

**Selectmen's Meeting**  
**April 26, 2016**  
**7:00 p.m.**  
**Fuller Meadow School**  
**Nathan Media Room**

**Call to Order** – Chairperson Lindberg called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. Also present were Mr. Cresta, Mr. Prentakis, Town Administrator Mr. Sheehan and Assistant Town Administrator Mr. Ferrara.

**Warrant** – The Payroll Warrant totaled \$587,152. The Payables Warrant totaled \$1,088,424 and included \$431,231 for Purchase of Power, \$16,000 for road salt and \$52,500 for a new Ford F250 for DPW.

***Mr. Cresta made a motion to approve the warrants. Mr. Prentakis seconded the motion and all were in favor.***

**Town Administrator's Report**

**Town Warrant** - Mr. Sheehan addressed the Board and said that the Town Meeting Warrant and the supporting packet is available on the Town's website and will be mailed out to every resident next week.

**Kinder Morgan Gas Pipeline** – Kinder Morgan had been working on a proposed gas pipeline to be constructed from New York State to Dracut, Massachusetts. The company has had financial difficulties over the last twelve months and there has been a huge opposition to this project throughout Massachusetts. An announcement was made recently that work will be suspended on the North East energy direct project citing insufficient contracts with local gas distribution companies.

**Massachusetts Office of Disabilities** – Correspondence has been received from the Massachusetts Office of Disabilities requesting for the creation of a committee regarding disabilities in Middleton. This office advocates for every community to have to a committee to enforce handicap parking regulations and/or help with enforcement and to advise the Town regarding handicap accessibility. The Board will be advertising for members shortly.

**New Fire Chief** – Chief Twiss has announced his retirement effective the end of August 2016. The Town will begin advertising for a new Fire Chief. The advertisement will go in the Massachusetts Municipal Association Beacon and other fire department publications and websites that will reach officers in other towns. A preliminary interview panel will be established and the final three applicants will be interviewed by the Board.

**Board of Health public hearing** – The Board of Health will be holding a public hearing on Wednesday, May 4, 2016 to discuss smoking rules.

Chairperson Lindberg said that she has received an email from Planning Board member Erik Dalen advising he is going to resign from the Board. This vacant position will be advertised.

**Vote to appoint Alice Tierney as Alternate Member of Board of Directors of the Middleton Council on Aging, through June 30, 2016 –**

***Mr. Cresta made a motion to approve the appointment of Alice Tierney as Alternate Member of Board of Directors of the Middleton Council on Aging, through June 30, 2016. Mr. Prentakis seconded the motion and all were in favor.***

**Vote to approve Memorandum of Understanding between the Town of Middleton and Essex County Sheriff's Department effective July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2021 (five years)** – Chairperson Lindberg addressed the Board and explained that the above refers to services that the Sheriff's Department provides to the Town. There was a meeting recently with Sheriff Frank Cousins to discuss the agreements between the Town and the Sheriff's Department.

**Mr. Prentakis made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Town of Middleton and Essex County Sheriff's Department effective July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2021 (five years). Mr. Cresta seconded the motion and all were in favor.**

**Fiscal Year 2017 operating override informational update (includes Department manager perspective on the impact if the override were to fail including the Middleton Elementary Schools, Police, Fire, Public Works and Recreation Commission)** - Chairperson Lindberg addressed the Board and said the Departments listed above have been asked to come to the meeting to inform voters of the consequences facing the Town if the override were to fail. Mr. Sheehan said that when the budget was put together, there was a shortfall of funds, which led to several items being put on the override. This is detailed in Article 5 of the Warrant. The total shortfall in the budget in Article 5 is \$350,000.

Mr. Prentakis addressed the Board and summarized the effects the failure of the overrides had last year and the impact on the Town. There is a funding gap and the solution is a three prong strategy, including acceptance of the local meals tax, increasing license and permit fees and the override.

Representatives from Departments addressed the Board and explained the negative effects the failure of the overrides would have on each individual Department, and in turn the Town and its residents. Representatives included Ms. Tasha Cooper, Chairperson of the School Committee, Chief Frank Twiss, Fire Chief, Chief James DiGianvittorio, Chief of Police and Mr. Kevin Noyes, Recreation Chairperson. A representative from the DPW was unable to attend the meeting.

Mr. Sheehan addressed the Board and stated that the way the Warrant is structured this year, the requested budget has been reduced by \$350,000. The override will add 19 cents to the tax rate for the average household, which equates to approximately \$103 for Fiscal Year 17. Mr. Cresta added that taxpayers have previously been generous when the needs of the Town have been properly explained, and it is important to get the correct information out to the voters so they can make an informed decision. Passing the override will be an investment in the services that this Town has come to expect. Mr. Prentakis added that many employees live in Town and they genuinely care about the service that they provide to citizens.

Chairperson Lindberg thanked everyone for attending the meeting and for sharing their perspectives on the override.

**Final Discussion of May 10, 2016 Special and Town Meeting Warrants** - Mr. Ferrara said that the Warrant is expected to be delivered to the post office on Friday with delivery scheduled for Saturday. The Warrant was printed at the Essex County Sheriff's Department. Mr. Ferrara commented on the high standard and professionalism of the Print Shop's work.

Mr. Cresta said he has concerns about Article number 40 regarding the zoning use table. There are currently varying degrees of agreement between the Planning Board and Master Plan Committee. The Planning Board has some concerns and are proposing some changes. Mr. Cresta recommends removing this article from the Warrant until the grant money is received and the master plan is updated.

Mr. Sheehan said he has spoken to the Moderator and she recommends a motion of "No Action" or a motion "To Table". As the sponsor of the article the Selectmen are in charge of the motion, it will allow the article to be passed over and perfected over the coming months and brought back at a future Town Meeting. There was some discussion among the Board members regarding this action and Mr. Sheehan said that he would speak with the Moderator for clarification and report back to the Board.

Mr. Sheehan said that he thought that the Saturday Budget Planning Meetings were very helpful and informative and would propose to hold these meetings earlier in future years to allow more planning time.

**Mr. Prentakis made a motion to ask the Town meeting to refer Article 40 to the Master Plan Committee for further study. Mr. Cresta seconded the motion and all were in favor.**

**Mr. Cresta made a motion that the Board of Selectmen recommend that Article 41 be removed for further study. Mr. Prentakis seconded the motion and all were in favor.**

Mr. Cresta thanked everyone for all their hard work in putting together the Town Warrant.

Mr. Sheehan added his thanks and said that it has been a great team effort.

**New Business (may be reserved for topics that the Chair did not reasonably anticipate would be discussed)**

Mr. Prentakis said that the Earth Day event is scheduled for Sunday, May 1, 2016 at the Boys and Girls Club property on Creighton Pond, on Essex Street between 1 and 4 pm.

Mr. Prentakis stated that the meeting was Ms. Lindberg's final regularly scheduled Board of Selectman meeting and thanked Ms. Lindberg for her years of work on the Board of Selectmen.

Ms. Lindberg thanked everyone and said it had been a pleasure to serve the people of Middleton.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Julie Roscoe*

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Julie Roscoe, Recording Secretary

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Todd Moreschi, Clerk