

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**Town of Middlefield
2008 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 third 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:

Selectman	Zoning Board of Appeals
Assessor	Finance Committee
Library Trustee	Cemetery Commissioner

For the term of two years:

Assessor	Planning Board
----------	----------------

For the term of one year:

Moderator	Town Clerk
Constable	School Committee

The polls will open at 12:00 noon and may be closed at 5pm The business meeting will start at 1:30pm

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 2008, as provided in Section 108 of Chapter 41 of the Massachusetts General Laws, as amended; or take any other action relative thereto:

Moderator	100	Selectman Chair	1,500
Town Clerk	4,000	Selectman 1 st	1,500
Assessor Chair	3,000	Selectman 2 nd	1,500
Assessor 2 nd	3,000	Constable 1 st	90
Assessor 3 rd	3,000	Constable 2 nd	90

ARTICLE 4. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the salaries and compensation of appointed staff for FY 2008

Treasurer	7,000
Tax Collector	10,000
Selectboard's Secretary	7,500
Town Accountant	11,000
Assistant Assessor	5,400

ARTICLE 5. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of money for General Government; or take any other action relative thereto:

Elected Town Officers	17,780
Town Counsel	5,000
Election & Registration	1,000
Maintenance of Public Buildings	55,000
Insurances and Bonds	40,000
Soc Sec/Medicare/Town Share	6,000

ARTICLE 6. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of money for the Expense Accounts; or take any other action relative thereto:

Selectboard/Printing	3,500
Assessors	5,500
Annual Interim Certification	1,800
Tax Map Update	4,500
CAMA Software Support	1,550
Treasurer	1,500
Tax collector	4,000
Tax Title & Legal Fees	5,000
Planning Board	500
Town Accountant	1,500
Town Clerk	800
Zoning Board	300
Software Support	1,500

Electric Inspections	500
Plumbing Inspection	100
Constable	150
Conservation Commission	1,300
Communication Commission	300
Board of Health	250

ARTICLE 7. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of money for the Highways; or take any other action relative thereto:

Highway Department Wages	105,000
Holidays & Vacations	9,000
Unemployment Insurance	2,000
Hampshire County Retirement	22,397
Health Insurance	40,000
Fuel	20,000
Snow Removal	35,000
Town Highway Maintenance	35,000
Unpaved Roads Material	15,000
Machinery Maintenance	30,000
Street Lights	500

ARTICLE 8. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of money to the Library, Veterans and Cemetery Accounts; or take any other action relative thereto:

Library Expenses	2,500
Veterans Agent Expenses	100
War Memorials/Playground	3,500
Cemetery Expenses	3,500

ARTICLE 9. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of money for Protection of Persons & Property Accounts; or take any other action relative thereto:

Police Chief's Salary	1,000
Officers' Compensation	1,400
Police Dept. Operating Expenses	7,700
Fire Chief/Forest Warden Salary	500
Fire Dept. Operating Expenses	4,500
Fire Dept. Inspections Salary	300
Fire Dept. Dispatch Service	6,180
Forest Fire	10

Civil Defense	10
Building Inspector Salary	14,145
Electrical Inspector Salary	300
Asst. Electrical Inspectors Salary	100
Plumbing Inspector Salary	300
Dog Officer's Salary	400
Dog Officer's Expenses	300
Insect Pest Control Expenses	100

ARTICLE 10. To see if the Town will vote to raise the sum of money for Health & Sanitation; or take any other action relative thereto:

Ambulance	1,200
Hilltown Resource Management	1,872
Disposal Area	30,000
Bd of Health/ Insp Agents	600
Health & Sanitation	10
Lee Visiting Nurse	1,050

ARTICLE 11. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of money for Debt & Interest; or take any other action relative thereto:

Interest on Short-term Debt	5,000
Police Cruiser Loan	8,061

ARTICLE 12. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of money for the Miscellaneous Accounts; or take any other action relative thereto:

Council on Aging	1,500
Historical Commission	500
Pioneer Valley Planning	85
Recreation Committee	1,000
Hampshire Council of Govt	682
Agricultural Commission	100
Reserve Fund	5,000

ARTICLE 13. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$337,402 for Middlefield's minimum contribution of the budget 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 a sum of \$145,763 for Middlefield's share of the over-minimum contribution to the budget for the Gateway Regional School District; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 15. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$70,070 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 16. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$65,000 for vocational education; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 17. To see if the Town approves the establishment of a stabilization fund pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L., c. 71, s 16G½ for the Gateway Regional School District; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 18. To see if the Town will vote to accept Chapter 90 funds; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 19. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to request special legislation as set forth below; provided, however, that the General Court may make clerical or editorial changes of form only to the bill, unless the Board of Selectmen approve amendments to bill before enactment by the General Court; and provided further that the Board of Selectmen is hereby authorized to approve amendments which shall be within the scope of the general public objectives of this petition; or take any other action relative thereto.

(The above-referenced Act will change the Board of Assessors from an elected to an appointed board, such board to be appointed by the Board of Selectmen for terms of one or more years. The new Board will be established as soon as appointments are made, at which time the elected Board of Assessors will be abolished, and the terms of the incumbent members thereof terminated..)

IMPORTANT: refer to the separate document "AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE BOARD OF ASSESSORS IN THE TOWN OF MIDDLEFIELD" for the full text of this article.

ARTICLE 20. To see if the Town will vote to petition the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same to enact a bylaw to enable a holder of an elected office in the town of Middlefield to be recalled therefrom by the registered voters of the town; or take any other action relative thereto.

IMPORTANT: refer to the separate document “AN ACT RELATIVE RECALL IN THE TOWN OF MIDDLEFIELD” for the full text of this article.

ARTICLE 21. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Refunded Dog Tax Fund the sum of \$307.93 to the Library Account; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 22. 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 23. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,650 to complete the interior appraisal of buildings in the Town of Middlefield; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 24. 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 FY2009. 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 FY2009; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 25. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the additional sum of \$5,000 to cap the old dump on Skyline Trail; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 26. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 for town’s fiscal audit; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 27. 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 so desires, to serve as the assistant assessor at the salary fixed and voted on by the Town; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 28. To see if the town will vote to borrow \$275,000 for up to 10 years to replace the roof on the Town Hall, replace the heating controls, install a heat recovery ventilation system, and fire alarm system; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 29. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$6,000 to develop an improved web site for the town; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 30. 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 22nd day of April in the year two thousand eight.

Larry Pease, Chair

Mary Courtney, Selectwoman

Robert Gazda, Selectman

I have this day posted copies of the above warrant.

Constable

Date