



TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY

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

Special Meeting Minutes Tuesday May 10, 2016 Town Hall Conference Room

Present: William Stowell, Chairman
Vincent Cipriano, Board Member
Stephen Ruccio, Board Member
Rita H Smith, Board Member
Dawn Albizu-Calabrese, Board Member – Arrived at 7:16 P.M.
Ken Heidkamp, Alternate
Peter Trincherro, Alternate
Anastasia Persico, Alternate

Absent: Ann Feinberg, Board Member

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

William Stowell opened the meeting at 7:03 P.M. with the pledge of allegiance.

Roll Call and Appointment of Alternates

Regular members were seated.

VOTED: Unanimously with a motion by Vincent Cipriano and seconded by Rita Smith to **APPOINT** Anastasia Persico as a regular voting member in the absence of Ann Feinberg and Ken Heidkamp in the absence of Dawn Calabrese.

Public Comment

Michael McCormack stated the budget needs to come in under 2% which would require \$75-\$80,000 in cuts. He noted that last year they increased the cost sharing and suggested they should increase it more this year and the town should eliminate the full funding of the HSA. He also suggested eliminating the salary for the treasurer.

New Business

1. Discussion and Action on FY 2016-2017 Budget

Bill Stowell stated after the last meeting they asked Ed St John to meet with the department heads to review the budget and see where they could make reductions. He wanted to thank every department head for eliminating money from their budgets. Mr. Stowell said that Ed and Larry went through the line items and have made suggestions. He handed out a copy of the suggested changes. Ed St John reviewed the changes. A reduction as made in postage; more things will be done electronically. There was also a reduction in the assessor's audit for personal property. He pointed out there was an increase in the fire department's heating oil and fuel account. Mr. St John said there will be a reduction in the medical insurance due to a retired employee. He continued on throughout the effected departments. Vincent Cipriano said he was surprised to see increases and thought they would have a more substantial cut then \$22,000. Mr. St John said this was their first run through. He noted the price of fuel is a roll of the dice, and the original number was \$1.50/gallon but he doesn't see that price continuing. Steve Ruccio said he was hoping for around a \$70,000 decrease. He noted the town is getting ready to sign a lease for the library and that snow and ice removal for public works should have a reserve of supplies now that winter is over. Vincent Cipriano asked that they get a better understanding from Danny for tomorrow night's meeting for the remaining supplies and the process of purchasing those supplies.

Anastasia Persico brought up the legal expense account and questioned why ours is higher compared to Southbury who has a higher number of citizens then Middlebury. Bill Stowell said the amount is not based on the number of people in the town; it has to do with the lawsuits and contracts. Larry Hutvagner said they have a fixed fee on the labor contract and they have some current litigation with labor grievances and arbitration primarily from the police department. Mike McCormack noted the legal cost is one of the biggest expenses in town. He questioned the registrar of voter's budget and noted they are at 4% less so far this year but are looking at an 8% increase. There was a discussion on the building department and park and recreation budget.

Bill Stowell handed out a memo from CCM and noted the State budget has not yet passed. Mr. Stowell asked if there would be any suggested changes on the revenue side. Edward St John felt that the ECS money will survive the State budget cuts. Mr. Stowell said there is a pending lease for the library which has been approved and the Board of Selectman will set a town meeting for a vote. There was a discussion on the start of the lease and the amount set in the budget. It was noted that MRSA was new this year but that most towns where not including it in their budgets because they don't feel they will receive the money. Bill Stowell said they will continue this discussion at tomorrow night's meeting and he asked that Larry provide them with a revenue projection sheet with all the changes that were discussed tonight. He noted that the Region budget has been approved at 2.58%.

2. Set Special Meeting for Wednesday May 18, 2016

VOTED: Unanimously on a motion by Dawn Calabrese and seconded by Anastasia Persico to **SET** a Special Meeting for Wednesday May 18, 2016 at 8:00 P.M. at Shepardson Community Center Room 26 to Set the Mill Rate.

Adjournment

VOTED: Unanimously with a motion by Steve Ruccio and seconded by Rita Smith to **ADJOURN** the meeting at 7:52 P.M.

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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