

## MIDDLEFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING

Middlefield Town Hall

Middlefield, Ma.

January 26, 2009

Present: Mary Courtney, Larry Pease, Robert Gazda

Others: Marge Batorski, Maureen Sullivan, Wally Smith, Brian Janik, Laurie Lafreniere, Jay Swift, Terry Walker, Tom Ryan, Jane Thielen, Joe Kearns, Ed Vivier, Scott Artioli, Tamarin Laurel-Paine, Gita Jozsef Harris, Patricia Baker, Mary Ann Walsh

- Meeting officially opened at 7:35p.m.
- Selectmen read and approved the Jan. 12, 2009 meeting's minutes
- Patricia Baker clarified her position re: the town's use of turning their plows and sanders around in their driveway during storms. Patricia stated that they did not refuse the town's use of this turn-around, unless the town refuses to leave it in a safe condition. Patricia requested a retraction of the wording used in the town's minutes. Secretary will correct.
- Ed Vivier asked when our new fire alarm system was going to be tied in. Larry Pease will look into this and report back on the Feb. 2, 2009 meeting.
- Joe Kearns reported that the finance committee will deliver preliminary budgets from the departments by the Feb. 2 meeting, and have scheduled a meeting in two weeks, and will continually update the Selectmen on their progress. Robert Gazda suggested that the committees be notified that their budgets should be kept on the lower end to correspond with the state's budget cuts. Joe responded that all items will be looked at carefully and discussed thoroughly.
- Jane Thielen stated that she cannot receive e-mail on her town hall computer. Robert Gazda will take a look at the situation and try to help her. A goal of two weeks will be attempted.
- Jane Thielen has been working on balancing the checks, and has completed up to the fiscal of year of May-June 2008, and expects to be able to balance with Terry at the end of the next couple of weeks. Then they will be able to get the free cash certified by the end of Feb.
- Jane reported that she needs to renew the note that will be used for the remainder of the town roof construction bill, by March 31. \$35,000 is still owed. \$100,000 has been taken from the town stabilization account, \$100,000 has been borrowed. Jane also stated that a bill is owed to C&Bienick for \$23,000.

There was an account that contained \$25,000 that was set up to be used to do an evaluation of the work that needed to be done. Joe Kearns stated that we have only followed up on four of the issues so far and is hoping to keep the rest of the money in that account for additional evaluations of the building and so attribute the expense of C&B to the original expected cost of \$275,000. Joe also stated that a discussion needs to be made about how long we want to do the long term borrowing for. Mary Courtney made a motion to authorize Jane Thielen to borrow \$50,000, with the understanding that when the final numbers come in, we'll make some decision as to what part will be used towards the C&B invoice. Robert Gazda seconded the motion, all were in favor. Jane will have the paperwork ready to be signed in two weeks.

- Terry Walker reported that she has reviewed the account for the transfer station, and has found a balance is \$10,000 that needs to be used to do improvements. Joe Kearns suggested that \$20,000 is needed for those improvements at the transfer site. Discussion ensued on what the actual improvements are. Terry stated that there are \$22,000 in unclaimed checks. Joe suggested that Terry contact DOR to follow up on this. Terry stated that the account set up to pay the Selectmen's secretary is \$4,000 short. The other budgets are pretty much on target.
- Robert Gazda congratulated the Assessor's on the progress of their web page. Gita Jozsef Harris is hoping to complete it by the end of March. Chapter land applications & Abatement applications are coming in. If the appraisal measurements are disputed, they will need to go out to the properties and remeasure. Robert Gazda stated that he has received an e-mail from Marge Heinz, and asked Gita if Marge has met with the assessors before she contacted the Selectmen. Bob will notify Marge that he has forwarded to Gita copies of her concerns so that Gita may address them. Discussions ensued about current changes in classifications of chapter lands. Mayflower appraisements were discussed. A total of 271 house exteriors were measured.
- The finance committee has signed off on 2 requests by the Selectmen.
- Maureen Sullivan purchased a computer on behalf of the Planning Board. The total purchase amount was covered except for \$30 in tax. Maureen will put in for mileage in order to be remitted for the amount.
- Jay Swift presented an update on the roof construction. There has not been a final sign off. Leaking problems are due to vent pipes that have cracked, and will be dealt with by the building committee. The wiring is in progress, the plumbing controls are putting zone valves back to the boiler so that every room, including the bathroom, auditorium and the kitchen will have their own programmable thermostat. They are still discussing separating the bathrooms from the auditorium. A separated line is desired. The ceiling will be closed up as soon as they're done with all the control work. Jay would like to schedule an informal town meeting in approximately a month and a half to review the process of what they have accomplished, and discuss what needs to be done.
- Robert Gazda read an e-mail that he had received from Marge Heinz. See attached. Robert further stated that back on Nov 13, the town of Middlefield received a notice from the DEP See attached. Bob's purpose in contacting the

attorneys was to make sure that the state's lien ( DEP's lien) does not negate our lien that the town has on the property for back taxes. Kopelman and Paige have expended two hours of time researching this matter. Robert Gazda stated that anything that will be done on this matter will be done with full open knowledge of the town.

- Mary Courtney contacted Senator Downing's office about the status of the recall petition, and will follow that up tomorrow.
- Skip Savery & Larry Pease are going to be meeting with FEMA to discuss the ice storm on Monday at 9:00a.m.
- Secretary was asked to post notice of the meeting which will be held in accord with the Verizon Settlement , to be held February 23, 2009 @ 6:00p.m.
- Secretary was asked to draft a letter of thanks to the Middlefield Grange for the generous donation of cash towards the purchase of the Automated External Defibrillator, which is located in the town hall.
- Meeting adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

Meeting minutes submitted by Suzanne C. Lemieux

**LARRY PEASE, CHAIRMAN**

**MARY COURTNEY, SELECTMAN**

**ROBERT GAZDA, SELECTMAN**