

Results of the Special Town Meeting

February 1, 2010

The Special Town Meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by the moderator, Joseph Kearns. Mr. Kearns led the assembled in the pledge of allegiance, then he read the warrant. There were 33 people in attendance.

Article 1. It was moved and seconded to see if the town will vote to accept the accessory dwelling unit bylaw (in-law apartment) presented and endorsed by the planning board, or take any other action relative thereto. Alan Vint, a member of the planning board, read the bylaw in its' entirety. Jay Waag-Swift then explained the bylaw, stating that the wish was to keep the family homes in Middlefield, and at the same time help those families who are elderly, or living alone. There was some discussion concerning the bylaw. It was also mentioned that this bylaw maybe should have been a subject for the Annual Town Meeting because it is such an important issue, and that it wasn't advertised very widely. The moderator then stated that this could be voted on at the Special Town Meeting and that it was not a town bylaw but a zoning bylaw. Following some more discussion, the vote was taken by count. Yes – 26; No – 5. The article passed.

Article 2. A motion was made and seconded to see if the town will vote to transfer \$5,600.00 from free cash to purchase doors for the firehouse, or take any other action relative thereto. Larry Pease, the fire chief, explained that the doors have been there since 1979, they are made of fiberglass, and they are beginning to come apart. Question was asked if they could be repaired? Answer no because the panels are riveted. Chief Pease said that he had quotes of \$5600.00 from a firm in Chicopee, another quote from a firm in New York of \$5114.00 and a third quote from Pittsfield overhead door co. of \$5030.00. Being no further discussion. The vote was taken and it was unanimous.

Article 3. A motion was made and seconded to see if the town will vote to transfer \$708.60 from free cash to fund a prior year invoice to the police department account, or take any other action relative thereto. The moderator said that because this was a last year bill that a 9/10 vote was needed. Being no discussion, the vote was taken and it was unanimous. The article passed.

Article 4. A motion was made and seconded to see if the town will vote to transfer \$3,000.00 from free cash to the police department salary compensation account or take any other action relative thereto. Chief Austin explained that because the salary was low, that the officers have been living off a grant of \$11000.00 that is used for training. Being no discussion the vote was taken and it unanimous. The article passed.

Article 5. A motion was made and seconded to see if the town will vote to transfer \$500.00 from free cash to fund the copier account or take any other action relative thereto. Not being much discussion, a vote was taken and the article passed. It was unanimous.

Article 6. A motion was made and seconded to see if the town will vote to transfer \$5000.00 from free cash to fund the Town Counsel account or take any other action relative thereto. Mary Courtney, selectman, explained that last year we voted \$7500.00 and that so far we have used \$6000.00, and that the selectmen have a December and January bill. When that is paid, there will be only about \$500.00 in the account. We still have some ongoing matters in town; property owners dispute with a claim against the town, and the Harry Pease road issue. (That issue has been resolved and now it is the property owners' issue. This after conclusive information.) It was also brought forth that maybe the town ought to investigate getting another attorney in place of Kopelman and Paige because some feel that they are rather expensive. Then it was stated that that firm charges only \$175.00 per hour. Another question was asked what procedure is followed when it comes time to call town counsel? No more discussion or questions. The vote by numbers was taken. Yes – 17; No – 11. The article passed.

Article 7. Under this article, Jay Waag-Swift said that he would donate his time to mount a bronze plaque with Skip Savery's help in honor of Jeremy Bouffard, a Middlefield resident who was killed in action in the Iraq War. Approximate cost of plaque would be about \$1500.00. Also it was asked if the town could use the web site and the outside sign more to get news out. Then a motion was made and seconded to dissolve the meeting. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting dissolved at 9:00 p.m.

Marjorie Batorski

Town Clerk