

MINUTES
MIDDLEFIELD FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
APRIL 5, 2010

PRESENT: Joe Kearns, Tamarin Laurel Paine, Scott Artioli, Gita Jozsef and Ed Vivier

Chairman Kearns opened the meeting at 7:35 pm.

The minutes of the previous meetings on March 22, 2010 and March 29, 2010 were approved as read.[The prepared Town Meeting Warrant was distributed.]

Chairman Kearns noted that because we had one less vocational student, the school appropriation was changed from \$140,000 to \$120,000.

Chairman Kearns suggested that we remove article 29 from the warrant and adjust the figures in June, if needed, when the final numbers are in from the state.

The Finance Committee discussed making a recommendation to the Selectboard that the \$5,000 for the Admin. Asst. be eliminated. The Committee voted unanimously to make the recommendation. The Committee also agreed to remove the \$300 salary from the electrical inspector because it is covered elsewhere with the revolving fund.

The Committee spoke with Highway Superintendent Skip Savery on areas that he felt could be cut to better help the Middlefield budget. His recommendations were to cut the Highway Maintenance Budget \$5,000, the Machinery Maintenance Budget \$3,000 and the Fuel Budget, which had been previously cut \$2,000, for a total of \$10,000 in budget cuts.

The Finance Committee also spoke with Police Chief Tom Austin regarding his budget items. He explained that because of cuts to the grant programs there will be no grants coming to his department this year which is the reason for his increase in the Payroll Budget.

The Finance Committee discussed the Salary Budgets for the Tax Collector, Town Treasurer and Town Accountant. After much discussion the Committee unanimously agreed not to change the Tax Collector or the Town Treasurer Budgets but did unanimously agree to reduce the Town Accountant's Salary Budget from \$11,000 per year to \$9,000 per year. The budget for the previous Town Accountant in FY2007 was \$8,000 including approximately \$1,000 in software which the Town Accountant provided to the Town of Middlefield. [We also voted unanimously to not recommend the Special Projects Account. (\$2500).]

Article 25 and article 26 [the citizen petition] were both discussed thoroughly and the Committee voted four to one to keep the articles as written.

The pre-town meeting is currently scheduled for April 27, 2010, a Tuesday night. The following day the School Committee will meet at the Middlefield Town Hall.

The meeting adjourned at 10:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted, as amended.

Ed Vivier
Secretary