

Town of Middleton

Warrant Articles for Town Meeting

2016

To the inhabitants of the Town of Middleton, in said state and county, qualified to vote in Town affairs:

You are hereby notified to meet at the Middleton Municipal Building on Tuesday the 8th day of March in the year 2016 at eleven o'clock in the morning (11:00 am), with polls not closing before seven o'clock in the evening (7:00 pm), to act upon the following:

Pledge of allegiance and invocation by Pastor Thomas Gardner.

Article 1: To choose all necessary officers for the stated terms:

- Selectman for one, three (3) year term
Joe Bailey 114 Votes
- Budget Committee for one, three (3) year term
David Maier 129 Votes
- Trustee of Trust Funds for one, one (1) year term
Bonnie Gagnon 137 Votes
- Trustee of Trust Funds for one, three (3) year term
Mary Knapp 138 Votes
- Town Moderator for one, two (2) year term
Jack Savage Write-In 70 Votes
- Cemetery Members one, one (1) year term
Roger Mains Write-In 3 Votes
- Cemetery Member one, two (2) year term
Write-In Vote to be Determined
- Cemetery Member one, three (3) year term
Thomas Gardner 138 Votes

Article 2: Are you in favor of repealing the current Middleton Zoning Ordinance and adopting the new Middleton Zoning Ordinance as proposed by Planning Board?

Article 2 PASSES on the Town Election Official Ballot YES - 100 NO - 48

You are hereby further notified to meet at the Middleton Fire Station on Saturday the 12th day of March in the year 2016 at nine o'clock in the morning (9:00 am) to act on the following articles:

Moderator wishes to acknowledge the following 2 residents as having passed away and were not listed in the Town Report for a variety of technical reasons;

Keith Mitchell, who passed in March, was a former member of the MVFD and BOS.
George Brannon, Sr. passed in June.

Two Births were also left out of the Town Report as well;

Natalie Rose Calliste born in December
Maverick Landon LeBrun born in December. Congratulations to their families.

High School Graduate from Kingswood in Wolfeboro, Jeremy Kalar, who was not noted in the Town Report. Congratulations to him.

Jack also makes note of the poster created by Secretary of State's office that depicts all the 1895 ballot boxes that are still being used in towns around New Hampshire. In recognition of the 100th Anniversary of the 1st NH State Primary the poster was framed by Lester Kimball and on display today at Town Meeting, from here it will hang in the Municipal Office's Conference Room.

Our Volunteer Fire Dept. has graciously allowed Middleton town residents to hold our annual Town Meeting in their Fire House today, as our Old Town Hall, being on the "Seven to Save" list is still being renovated and will be completed, hopefully, in time for Old Home Day in August of this year.

Article 3: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the Budget Committee's recommended amount of the sum of seven hundred fifty-six thousand, seven hundred thirty-six dollars (\$756,736) for Government Operations. The Selectmen recommend \$760,706. This article does not contain appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed. (Majority vote required)

	Recommended <u>By Budget Committee</u>	Recommended <u>By Selectmen</u>
Executive	\$ 102,768	\$104,463
Election, Regis., Vitals	\$ 28,413	\$ 28,413
Financial Admin.	\$ 41,441	\$ 43,323
Assessing Service	\$ 26,628	\$ 27,021
Legal Expense	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,000
Personnel Admin.	\$ 313,360	\$313,360
Planning & Zoning	\$ 7,368	\$ 7,368
Conservation Comm.	\$ 1,350	\$ 1,350
Gen. Gov't. Buildings	\$ 49,090	\$ 49,090
Insurance	\$ 29,850	\$ 29,850
Debt Service	\$ 147,468	\$ 147,468
TOTALS	\$ 756,736	\$ 760,706 (\$759,011)

(tax rate/1000 \$4.64)

Motion to Accept as Read: Roger Mains; 2nd By: Janet Hotchkiss

Selectman, Joe Bailey, speaks to the article by saying that the sole difference between the BC recommendation and the BOS recommendation is a 5% raise for all town employees except Highway Dept. and PD, those raises will be discussed in Articles to come.

MOTION by Roger Mains; 2nd by John Quinn: To reduce the BOS recommendation of \$756,736 to \$705,600. Marcia Stevens, BC Member; we do not know what the tax impact will be for the school portion of the tax rate this year as we don't know what the revenues will be for the coming year. This is all brand new for us this year. Darlene wants to lower the Personnel Administration line is Health Ins, longevity pay, SS benefits etc. and we do not have a choice to be able to change that line, this line DOES NOT include any raises.

MOTION: to move to vote on the amendment by Ed Carlson.

MOTION FAILS

Back to the article as is with more discussion:

Joe Bailey: Last year we did a study on all employees pay and found that our employees are grossly underpaid. We gave raises last year, and this year we are continuing to try to bring up the pay scale for our employees so that are at least comparable with other towns of our size.

MOTION: Roger Mains; To vote for the BOS recommendation on this article. 2nd by Linda Adamo. Roger: We all knew from last year's town meeting that our intent was to bring up the pay scale of employees and we all knew going in that this process was going to continue this year as well. Laura Parker asks that we go to page 21 that show the breakdown of all the employees pay raises. **Ken Garry:** the Selectman's Office is running far more efficiently right now. More responsibility and a lot more interaction with various communities I'm seeing a lot of improvement with how that office operates and a lot of that is due to the position that is held by the Selectman's Secretary/Bookkeeper, Laura Parker. As move thru the next century there will be more and more responsibilities and goals that will have to be met in that office. There's a lot more interface with the public and this position. There is so much going on right now.

Evelyn Campbell: Didn't they get an 11% raise last year? **Joe Bailey:** Yes the article last year approved an article representing 65,000 which was that 11% raise increase to everyone across the board. Fire Dept. is volunteer. They are on a per call basis. **Bill Lawrence:** I have increased their budget a little bit this year, and with the new school coming on board I increased the budget a bit to cover. **Laura Parker:** The study that was done last year for pay increases was taken from a 2012 survey, so all the town employees are currently still behind. The survey was based on population and surrounding towns as well as other towns further away from our own.

MOTION: to move the question

MOTION PASSES as amended using the BOS recommendation of \$760,706 33-27

MOTION: Joe Bailey; 2nd: John Quinn To decrease the BOS amount of 760,706 to 759,011 thus taking out the pay increase for BOS. Very light discussion.

MOTION: PASSES

Article 3 PASSES as amended from \$760,706 to \$759,011 unanimously.

Article 4: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the Budget Committee's recommended amount of four hundred thirty-seven thousand, three hundred fifty-three dollars (\$437,353) for Public Safety operations. The Selectmen recommend \$458,093. This article doesn't contain appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed. (Majority vote required)

	<u>Recommended By Budget Committee</u>	<u>Recommended By Selectmen</u>
Police	\$ 313,250	\$333,672
Fire & Rescue	\$ 66,521	\$ 66,521
EMS	\$ 42,255	\$ 42,255
Building Inspection	\$ 8,527	\$ 8,845
Emergency Management	\$ 1,300	\$ 1,300
County Dispatch	\$ 5,500	\$ 5,500
TOTALS	\$ 437,353	\$ 458,093 (tax rate/1000 \$2.68)

MOTION to accept as Read: Roger Mains; 2nd by Janet Hotchkiss

MOTION to ammend: by Darlene Hunter; 2nd by John Quinn: To reduce the BC recommendation to \$430,458, last year's BC recommendation.

Discussion: Joe Bailey: The only difference between the BC and BOS recommendation is the raises. **Chief Randy Sobel** speaks to the article as well by saying our increase is also for the school patrol while the new school is in session. **Carrie Stevens:** Is there a better way to schedule the officers so that the hours needed are covered? The budget committee recommended \$7,350 as there was only 2 days that were not covered by 2 officers. The budget committee's recommendation will cover the extra officer for those 2 days that there is no extra coverage.

Ken Garry: In a community of less than \$3,500 the State Police would respond and take jurisdiction over our town if need be. To confirm the BC recommendation is enough to cover the PD extra coverage as school begins and lets out every day that they say they need.

Vote on the Amendment to reduce the BC recommendation to \$430,458 FAILS by 45-10.

More Discussion: Kathleen Landry: BC Member: The BC recommendation includes an extra \$7,350 to have an officer on duty at the school at beginning and end of the day for the two days a week that we don't have coverage.

MOTION: to vote on the BC original recommendation of \$437,353

Article 4 PASSES 46-9.

Article 5: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the Budget Committee's recommended amount of four hundred fourteen thousand, four hundred six dollars (\$414,406) for Highways, Streets, Bridges and Street Lighting operations. The Selectmen recommend \$424,207. This article does not contain appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed. (Majority vote required)

	<u>Recommended By Budget Committee</u>	<u>Recommended By Selectmen</u>
Highway (Highway Block Grant/Revenue offset)	\$ 392,406	\$ 402,207
Street Lighting	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
School Diesel/Gasoline (School Diesel offsetting revenue)	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000
TOTALS	\$ 414,406	\$ 424,207 (tax rate/1000 \$2.54)

MOTION to accept the article as read by Lou Vita 2nd by John Mammone
MOTION to approve the BOS recommendation of 424,207 by Roger Mains, 2nd by Eric Parker.

Discussion: The difference is the 5% pay raises, which is not included in the BC recommendation. The pruning of the trees is included in the BC recommendation.

MOTION to approve the BOS recommendation FAILS 30-22.

Article 5 PASSES as written.

Article 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the Budget Committee's recommended amount of one hundred seventy-two thousand four hundred seventy dollars (\$172,470) for Health and Welfare operations. The Selectmen recommend \$209,910. This article does not contain appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed. (Majority vote required)

	<u>Recommended By Budget Committee</u>	<u>Recommended By Selectmen</u>
Animal Control	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,500
Health Agencies	\$ 4,775	\$ 4,775
Welfare	\$ 15,843	\$ 15,843
Solid Waste Coll.	\$ 147,352	\$ 184,792
TOTALS	\$ 172,470	\$ 209,910 (tax rate/1000 \$1.06)

MOTION to Accept as Read: John Quinn, 2nd by: Darlene Hunter

Discussion: Last year, the town tried to give the Recycling Program a try. To our dismay it has shown that the recycling is costing the town more money than we anticipated. The difference in

cost is the recycling. The BC chose not to do the recycling this year. Not enough folks are committed to the program but also, the costs have increased for the recycling service.
 Yvette Haddock: our program is not mandatory in our town so I don't think everyone is on board with this and this is the reason why we're not seeing the numbers we should be.

MOTION: to amend to the BOS recommendation by Linda Adamo, 2nd by Geoff Fox.

Linda Adamo would like to see the program continue for one more year to see if this will really work for us, and therefore recommends going forward with the BOS recommendation.

Discussion: Joe Bailey: we need 85% of the town to be involved to make this work. I, personally, would like to see the recycle program continue for one more year. If you vote today to abandon the recycle program, we will still have curbside pickup as usual for all our trash. Mike Schwartz also states that the cost is just too expensive to continue at this time.

MOTION vote on the BOS recommended amount FAILS 34-17.

Article 6 PASSES as written.

MOTION by John Quinn, 2nd by Ed Carlson to restrict prior article reconsideration. ALL are in Favor. Articles 3-6 are restricted from reconsideration.

Article 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the Budget Committee's recommended amount of four thousand, five hundred-one dollars (\$4,501) for Culture and Recreation operations. The Selectmen recommend \$4,501. This article does not contain appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed. (Majority vote required)

	<u>Recommended By Budget Committee</u>	<u>Recommended By Selectmen</u>
Beach Maintenance	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Children's Parties	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500
Other Culture / Rec	\$ 501	\$ 501
Patriotic	\$ 500	\$ 500
TOTALS	\$ 4,501	\$ 4,501

(tax rate/1000 \$0.03)

MOTION: to accept article as read: Ed Carlson, 2nd by Roger Mains. Discussion is limited as the recommendations are the same.

Article 7 PASSES.

Article 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of two hundred ten thousand dollars (\$210,000) for the purpose of road construction and paving of various roads in town. This is a non-lapsing appropriation pursuant to RSA 32:7 VI and will not lapse until December 31, 2020, whichever is sooner.

(Majority vote required)

(tax rate/1000 \$1.29)

Not Recommended by Budget Committee (BC recommends \$150,000)

Recommended by Board of Selectmen

MOTION: to accept as read by Roger Mains, 2nd by Janet Kalar.

Discussion: Road Agent, Rick Washburn: This article is voted on every year to raise and appropriate funds for road construction. This year we're concentrating on Buttermilk Lane to the dirt road portion of that road.

Article 8 PASSES

Article 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) to be placed in the existing Highway Department Vehicles Capital Reserve Fund.

(Majority vote required)

(tax rate/1000 \$0.03)

Not Recommended by Budget Committee

Not Recommended by Board of Selectmen

MOTION: to accept as read by Roger Mains, 2nd by Janet Hotchkiss.

Discussion is limited

Article 9 PASSES with a hand count of 28-22.

Article 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) to be added to the Highway Department Capital Reserve Fund. (Majority vote required)

(tax rate/1000 \$0.06)

Not Recommended by Budget Committee

Recommended by Board of Selectmen

MOTION to accept as read by John Mammone, 2nd by Janet Hotchkiss

Discussion: there is \$119,118.67 in this fund today. **John Hotchkiss speaks to the article:** We are continuing our efforts to build a new Highway Garage and Salt Shed in the near future. Rick States the new Highway Garage will cost \$1.5M. All the designs, permits etc. are done. It's pretty much a shovel-ready project. With the new cell tower on the horizon and the grants that could be acquired, it's a work-in-progress. Joe Bailey states that the project will be a "bid" project. Ken Garry: We, as a community, have been trying to get this project going for the past 10 yrs and we still continue to add to this fund, as we know, this building (FD) is not going to suffice for the next 100 yrs, we need to keep this fund going until we make that decision to build new.

Article 10 PASSES with a show of hands: 29-21.

Article 11: To see if the Town will vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of New Hampshire RSA 35:1 for the purpose of acquiring an ambulance for the Town and to raise and appropriate fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) to be placed in this fund and furthermore to name the Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund. (Majority vote required)
Recommended by Budget Committee; Recommended by Board of Selectmen.

(tax rate/1000 \$0.09)

Recommended by Budget Committee
Recommended by Board of Selectmen

MOTION to accept as read by Janet Kalar, 2nd by Janet Hotchkiss.

Discussion: Laura Parker: Our ambulance is a year 2000 making it 16 years old this year and is starting show its age. We need to establish this fund for future purchase of a new/newer ambulance.

Article 11 PASSES unanimously.

Article 12: To see if the Town will vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of purchasing self-contained breathing apparatuses for the Town of Middleton and to raise and appropriate the sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) to be placed in this fund and furthermore to name the Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund
(Majority vote required)

(tax rate/1000 \$0.06)

MOTION to accept as read by Ed Carlson, 2nd by Yvette Haddock.

Discussion: Chief Bill Lawrence states that our breathing apparatus is now 10 yrs old and needs to be replaced as they are on the verge of expiring. A grant was acquired to obtain the ones that we have, but now I'd like to set up a fund so that we can replace them when they expire. Bill explains the importance of these "tanks". The Dept. has 12, but we need a minimum of 10. They are used for Carbon Monoxide, burning bldgs., car fires, chimney fires. It's imperative that we have these for the guys so we need to establish this fund ASAP. Janet Hotchkiss states there are two funds that cannot be used for this purpose, they are strictly for the purpose stated in the article, one being the addition for the FD, which has \$51,418.06. Joe asks if we can restructure this article, Jack (moderator) states you may but not at this Town Meeting. John Quinn states we have to do what needs to be done to keep our Volunteer FD members safe. Being a "new" Chief again, I'd like to get things on track for my department and the guys and I'm constantly searching for ways to improve the department however I can.

Article 12 PASSES unanimously.

Article 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) for the purpose of upgrading security for the Municipal Offices located in the first and second floors of the Municipal Building. (Majority vote required)

(tax rate/1000 \$0.12)

Not Recommended by Budget Committee
Recommended by Board of Selectmen

MOTION to accept as read by Janet Hotchkiss, 2nd by John Quinn.

Discussion: Selectman, John Hotchkiss speaks to the article by reminding us that it's time to do a security update in the Middleton Town Offices. Without going into detail about what measures will be taken to improve, the residents agree.

Article 13 PASSES with a hand-count of 24-23.

Article 14: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of four thousand dollars (\$4,000) to be placed in the Milfoil/Invasive Aquatic Species Trust Fund established for the purpose of treating exotic and variable milfoil and other invasive species. (Majority vote required)

(tax rate/1000 \$0.02)

Recommended by Budget Committee

Recommended by Board of Selectmen

MOTION to accept as read by Janet Hotchkiss, 2nd by Carol Vita

Discussion: Evelyn Campbell: Eight (8) dives are scheduled to harvest milfoil and treatments will continue as well. Carol Vita states that if we don't continue this campaign, eventually no one will be able to use the lake for any recreational activities. We ask for this every year to keep the milfoil at bay.

Article 14 PASSES unanimously.

Article 15: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) to be added to the Reevaluation Capital Reserve Fund. (Majority vote required)

(tax rate/1000 \$0.06)

Recommended by Budget Committee

Recommended by Board of Selectmen

MOTION to accept as read by John Mammone, 2nd by Ed Carlson.

Discussion: is minimal as our Assessor, Pam Frazier explains the procedure of the reevaluation process.

Article 15 PASSES unanimously.

Article 16: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) for the purpose of construction, and paving of the Old Town Hall Parking Lot. This is a non-lapsing appropriation pursuant to RSA 32:7 VI and will not lapse until December 31, 2021, whichever is sooner. (Majority vote required).

(tax rate/1000 \$0.61)

Not Recommended by Budget Committee

Recommended by Board of Selectmen

MOTION to accept as read by Roger Mains, 2nd by John Mammone.

Selectman John Hotchkiss speaks to the article by saying that our Old Town Hall is in the process of renovation as it made the Seven To Save list last year, thanks to Cheryl Kimball. Once the renovation is complete, we would like to pave the parking lot. The grade of the existing parking lot is such that water tends to “flow” towards the basement of the Old Town Hall and we don’t want that to happen now that renovation is almost complete. Our Road Agent has some ideas on how to divert the water away from the Old Town Hall. There were some funds set aside to place culverts/drainage but it appears that the problem is bigger than that. Yvette Haddock: Why can’t we appropriate 50K this year and 50K next year? Jack states that we cannot change the article.

MOTION to change the appropriation from \$100K to \$50K John Quinn, 2nd Yvette Haddock.

Discussion: Rick states we can get some in-ground structures in to get the project started. In the past, the water under the OTH was up to the floor joists. There is still water that collects under the there. Something has to be done ASAP as now that the work to the OTH is near completion.

Linda Adamo: The project is due to be completed in August 2016. All this work has been done and now you want to delay the parking lot till next year? That doesn’t make any sense to me.

Kathy Landry, BC Member: We need to be mindful as we get closer to the end of these articles that we do not exceed the “10% over budget” rule.

MOTION to amend the article by \$50,000 PASSES unanimously.

Discussion: Ken Garry: maybe something like a duplex sum pump may work for now too.

Article 16 PASSES as amended with a hand-count of 31-5.

Article 17: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of two thousand dollars (\$2,000) for the purpose of purchasing audio/video recording equipment for Town use. (Majority vote required).

(tax rate/1000 \$0.01)

Not Recommended by Budget Committee

Recommended by Board of Selectmen

MOTION to accept as read by Roger Mains, 2nd by John Quinn

Discussion: The BOS would like to purchase equipment to video any or all of our board meetings which could include, planning, zoning etc. and Laura Parker could post the meetings on the Town Website. Marcia Stevens: You’re making it easy for folks to not show up for meetings. John Quinn states this would allow transparency and make it convenient for folks to view at their leisure. Roger Mains: States that he feels that everything is being recorded these days and if this is approved, he will resign from the Planning Board. **Ms. Brisson:** Thinks it’s a great idea as so many of us cannot make the meetings due to the time slot that they are held, which is usually around dinner time. Linda Adamo: Feels it’s a great idea. Folks can view when they can.

Article 17 PASSES with a hand count of 25-22.

Article 18: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate five thousand dollars (\$5,000) to be placed in the Town of Middleton Cemetery Capital Reserve Fund.(Majority vote required)
(tax rate/1000 \$0.03)

Recommended by Budget Committee
Recommended by Board of Selectmen

MOTION to accept article as read by John Quinn, 2nd by John Hotchkiss

Discussion: BOS Mike Schwarz: .

Discussion: Mike Schwarz: State Law requires us to have a cemetery in town and we're asking that this amount be added to the already established fund. We are looking at town-owned property as a location for the cemetery. This has nothing to do with the privately owned cemeteries in town and we do not spend money on those.

Article 18 PASSES

Article 19: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) to be added to the Natural and Man Made Disasters Capital Reserve Fund.
(Majority vote required)

(tax rate/1000 \$0.00)

Recommended by Budget Committee
Recommended by Board of Selectmen

MOTION to accept the article as read by Loue Vita, 2nd by Roger Mains.

Discussion: Mike Schwarz: Every year we add \$1000 to this fund in case of a disaster. There is \$9081.74 currently in this fund.

Article 19 PASSES unanimously.

Article 20: To see if the Town will vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 72:61 and RSA 71:62, which provide for an optional property tax exemption from the property's assessed value, for property tax purposes, for persons owning real property, which is equipped with solar energy systems intended for use at the immediate site. Such property tax exemption shall be in the amount equal to 100% of the assessed value of qualifying equipment under these statues.
(Majority vote required) (Petition Article)

MOTION to accept as read by John Quinn, 2nd by Roger Mains.

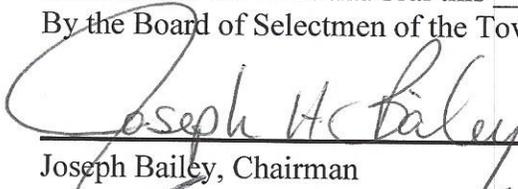
Discussion: This is a petitioned warrant article that was put forth by Lou Vita who speaks to this article now. Since 1972 or so, the State of NH has been advertising for property owners to switch to alternative forms of energy if they choose to. This article will exempt from further assessed taxation on our properties. Solar panels are as much as \$1000 each and since our tax rate is almost \$30/\$100 we'd be looking at an added amount in property taxes. If you install say 36 panels at \$1000 each, you'd be looking at \$900-\$1000 of additional taxes.

Article 20 PASSES with a hand-count of 25-15.

Article 21: And to transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting.
MOTION to restrict reconsideration of prior 7-20 warrant articles.
All are in favor.

MOTION to adjourn Town Meeting.
All in favor
Town Meeting adjourned at 1:10PM.

Given under our hand and seal this 28 ^{March} of February, 2016.
By the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Middleton



Joseph Bailey, Chairman



Michael Schwarz, Vice Chairman



Jonathan B. Hotchkiss, Selectman

Respectfully transcribed and submitted to the BOS:



March 23, 2016