

April 12, 2010 - 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 12, 2010 at 6:00 P.M.

Council President Christopher T. Semonelli, Presiding

Councillor Frank A. Bozyan

Councillor M. Theresa Santos

Councillor Barbara A. VonVillas, Members Present

Vice Chairman Richard Cambra, Absent

Councillor Edward J. Silveira, Jr.

Councillor Robert J. Sylvia

POSTED – April 6, 2010

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 2010-2011 Proposed Department Budgets – General Fund Revenues, Town Administrator, Police Department, Public Works Department, Fire Department, Town Solicitor, Probate Court and Municipal Court.

Said meeting will be held on Monday, April 12, 2010, 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

Police Chief

Human Resource Manager

Public Works Director

Fire

Chief

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 Bozyan, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to receive said communication and initiate review of FY 2010-2011 Proposed Department Budgets – General Fund Revenues, Town Administrator, Police Department, Public Works Department, Fire Department, Town Solicitor, Probate Court and Municipal Court.

Also present were Town Administrator Shawn Brown, Finance Director Lynne Dible, Deputy Finance Director Marc Tanguay and

Accounting Manager Deborah Barrett.

Police Department Budget

Town Administrator Shawn Brown explained that negotiations are in process with the Police Union concerning wages only. The union agreed to a salary freeze in the last budget with a wage reopener. The proposed budget requests approval for 34 officers, which is a low manning level. The department has applied for a grant to increase the manning by 4 officers.

Police Chief Anthony Pesare and Administrative Assistant Lisa Sisson were present to answer Council questions regarding the proposed Police budget.

Police Chief Pesare addressed the Council noting that the proposed budget is level funded. Chief Pesare explained that the estimation for electric and gas may need adjusting, due to the new police facility. The department uses forfeiture money for many purchases. Included

in the budget is training funds for the department, which maintains professionalism and reduces liability to the Town.

Discussion centered around retirement, energy and transportation, vehicles, animal/dog rules, regulations and ordinances, and if the proposed budget represents exceeding the cap.

Town Administrator Shawn Brown noted that the proposed budget exceeds the cap. If the cap is not exceeded, there will be an impact to the School Department and inactive pension.

Fire Budget

Town Administrator Shawn Brown commended Administrative Assistant Susan Lentz from the Fire Department for an excellent job handling the Town Ambulance Billing Program. Mr. Brown noted that full negotiations are in process with the Fire Union. The proposed Fire Department budget expenses are at a minimum. Included within the CIP are two rescue wagons, portable radios, a water rescue

vehicle and Fire Marshal vehicle.

Fire Chief Ronald Doire and Administrative Assistant Susan Lentz were present to answer Council questions regarding the proposed Fire Department budget.

Fire Chief Ronald Doire addressed the Council explaining that the proposed Fire Department budget maintains level funding, training and equipment which is critical to service of the department and a reduction in vehicle repairs.

Discussion centered around monies set aside for salary increases, reduction in vehicle maintenance and a decrease in fuel costs. Also, noted was that the proposed budget is 1% less than last year.

Public Works

Town Administrator Shawn Brown noted that the Public Works Union is in the third year of the contract. Last year, one employee was laid off and recalled to work April 2010. The department has purchased new equipment for Town maintenance including new mowers, larger trucks and an additional sweeper. To increase efficiency within the department, a program called View Works has been implemented which assists with work orders internally and resident requests.

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

Public Works Director Tom O'Loughlin addressed the Council noting most areas within the proposed budget are level funded. Mr. O'Loughlin explained the View Works Program recently implemented within the department.

Town Administrator Shawn Brown reviewed the Public Works CIP budget explaining the proposal includes removal of sidewalks

within the Oxbow area, a new truck (a portion of the monies would come from a grant), \$50,000. budgeted for small projects, Easton's Point area stormwater improvement projects and Council considering a bond issue be placed on the November 2010 ballot for Continental Village/Valley Road neighborhood project.

Town Administrator Budget

Town Administrator Shawn Brown explained that the proposed budget includes himself and Administrative Assistant. The proposal includes contractual obligations, a reduction in pension and reduction in travel/meetings.

General Fund Revenues

Finance Director Lynne Dible reviewed the following pages within the proposed budget entered here:

Mrs. Dible noted General Fund Revenues are level funded.

Discussion centered around the motor vehicle phase out, School funding formula, informing residents why Town taxes must be increased, tax increase to be considered for the Town as a whole and no new revenues within the proposed budget.

Town Solicitor Budget

Town Administrator Shawn Brown noted that within the Town Solicitor proposed budget is increase in the line item for legal services. All other line items have been reduced.

Probate Court and Municipal Court Budgets

Town Administrator Shawn Brown explained that within the Probate Court and Municipal Court budgets there is an increase in stipends, all other line items are decreased or level funded.

On motion of Councillor Bozyan, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to adjourn this meeting at 7:25 P.M.

Wendy J.W. Marshall, CMC

Council Clerk

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