.M.

Council President Paul M. Rodrigues, Presiding

Vice Chair Shirley R. Mello, Arrives at 6:45 P.M.

Councillor Louis P. DiPalma

Councillor M. Theresa Santos

Councillor Edward J. Silveira, Jr.

Councillor Robert J. Sylvia, Members Present

Councillor Barbara A. Barrow, Absent

POSTED – June 12, 2008

Wendy J.W. Marshall, Town Clerk

Town of Middletown

Town Hall – 350 East Main Road

Middletown, Rhode Island 02842

Dear Mrs. Marshall:

Pursuant to the provisions of Article II, Section 203 of the Town Charter and in accordance with Sections 42-46-2. and 42-46-6., RIGL, I hereby call a Special Meeting of the Town Council to formally

consider, discuss and act upon the following item of business:

Review of proposed budgets - FY 2008 – 2009

Said meeting will be held on Monday, June 16, 2008, at 6:00 P.M. at the Middletown Town Hall, 350 East Main Road, Middletown, Rhode Island 02842.

Paul M. Rodrigues, President

Middletown Town Council

CC:

Town Council

Town Administrator

Finance Director

Town Solicitor

Public Library

Senior Director

Human Resource Director

Police Chief

Fire Chief

Public Works Director

School Dept.

Town Planner

Parks/Recreation

Building Inspector

Town Engineer

IT Director

Tax Assessor

This meeting location is accessible to the handicapped. Individuals requiring interpreter services for the hearing-impaired should notify the Town Clerk's Office at 847-0009 not less than 48 hours before the meeting.

On motion of Councillor Santos, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to receive said communication.

Also present were Town Administrator Shawn Brown, Deputy Finance Director Lynne Dible, Senior Accountant Deb Barrett and Accountant Marc Tanguay.

Representing the Schools were Rosemarie Kraeger, Cathy McLeish, School Committee Vice Chair Liana Fenton, School Committee members Ned Draper, Theresa Spengler and Bill Coogan.

Town Administrator Shawn Brown reviewed the last meeting noting we were at 3.91% tax increase. The Council requested that we reduce the budget to 3% using the 60/40 split between the Town and the School.

The School would need to reduce their budget by \$186,000. and the Town would need to reduce the budget by \$124,000. The School has prepared a fiscal impact statement at this time. The Town has given the Council a schedule entered here:

Superintendent Rosemarie Kraeger reviewed the FY08-09 Budget Facts presented to the Council. Proposed eliminations include teachers, a bus, sports and after school activities and the consideration of eliminating Full Day Kindergarten. The school committee will be meeting next week regarding the proposed reductions.

School Committee Member Theresa Spengler stated the only elimination she would support is the school bus. Mrs. Spengler expressed concerns with all other propose eliminations.

Morris Hirsh, 42 Renfrew Avenue, stated that he is not in favor of reducing the school budget.

Carmela Geer, 10 Wood Road, requests the Council to accept the FY08-09 budget as proposed.

Karen Roarke, 26 Renfrew Avenue, addressed the Council stating she is not for giving the schools all the money, however, she hopes that there will be change from the top down. Ms. Roarke noted she is in support of the \$50.00 trash participation fee but not lowering the price of the bags.

Keith Holubesko, 102 Atlantic Drive, as a Middletown teacher and parent he supports the proposed budget. He is also concerned with safety and security in the schools.

Rebecca Fisher, 12 Dudley Avenue North, noted support of keeping the full day Kindergarten program.

Rebecca Homer, 165 Ellery Avenue, addressed the Council noted her concerns with cuts to the school budget. She expressed concern with the elimination of a school nurse.

Antone Viveiros, 110 Indian Hill Road, questioned the \$860,000. of school debt transferred over to the Town and what revenues that will be brought in by the school department. Also, requests the Council to hold off on a trash participation fee.

Ali Borges, 322 Vauclose Avenue, requests the Gaudet sports program to be kept in tact for the upcoming school year.

Anne Marie Hogan, 23 Ocean View Drive, not in support of cutting teachers from the frontline.

Ned Draper, School Committee member, reviewing the suggested reduction noted he would only support the elimination of a school bus.

Council President Rodrigues noted that Middletown does give a great education. The Council is trying to do what is best for Middletown has a whole.

On the motion Vice Chair Mello, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to adjourn this meeting at 7:15 P.M.

Wendy J.W. Marshall, CMC

Council Clerk