

MIDDLEFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING

Middlefield Town Hall

Middlefield, Ma.

December 15, 2008

Present: Mary Courtney, Larry Pease, Robert Gazda

Others: Wally Smith, Skip Savery, Joe Kearns, Gary Wheeler, Jane Thielen, Ray Letendre Sr., Ray Letendre Jr., Gita Jozsef Harris, Laurie Lafreniere

- Meeting officially begins at 7:30 p.m.
- Jane Thielen reported that she had sent in 5 bid notifications and has received 4 back. Berkshire Bank offered the lowest rate @ 2.9 for 30 days. Jane submitted paperwork to be signed to borrow \$100,000. for part payment to be applied to the roof construction cost. This paperwork needs to be notarized by the town clerk, whom is absent. Larry Pease will try to contact Marge Batorski tonight, so that Jane can meet her at the town hall before friday to have the paperwork finalized.
- Mary Courtney reported that she has spoken to Senator Downing's office twice, in reference to the recall petition. The petition has been held up in the Senate because of unrelated issues in a different town. Mary had a call back the next day, informing her that the petition has been endorsed in the Senate, and has been moved to the House where Rep. Guyer will hopefully shepherd it through the house process which will take 3 readings, and then will proceed to the governor's desk.
- Larry Pease announced that there will be a meeting at the Gateway School District to address the finance committee members of the towns. It will be held Feb. 5-09 @ 7:00p.m.
- \$400 has been requested to be transferred to create an account for travel and mileage expense account. Present balance for said appropriation is 0. The amount requested will be used for these specific purposes, at the discretion of the Board of Selectmen. Robert Gazda stated that the \$400 will cover the cost of transportation reimbursements for those positions or offices that don't already have one. It has been noted that the assessors do have a travel account.
- Larry Pease gave an update on the storm progress. Larry had done some cellar pumps, couldn't get through a few roads. Larry gave thanks to everyone who has helped clear the roads. Larry declared a state of emergency on Friday, Dec. 12,

2009. The town hall was open to the residents, to provide heat, water, and shelter. Larry was in contact with MEMA today to be put on the list for wood chippers and manpower to help with the massive clean-up. MEMA may be delivering bottled water to the town hall.

- Gita Jozsef Harris, and Laurie Lafreniere brought to the board information concerning the tax rate. Discussion ensued concerning a single, industrial, or residential tax rate, and also the process of how the tax rate is actually set. The Board of Assessors recommend going with the residential tax rate. Robert Gazda made a motion to go residential for the next fiscal year, 2009. Mary Courtney seconded the motion, all were in favor. Agreement was signed. The tax rate has been set at 15.59. A meeting will be scheduled in January with the Board of Assessors. The auditor has suggested that a meeting be scheduled monthly, or at least quarterly. Mary Courtney asked that the Board of Assessors come back with a list of discrepancies that they have found.
- Secretary was asked to contact Paul Tacy, Building Inspector, to arrange for a consultation with the Board at a regularly scheduled meeting.
- The public were advised that if they have any disciplinary concerns, that they should be put in writing, and submit them to the Board of Selectmen , so that the board will have the opportunity to investigate the situation, and meet with the person making the complaint, and so be able to come back and report.
- Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Meeting minutes submitted by Suzanne C. Lemieux

LARRY PEASE, CHAIRMAN

MARY COURTNEY, SELECTMAN

ROBERT GAZDA, SELECTMAN