

Results of the Annual Town Meeting May 7, 2011

Article 2. Under this Article, to act upon the reports of the Selectboard, Treasurer, Tax Collector, Assessors, and other elected or appointed officers or committees of the Town. Some of the officers gave their reports from the floor, but most of the reports were in the Annual Town Report.

Article 3. A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to fix the salaries and compensation of all elected officers of the Town for FY 2012, as provided in Section 108 of Chapter 41 of the Massachusetts General Laws, as amended and raise and appropriate \$17,780 for salaries and compensation. Being no discussion, Article 3 passed.

Article 4. A motion was made and seconded to see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the salaries and compensation of appointed staff for FY 2012. It was noted that the Selectboard and Finance Committees recommend that the Treasurer salary be raised from \$7,000 as adopted in FY 2011 to \$9,000. Also, the Accountant salary be lowered from \$11,000 as adopted in FY 2011 to \$9,000. After further discussion, the vote was taken to raise and appropriate the sum of \$45,900. It was a majority vote and Article 4 passed.

Article 5. A motion was made and seconded to see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$99,000 for general government. After some discussion over the amount of \$46,800 for maintenance of Public Buildings, an amendment was made and seconded to lower that amount of \$46,800 to \$40,000. After more discussion, the vote on the amendment was taken. Those for the amendment were 22, those opposed — 26. The amendment failed. A vote on the original Article with sum of \$46,800 for Maintenance of Public Buildings was passed.

Article 6. A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money for the Expense Accounts. The sum of money being \$38,055. Some discussion. The vote was taken and Article 6 unanimously passed.

Article 7. A motion was made and seconded to see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money for the Highway Department. It was noted that Highway Department wages went from \$105,000 to \$110,000 as requested by the Highway Department and also recommended by the Selectboard and Finance Committee. Also, under the Snow Removal, the amount went from \$35,000 to \$45,000 as requested by the Highway Department and also recommended by the Selectboard and Finance committee. Under the Street Light account of \$500, a question was asked as to why Street Lights were necessary. After discussion, a motion was made and seconded to have all the

Street Lights in town be eliminated. More discussion followed and it was noted that at one time there were 29 Street Lights. The vote was taken on the amendment and the amendment failed. The vote was taken on the original Article and the sum of \$341,748 for the Article was passed.

Article 8. A motion was made and seconded to see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of money to the Library, Veterans and Cemetery Accounts. The sum of money recommended by the Selectboard and Finance Committee is \$10,100. Being no discussion, Article 8 passed unanimously

Article 9. A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of money for Protection of Persons and property accounts. The sum of money as requested and recommended by the Selectboard and Finance Committee is \$41,325. Being no discussion, the vote was taken and Article 9 passed unanimously

Article 10. A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of money for Health and Sanitation. The sum of money as requested and recommended by the Selectboard and Finance Committee is \$28,418. Be no discussion, the vote was taken and Article 10 passed unanimously

Article 11. A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of money for Debt and Interest. There was a question asked about how much money is in the Stabilization Account and how much Free Cash? Stabilization: \$131,443.27; Free Cash: \$106,826.00. Being no more discussion and questions, the vote was taken and Article 11 passed unanimously.

Article 12. A motion was made and seconded to see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate \$5,000 to establish a reserve Fund to provide for extraordinary or unforeseen expenditures, as provided by M.G.L. Chapter 40, section 6, as amended. The Selectboard and Finance Committee recommended the \$5,000. Being no discussion, Article 12 passed unanimously.

Article 13. A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of money for the Miscellaneous Accounts, the sum of money being \$3,447 as recommended by the Selectboard and finance Committee. There was a question raised about what the sum of \$750 for the Recreation Committee was used for; Answer: For prizes and supplies for the different events such as the Winter Carnival and the Easter Egg Hunt. Then another question arose: should the events that Town supplies the money for held on Town Property? "Yes". Then a motion was made and seconded to amend the \$750 for the Recreation Committee to \$1,000. A vote was taken on the amendment and it passed unanimously.

Another question asked of the Chairman of the Historical Commission and about the Museum. Jack Cobb, Chairman, spoke to the question and explained what the function of the Museum is.

Being no further questions or discussion, a vote was taken and the Article passed unanimously with the amendment of \$1,000 from \$750 for the Recreation Committee. Now the sum total for Article 13 is \$3,697.

Article 14. A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$341,755 for Middlefield's minimum contribution of the budget for the Gateway Regional School District. Joseph Kearns, Moderator, explained this Article saying that it is a bill from the state and it has to be paid. Being no further discussion, the vote was taken and Article 14 passed unanimously.

Article 15. A motion was made and seconded to see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,421 for Middlefield's share of the above minimum contribution to the budget for the Gateway School District. At this time, a motion was made and seconded to vote on Articles 15 & 16 by Secret Ballot. Yes: 19, No: 26. The motion for secret ballot failed. A vote was taken on Article 15 without the secret ballot issue, and Article 15 passed.

Article 16. A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$87,646 for Middlefield's share of the Non-Discretionary portion (Transportation and Debt Service) of the budget for the Gateway Regional School District for the period for the period July 1, 2011-2012. Dr. Hopson, Superintendent of Schools, explained that this has to be passed by all 7 towns in the District. Being no further discussion, Article 16 passed unanimously.

Article 17. A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$75,000 for vocational education. Joe Kearns, Moderator explained that this money is for tuition and transportation and that the sum of money is determined by the number of students from Middlefield go or will be going for Vocational Education. Being no further discussion, the vote was taken and Article 17 passed unanimously.

Article 18. Please see attached

Article 19. Please see attached

Article 20. Please see attached

A motion was made and seconded to amend Articles 18, 19, and 20. The vote was taken after Dr. Hopson explained the Articles. Articles 18, 19, and 20 passed unanimously.

Article 21. A motion was made and seconded to see if the town will vote to authorize revolving fund accounts for the receipt of inspection fees, pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 53E1/2, to be expended during FY 2012 without further appropriation for the purpose of administrative duties, capped at the amounts in the table below.

Board of Health Inspector	2,500
Electrical Inspector	2,500
Conservation Commission	2,500
Total:	7,500

These numbers were requested and the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee recommend them. There was a discussion concerning the fact that the Plumbing Inspector was not included in the list of Inspectors but the Moderator explained why. Being no further discussion, the vote was taken and Article 21 passed unanimously.

Article 22. A motion was made and seconded to see if the town will vote to authorize a revolving fund, under Massachusetts General Law Chapter 44, section 53E1/2, which may be spent on the Transfer Station without further appropriation during FY 2012. Collected Transfer Station fees may be used for the Transfer Station attendant's salary, for capital equipment, grounds improvement, or other related expenses to benefit the Transfer Station. The Selectboard may spend up to \$6,000 in revolving fund monies for the Transfer Station during FY 2012 and retain in this account all collected fees. Being no discussion, Article 22 passed unanimously.

Article 23. A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Refunded Dog Tax Fund the sum of \$161.73 to the Library Account. There was some discussion as to where the money came from; dog licenses? "No" It is money that is not used to cover any injuries incurred by dog bites or damages to farm animals and/or land. Also, the issue concerning DSL . The Librarian cleared up the issues. Article 23 passed unanimously.

Article 24. A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to transfer \$4,950 from overlay surplus to the revaluation account. There was some discussion over this Article but Article 24 passed unanimously.

Article 25. A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to transfer \$1,200 from overlay surplus to the Commercial/Open Permit Appraisals Account. There was some discussion, but then Article 25 passed unanimously.

Article 26. A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Assessors to appoint a member of the Board or some other person, if the Board desires, to serve as the assistant assessor at the

salary fixed and voted on by the town. There was a question raised about a Conflict of Interest possibly because one of the Assessors acts as an assistant assessor. It was then pointed out that when the Assessors hold a meeting, the assistant assessor acts in the role as an Assessor. Being no further discussion or more questions, the vote was taken and Article 26 was passed.

Article 27. A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$6,787 for the Planning board to engage professional planning services for the purpose of updating the Zoning Bylaw's Table of Uses. This Article raised a lot of discussion but a member of the Planning board explained about the whole process and another member also spoke to the issue. Being no further discussion, the vote was taken and Article 27 passed.

Article 28. Please see attached

Article 29. A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to add to the Zoning Bylaw's Table of Uses a Section 3.0451 Dining Club use permitted in the agricultural/Residential district by special permit with the definition: Dining Club- a facility, operating in a residence, open to the public, which provides meals no more than twice a week for no more than 28 customers per event, and outdoor activities for no more than 50 customers no more than four times per year. This article created a great deal of discussion. An amendment was made to have the "Dining Club" located only on a paved road. A vote was taken on the amendment and the amendment failed. A vote was then taken on the original Article and Article 29 passed unanimously.

Article 30. To the Planning board, Judy Artioli and Victor Artioli of 140 Skyline Trail, Middlefield, Ma would like to petition the Planning Board to add a Residential Kitchen by right in any district by Special permit. In addition, we would like to change the by-law referring to Restaurant-allowing such under Residential/Agricultural by special permit. A motion was made and seconded to amend the wording on Artioli Article 30 into Zoning Bylaw format(see attached) This amendment was ruled out of order by the Moderator due to no public hearing by the Planning Board. Article 30 failed.

Article 31. A motion was made and seconded to see if the town will vote to accept chapter 90 and all other grant funds from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, for the purposes of repair, construction, maintenance and preservation of the town's roads and bridges and other related costs. Being no discussion, Chapter31 passed unanimously.

Article 32 A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to take all necessary and appropriate action to establish and to maintain, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 164 of the General Laws and in accordance with the rules, regulations and orders of the Department of Public Utilities and the Department of Telecommunications and

Cable, a municipal lighting plant for all purposes allowable under the laws of the Commonwealth, including without limitation the operation of a telecommunications system and related services. This Article requires a 2/3 vote. A paper ballot was used and the results were: 44 for and 0 against. The Article passed unanimously. (This was the second time this Article was voted on. It needed to be read and voted twice. It passed the first time at a Special Town Meeting on January 31, 2011 by a 2/3's vote.

Article 33. A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000 for WiredWest COOP membership fee. Noreen Suriner, Chairman of the Board spoke to this saying that we had to pay our membership. Article 33 passed unanimously.

Article 34. A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to enact Chapter V of the town of Middlefield General Bylaws, entitles "stretch energy Code" for the purpose of regulating the design and construction of buildings for the effective use of energy, pursuant to Appendix 120 AA of the Massachusetts Building Code, 780 CMR, the "stretch Energy Code", including amendments or modification thereto, a copy of which is on file with the Town Clerk. Marcos Movaro, of the P.V.P.C. spoke to this issue. After more discussion, a vote was taken and article 34 passed by a majority vote.

Article 35. A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to accept the Franklin Regional Transit Authority as the official transportation agent for the Council on Aging. Susan Baker –Donnelly spoke to this, explaining it's use. A vote was taken and it unanimous.

Article 36. Under this Article, to transact any other business that may legally come before said meeting, Jay Waag-Swift spoke of maybe getting some window coverings for our new windows; Also, a motion was made and seconded to write a letter of thanks to Matt Radwich, former Town Highway employee, for all of dedication and hard work over the years. Also, a great big thanks to Skip Savery, for his very hard work and dedication to the Town. Noreen Suriner, the Chairman of the Board, recognized Joe Kearns, our Moderator, for receiving the Calvin and Grace award for exemplary public service. The meeting was dissolved at 5:55 P.M. It was unanimous.

Marjorie Batorski,
Town Clerk