

CORRESPONDENCE

3-21-16

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#1

March 8, 2016

To the Town Manager and Selectmen of Middleboro,

I read with great dismay in the Middleboro Gazette that the Middleboro Veterans' Council under the guidance of Middleboro's Veterans Agent, Paul Provencher, has decided to replace the Memorial Day flags in the town's cemeteries on April 2nd.

Even more disturbing to me, in a newsletter handed out at a recent veterans' luncheon, Mr. Provencher stated that he wanted to have all of the flags in place by Patriots Day, as a "further way of honoring our veterans." Patriots Day is a local holiday commemorating the battles of Lexington and Concord. Memorial Day, or Decoration Day as it was originally called, is a national holiday to honor the men and women who died in all wars as well as those who are veterans and current members of the U.S military. His statement, in February, that young people will be too busy in May to assist with this solemn and dignified endeavor is his personal opinion. How can he know who will be available to help in May? To place these flags on our veterans' graves two months before Memorial Day is a travesty and shows a disrespect not only to the fallen but to their families and all veterans alike.

Memorial Day is a precious and meaningful holiday to those of us who have loved ones whose graves are decorated with these flags, symbols of the most sacred of principles we as Americans hold dear to our hearts. It is a source of honor and pride to see these beautiful symbols of American freedom waving in the wind to honor those who have served and sacrificed for our country. Arlington National Cemetery and the Massachusetts National Cemetery at Bourne would never consider such a thing. It is not difficult to get volunteers if people are made aware. I know many who would consider it an honor to help.

There is a possibility of bad weather, wind and rain, which could damage these flags long before Memorial Day even arrives.

Also, from past experience, I know that there is no oversight on the part of Mr. Provencher. Last year, on Facebook, someone volunteered to help and she was told that the flag replacement project had been completed. When my sister and I went to our family plot at Nemasket Hill the week before Memorial Day, we were horrified to find that the graves of many veterans did not have new, or even in some cases any, flags. Yet in the eyes of Mr. Provencher the flag replacement at Nemasket Hill had been completed. We put out more than one hundred flag ourselves!.

Mr. Provencher has used the services of the Boy Scouts and other youth groups to assist with flag replacement. He feels that "they need to be kept aware of the importance of veterans and what they did to keep our country free and independent". Indeed, they most certainly do. What better way than to honor veterans with these flags. However, Mr. Provencher never checks to see that these groups have done what they set

out to do. It is easy to see and replace flags that are raised above the ground in standards, but not all veterans have these and it is important and necessary to look as you go to see that no veteran is missed. It should be the duty of the Veterans' Agent to see that all are honored. If so many veterans were missed at Nemasket Hill, I can only guess that it happened at other cemeteries as well.

I come from a family who is exceedingly proud of its service members. Memorial Day is important to us, as it is to so many other families whose relatives have served their country. It is only right that they are remembered, as they should be, at Memorial Day with beautiful new American flags.

If the Veterans' Council and Mr. Provencher are allowed to proceed with this time frame, there must be a plan in place to ensure that the flags are in pristine condition for the Memorial Day celebration, considering that they will have been in place for two months.

Convenience over honor is a disgrace. The Middleboro Veterans' Council and Mr. Provencher should be ashamed of themselves. They should step up and do the right thing----in May.

Sincerely yours,
Joan Gladu Morton

#2

3-15-16

Board of Selectmen
Town of Middleboro
Att: Allin Frawley, Chairman

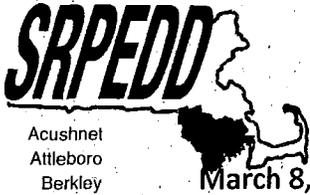
Dear Chairman Frawley,

I read in the Middleboro Gazette with great distaste that the flag replacement date has been moved to early April, specifically, April 2. What's even more disturbing are the reasons given for moving the date, as explained in the Veterans' newsletter.

First of all, Paul Provencher explains that, and I quote, "It will be great to have all the new flags in place prior to Patriots' Day as a further way of honoring our veterans". Are you serious? Replacing flags so early puts the emphasis on Patriots' Day, not Memorial Day and diminishes the significance of Memorial Day and what it stands for. Much of the focus and meaning of Memorial Day will have been forgotten by the time it arrives in late May. It will be just another three day holiday. Replacing flags is a time honored and solemn tradition not to be lessened by changing the date! Flags need to be replaced as close to Memorial Day as possible in order that people are mindful of the sacrifices made by our servicemen and servicewomen. This is a somber and humbling acknowledgment of HONOR. Changing the date does the exact opposite of what Paul Provencher and the Veterans Council are saying. It doesn't "further honor" our veterans, it dishonors them and shows a complete lack of respect. Replacing flags is a duty honoring those who serve, have served, and have made the ultimate sacrifice. It is about honoring the good men and women who put themselves in harm's way, who stepped up to defend the freedoms and liberties we enjoy today. This tradition should not be something that is negotiable, to be changed at one's whim to accommodate one's own agenda or because someone thinks it is a nice idea. Period. Having said this, I am in no way disparaging the importance of Patriots' Day. Quite the contrary. Patriots' Day and what it represents is, in its own right, an important day. The courageous patriots' and early militias, after all, were responsible for our eventual break from the tyranny and crushing oppression of the English aristocracy. It was the beginning of our independence as a nation and that is hugely important. Let us not forget that, but please don't combine both holidays. They need to be kept separate.

Secondly, for Mr. Provencher to claim, and I quote again, "May is such a busy month with outdoor activities and SUCH?, that we don't get the chance to have as many young people involved in our flag replacement event" to me is such an offensive excuse. You want to teach young people what noble principles are at work surrounding Memorial Day? I say, Yes, and properly so. But please, tell me how changing a date for such an honorable tradition does that? What it teaches young people is that convenience

#3



SOUTHEASTERN REGIONAL PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
88 BROADWAY ♦ TAUNTON, MA 02780-2557

Acushnet
Attleboro
Berkley
Carver
Dartmouth
Dighton
Fairhaven
Fall River
Freetown
Lakeville
Mansfield
Marion
Mattapoisett
Middleborough
New Bedford
N. Attleborough
Norton
Plainville
Raynham
Rehoboth
Rochester
Seekonk
Somerset
Swansea
Taunton
Wareham
Westport

March 8, 2016

Mr. Robert Nunes
Middleborough Town Manager
20 Centre Street
Middleborough, MA 02346

RE: SRPEDD offers support for local initiatives

Dear Mr. Nunes, *Bob*

Your community may have used the Southeastern Regional Planning & Economic Development District (SRPEDD) assistance with Master Plans, Zoning changes, By-laws, GIS mapping of Priority Development and Priority Protection Areas, as well as Traffic Studies.

SRPEDD also offers assistance with numerous municipal services. For example:

- Reduce costs through group purchases.
- Increased services through shared use of part time personnel.
- Energy efficiency projects, i.e. LED street light conversions and self-funded infrastructure upgrades through an ESCO –(Energy Services Company) Streamline permitting and licensing with electronic permitting (e-permitting).
- Grant applications to fund new initiatives increasing services and/or reducing costs.
- See attached sheet for additional examples of municipal services.

We may be able to provide this assistance at no cost to your municipality by using the Commonwealth's DLTA (District Local Technical Assistance) funds or the Municipal Assistance already funded through your town's annual SRPEDD assessment. (See <http://srpedd.org/dlta> for more details.)

If you have potential municipal projects for which SRPEDD can provide assistance, please call or send me an email; rperry@srpedd.org

I am also available to meet with your Board of Selectmen to explain our services in more detail and discuss potential projects. Please let me know if attending a future Selectmen's meeting is feasible.

Sincerely,

Ross Perry
Director of Municipal Management, CPO

Cc SRPEDD Commissioner, Town Manager, Chair of Board of Selectmen

Municipal Partnerships

SRPEDD will help facilitate Inter Municipal Agreements

Goals:

- Recognize uniqueness of member communities
- Preserve community identity and maintain appropriate local control
- Enhance level of municipal services to local residents
- Increase city/town operating efficiencies
 - Lower existing costs; minimize future tax increases

Potential areas for Inter Municipal activities:

- Procurement
 - Consumables
 - Large/specialized capital equipment
- Public safety
 - Regional dispatch
 - Department collaborations between towns
- Sharing large capital equipment requirements
 - Specialized equipment with infrequent use
- NFIP Flood Insurance Rate Reduction
- Services
 - Veterans' Agent
 - Health services and inspections
 - Housing Authority
 - Animal Control and kennels
 - Conservation Agent and Planners
 - Sealer of Weights and Measures
 - Other part time positions
- E-Government; e-Permits, e-Burning Permits, Records Management Systems
- IT services, GIS, Webmaster, network server, and computer service and support
- ESCO (Energy Services Company Consultants, Power Aggregation, LED Street Lights)

Anything else that two or more communities feel should be done, but cannot do on their own.

Ross Perry
Director of Municipal Management, CPO
SRPEDD
88 Broadway
Taunton, MA 02780
508-824-1367 Ext 214

#4



REPORT OF THE PERMANENT CABLE COMMITTEE 2015

March 2015

The annual LIVE Rotary Cable Auction aired in Middleborough, Lakeville and Freetown the weekend of March 14 & 15. The Permanent Cable Committee continued working with the Town Manager and GMEG to create a new full-time position, Video Production Technician, for MCCAM.
18 meetings/events covered in the month of March.

April

MCCAM covered of the Annual Town Meeting using new portable switcher and 3 cameras. The A/V projector presentation input was replaced in the BOS meeting room (moved to wall instead of floor). Zachary Grundy was hired to fill the full-time Video Production Technician position (start date, May 14).
18 meetings and events covered by MCCAM including the annual Canoe Race and 2nd Annual Herring Run Festival with Cranberry Country Journal.

May

The PCC (Permanent Cable Committee) contracted with Phoenix Communications Inc. to extend the INET to the Housing Authority building (\$9,781.25) on Benton Street. A new iMac workstation was purchased for volunteers to use and for training purposes at MCCAM. The PCC contracted with LCN for Network Equipment Maintenance & Support in the amount of \$17,227 (20 month contract effective 10/1/14). This contract included a major platform upgrade and support for the VOIP system.
21 meetings and events covered in May including the Memorial Day events, Sheep Day, Library and COA events.

June

Board of Selectmen vote to renew 3 yr terms for Robert Silva, Steven Callahan and Nicholas Guarda.
Current Terms for Permanent Cable Committee Members are as follows:

Robert Silva	term ending June, 30, 2018
Steven Callahan	term ending June 30, 2018
Nicholas Guarda	term ending June 30, 2018
Robert Denise	term ending June 30, 2017
Maureen Candito	term ending June 30, 2017
Paul Lazarovich	term ending June 30, 2017
Adam Pelletier	term ending June 30, 2016
Mark Mobley	term ending June 30, 2016
Donna Bernabeo	term ending June 30, 2016

The PCC contracted with Intricate Consulting for the Go LIVE project installed at MHS to allow a LIVE signal output on the GOV channel from any location in the high school that has connection the INET (\$5,600).
13 meetings and events covered during the month of June. New volunteer/users : Ken Bartell, Joey Driscoll,

July

The PCC contracted with Watch24 to install a video monitoring security system with 8 cameras throughout the Town Hall

for the protection of MCCAM equipment and safety of MCCAM employees. (note: within 8 hours of starting the recording, a person was caught vandalizing the flowerpots on Thatcher's Row). The PCC purchased and installed a security gate in the basement hallway coming down the ramp outside the MCCAM office.

21 meetings and events covered in July including the 4th of July events and Parks & Rec shows and concerts on the town hall lawn. New volunteers/users: Brian Brides, Jacob Parsons, Donna Bernabeo, Jerrold Ellis

August

Karen Foye worked with the Health Department and Brewster Ambulance to assist them in creating a video on choking to be distributed by the Health Department. MCCAM participated in Krazy Days and had a contest that made people more aware of the MCCAM website. The Town received a check for \$2500 from Freetown for inter-municipal cable access agreement bi-annual payment (goes into the General Fund).

19 meetings and events covered during the month of August including The Summer Concert Series at the Town Hall.

September

MCCAM worked with school administrators to create a promotional video for Public School Technology Fair. Zack and Karen participated in training for Tigtrope upgrade (Tigtrope is the software used for programming and scheduling the Public and Government access channels as well as the on air bulletin board).

15 meetings and events covered in September including the Soule Harvest Festival.

October

The PCC voted to upgrade the new security system and also added 2 additional cameras. The PCC renewed the annual Alcatel Equipment & support contract from LCN (valid 11/14 thru 6/16) \$14,975.63. This contract is for support of the network switches on the Town owned INET.

18 events and meetings covered in October for MCCAM including multi-camera shoot for the Special Town Meeting, Oktoberfest with Cranberry Country Journal and COA harvest festival event.

November

MCCAM covered the Emergency Preparedness workshops for Town Employees and made it available with a link on demand.

19 meetings and events covered by volunteers in November including Veterans Day events, Hall of Fame awards and the annual Christmas Parade.

December

The PCC upgraded the auditorium video system at Nichols Middle School for Middleborough Education Television for a total cost of \$37,695. The PCC and Karen Foye and the Permanent Cable Committee developed a security camera policy which was adopted and added to the MCCAM Policies and Procedures.

17 meetings and events covered in December including Festival of Lights with Cranberry Country Journal, annual Tree lighting, LIVE nativity performance and other holiday events at the library and COA.

January 2016

MCCAM worked with the new Library Director, Friends of the Middleborough Library and the Library Trustees to create a promotional piece on the library and to introduce the new Director to the Town. MCCAM renewed our MassAccess membership for Karen and Zack. MassAccess is a group comprised of PEG Access Studios throughout Massachusetts.

20 meetings and events covered in January.

February

The Town received \$2500 check from the Town of Freetown for bi-annual payment of channel 95 cable access feed. Replaced Broadcast Pix server, extended warranty and updated software. Worked with Catherine Hassett to create the Food Handlers Course DVD for local establishment training.

22 meetings and events covered in the month of February.

Current active MCCAM volunteers

Jim Cosgrove

John Healey

Lynn Rocha

Lori Ashley

Nick Guarda

Donna Bernabeo

Jacob Parsons

Joey Driscoll

Paul Lazarovich

List of board/committee meetings covered weekly/monthly by MCCAM:

Board of Selectmen

Finance Committee

Police Building Committee

Planning Board

Historical Commission

Oliver Estate Advisory Committee

Middleborough Gas & Electric Commissioners

Tourism Committee

Commission on Disability

Conservation Commission

Zoning Board of Appeals

Community Preservation Committee

MCCAM also airs the School Committee meetings covered by MET.

#5



March 9, 2016

Board of Selectmen
Town of Middleborough
10 Nickerson Avenue
Middleborough, MA 02346

Re: Programming Change

Dear Chairman and Members of the Board:

In keeping with our ongoing efforts to provide regular updates, I am writing to inform you that effective April 12, 2016, Al Jazeera America has announced that it will cease operations and its programming on channels 107 and 254.

Please be advised customers are receiving notification, in advance via bill message, of this information.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 617.279.6017.

Sincerely,

Mary O'Keefe

Mary O'Keefe, Sr. Manager
Government & Regulatory Affairs

#6



TOWN OF MIDDLEBOROUGH
Town Clerk's Office

Bank Building, 20 Centre Street

Middleborough, Massachusetts 02346-2250

508-946-2415 phone

508-946-2308 fax

Allison J. Ferreira
Town Clerk

March 11, 2016

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Thomas F. McGuire

Chairman, Democratic Town Committee

210 Tispaquin Street

Middleborough, MA 02346

Dear Chairman McGuire:

Please be advised the Board of Registrars met on March 11, 2016 and accepted the resignation of Richard A. Roth who served on the Board of Registrars as a Democrat. Mr. Roth's term is not due to expire until 2019.

Pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 51, Section 15, in a town, Board of Registrar vacancies are filled by the Board of Selectmen from a list of three voters from that Town submitted by the Town Committee of the political party from which the position is to be filled. M.G.L. c. 51, Section 15 further states a list is to be submitted to the Board of Selectmen by the Town Committee of the political party from the members of which the position is to be filled, containing the names of three enrolled members of such party resident in the Town, selected by a majority vote at a duly called meeting at which a quorum is present, of such committee and every member of the board of registrars of voters shall serve until the expiration of his term and until his successor has qualified; provided, however if the chairman of the Town Committee has not submitted such list to the Board of Selectmen within forty-five (45) days after a notification to said chairman by certified mail, the Board of Selectmen shall make said appointment without reference to such a list.

It is important to note, a Registrar's party enrollment status is determined by reviewing their enrollment status two years prior to appointment. Any party enrollment status required for appointment must have been maintained continuously for two years pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 4, Section 12.

Therefore, we are requesting a list from the Democratic Town Committee be submitted to the Board of Selectmen within forty-five (45) days containing three names of enrolled members of said party. Kindly provide a copy of same to the Board of Registrars c/o Town Clerk's Office, 20 Centre Street, Middleborough, MA 02346.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

Allison J. Ferreira

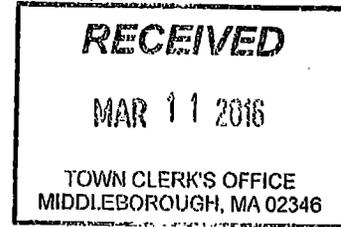
Allison J. Ferreira

Town Clerk/Board of Registrar

cc: Board of Selectmen

Richard A. Roth
319 Plymouth St.
Middleborough, MA 02346

March 10, 2016



To: Allison Ferreira,
Town Clerk
20 Center St.,
Middleborough, MA 02346

Dear Allison:

Please let this letter be my notification to you of my resignation from the Middleborough Board of Registrars effective immediately. While my tenure on the Board has been a most positive experience, I believe that it is time for me to shift gears and move on.

Working with you and the other members of the Board of Registrars has been a joy. Your leadership has been valued by me for its clarity and decisiveness, both qualities that has allowed the Board to tend to its business most effectively and to the benefit of the Town.

Should there be any task that your Office requires that I may be qualified to satisfy, please let me know and I will do what I can to help out.

Wishing you continued success helping to govern our wonderful Town, I am

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "R. Roth".

Richard A. Roth

cc: Thomas McGuire, Middleborough Town Democratic Committee

#7



PLYMOUTH COUNTY REGISTRY OF DEEDS

50 OBERY STREET, PLYMOUTH, MA 02360

(508) 830-9200

FAX (508) 830-9221

www.plymouthdeeds.org

JOHN R. BUCKLEY, JR., Esquire
REGISTER

TIMOTHY H. WHITE, Esquire
ASSISTANT REGISTER

MARILYN L. MARVILL
CHIEF EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

JOHN ZIGOURAS II
DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

TO: Plymouth County Boards of Selectmen, Councilors,
Mayor of Brockton, Community Preservation Committees

FROM: John R. Buckley, Jr., Plymouth County Register of Deeds

RE: Community Preservation Act Surcharge Funds Collected in 2013, 2014 &
2015

DATE: March 15, 2016

The Registry of Deeds is responsible for collecting the Community Preservation Act surcharges on documents filed at our offices. These surcharges in 2015 amounted to \$2,164,965.00 which is forwarded to the Commonwealth on a monthly basis.

I have attached a list of surcharge amounts collected in filings for property in each community for 2013, 2014 and 2015. The amounts collected in 2015 range from \$12,190.00 for Plympton to \$283,380.00 for Plymouth.

The line in the report that is identified as 'No Affiliated Town' is due to the document being filed without a city/town identified.

If you have any questions regarding this report, please do not hesitate to call me directly at 508-830-9298.



PLYMOUTH COUNTY REGISTRY OF DEEDS

50 OBERY STREET, PLYMOUTH, MA 02360

(508) 830-9200

FAX (508) 830-9221

www.plymouthdeeds.org

JOHN R. BUCKLEY, JR., Esquire
REGISTER

TIMOTHY H. WHITE, Esquire
ASSISTANT REGISTER

MARILYN L. MARVILL
CHIEF EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

JOHN ZIGOURAS II
DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

Community Preservation Surcharge Report By Community *2013, 2014, & 2015*

TOWN	2013	2014	2015
ABINGTON	\$66,810	\$48,110	\$58,460
BRIDGEWATER	\$87,960	\$68,510	\$79,330
BROCKTON	\$286,700	\$235,450	\$266,340
CARVER	\$48,050	\$34,390	\$43,150
DUXBURY	\$86,570	\$64,270	\$76,100
E. BRIDGEWATER	\$71,330	\$45,370	\$55,590
HALIFAX	\$31,710	\$27,870	\$28,550
HANOVER	\$66,390	\$49,970	\$57,580
HANSON	\$45,950	\$40,810	\$48,580
HINGHAM	\$132,000	\$97,550	\$106,820
HULL	\$56,280	\$41,780	\$50,260
KINGSTON	\$64,210	\$57,290	\$55,990
LAKEVILLE	\$48,040	\$37,250	\$44,660
MARION	\$27,330	\$22,840	\$23,040
MARSHFIELD	\$139,140	\$98,000	\$108,200
MATTAPOISETT	\$37,090	\$28,030	\$32,080
MIDDLEBORO	\$82,710	\$75,940	\$83,080
NO AFFILIATED TOWN	\$167,460	\$160,980	\$160,115
NORWELL	\$59,480	\$47,740	\$50,110
PEMBROKE	\$86,780	\$64,270	\$70,380
PLYMOUTH	\$303,170	\$253,190	\$283,380
PLYMPTON	\$14,220	\$10,110	\$12,190
ROCHESTER	\$26,650	\$21,750	\$26,090
ROCKLAND	\$70,310	\$53,510	\$61,970
SCITUATE	\$103,920	\$83,060	\$95,890
WAREHAM	\$109,950	\$94,110	\$106,760
W. BRIDGEWATER	\$32,220	\$25,600	\$27,930
WHITMAN	\$52,970	\$44,020	\$49,830
TOTALS	\$2,405,400	\$2,090,640	\$2,164,965