

May 9, 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 Saturday, May 9, 2009 at 9:00 A.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 30, 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 – Town Hall

Departments, Police, Fire, Public Works, Refuse & Recycling, Parks & Recreation (Beach) Sewer, Town Council/Boards & Services, Non-Department Specific and Debt Service.

Said meeting will be held on Saturday, May 9, 2009, at 9:00 A.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

Town Engineer

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.

Police Budget

Police Chief Anthony Pesare addressed the Council noting that the proposed budget request for operation expenses is level funded or reduced. There have been two programs eliminated.

Town Administrator Shawn Brown noted other savings within the proposed budget, including salary freezes. Mr. Brown noted that the old police station will not be maintained, it will be winterized and remain vacant. The present budget does not include car replacements. At a later date, the issue of two replacement cars will be brought to the Council.

Discussion centered around the new police facility, heating oil, salary freezes, custodian services, training, minimum manning, clothing allowances, vin inspections and police presence in the Oxbow area.

Fire Budget

Fire Chief Ronald Doire was present to answer any questions the Council had concerning the proposed Fire department budget.

Town Administrator Shawn Brown noted that the proposed Fire department budget is a conservative budget.

Discussion centered around department over time, the reduction within the budget of non-mandatory training, fire department roof needing repair, expansion of the department into the current police station (Wyatt road), possible relocation of the Building Official to the current police station(Wyatt road), fire calls increasing, increase in medical supply line item, false alarms and vehicle maintenance/repair.

Refuse & Recycling Budget

Refuse & Recycling Coordinator William Cronin and Public Works Director Tom O'Loughlin were present to answer any questions the

Council had relating to the proposed Refuse & Recycling budget.

Town Administrator Shawn Brown explained that the administration is recommending an increase of the bag rate and no increase to the permit fee. Mr. Cronin has been discussing the program with several condominium associations.

Mr. Cronin noted that currently there are 4,090 participants in the program as of May 1, 2009.

Discussion centered around bag costs, permit fees, if the program should be mandatory, approaching condominium associations to participate in the program and bulky waste days.

Public Works Budget

Public Works Director Tom O'Loughlin and Town Engineer Warren Hall were present to answer any questions the Council had relating to the proposed Public Works budget.

Public Works Director Tom O'Loughlin explained that the Deputy Director Position Director is frozen, at this time, which in turn is a savings within the budget. There has been substantial work taking place concerning Town stormwater and wastewater.

Discussion centered around Q-send system, GIS, West Main Road project, West Main 1R project, Green End Avenue and Valley Road intersection project, an increase in building maintenance, the installation of a handicap ramp at the DPW facility and sidewalks on West Main Road.

Sewer Budget

Public Works Director Tom O'Loughlin was present to answer any

question the Council had relating to the proposed Sewer budget.

Town Administrator Shawn Brown noted that the current rate will not be increasing, there is no I & I charge in next year's budget and no trucks are being purchased in the proposed budget. He also noted the annual fee for reading meters will increase. The DEM and NELC want immediate correction to overflows. The Town is researching the possibilities of an overflow storage tank.

Discussion centered around using a camera system to check improvements made to the current sewer system, the UV system which Newport is looking into purchasing, number of employees in public works, the average amount of water use per household, water meters, and fuel use for vehicles.

Town Engineer

Town Engineer Warren Hall was present to answer any questions the

Council had relating to the proposed budget.

The Council reviewed the following:

Finance Department

Finance Director Lynne Dible was present to answer any questions the Council had relating to the proposed budget. Ms. Dible reviewed the functions of the Finance Department including tax collection, sewer maintenance, investment management and human resources. The Finance Department is currently in the process of implementing a new software system.

Discussion centered around staffing and salaries, tax collection, sewer charges, and billing software system.

Town Administrator

Town Administrator Brown reviewed the budget for the Town Administrator Department noting the expenses in the department include his position and an administrative assistant. Mr. Brown noted a reduction in training expense and the dues for GHGRI has been moved into the Town Council budget.

Town Solicitor

Town Administrator Brown was present to answer any questions the Council had relating to the Town Solicitor Department.

Discussion centered around legal fees and the billing process of the Solicitor.

Town Council

Town Administrator Brown was present to answer any questions the Council had relating to the Town Council Department.

Discussion centered around professional membership fees and the recording of Council meetings.

Support Services

Town Administrator Brown was present to answer any questions the Council had relating to the Support Services Budget.

Mr. Brown explained that the Support Services budget covers the expense of running the Town Hall. This year the water main was replaced and fire alarm system was repaired, and the roof is in need

of repair.

Discussion centered around Town vehicles, custodial services, rental of Town facilities, furniture and utility expense.

Town Clerk

Town Clerk Wendy Marshall was present to answer any questions the Council had relating to the Town Clerk Department.

Discussion centered around the cost of historical records and contract services.

Canvassing

Town Clerk Wendy Marshall was present to answer any questions the Council had relating to the Canvassing Department.

The Council reviewed the following:

Probate Court

Town Clerk Wendy Marshall was present to answer any questions the Council had relating to Probate Court.

The Council reviewed the following:

Municipal Court

Town Clerk Wendy Marshall was present to answer any questions the Council had relating to the Canvassing Department.

Town Administrator Brown estimated the Municipal Court brings in \$150,000 to \$180,000 per year.

The Council reviewed the following:

Non-Department Specific

Town Administrator Brown reviewed the Non-Department Specific budget entered below:

Debt Service

Town Administrator Brown noted that the Town will not be issuing any new debt or lease purchase agreements in the new fiscal year.

On motion of Councillor Silveira, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to adjourn this meeting at 1:50 P.M.

Wendy J.W. Marshall, CMC

Council Clerk

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