

**At a Special Meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Middletown,
RI held at the Middletown Town Hall on Monday, April 11, 2016 at 6:00
P.M.**

Vice President Robert Kempenaar, II, Presiding

Councillor Henry F. Lombardi, Jr.

Councillor Paul M. Rodrigues

Councillor M. Theresa Santos

Councillor Antone C. Viveiros

Councillor Barbara A. VonVillas, Members Present

Council President Robert J. Sylvia, Absent

POSTED – April 6, 2016

Wendy J.W. Marshall, Town Clerk

Town of Middletown

Town Hall – 350 East Main Road

Middletown, Rhode Island 02842

Dear Ms. 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., 42-46-5.,

and 42-46-6., RIGL, I hereby call a Special Meeting of the Town Council to formally consider, discuss and voted upon the following item of business:

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

- 1. Review with School Committee – School Budget, related grants, CIP submissions and matters related thereto**

Said meeting will be held on Monday, April 11, 2016, at 6:00 P.M. at the Middletown Town Hall, 350 East Main Road, Middletown, Rhode Island 02842.

Robert J. Sylvia, President

Middletown Town Council

CC:

Town Council

Public Library

Finance Director

Town Administrator

Town Solicitor

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.

Wendy J.W. Marshall, CMC

Town Clerk

On motion of Councillor Rodrigues, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to receive said communication.

Present also were Town Administrator Shawn Brown, Interim Finance Director Marc Tanguay, Town Solicitor Peter B. Regan and Deputy Town Clerk Karin Clancey (arrives at 6:21 pm).

Present, representing the School Department, were Superintendent Rosemarie Kraeger, Assistant Superintendent Linda Savastano, Business Manager Raquel Pellerin, Facilities Director Peter Anderson, Jr., School Committee Chair Theresa Spengler, Vice Chair Kellie Simone and members Liana Ferreira Fenton, Douglas Arnold, and William O'Connell.

1. Review with School Committee – School Budget, related grants, CIP submissions and matters related thereto

On motion of Councillor Rodrigues, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to begin review of the School Budget, related grants and CIP submissions.

School Committee Chair Theresa Spengler explained that the School Committee and Administration have been diligently working to submit

a budget fiscally responsible and fair to taxpayers. Ms. Spengler noted the schools are the Town's economic driver.

Superintendent of Schools Rosemarie Kraeger addressed the Council thanking them for the opportunity to present this budget. Ms. Kraeger presented a power point of the Proposed FY 2016/17 School Budget, which is on file in the Office of the Town Clerk.

Discussion centered around a balance for the tax rate to meet the needs of students and taxpayers, State funding formula; looking at comparable Towns and where those Towns cut, due to the funding formula, the common Towns are Barrington, Portsmouth, Bristol and East Greenwich, class size, staffing, curriculum written by the teachers and if the School Department receives a 4% increase in the budget that does include hiring a Librarian.

Facilities Director Peter Anderson, Jr., addressed the Council, reviewing School Department Facilities, entered here:

Discussion centered around furniture at Gaudet School, the school contract will impact taxes, the school bond will not impact taxes, wanting the schools to be safe for the students, no new school buildings will be built and a need for a sustainable plan to be developed for the School Department.

Ron Heroux, 51 Bay Ridge Drive, addressed the Council, requesting the Council to support the School Departments budget. Mr. Heroux noted that the School Department is not in compliance with the Basic Education Plan.

On motion of Councillor Rodrigues, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to adjourn said meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Wendy J.W. Marshall, CMC

Town Clerk

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