



TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY

Office of the Selectmen

MINUTES

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Monday, July 20, 2015 – 6:00 p.m.

Town Hall Conference Room

Present: Edward B. St. John, First Selectman
Elaine M. Strobel, Selectman
Ralph J. Barra, Selectman

Also Present: Larry Hutvagner, Chief Financial Officer
Barbara J. Whitaker, Recording Clerk
Marj Needham, Reporter – Bee Intelligencer
Linda Zukauskas, Reporter - Voices

Call to Order With Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order by the First Selectman with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes of July 6, 2015 Meeting

Selectman Strobel MOTIONED to approve the minutes of July 6, 2015 meeting, SECONDED by Selectman Barra. Unanimous approval.

Discussion and Consideration

Call of Town Meeting

Selectman Strobel MOTIONED to approve the Call of a Town Meeting (for a date to be determined) To appropriate to Account 01-76-00-9854 (for Fiscal Year 2014 -2015) \$95,433.97 for expenses incurred as a result of blizzard January 2015 DR 4213 CT in 2015, SECONDED by Selectman Barra. Unanimous approval.

Selectman Barra said that he received emails from members of the Board of Finance asking him to vote no on this Call, and he asked for clarification on the Call of the Town Meeting.

The First Selectman explained that when the Town receives FEMA money, the auditors required that the Town creates a Town for the funds. This recommendation was made because in the past, the Town dragged their feet on setting up an accounts receivable account for FEMA money. The First Selectman explained that the Town is following the same format as they did in previous storm situations.

Selectman Barra asked what would happen if the Board were to say no to a Special Town Meeting. Larry Hutvagner, Chief Financial Officer explained FEMA will reimburse the Town at 75% of the \$95,433.97.

Selectman Barra stated that Michael McCormack, Chairman Board of Finance and Steve Ruccio a member of the Board of Finance requested that Selectman Barra vote no on the Call. Selectman Barra presented the First Selectman with copies of the emails.

The First Selectman stated that what was most bothersome to him was that Marjorie Needham, Editor of the Bee Intelligencer sent an email (which he held in his hand) to Michael McCormack at 6:15 a.m. this morning which started this whole campaign to vote no. First Selectman St. John told Ms. Needham that she should have first inquired at the Town, and she would have been given the proper explanation. The First Selectman said that this could have been handled without having any issues between the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance.

Ms. Needham said that she has been in New Haven following the trial of the Fire Chief and had no other time to send her inquiry to Mr. McCormack. She also said that her email should not have been forwarded onto others without her permission.

First Selectman St. John informed Ms. Needham that this is a reimbursement of expenses that the Town incurred and added that no one is trying to pull a fast one,

Draft Road Opening Ordinance

First Selectman St. John explained that Dan Norton, Director of Public Works has been working Attorney Robert Smith on the draft road opening permit. The First Selectman asked that the Board of Selectmen review the draft. Mr. Norton will be at the next meeting to answer any questions.

Public Comments

None.

Adjournment

First Selectman MOTIONED to ADJOURN, SECONDED by Selectman Strobel. Unanimous approval.

These minutes are submitted subject to approval this 21st day of July 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara J. Whitaker

Barbara J. Whitaker
Recording Clerk