

MIDDLEFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Middlefield Town Hall

November 10, 2008

Present: Robert Gazda, Mary Courtney, Larry Pease

Others: Erica Johnson, Jay Swift, Kim Savery, Maureen Sullivan, Marge Batorski, Wally Smith, Skip Savery, Peter Oligney

- Meeting officially opened at 7:35 p.m.
- The Selectmen read, approved, and signed Nov. 03 meeting minutes
- Peter Oligney, Middlefield Grange representative, requested permission to clean the kitchen at the town hall, and permission to prepare free dinners for residents, once a month, during the winter months. Discussion ensued concerning use of town hall. A complaint has been acknowledged by a Middlefield resident questioning the use of the town hall, as applied to the use of heat and lights. The building has to be heated, even if it is not being used at the moment. The costs of lights are minimal. Mary Courtney, Maureen Sullivan, Kim Savery, have been contacted by the state ethics committee asking if the facilities are opened to the public; if approval is needed by someone in authority. Possible fees were discussed, Larry Pease is going to look into fees charged by neighboring towns, re: use of their town's facilities. Peter received permission to clean the kitchen and hold monthly dinners. Peter also reported that DSL is available to the Library & Police Dept, which is funded by WM Regional Library System. A problem occurred during installation, because the treasurer's, and assessor's computers are password protected. The library is concerned with Verizon's input sabotaging work already completed by the library's computer tech. Peter asked for patience, as he will work on getting the tech back as soon as possible to complete providing DSL to the entire town hall.
- Erica Johnson, PVPC, presented visual aid, see attached. Erica stated that the PVPC is going to the state to apply for the Community Development Block Grant funds. Erica is here to go over Middlefield's community's strategies. Mary Courtney asked for ways to qualify for Community Block Grants. Erica responded that projects favored by the state are re: Infrastructure, Housing-rehabilitation, and Social Services. The Senior Center is a project that could qualify. Jim Mazik, Director of PVPC, has sent an inspector to check out the COA roof. The inspector has looked at the roof, and agreed that the whole roof needs replacement. Erica states that this could be a feasible project for a grant from DHDC. Erica also stated that a municipal building does not qualify for program monies. The PVPC has mailed surveys to Middlefield's residents asking to show community needs. Erica will do research on suggestions raised and will return

on November 24, at the Selectmen's meeting with the results. A public forum will be scheduled Dec. 8, so that Erica can present a new set of the community's strategies to be perused by the selectmen, who will sign off and agree that these are our priorities.

- Jay Swift reported progress of roof construction. Jay received upcharges provided by current electrical subs, which were deemed inappropriate. Jay suggested that remaining electrical work needed, should be conducted in-house. There is money allocated for this which will be beneficial to the town. A few problems were reported, and will be worked on. On the whole, the roof committee is relatively happy. They feel that the roof will keep the town hall dry, and will stand up to warranty. Wall Construction's payment scheduled is attached.
- Mary Courtney had a conference call with Jack, Verizon's representative, and their attorney, re: settlement agreement, and also forwarded the joint contract between WMECO and Verizon re: the Chipman Rd. problem Friday, and have not heard from him.
- The Selectmen signed the Verizon's settlement agreement revisions- re: Confidentiality clause- sect 2.3, reports notwithstanding, neither party can come back and say that there was a settlement between the town and Verizon about equipment infrastructure and have that be a breach. Maureen Sullivan, Joe Kearns, and Kathy O'Brien will receive credit for loss of usage, after which no other credits will be issued. It does not waive the oversight for the Dept. This agreement will be sent to the office of Bob Werlin (Verizon's attorney), who will file it with the department.
- Requests made by Mr. & Mrs. Baker to the BOA, as well as response by the BOA to the Baker's are attached.
- Mary Courtney reported that she has made the 2nd request in a month to Marilyn Brown's office- DOR, and the DA's office re: ongoing investigations.
- Maureen Sullivan, Planning Board, requested funds needed to enable them to complete the project of rewriting the contents of the zoning by-laws, for the purchase of a lap-top computer. They have \$500 on hand, and need the funds to complete this purchase. Robert Gazda made a motion to grant \$300 to the Planning Board, Mary Courtney seconded the motion, All were in favor.
- Meeting was adjourned at 11:00 p.m.

Meeting minutes submitted by Suzanne C. Lemieux

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Larry Pease, Chairman Mary Courtney, Selectman Robert Gazda, Selectman