

# **TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY**

*Board of Finance  
1212 Whittemore Road  
Middlebury, CT 06762*

## **Meeting Minutes Wednesday December 10, 2014 Shepardson Community Center Room 26**

Present: Michael McCormack, Chairman  
Stephen Ruccio, Board Member  
William Stowell, Board Member  
Dave Cappelletti, Board Member  
Michael Kenausis, Board Member  
Ken Heidkamp, Alternate  
Joseph Drauss, Alternate

Absent: Peter Trincherro, Board Member Alternate  
Vincent Cipriano, Board Member

Also Present: Edward B. St. John, First Selectman  
Larry Hutvagner, CFO  
Rachel Primus, Recording Clerk  
Ralph Barra, Selectman  
Elaine Strobel, Selectman

Michael McCormack opened the meeting at 7:00 P.M.

**VOTED:** Unanimously on a motion by Michael Kenausis and seconded by William Stowell to **APPOINT** Ken Heidkamp a regular voting member.

### **Approval of Minutes from prior Meeting**

**VOTED:** Unanimously on a motion by Stephen Ruccio and seconded by William Stowell to **APPROVE** the November 12, 2014 meeting minutes as presented.  
At this time Dave Cappelletti arrived.

### **Chief Financial Officers Report**

Larry Hutvagner reported that all revenue is on budget and he would have a better reading next month. Mr. Hutvagner also stated that no department is over budget on expenditures either. He noted the Police Department is still over on overtime and reserve officers, but this item is on the agenda to be discussed. Larry Hutvagner said there is a \$30,000 revenue item from the

assessor's revenue that will be added for the next month. At this time there was a discussion on the assessor's revenue.

### **Tax Collector's Report**

Include in packets, no discussion.

### **Budget Transfers**

None

### **Correspondence**

Michael McCormack stated he received a letter from Ed Edelson regarding the school resource officer at the middle school. He noted this position was originally created through a grant, and the job kept going even after the grant money ran out. He stated they eliminated the position because they didn't feel it was the best way to spend money. A resource office was added at Pomperaug through a grant, and this grant ran out as well. Mr. McCormack stated at that time he received a call from the First Selectman of Southbury, who estimated a cost of \$100,000 to keep this position. The cost for Middlebury would be \$30,000. Mike McCormack stated he had a discussion with the Middlebury Police Chief regarding paying the officer an extra 2 months when school is not in session. Mr. McCormack stated he feels the cost needs to be reduced based on the school year, not the calendar year. He estimated it costing Middlebury \$22,000. He noted they could include it in their budget, or have Region 15 put it in theirs, but he felt it would be easiest to have Region 15 include it in theirs. Ken Heidkamp asked if Southbury had rolling patrols like Middlebury. Mr. McCormack answered yes, and he feels this is a better way of handling the problem rather than having someone stationed at the school. He noted this way all the officers can be trained for the rolling patrol position. Mike Kenausis felt they should think more about whether the town or Region 15 controls the resource officer.

### **Chairman Comments**

Michael McCormack stated the problem in the town is that the cost of running government goes up every year, and he feels they have done a good job at taking excess spending out of the budget. He noted there was an article in the paper about Southbury investing in solar energy. He stated there are 2 roofs being redone in town; the Townhall and Shepardson School. He asked Danny to look into if solar panels on these roofs would make sense. Mr. McCormack noted other states have installed solar panels on capped landfills. He said these panels pay the cost of energy for the towns plus produce income for the town. Mr. McCormack said there are 2 things the town can look into; solar panels on the roofs and having a solar farm on the land. He said they need to look into this and ask the First Selectman if this would make sense, because the actual plan would need to be decided by him.

### **Public Comments**

None

### **Old Business**

#### **1. Review of Fire Truck Deposits from sales.**

Larry Hutvagner stated the town sold 2 fire vehicles and the money from the sale went into a reserve account for fire apparatus. He noted the budget for the fire department was cut \$15,000 with this sale in mind.

## New Business

### **1. Review of Police Department Budget.**

Michael McCormack stated he spoke with the Police Chief regarding increasing the size of the department with one person for the third shift. When Rich Wildman moved to acting chief, his supervisor position for 2nd shift was not filled. Chief Viadero stated they would be increasing supervision, not man power. Mr. McCormack stated the increase would cost around \$4,000 a month, net increase in budget around \$30-35,000. He noted this will put the Police Department over budget and asked that the First Selectman look into where cuts can be made in other departments. Edward St. John did not agree that he should have to look at other departments for cuts because the Police Department has an issue. He noted the Police Departments overtime has been a continuing problem since he became First Selectman. They are either over or under budget; it never seems to fall into place. He noted that there are many variable to the jobs and there are never good numbers to estimate from. Mr. St John felt they need to leave this issue up to the manager of the Police Department to get control of the numbers going forward. Mike McCormack noted they budgeted based on manpower, and he felt the budget could've worked but there was a change in manpower. He felt they needed to keep the integrity of the budget in place. He sated the board didn't want to get involved in micromanaging the departments. Mr. McCormack felt they needed a plan, and did not have to make a decision now because there is enough money to fund the department. Ken Heidkamp noted that since dispatch moved out of the town, they used to be able to act as eyes to watch the prisoners, but now the officers will occasionally receive overtime to watch them. He noted he asked for money for overtime in the budget and if it had been received there would not have been a problem. Mike McCormack stated the budget was decided based on the previous numbers. Police Chief Viadero noted when he started working, Rich Wildman's position as lieutenant has not been filled, which left him with one officer short. Michael McCormack noted that based on the union contract they do not need a supervisor on that shift. Chief Viadero noted they are using a reserve officer and they need someone there to direct the officers. He noted it impacts the shift.

Public Comment: Ned Love stated it is difficult to put a price on public safety. He feels the town needs a working Police Department and definitely needs cops on the road. He feels both the Chief and the Board are doing a great job.

**VOTED:** Unanimously on a motion by Dave Cappelletti and seconded by Ken Heidkamp to **ADJOURN** the meeting at 7:34 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rachel Primus  
Recording Clerk

Cc: Board of Selectmen  
Board of Finance and Alternates  
Larry Hutvagner, Chief Financial Officer  
John Calabrese, Town Treasurer  
Rachel Primus, Recording Clerk  
Email Notification for Website  
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