



TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY

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

Public Hearing Meeting Minutes Monday April 06, 2015 Firehouse 65 Tucker Hill Road

Present: Michael McCormack, Chairman
Dave Cappelletti, Board Member arrived at 6:58 PM
Vincent Cipriano, Board Member
William Stowell, Board Member
Stephen Ruccio, Board Member
Ken Heidkamp, Alternate
Joseph Drauss, Alternate

Absent: Peter Trincherro, Board Member Alternate
Michael Kenausis, Board Member

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

Public Hearing Presentation of the Proposed Operating Budget and Federal Revenue Sharing Appropriations for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2016

Michael McCormack opened the Public Hearing at 6:35 P.M.
Mr. McCormack stated that Vincent Cipriano will run through the budget and if the public had any questions during the review to please ask. He noted the budget dropped from what was originally voted on to a 2% increase. He stated there was revenue taken away from the previous year and there was a need to make up a \$200,000 revenue loss from WPCA.
Vincent Cipriano reviewed the proposed budgeted amount for Expenditures and noted the changes that were made.
Edward St. John asked about the Employee Benefits and noted that the amount the Selectman requested was actually less than what the BOF budgeted for.
The total budgeted amount for Fiscal Year 2016 is \$10,179,530. Larry Hutvagner noted this was the figure the board had voted on at the previous meeting on 3/11/15 to propose to the town for

tonight's public hearing. Michael McCormack stated the board can vote on an amount, and they can then reduce that amount, but could not increase it.

There was no Public Comment at this time.

Vincent Cipriano reviewed the proposed revenue general fund. He noted that \$213,600 was added to the Park & Recreation Self Sustaining Account. Michael McCormack stated the original budgeted amount of \$30,795,982 would be reduced by about \$50,000. Larry Hutvagner said the mill rate increase of 2.8% would be based on the old numbers that were originally voted on. Mr. McCormack stated the increase would be less than that percentage. He said the expense increase of \$200,000 was made up mainly from the Police Department, Park and Recreation, and then the smaller increases from other departments. Mr. McCormack felt they did a great job by not using any of the surplus from previous years for this year's budget.

Public Comment:

Fire Chief Anthony Bruno questioned the Fire Department Revenue line item of \$25,000 and asked where that money would be coming from. Michael McCormack noted they had a previous discussion and agreement that there would be a charge for dispatch at the last meeting. Mr. Bruno noted they had had a discussion, but there was no agreement made or contract regarding dispatch. Mr. McCormack said the board will work with this number and help to facilitate it. Mr. Cassina, ambulance treasurer, stated the board is under the impression that they work with a high revenue, but that is not the case. Mr. McCormack stated they are trying to assign the cost where it should be and that is with the volunteer fire department. He stated they have come up with a charge of \$30 per call. At this time a discussion ensued on the ambulance cost and amount of calls received. Stephen Ruccio asked that some of the cost be held responsible from the ambulance company, for the cost of dispatching specifically for the ambulance company to pay the fire department for the calls. Edward St. John noted at the last meeting they agreed to work out a new agreement with the Fire Department and that the \$25,000 was not part of that discussion. Michael McCormack stated it was a legitimate charge for the cost they pay to discharge services and the discussion they had was not if they were going to charge for these calls but the board would work with them on how they would charge. David Lenkowski, Fire Department volunteer and town resident, questioned Mr. McCormack on whether he was in charge of running the town and how he can decide to charge the fire department and if he had to answer to anybody. Michael McCormack stated he answers to the voters.

The Public Hearing was closed at 7:14 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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