

MINUTES

MIDDLEFIELD FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

APRIL 1, 2013

PRESENT: Joe Kearns, Scott Artioli, Judy Hoag, and Ed Vivier. Janine Savoy sends her regrets.

The meeting opened at 7:14 pm.

The minutes of the previous meeting on March 18, 2013 were unanimously accepted as read.

The Finance Committee continued to go over the Annual Town Meeting Warrant. The Committee discussed the various recommendations made and decided whether they would support them or not.

The Finance Committee met with Susan Baker-Donnelly, Director of the Council on Aging and George Reichert, COA Coordinator for the Hilltown District, regarding the Council on Aging proposed budget. According to the latest statistics, the Town of Middlefield currently has 127 residents over 60 years old and should have 60 more people in the next five years. Because of an increasing need for trained people and increasing expectations by the state, the need for a paid staff will have to be considered. The budget for COA has been \$1,500 and the Director would like to see that raised by another \$1,500. Of that \$750 would be used to pay a part-time lunch person to facilitate the lunch program with an additional \$750 for a part-time person to be in charge of the various programs needed to serve the elderly in our town. The Middlefield COA currently averages 18 seniors at our winter lunch program in addition to the brown bag program and rides program. The COA budget has not been increased in many years and we continue to look for grants to help defray the costs. We are also looking for grants to help the Senior Center become an emergency shelter to be used by our residents, fire and police in time of need. Mr. Reichert also suggested that the COA have a four or five member board appointed by the Selectmen to oversee the COA operation.

The Library budget request will remain the same as in FY13. Susan Baker-Donnelly, Chairman of the Library Board, said that the Library has made great strides in the

past year especially with children's programs. The Library has an after school program with 10 of our elementary school children participating on Wednesdays. A project for the Middle School students will be starting soon according to Eleanor Doyle, Library Volunteer. She also said that there will be a summer program running two weeks in July and that the Library has a new book club meeting at night and Saturday mornings. According to Library Chairman Susan Baker-Donnelly "A paid librarian made a big difference. Maryann and Eleanor have done a terrific job". Susan Baker-Donnelly announced that she would resign from the Library Board as of April 15th.

After going over the Library and COA budgets, the Finance Committee continued to review the Annual Town Meeting Warrant. According to Chairman Joe Kearns the town now has \$214,000 in free cash.

The Annual Pre-Town Meeting will be held on April 29, 2013 at 7:00 pm. Our next Finance meeting will take place on April 8, 2013 at 7:00 pm.

The meeting closed at 9:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ed Vivier
Secretary