

April 27, 2009 - 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, April 27, 2009 at 6:00 P.M.

Council President Christopher T. Semonelli, Presiding

Vice Chairman Richard Cambra

Councillor Frank A. Bozyan

Councillor M. Theresa Santos

Councillor Edward J. Silveira, Jr.

Councillor Robert J. Sylvia

Councillor Barbara A. VonVillas, Members Present

POSTED – April 22, 2009

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., 42-46-4. 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 FY 2009-2010 proposed Department Budgets – CIP, Civic Appropriations and Town Hall Departments

Said meeting will be held on Monday, April 27, 2009, at 6:00 P.M. at the Middletown Town Hall, 350 East Main Road, Middletown, Rhode Island 02842.

Christopher T. Semonelli,

President

Middletown Town Council

CC:

Town Council

Public Library

Finance Director

Town Administrator

Town Solicitor

IT Director

Human Resource Manager

Town Planner

Tax Assessor

Public Works Director

Building Official

Police Chief

Fire Chief

Senior Director

Recreation Director

School Department

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 Vice Chairman Cambra, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to receive said communication.

Also present were Town Administrator Shawn Brown, Finance Director Lynne Dible, Deputy Finance Director Marc Tanguay and Accounting Manager Deborah Barrett.

Town Administrator Shawn Brown addressed the Council concerning the Town Civic Appropriations Budget noting that the two areas which funds are appropriated from are the General Fund for community services and the Parks and Recreation fund for youth recreation programs. This year the Boys & Girls Club and

Narragansett Council Boy Scout appropriations have been moved from the General Fund to the Parks & Recreation Fund. Mr. Brown reviewed the General Fund appropriations and Parks & Recreation Fund appropriations entered here:

Bruce Rutter, CEO, American Red Cross RI Chapter, addressed the Council requesting support and reviewing the following brief description of the history, purpose and activities of the organization entered here:

Tina Dolen, Executive Director, Aquidneck Island Planning Commission, requesting support and reviewing the following communication entered here:

Keith Tavares, Vice President, Financial Services, Child & Family Services, requesting an increase in funding this year explaining that the funds will be used to help support assistance for the elderly in home care and transportation of the participants.

Barbara Schiaroli, representing the James L. Maher Center, addressed the Council noting that the appropriation will be used for a fitness program.

Jennifer Barrera, Program Manager, Lucy's Hearth, noted that to date, the shelter has served in excess of 150 cases, providing shelter, food, clothing, job training, education, and life skill training. Ms. Barrera is requesting level funding for the organization.

William Nedderman, President, Middletown Historical Society, explained that he is hoping for full support of the Society's request noting that the funds will be used for ongoing maintenance of Paradise School, Witherbee School and the Boyds Windmill.

Paul Lamond, Chair, Middletown Tree Commission, addressed the Council noting in consideration of the current economy the Tree Commission has reduced their request for civic support by 25%. The funds will be used for Town-Wide Tree planting and maintenance. To date, the commission has planted in excess of 900 trees within the

community.

Frances Paranzino, Chief Officer, Newport County Mental Health, is requesting level funding. Mr. Paranzino noted that the organization provides comprehensive services to adults, children and the elderly. There are 450 residents from Middletown utilizing their services. The funding will assist with outpatient services and emergency services.

Denise Panichas, Director, Samaritans, noted appreciation for the Town's continued support of the organization. Ms. Panichas explained the organization provides free services for suicide prevention, counseling and other related services. Last year there were over 18,000 visits to the organizations website.

Jennifer Marrapese, Director of Fund Raising, Visiting Nurse Services, addressed the Council thanking them for past support and requesting level funding this year. Ms. Marrapese noted that the organization provides hospice care, home care, and nursing service. In Middletown, there are approximately 509 patients receiving services from the agency.

Veronica Hobbs, Director of FVOAP Services, Women's Resource Center, addressed the Council reviewing the following communication entered here:

Joanne Hoops, Executive Director, Boys & Girls Clubs of Newport County, noted that the organization is grateful for the support and reviewed the following project description entered here:

Denise Lussier, Grant Coordinator, Looking Upwards, addressed the Council explaining that this organization has been based in Middletown for over 30 years, services children and adults with development disabilities. Looking Upwards is requesting support for its Summer Camp.

Tina Vars, President, Middletown Youth Football & Cheerleading, addressed the Council noting that the organization provides a scholastic based football and cheerleading programs for Middletown

children ages 5 thru 15.

Jonathan Widmark, Narragansett Council Boy Scouts, addressed the Council requesting level funding however, noted that the organization would appreciate any support. Mr. Widmark also reviewed the following “Fast Facts about Scouting” entered here:

Capital Improvement Program

Town Administrator Shawn Brown reviewed the CIP “Projects & Funding Sources By Department” entered here:

Information Technology Director Matthew Wainwright, Town Clerk Wendy J.W. Marshall, Fire Chief Ronald Doire, and Public Works Director Thomas O’Loughlin were present to answer Council questions regarding department requests in the CIP Budget.

Town Departments

Planning Department

Town Planner Ronald Wolanski addressed the Council giving a brief overview of the Planning department responsibilities as follows:

Mr. Wolanski noted since having a GIS expert on board, there is a decrease in the GIS consulting line item.

IT Department

Information Technology Director Matthew Wainwright reviewed the department budget narrative entered here:

Mr. Wainwright noted that there is a reduction within his budget request this year primarily because there are no sizable software projects, the copiers are purchased and user training has been eliminated.

Tax Assessor Department

Tax Assessor William Shorey addressed the Council noting the department budget narrative is in tab 6 of the proposed budget. Mr. Shorey explained that the increase in the proposed budget is due to the Town reevaluation.

On motion of Vice Chairman Cambra, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to adjourn this meeting at 8:37P.M.

Wendy J.W. Marshall, CMC

Council Clerk

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