

MIDDLEFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING

Middlefield Town Hall

Middlefield, Ma.

February 17, 2009

Present: Mary Courtney, Larry Pease, Robert Gazda

Others: Terry Walker, Tom Ryan, Ray Letendre Sr., Ray Letendre Jr., Maureen Sullivan, Wally Smith.

- Meeting officially opened at 7:35 p.m.
- Terry Walker requested that the Selectmen approve an e-mail that she will send to Gerry Perry (Department of Revenue) See attached e-mail. Terry's request is to prevent the town from illegally spending. Robert Gazda made a motion to overspend the Ice Storm Dec. 2008 budget until MEMA reimburses the town. Larry Pease seconded the motion. All were in favor. Terry will send out the e-mail tomorrow.
- Richard Wade (Tax Collector) provided an update on the status of the Tax Collector's office. He is maintaining the day to day operations by mailing bills, collecting money, and turning money over in a timely manner. A remote deposit machine will be brought in by Bank North, with no fees, which will enable checks to be automatically deposited. A neutrality is being maintained in the office. Past due bills, including uncollected real estate bills by people whom have sold their property and moved on, are a priority. Richard requested that the amount budgeted in the tax title should be addressed. Costs exceeds demand. Some of these costs are being absorbed, by requesting that the assessors not move the overlay money. He has reduced the next budget. The collection agency prints out motor vehicles bills have waived their fee of \$500, because Richard has been turning over the bills in a timely manner. Problems with the software resulted in people not receiving their bills; and others who received erroneous bills. Richard is correcting this. Departments work well together. State programs are available to help the elderly: Chapter 17, for the surviving spouse, Chapter 41C , a \$500 exemption, for people over 70, who meet the criteria. A mail service is being used which saves on costs.
- Discussion ensued on the Exit audit for outgoing treasurer, and the yearly audit. Selectmen requested that these be moved along.
- The ground lease between the USPostal Service and the town of Middlefield, which is for a total of five years, has been signed by the Board of Selectmen.

See attached. Secretary was asked to send a letter of thanks to Senator Downing and Representative Guyer, for their assistance in this matter.

- Ray Letendre Sr., demanded a copy of the state ethics letter that the Selectmen are working on. Larry Pease read a letter from the Public Records Division regarding Mr. Letendre's appeal of the Selectmen's response to his request, stating that the Division will review the matter. See attached. Heated argument ensued. Larry Pease asked Ray to be respectful of the Board. Ray was asked to leave the meeting. Ray refused.
- Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Meeting minutes submitted by Suzanne C. Lemieux

Larry Pease, Chairman

Mary Courtney, Selectman

Robert Gazda, Selectman