



## **TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY**

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

**Public Hearing Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday April 5, 2016  
Middlebury Firehouse  
65 Tucker Hill Road**

Present: William Stowell, Chairman  
Vincent Cipriano, Board Member  
Stephen Ruccio, Board Member  
Rita H Smith, Board Member  
Dawn Albizu-Calabrese, Board Member  
Ken Heidkamp, Alternate  
Peter Trincherro, Alternate

Absent:  
Ann Feinberg, Board Member

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

**Public Hearing for the Proposed Operating Budget and Federal Revenue Sharing  
Appropriations for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2017. Estimated Mil Rate 31.17**

William Stowell opened the Public Hearing at 6:30 P.M. He read the Public Hearing legal notice into the record. Mr. Stowell thanked the members of the BOF as well as the department heads in helping with the process of creating the proposed budget. He stated that the 4 biggest areas were the Police Department, Public Works, Administrative and Employee Benefits. He noted that Public Works had a large increase because they are taking on all the building repairs from the other departments. Mr. Stowell reviewed the broken down expenses of Administrative Costs, the Fire Department Expenditures, and the Police Department Expenditures. He noted that the Contingency costs decreased. He then reviewed the Capital Budget, Park and Recreation expenses, Elderly & Social Services, Library expenses, Public Works and Employee Benefits. William Stowell explained that the estimated cost for Region 15 is \$21,479,288.

**Public Comment:**

Michael McCormack said the board did a fine job on the budget. He feels the homeowners in town are taking the brunt of the tax cost. He said that this proposed budget calls for a 1 mil increase. He said the town needs to attract business's to give the homeowners some relief. He said he feels it is a good budget but the goals need to be better.

Marj Needham asked where the \$10,000 in rental income came from if no one is renting the library space. William Stowell said the current year has budgeted revenue of \$20,000 and there is no one renting. He explained that there is an offsetting expense of \$10,000 and if there is no income then there is no expense. He said there is interest in the space. The town had a company that was approved, but they backed out.

Tony Bruno, on behalf of the Fire Department, noted that the fuel & diesel account took a significant hit. Mr. Stowell stated they kept the number of gallons the same and estimated the fuel prices. Tony also questioned the proposed line item for computer technology. He stated the fire department has signed a contract already and are getting the software for approximately \$4,000 and he doesn't see a line item in the budget for this. Edward St John said he wasn't aware they had entered into a contract and noted that historically the town never participated in computer programs but he felt it was something they can talk about. He stated this is the first time they received a request for computer system assistance from the fire department.

Dean Yimoyines said he agreed with what Mr. McCormack and stated the board has a difficult task to keep the increase at a minimum. He said he doesn't have any suggestions, but attracting new business to town is a good idea. He said that it's a great town to live in and a good town to do business in. Mr. Stowell said it's a balancing act and they are always open to suggestions.

Polly Wilson asked why the town is spending money on telling Oxford what they can do with their land. Bill Stowell said they are spending the money to protect the town. He said it's not fair that Oxford gets money for the power plant and he feels Middlebury should also get a piece of the pie.

Bob Dawes asked if there was anything in the budget that could offset the Shepardson budget so that their kids could use it. Bill Stowell said they plan to do something, but there was not enough time for this budget. He said they want to set up a new policy on how to charge for the use of the building. Mr. Dawes asked if the BOF and BOS are happy with the rate set for the school budget. Mr. Stowell said they challenged them on the revenue side, but no one would speak to him about it. He said they are never happy with the rate, but there is nothing they can do. Mike McCormack said there is a 2.1% increase for the BOE and a 2.7% increase for the town. He said it appears the BOE did a better job with their budget and we shouldn't be throwing stones because theirs is more efficient. Bill said they are not throwing stones, but he is bothered that no one would talk to him about it.

The Public Hearing was closed at 7:05 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Rachel Primus, Recording Clerk

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