



TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY

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

**Meeting Minutes
Wednesday October 14, 2015
Shepardson Community Center Room 26
1172 Whittemore Road**

Present: Michael McCormack, Chairman
Dave Cappelletti, Board Member, arrived at 7:05PM
Stephen Ruccio, Board Member
Vincent Cipriano, Board Member
William Stowell, Board Member
Peter Trincherro, Alternate
Ken Heidkamp, Alternate

Absent: Michael Kenausis, Board Member

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

Michael McCormack opened the meeting at 7:02 P.M.

VOTED: Unanimously on a motion by Vincent Cipriano and seconded by William Stowell to make Ken Heidkamp and Peter Trincherro regular voting members.

Routine Matters

1. Approval of Minutes from prior Meeting

VOTED: Unanimously on a motion by Peter Trincherro and seconded by Stephen Ruccio to **APPROVE** the September 9, 2015 meeting minutes as presented.
William Stowell abstained.

2. Chief Financial Officers Report

Larry Hutvagner reported that no departments are over budget, but some are close. He stated that revenue is coming in, taxes are being paid timely and building permits are coming in as well. Mr. Hutvagner said there is bad news, the State of CT has cancelled the Pilot program which means the town will be out \$39,703. Vincent Cipriano asked if

Larry could report to the board the top departments from now on, so as to not have issues later in the year. Larry Hutvagner said that he would. He also reported that the Building Department has received about 50% of their permits and that there are a few larger new homes being constructed. He also said that scrap metal is down due to the lack of construction being done. He noted that the price of scrap metal prices coincide with the oil market. Mike McCormack said there should be about 75% of the budget remaining. Mr. Hutvagner said he would keep the board informed.

3. Tax Collectors Report

Included in packets.

4. Budget transfers

Larry Hutvagner stated there was a budget transfer for the Registrars of Voters. He noted there are not adequate funds in their budget because of the cost of the upcoming presidential election. Mike McCormack said he would like to keep the transfers within the specific departments and utilize available funds first. Edward St John said he would like to have the registrars explain the need for the transfers to the board. He noted he did not sign off on the submitted transfers yet. He also noted there was no one here at tonight's meeting from that department and they were asked to attend. Larry Hutvagner stated the training is already taking place because it was mandated by the State of CT. Mr. Hutvagner also stated the battery backup is required for the November elections. Mr. McCormack asked that a representative from the department be present at next month's meeting and suggested they transfer the money from another account within their department.

VOTED: Unanimously on a motion by David Cappelletti and seconded by Vincent Cipriano to **TRANSFER** \$3,200 from Printing/Ballots (01-17-02-6107) to Travel and Official Expenses (01-17-02-6102) and \$2,450 from Temp Salaries/Poll Workers (01-17-01-6003) to Machine/equipment maintenance (01-17-02-6138).

5. Correspondence

Mike McCormack wanted to note that he has received email FOI requests from Pat D'Angelas.

6. Chairman Comments

Michael McCormack said was upset with the registrars of voters not being present at tonight's meeting and the fact that they were unaware of these expenses in July when the budget was being prepared. Stephen Ruccio noted they did not know about the mandated training from the State at that time.

7. Public Comment

Greg Sears, Porter Ave, stated he was here tonight with residents from the area. He said they have been dealing with the flood plain issue for a few years now, which is defined by FEMA. He stated his home was purchased in 2006 and at the time they were told by the banks it was not in a flood plain. They received their first flood insurance letter in 2009 and were defined as a special hazard. This is a serious condition to impose after they bought their home. He noted their insurance today costs approximately \$2200 a year. He noted there are approximately 36 homes in the area. He stated his home does not get water. He said they have experienced a 100 year storm and had no water to their home. Mr. Sears said the residents cannot solve the problem on their own and need to have an expert to help. They ultimately will require some funding. He stated they are

here tonight to inform the board what is going on. The houses affected are on Porter Ave and Reagan Road. He stated there is a scheduled reval next year and are hoping the house assessments will go down. He said he appealed his taxes this year and they were decreased 10%. The tax revenues on the homes affected will have an effect on the town's bottom line. He noted they are unable to sell their homes because of this. He stated as a minimum they need the town to work with them on this issue. They believe an engineer is needed to help resolve the issue. He noted the flood maps used from 2006 and 2009 are the same maps. Edward St John noted this issue goes to a federal level. He noted in order to help these residents he asked Ralph Barra to help. He stated there is minimal mitigation work to alleviate the flood issue. Mr. St John noted there has never been flood damage in that area since the 1970's. He said that FEMA claims they do not have the funds to perform studies, so they used the maps from the 70's. Ben Champagne, 115 Porter Ave, stated he is trying to sell his house. When it was purchased in 2008 there was no flood insurance required. They are in the same situation. He noted that according to the maps they have a river that runs straight by the house. Joe Flanagan stated there were no permits pulled for the work that was done on the streams and there was grant money used to re-route them. Mike McCormack stated the town spent a lot of money to re-route the river and now the town gets no benefit from it. Mr. Champagne stated a new survey would show all the homes were taken out of the flood zone. Kathy Konnik, Porter Ave stated she is also trying to sell her home and is in the same situation. David Cappelletti suggested the best way to help is to send something to the senator or representatives to show how much money they are losing in taxes. He feels this will get their attention. Stephen Ruccio asked if the town participated financially how they would invest that money. Ben said it is a long term situation and the first step would be to hire an engineer that knows flood zone progress to perform a study. They would ask the town to apply for a grant to FEMA. Edward St John suggested that a member of the BOF become a liaison and work with Ralph Barra. Stephen Ruccio volunteered.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

First Selectman's Comments

None

VOTED: Unanimously on a motion by Vincent Cipriano and seconded by William Stowell to **ADJOURN** the meeting at 7:45 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

File