

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Town of Middlefield 2004 Annual Town Meeting Warrant Hampshire, SS.

To either of the Constables of the Town of Middlefield in the County of Hampshire

Greetings:

IN THE NAME OF The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of said Town qualified to vote in elections and Town affairs, to meet in the Middlefield Town Hall in said Middlefield on Saturday the first day of May next, at 11:45 in the forenoon then and there to act on the following articles to wit:

ARTICLE 1. To choose on one ballot for the term of three years: A Moderator, a Town Clerk, a Tree Warden, a Planning Board Member and a Cemetery Commissioner, an assessor, two Finance Committee members, a Cemetery Commissioner, a Library Trustee, a Planning Board member, a Selectman, and a Zoning Board of Appeals member.

The polls will open at 12:00 noon and may be closed at 5 PM The business meeting will start at 1:30 P.M.

ARTICLE 2. To hear the report of the Selectmen, Treasurer, Tax Collector, Assessors and the School Committee and act thereon.

ARTICLE 3. To see if the Town will vote to fix the salaries and compensation of all elected officers of the Town for Fiscal 2004, as provided in Section 108 of Chapter 41 of the Massachusetts General Laws, as amended; or take any other action relative thereto:

| | | | |
|--------------------------|-------|---------------------------|-------|
| Moderator | 100 | Assessor 3 rd | 3,000 |
| Town Clerk | 3,000 | Selectman Chair | 1,500 |
| Treasurer | 5,000 | Selectman 1 st | 1,500 |
| Tax Collector | 5,000 | Selectman 2 nd | 1,500 |
| Assessor Chair | 3,000 | Constable 1 st | 90 |
| Assessor 2 nd | 3,000 | Constable 2 nd | 90 |

ARTICLE 4. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds now in the Treasury a sum of money for General Government; or take any other action relative thereto:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--------|
| 10011 Elected Town Officers | 26,780 |
| 10111 Town Counsel | 3,000 |
| 10122.01 Selectmen's Expenses | 800 |
| 10122.02 Selectmen's Secretary Salary | 3,500 |
| 10135.01 Town Accountant Expenses | 8,000 |
| 10141.01 Assistant Assessor | 3,500 |
| 10141.02 Assessors' Expenses | 4,500 |
| 10141.14 Assessors' Tax Map Update | 650 |
| 10141.14 Assessors' Revaluation | 3,500 |
| 10145.01 Treas./Collectors Expenses | 4,000 |
| 10162 Election & Registration | 1,000 |
| 10175 Planning Board | 10 |

ARTICLE 5. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds now in the Treasury a sum of money for the Highways; or take any other action relative thereto:

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------|
| 20420 Town Highway Maintenance | 80,000 |
| 20421 Holidays & Vacations | 8,000 |
| 20421.01 Machinery Expenses | 20,000 |
| 20422 Fuel | 10,000 |
| 20422.01 Unpaved Roads Material | 15,000 |
| 20423 Snow Removal | 50,000 |
| 20424 Street Lights | 500 |

ARTICLE 6. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from

available funds now in the Treasury a sum of money to the Library, Veterans and Cemetery Accounts; or take any other action relative thereto:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------|
| 30610 Library | 1,750 |
| 40543 Veterans Agent | 100 |
| 40543.04 War Memorials/Playground | 3,500 |
| 50491 Cemetery Expenses | 3,500 |

ARTICLE 7. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds now in the Treasury a sum of money for Protection of Persons & Property Accounts; or take any other action relative thereto:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-------|
| 60210 Police Chief's Salary | 1,000 |
| 60210.01 Police Dept. Expenses | 7,600 |
| 60220 Fire Chief/Forest Warden Salary | 425 |
| 60220.01 Fire Dept. Expenses | 4,500 |
| 60220.02 Fire Dept. Inspections | 300 |
| 60220.04 Fire Dept. Dispatch Service | 3,000 |
| 60220.08 Forest Fire | 10 |
| 60220.12 Civil Defense | 10 |
| 60241 Building Inspector | 7,631 |
| 60245 Electrical Inspector | 300 |
| 60245.02 Asst. Electrical Inspector | 100 |
| 60246 Plumbing Inspector | 300 |
| 60292 Dog Officer's Salary | 400 |
| 60292.01 Dog Expenses | 300 |
| 60294 Tree Warden | 100 |
| 60294.01 Insect Pest Control | 100 |

ARTICLE 8. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds now in the Treasury a sum of money for Health & Sanitation; or take any other action relative thereto:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--------|
| 70231 Ambulance | 1,200 |
| 70431 Disposal Area | 30,000 |
| 70431.04 Hilltown Resource Management | 1,931 |
| 70519 Bd of Health/ Insp Agent | 300 |
| 70519.02 Health & Sanitation | 10 |
| 70522 Lee Visiting Nurse | 1,000 |

ARTICLE 9. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from

available funds now in the Treasury a sum of money for Debt & Interest; or take any other action relative thereto:

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------|
| 80752 Interest Short-term Debt | 6,000 |
|--------------------------------|-------|

ARTICLE 10. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds now in the Treasury a sum of money for the Unclassified Accounts; or take any other action relative thereto:

| | |
|--|--------|
| 90192 Office Supplies | 3,000 |
| 90192.01 Insurances | 25,000 |
| 90192.02 Maintenance of Public Buildings | 30,000 |
| 90195 Printing | 750 |
| 90541 Council on Aging | 1,500 |
| 90630 Recreation Expenses | 1,000 |
| 90691 Historical Commission | 500 |
| 90911 County Retirement | 13,956 |
| 90912 Hampshire Council of Government | 2,729 |
| 90913 Unemployment Insurance | 2,000 |
| 90916 Soc Sec/Medicare/Town Share | 4,500 |
| 90919 Health Insurance | 20,000 |
| 90947 Pioneer Valley Planning | 85 |
| 95781 Reserve | 5,000 |

ARTICLE 11. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$349,009 for Middlefield's minimum contribution of the budget for the Gateway Regional School District; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 12. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$118,663 for Middlefield's share of the over-minimum contribution to the budget for the Gateway Regional School District or accept as an over-minimum contribution a sum which is less than \$118,663 as certified by the Gateway Regional School District; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 13. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds now in the treasury the sum of \$63,727 for Middlefield's share of the Transportation and Debt Service (non-foundation budget) and Construction for the Gateway Regional School District; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 14. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10 for vocational education.

ARTICLE 15. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Refunded Dog Tax Fund the sum of \$236.93 to the Library Account; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 16. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate sum of \$9,526 to pay for the note on the new police vehicle; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 17. To see if the Town will transfer \$50,000 from *free cash* to offset the tax rate; or take any other action thereto.

ARTICLE 18. To see if the Town will enact a temporary tax amnesty program during FY2004, in accordance with Chapter 4 Section 73 of the acts of 2003, in order to encourage the payment of certain delinquent tax obligations; or take any action thereto.

Section 1. Amnesty Period: The amnesty program shall begin on May 3, 2004 and end on June 28, 2004 at 7:30pm

Section 2. Program Scope: The amnesty program of the Town of Middlefield will include real estate taxes, personal property taxes prior to 2004. The taxpayer will still be responsible for the assessed tax, penalty fees and demand charges. 100% of interest will be waived. A taxpayer must satisfy all outstanding taxes under the amnesty program. The Town will only accept one single payment for all tax liabilities. Payments must be made in cash, certified check, or bank check and must be made before 7:30pm on June 28, 2004.

ARTICLE 19. To see if the Town will vote to authorize a revolving fund under Massachusetts General Law Chapter 44, Section 53E, half of which may be spent on the Transfer Station without further appropriation during FY2004. Collected Transfer Station fees may be used for the Transfer Station, for capital equipment, grounds improvement or other related expenses to benefit the Transfer Station. The Selectmen may spend up to \$5,000 in revolving fund monies for the program during FY2004; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 20. To see if the Town will vote to accept Franklin Regional Transit Authority as the official transportation agent for the Council on Aging; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 21. To see if the Town will vote to the changes in Town Bylaws, or take any action thereto.

Chapter II Section 8. Eliminate Tree Warden elected position and

incorporate it into the Superintendent of Streets appointed position.

Chapter IV Article II Section 2. Delete as written: The building Inspector shall also be the Board of Health agent for observing percolation tests and septic systems. Replace with: An appointed agent will be designated by the Board of Health to observe percolation tests and septic disposal systems.

Chapter IV Article II Section 3. Delete section 3: Season for percolation tests is April 1 (if frost is out of the ground) to June 15, and can be extended by the Board of Selectmen acting as the Board of Health.

Chapter IX Section 7. Add a new section 7 to Miscellaneous Provisions that would read as: No public or private utility and/or construction company shall work on any public way within the town without notifying the Police, Chief or his/her designee. All road details shall be assigned by the Police Chief or his/her designee.

ARTICLE 22 To transact any other business to come before said meeting.

And you are directed to serve this warrant by posting attested copies of same in the Middlefield Post Office, on the bulletin board at the Town Hall, a designated place in the Bancroft section of the Town and a designated place in Smith Hollow, at least seven days before time of holding said meeting.

Given under our hands at Middlefield the 21st day of April in the year two thousand four.

Thomas Rock, Chair
Selectman

Larry Pease, Selectman

Gary Wheeler, Selectman

I have this day posted copies of the above warrant.

Constable

Date