

April 26, 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 26, 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 – April 22, 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 – Tax Assessor, IT, Substance Abuse, Boards & Services, Town Clerk, Planning, Building Official, Finance, Support Services, Debt Service and Library.

Said meeting will be held on Monday, April 26, 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

Building Official

Substance Abuse

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.

On motion of Vice Chairman Cambra, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to initiate the review of FY 2010-2011 Proposed Department Budgets - Tax Assessor, IT, Substance Abuse, Boards & Services, Town Clerk, Planning, Building Official, Finance, Support Services, Debt Service and Library.

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

Library

Present representing the Library were Library Director Theresa Coish, Library Board Chairman Paul Lamond and Library Board Member Stephen Arendt. Mr. Arendt reviewed the following power point presentation entered here:

Library Director Theresa Coish noted that the library is submitting a budget of .41%.

Discussion centered around the growth of library circulation, developing new programs, continuing to provide current programs, labor negotiations and spending in the fourth quarter.

Planning

Town Planner Ronald Wolanski gave an overview of the Planning Department noting the three major areas of the department are economic development, land use planning and the GIS system.

Discussion centered around improvements to corporate park, securing grant funding to improve storm water issues, repair of Town buildings, the comprehensive plan, and the budget showing a ten percent reduction from last year.

IT Department

Town Administrator Shawn Brown reviewed the technology improvements made by the Town over the past year including integration of the GIS system, New World Financial software, and the movement toward the access of Town services available on line.

Information Technology Director Matthew Wainwright noted the

technology installation at the new Police Station, the use of more social media, and the ability to view Town Council meetings on line.

Discussion centered around the cost of internet connectivity, the use of Opal software in the Tax Assessor's office, the cost of consultants, copy machine and software expenses.

Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force

Town Administrator Shawn Brown noted the federal grant for the Substance Abuse Prevention Program will conclude in June with a small grant remaining from the State. Mr. Brown explained the Task Force recently submitted a grant application to the federal government for continued funding for the program.

Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force Coordinator Lori Verderosa reviewed the highlights from the past year entered here:

Discussion centered around the submitted grant application and consolidating the Task force with Newport.

Building Department

Building Official Jack Kane explained the budget for the Building Department is level funded; increases are in employee compensation and benefits. The department is showing an upward trend in building permits. Mr. Kane noted the implementation of a grease interceptor inspection program, the State is providing a new code book, and on-line permitting will begin next fiscal year.

Finance Department

Finance Director Lynne Dible noted the implementation of the New World Financial Software and the Uniform Chart of Accounts for both

the Town and School as highlights from 2010. The budget is level funded for FY2011.

Tax Assessor

Town Administrator Shawn Brown explained the budget for the Tax Assessor Office is level funded and to date a Tax Assessor has not been hired.

Councillor Syliva left the meeting at 7:55 pm.

Town Clerk

Town Administrator Shawn Brown noted the functions of the Clerk's Office.

Town Clerk Wendy J.W. Marshall noted the budget for the Town Clerk Department is level funded with the exception of advertising and an increase in employee compensation and benefits. The budget for the Canvassing Department is increased, due to upcoming elections. The budgets for Probate and Municipal Court are level funded with the exception of increase in Judge Stipends.

Councillor Silveira left the meeting at 7:58 pm.

Support Services

Town Administrator Shawn Brown noted that the budget proposal for this area includes maintaining and operating Town Hall.

Boards and Services

Finance Director Lynne Dible noted the Boards and Services are broken down by function and include the expenses for the operation of each board.

Debt Service

Town Administrator Shawn Brown explained the budget proposal includes no new debt, reviewing the following

On motion of Councillor Santos, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to adjourn this meeting at 8:05 P.M.

Wendy J.W. Marshall, CMC

Council Clerk

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