

Results of Annual Town Meeting May 2, 2015

Article 1: Under this Article, Joe Kearns, Moderator, mentioned to the people that voting is taking place from 12:00 noon to 5:00 P.M. The Moderator also led the assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance. He then recognized Alan Vint, Selectboard Chairman, who in turn presented 25 roses to the retiring Town Clerk in recognition of her 25 years of service.

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. None of the officers stepped forward to report and none of the townspeople had any questions.

Article 3: It was moved and seconded to vote to fix the salaries in compensation of all the elected officers in the amount of \$20,000. Article 3 passed by unanimous vote.

Article 4: It was moved and seconded to authorize the Selectboard to appoint a town administrator for a term of one to three years and to remove such town administrator at its discretion and to appropriate a sum of money to pay the salary of such position annually, or take any other action relative thereto. After much discussion it was moved and seconded to amend the article to read "appropriate a sum of money". This amendment failed. A hand vote was taken: 26 were in favor, 14 opposed. Article 4 passed.

Article 5: It was moved and seconded to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the salaries and compensation of appointed staff for FY2016. The article was amended to take out the line item Administrative Assistant. The line item Town Administrator was reduced from \$35,000 to \$15,000. The Article as amended passed unanimously.

Article 6: It was moved and seconded to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of money for General Government. Article 6 passed for \$112,400 by unanimous vote.

Article 7: It was moved and seconded to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of money for the Expense Accounts. Article 7 passed for \$48,707 by unanimous vote.

Article 8: It was moved and seconded to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of money for the Highways. Article 8 passed for \$382,111 by unanimous vote.

Article 9: It was moved and seconded to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of money to the Library, Veterans and Cemetery Accounts. Article 9 passed for \$20,377 by unanimous vote.

Article 10: It was moved and seconded to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of money for Protection of Persons & Property Accounts. Article 10 passed for \$64,925 by unanimous vote.

Article 11: It was moved and seconded to see if the Town will vote to raise the sum of money for Health & Sanitation. Article 11 passed for \$30,303 by unanimous vote.

Article 12: It was moved 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. Article 12 passed for \$5,000 by unanimous vote.

Article 13: It was moved and seconded to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of money for the Miscellaneous Accounts. Article 13 passed for \$5,036 by unanimous vote.

Article 14: It was moved and seconded to see if the. Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$354,277 for Middlefield's minimum contribution of the budget for the Gateway Regional School District: A question was asked of the Superintendent Dr. Hopson, how many Middlefield children are at Gateway (34) and how many are not enrolled at Gateway (11). Article 14 passed by unanimous vote.

Article 15: It was moved and seconded to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$82,773 for the Middlefield's share of the above minimum contribution to the budget for the Gateway Regional School District. Article 15 passed by unanimous vote.

Article 16: It was moved and seconded to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$84,795 for Middlefield's share of the Non-Foundation portion (Transportation and Debt Service) of the budget for the Gateway Regional School District for the period July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016. Article 16 passed by unanimous vote.

Article 17: It was moved and seconded to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$60,000 for vocational education. Article 17 passed by unanimous vote.

Article 18: It was moved and seconded to see if the Town will vote to authorize revolving fund accounts for the receipt of inspection fees, pursuant to MGL Chapter 44, Section 53E1/2, to be expended during FY2016 without further appropriation for the purpose of administrative duties, capped at the amounts in the table below. Article 18 passed by unanimous vote.

Article 19: It was moved 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 FY2016. 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 \$7,500 in revolving fund monies for the Transfer Station during FY016 and retain in this account all collected fees. Article 19 passed by unanimous vote.

Article 20: It was moved and seconded to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of money for Debt & Interest. Article 20 passed by unanimous vote.

Article 21: It was moved and seconded to see if the Town will vote to take from Free Cash up to \$30,000 to purchase a new-used tanker truck for the Fire Department. Article 21 was amended by the Fire Chief to read "To see if the Town will vote to take from free cash up to \$30,000 for the purchase and related expenses for a tanker truck for the Fire department. Joe read the amended article amended by the Fire Chief. It was moved and seconded to have the town vote on the amended article. Article 21 as amended passed by unanimous vote.

Article 22: It was moved and seconded to see if the Town will vote to take from Free Cash the sum of \$15,000 for the transfer case in the Autocar truck or a gear ratio change of the drive axles. Article 22 passed by unanimous vote.

Article 23: It was moved and seconded to see if the Town will vote to take from Free Cash the sum of \$5,700 for a storage container for small equipment. Article 23 passed by unanimous vote.

Article 24: It was moved and seconded to see if the Town will vote to take from Free Cash the sum of \$7,000 for a plow for the new Ford 550 truck. Article 24 passed by unanimous vote.

Article 25: It was moved and seconded to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$4,000 to replace the existing foldable chairs and chair dollies in the Town Hall auditorium. Article 25 passed by unanimous vote.

Article 26: It was moved and seconded to see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Assessors to appoint a member of the Board to serve as the Assessors' Clerk at the salary fixed and voted on by the Town. Article 26 passed by unanimous vote.

Article 27: It was moved and seconded to see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to petition the General Court for the enactment of special legislation entitled "An Act Authorizing the Town of Middlefield to Continue the Employment of Police Chief Thomas Austin" as set forth below, provided however, that the General Court shall be authorized to make ministerial, clerical, and editorial changes of form only to said bill, unless the Select Board approves amendments to the bill before enactment by the General Court; and to authorize the Select Board to approve such amendments. See attached.

Article 28: It was moved 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. Article 28 passed by unanimous vote.

Article 29: It was moved and seconded to see if the Town will vote to accept Chapter 90 and all other Highway 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. Article 29 passed by unanimous vote.

Article 30: It was moved and seconded to see if the Town will vote to oppose the construction of the TGP (Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company, L.L.C) high pressure natural gas pipeline and/or

compressor station within the town borders of Middlefield, Massachusetts. Susan Purser read the amendment. A hand vote was taken: 25 were in favor; 9 opposed. Article 30 passed.

Article 31: It was moved and seconded to see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money for the Town's share of the costs of the construction, installation and start-up of a high-speed broadband network including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto, such project to be carried out by the Town's Municipal Light Plant; to determine whether this appropriation shall be raised by borrowing or otherwise. A motion was made to table this Article. We needed 2/3 in favor for Article 31 to go forward. The motion failed. Article 31, as presented, failed by unanimous vote.

Article 32: It was moved and seconded to dissolve the meeting at 4:30 pm. Article 32 passed by unanimous vote.

Marjorie Batorski, Town Clerk