

## MINUTES

### MIDDLEFIELD FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

February 3, 2014

PRESENT: Joe Kearns, Scott Artioli, Judy Hoag, Janine Savoy and Ed Vivier

The meeting opened at 6:33 pm.

The minutes of the July 1, 2013 meeting were accepted as read with member Janine Savoy abstaining.

The minutes of the January 13, 2014 meeting were accepted as read with members Janine Savoy and Ed Vivier abstaining.

Chairman Joe Kearns explained the procedure that the Finance Committee could follow regarding the warrant for the upcoming annual town meeting in May. He explained the various columns on the warrant, the department requests from last year's warrant and that the column farthest on the right will be for our new finance recommendations.

Chairman Kearns updated the Finance Committee regarding the withdrawal of the Town of Worthington from our school district. He also explained that Senator Don Humason has put a temporary hold on the Senate bill regarding Worthington's withdrawal. This will only be a temporary postponement for a few weeks. Along these same lines Chester Mitchell, Commissioner of Education, will advise our Governor on the above action. According to Chairman Kearns, Worthington seems to be seeking three primary things:

1. Keeping the local school open.
2. Ensuring the quality of education.
3. Adjust the minimum contribution based on community wealth in a more equitable way.

Chairman Kearns noted that he will check on the upcoming Gateway School Budget.

Chairman Kearns passed around an excellent brochure put out by the Massachusetts Taxpayers Association.

Next week the Finance Committee will begin meeting with the various town departments. Police and EMS are currently scheduled for our next meeting, which will be on Monday, February 10, 2014 at 6:30 pm.

Member Janine Savoy and Chairman Kearns discussed reasons for the increased mowing fees for the town property. Also discussed was the Animal Inspectors salary.

They also agreed to revisit the numbers for the Town Clerk.

A discussion followed regarding the upcoming state elections.

Chairman Kearns said that there is no free cash number yet and that it would only be valid until June 30, 2014.

The meeting closed at 7:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ed Vivier  
Secretary