



TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY

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

**Special Joint Meeting Minutes
Board of Selectman and Board of Finance
Thursday March 16, 2023 – 7:00 PM
Town Hall Conference Room**

Present Board of Selectman: Ed St John, First Selectman
Ralph Barra, Selectman
Elaine Strobel, Selectman

Present Board of Finance: Vincent Cipriano, Chairman
Rita H Smith, Board Member
John Jenusaitis, Board Member
Dawn Albizu-Calabrese, Board Member
John Moriarty, Alternate
Brendan Browne, Alternate

Absent: Natrajan Kuppuraj, Alternate
Stephen Ruccio, Board Member
Joseph Drauss, Board Member

Also Present: Rachel Primus, Recording Clerk

Public: Don Andrews
Kathleen Collette
Amy Heeley
Sonia Perugini

Vincent Cipriano called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. He noted that both boards had a quorum. He appointed Brendan Browne as a regular voting member.

New Business

- FY 2023-2024 Budget Discussion.

Vincent Cipriano asked the members if they had any questions. There were none.

- Vote on the FY 2023-2024 Budget to be presented at a Public Budget Hearing on April 4, 2023.
- First Selectman to request motion for the Board of Selectmen to vote on the FY 2023-2024 Budget in the amount of \$12,668,501.50 to be presented at a Public Budget Hearing on April 4, 2023

VOTED: Unanimously on a motion by Elaine Strobel and seconded by Ralph Barra to **PRESENT** the FY 2023-2024 Budget in the amount of \$12,668,501.50 at a Public Budget Hearing on April 4, 2023

- Board of Finance Chairman to request motion for the Board of Finance to vote on the FY 2023-2024 Budget in the amount of \$12,668,501.50 to be presented at a Public Budget Hearing on April 4, 2023

VOTED: Unanimously on a motion by Rita Smith and seconded by John Jenusaitis to **PRESENT** the FY 2023-2024 Budget in the amount of \$12,668,501.50 at a Public Budget Hearing on April 4, 2023

- Board of Finance Chairman to announce result of the two (2) votes.
- FY 2023-2024 proposed appropriations for Infrastructure/Capital/Reserves in the amount of \$1,284,000 to be presented to the public for a vote at the budget referendum to be held on May 3, 2023.

- Discussion

Ed St John noted that the Region 15 Budget will include Capital Projects. He said there could be four questions to vote on. He supports the upgrades they are proposing but feels they are six years to late. He feels it should've been done when money was cheaper to borrow. He said the work is long over due and will need to be done quickly. He said he is a firm believer in pay as you go, so you don't have to borrow money. Ed St John said the town's Capital request is the same as last year and all the big projects are behind them.

John Jenusaitis said Region 15 is looking to borrow \$10 million dollars or more. He said the Board of Education will be holding a budget workshop on Wednesday March 22nd at 6:30 PM and another on Wednesday March 29th at 6:30 PM.

- Vote on the FY 2023-2024 proposed appropriations for Infrastructure/Capital/Reserves in the amount of \$1,284,000 to be presented to the public for a vote at the budget referendum to be held on May 3, 2023.
- First Selectman to request motion for the Board of Selectman to vote on the FY 2023-2024 proposed appropriations for Infrastructure/Capital/Reserves in the amount of \$1,284,000 to be presented to the public for a vote at the budget referendum to be held on May 3, 2023.

VOTED: Unanimously on a motion by Elaine Strobel and seconded by Ralph Barra to **PRESENT** the FY 2023-2024 proposed appropriations for Infrastructure/Capital/Reserves in the amount of \$1,284,000 to the public for a vote at the budget referendum to be held on May 3, 2023.

- Board of Finance Chairman to request motion for the Board of Selectman to vote on the FY 2023-2024 proposed appropriations for Infrastructure/Capital/Reserves in the amount of \$1,284,000 to be presented to the public for a vote at the budget referendum to be held on May 3, 2023.

VOTED: Unanimously on a motion by Rita Smith and seconded by John Jenusaitis to **PRESENT** the FY 2023-2024 proposed appropriations for Infrastructure/Capital/Reserves in the amount of \$1,284,000 to the public for a vote at the budget referendum to be held on May 3, 2023.

Public Comment

Kathleen Collette asked what plan the town has to maintain the roads if the proposed distribution center goes through.

Ed St John said there is no plan until and if the project gets approved.

Amy Heeley said at the last meeting there was a discussion regarding the traffic through town when there is a back up on 84. She feels this is a hinderance for the town, and asked what plan the town has in correcting this.

Ed St John said that DOT will be preforming a traffic study throughout town. He noted that the town can not make changes to State roads. He said he knows there is currently a problem with the traffic. Amy Heeley asked how long the DOT traffic study would take. Ed St John said he was not sure and that DOT needs to determine what needs to be done and what areas in town need work. Amy Heeley asked how they would go about asking them to extend the study. Ed St John said he would have to ask them. He noted they are working on getting a side walk network installed. Don Andrews said if they are doing a study on Route 188 it would be beneficial to extend it to 84. A discussion ensued regarding school traffic in town.

Adjournment

VOTED: Unanimously on a motion by Rita Smith and seconded by John Jenusaitis to **ADJOURN** the meeting at 7:20 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rachel Primus, Recording Clerk

Cc: Board of Selectmen
Board of Finance and Alternates
Janine Bowler, Town Treasurer
Email Notification for Website
File