

MINUTES

MIDDLEFIELD FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

FEBRUARY 18, 2014

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

The meeting opened at 6:30 pm.

The minutes of the February 10, 2014 meeting were accepted unanimously as read.

Chairman Joe Kearns explained the goals for our meetings with the various department heads. Our meeting tonight will be with Howard Knickerbocker representing the Council On Aging. Mr. Knickerbocker explained that he would like to go over the priorities of the COA. Two important priorities will be to reach out to more of the elderly in town to get them involved in the COA and also to have more outside activities for the members. The COA could do mailings, possibly a newsletter and have the financing for printing included in the budget. He would also like to see an activities director appointed but the COA Board decided to put the appointment off until next year. Mr. Knickerbocker noted that he reviewed the state projections for seniors recently put out by UMass. By the year 2030, 55% of our people will be over 60 years old.

The COA funding request this year will be for \$1,500. This request is less than last year, explained Mr. Knickerbocker, because some of the expenses will be transferred to the building maintenance budget instead of the COA budget. He also mentioned that he would like to seek out more state grant funding.

George Reichert, head of the Southern Hilltown COA Consortium, of which Middlefield is a member, also spoke at the meeting. He noted that we have approximately 160 seniors in town with 25 seniors age 76 or older. One goal of the COA is to help seniors stay in their homes as long as possible. He also spoke about senior emergency medical services as well as the problems seniors face regarding transportation to doctors, errands, etc. He also explained that most of his salary now comes from the state. The individual small Hilltowns each get a \$4,000 grant from the state and pay \$900 as their portion of the Consortium membership.

Chairman Kearns also agreed that the COA should have a newsletter and he suggested various ways to proceed.

In other matters, the Finance Committee continued to go over the Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles and discussed each one before agreeing on a suggested dollar amount. Chairman Kearns also noted that the number for the free cash is currently down over last year because the Chapter 90 funds from the state have not come in yet. As of July 1, 2013 our free cash was \$51,565.

Our next meeting will be on Monday, February 24, 2013 at 7:30 pm, possibly with the Selectboard.

The meeting closed at 8:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ed Vivier
Secretary

