



TOWN OF MADISON
CONNECTICUT
06443-2563

Fillmore McPherson,
 First Selectman
 William Gladstone
 Al Goldberg
 Noreen Kokoruda
 Joseph MacDougald

MEETING DATE:

Wednesday, June 16, 2010

MEETING PLACE:

James Madison Room (Room A) - Town Campus

Special Board of Selectmen Meeting
Minutes

First Selectman McPherson called the Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen of Wednesday, June 16, 2010 to order at 2:06 p.m. Present were Selectmen McPherson, MacDougald, Goldberg, and Gladstone. Selectman Kokoruda was absent.

COMMENT: First Selectman McPherson commented he is presently in the middle of negotiating a new natural gas contract for fiscal years 2012 and 2013 for Town and school buildings which will save the Town \$60K per year.

COMMENT: First Selectman McPherson commented he felt the Town's budget referendum which failed two days ago was a good and responsible budget; however, the voters disagreed. We will take steps to move forward and come up with a better recommendation. We will aim for a zero or less than zero operational budget. The capital budget must be paid.

1. Discuss and take action on **setting interim mill rate** or advising the Board of Finance on mill rate, pending clarification from Town Attorney.

DISCUSSION: First Selectman McPherson stated this item will be taken up at a Board of Finance meeting.

2. Discuss and take action on calling a **Public Hearing on the revised preliminary Town Budget** as recommended by the Board of Finance on Tuesday, June 29, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the Auditorium of the Walter C. Polson Middle School in accordance with the Town Charter (1.0.5.E).

DISCUSSION: First Selectman McPherson stated this item will be taken up at a Board of Finance meeting.

3. Discuss and take action on **setting referendum date on the Town Budget** pending approval of dollar amounts from the Board of Finance.

DISCUSSION: First Selectman McPherson stated this item will be taken up at a Board of Finance meeting.

4. Discuss Town budget revision alternatives

Selectman MacDougald agrees with a zero or below zero growth in the operational budget. The Board of Finance should strongly consider removing the senior services director position from the budget; we need to communicate that to them.

Selectman Gladstone is concerned that cuts could be irresponsible; we will be compromising services to some of the neediest people in Town and compromising our fiscal discipline. Some of the near term cuts should focus on less mowing of Town lawns and cutting back on emptying trash receptacle bins downtown.

Selectman Goldberg stated the budget needs to be cut by a noticeable margin, it will be painful, and it will be visible to the public. He is reluctant to propose this, but the voters have spoken loudly and clearly.

First Selectman McPherson stated the proposed senior services director position should be eliminated, the addition of police officers should be postponed, cost of living increases for Town employees will be eliminated, there should be a flat growth for the library and VNA, and he supports long-term reserve funds.

Director of Town Services Alma Carroll mentioned that Town employees have always balanced the budget. It is completely unfair to balance the budget on 70 Town employees; 17 of which are paid below the level at which senior citizens receive tax rebates.

(Enters Selectman Kokoruda 2:20 p.m.)

First Selectman McPherson stated a reduction of \$300K would get the operational budget to zero or below.

Chairman of the Board of Finance Helen Burland suggested having a joint meeting of the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance.

Selectman Kokoruda commented the Town's hands are tied by what happens in Hartford; they (Hartford) have far too many unfunded mandates.

5. Adjournment

There being no objections, First Selectman McPherson adjourned the Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen at 2:44 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Judy Palmer
Recording Secretary