

June 7, 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, June 7, 2010 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 – June 4, 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 items of business:

Review and discuss School Committee funding request.

- a. Tentatively approve appropriations to be made to school district.**

Review and discuss Library funding request.

- a. Tentatively approve appropriation to be made to the library.**

Report from Council Sub-committee, re: Civic Appropriations.

Review changes to spending and services that remain under consideration and matters related thereto – All Funds.

- a. General Fund**

- b. Parks & Recreation Fund**
- c. Refuse & Recycling Fund**
- d. Capital Improvement Program**
- e. Sewer Fund**
- f. School Unrestricted Funds**
- g. School Restricted Funds**

Memorandum of Town Administrator, re: Confirmation of Motor Vehicle exemption.

Said meeting will be held on Monday, June 7, 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

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.

Review and discuss School Committee funding request.

b. Tentatively approve appropriations to be made to school district.

Present, representing the School Department, were Superintendent Rosemarie Kraeger, Assistant Superintendent Linda Savastano,

Business Manager Raquel Pellerin, Facilities Director Ed Collins, School Committee Chair Michael Crowley, Vice Chair Theresa Spengler arriving at 6:25 pm, and School Committee Members Kellie DiPalma, Lianna Ferreira-Fenton, and William O'Connell.

Town Administrator Shawn Brown addressed the Council issuing handouts which addressed the School Department fund balance and tax rate increases. Mr. Brown noted his recommendation that the motor vehicle exemption remain at \$6,000.

School Committee Chair Michael Crowley addressed the Council reviewing the following handout explaining the restoration of direct services to children entered here:

Mr. Crowley reviewed all potential reductions entered here:

Business Manager Raquel Pellerin reviewed the School Department Unreserved and Undesignated Fund Balance entered here:

Councillor Sylvia suggests the School Department match Town funding.

Discussion centered around, fund balance, textbooks, athletics, education specifications, custodial staff, increases in other Town funds, restoration of direct services is critical, balancing the tax rate and Town image.

Facilities Director Ed Collins addressed the Council reviewing School Department custodial and maintenance staffs. Mr. Collins explained the staff schedule, responsibilities and facility usage.

Superintendent Rosemarie Kraeger explained that School Department and Town Administration will continue to collaborate.

School Committee Vice Chair Theresa Spengler noted her support for a 2.7% tax increase.

On motion of Councillor VonVillas, duly seconded, it was voted to allocate \$400,000. to the School department budget, Councillors Santos and Sylvia voted NO to said motion.

On motion of Vice Chairman Cambra, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to adjourn this meeting at 6:55 P.M.

Meeting was reopened at 7:00 pm, due to remaining items on the agenda.

Council President noted that item #3 will be addressed prior to item #2 on this agenda.

Review and discuss Library funding request.

b. Tentatively approve appropriation to be made to the library.

On motion of Councillor Bozyan, duly seconded, it was voted to appropriate an additional \$15,000. to the library; Council President Semonelli, Councillors Bozyan and VonVillas voted YES: Vice Chairman Cambra, Councillors Santos, Silveira and Sylvia voted NO to said motion; MOTION FAILED TO PASS.

On motion of Councillor Silveira, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to reconsider appropriating an additional \$15,000. to the library.

Councillor VonVillas noted that to restore an additional \$15,000. to the library could restore some library services.

Councillor Bozyan noted that the additional funds would be used to purchase new library books.

Councillor Santos noted her opposition for appropriating additional funding to the library.

On motion of Councillor VonVillas, duly seconded, it was voted to appropriate an additional \$15,000. to the library; Council President Semonelli, Councillors Bozyan and VonVillas voted YES: Vice Chairman Cambra, Councillors Santos, Silveira and Sylvia voted NO to said motion; MOTION FAILED TO PASS.

Report from Council Sub-committee, re: Civic Appropriations.

Councillor Bozyan explained that the subcommittee recommends

level funding approved in the last budget year, individually, no new requests are to be funded.

Councillor Santos noted that she was opposed to the approval of level funding approved in the last budget year and supports level funding of all current requests.

Review changes to spending and services that remain under consideration and matters related thereto – All Funds.

h. General Fund

i. Parks & Recreation Fund

j. Refuse & Recycling Fund

k. Capital Improvement Program

l. Sewer Fund

m. School Unrestricted Funds

n. School Restricted Funds

Town Administrator Shawn Brown explained that this item will be reviewed again at a later date.

On motion of Councillor Santos, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to defer this item to a later date.

Memorandum of Town Administrator, re: Confirmation of Motor Vehicle exemption.

Town Administrator Shawn Brown explained that this item can be deferred to a later date.

On motion of Councillor Sylvia, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to conclude special meeting at 7:19 P.M.

Wendy J.W. Marshall, CMC

Council Clerk

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