

MIDDLEFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Middlefield Town Hall

February 8, 2010

Present: Robert Gazda, Mary Courtney, Larry Pease

Others: Wally Smith, Joe Kearns, Marge Batorski, Ed Vivier, Terry Walker, Jane Thielen, Sherry Venditti, Mike Jamula, Marin Laurel Paine,

- Meeting officially opened at 7:35 p.m.
- Terry Walker will arrange with the auditor " re: the FY09 audit " to meet with the BOS on either Feb.22, or March 1, 2010 BOS's meeting. She balanced with the tax collector as of the end of September, and the treasurer as of the end of December. Terry reported that the town has been reimbursed for \$37,000 for damages incurred by the 2008 ice storm. Skip will hopefully have completed the clean-up by June or the end of the summer.
- Jane Thielen "Treasurer" gave a brief follow-up. Her december receipts are up to date. She usually receives the bank receipts by the third saturday of the month which would allow her to get them to the accountant by the 20th. Jane requested that the tax title expense account not be cut, because a lot of people are in tax title. Funding is needed to pay the fees that will get the money into the town. Mary C. would like an update on where Jane is on this process before town meeting. In reference to the vote that was taken at the special town meeting " to borrow \$35,000" for a town vehicle, Jane suggested that the town take \$35,000 out of the Stabilization account. That will save the town from paying the 2% interest required. Joe Kearns "Finance Com" supports her position. The town will have to rescind the borrowing authorization and take it from some other source at a special town meeting. Joe will get DOR's wording and write an article out.
- Joe Kearns stated that the Finance Com. has met tonight and will meet next Tuesday. An outline has already been done for the warrant, He has received more material tonight to be integrated into that, and will have a working document at that time that will be presented at the BOS's meeting. The pilot money was cut in half for Middlefield, " that is a dollar on the tax rate". 10 other communities surrounding us had increases. Joe feels that it's a key stroke error. He will contact the DOR correct it if it is an error, if not then he'll move forward and discuss it with legislators. The School Legislative meeting has been postponed to Monday, March 15, 2010 @ 7:00 p.m. The BOS will work on scheduling a work meeting for either the 20th or 21st to review last years budget after they receive a final draft. Warrant Articles discussed. Mary C. reread "quote from Budget Proposals for FY 2011" that was presented at the previous meeting.

Joe will bring other town warrants in next tuesday to further discuss the issues. He will make a recommendation that the town not do the audit next year, because the town has completed an audit for 3 yrs. in a row. Mary C. added that it was the original recommendation, and with the work completed by the departments, "We are at a good starting point". The town would save \$10,000.

- Jan.25, 2010 meeting minutes were read, approved and signed.
- Larry Pease recused himself and left the room. Michael Jamula submitted a written request for all verbal and written public records re. Harry Pease Rd. which Mary C. read. Secretary will draft acknowledgement letter. The BOS shall gather this info. He submitted letters from his attorney, from James Avery Smith, PLS., and site plans, and assessors maps. Material shall be filed. The BOS will look at this info. Mary C. stated that it appears that it will come down to the private property owners, whether or not they take this to a judge or resolve it among themselves. Discussion ensued.
- Letter was cc'd to the BOS re: BOA have asked for a full and public retraction from Turley Publications for unsubstantiated attacks on Middlefield assessors
- Benjamin Downing "State Senator" has sent an info. brochure re: "Tax Tips for Seniors and Retirees" Secretary will send to Susan Baker Donnelly.
- Discussion on condition of new town truck
- Larry Pease read letter submitted by Mary Courtney announcing that she will not run for Selectman this year.
- Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Meeting minutes were submitted by Suzanne C. Lemieux

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