

Town of Middlefield

Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Hampshire, ss:

To either of the Constables of the Town of Middlefield in the County of Hampshire

GREETINGS: In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of said Town qualified to vote in Town affairs, to meet on June 26th at 2 pm at the Middlefield Fairgrounds, and there to act on the following articles:

ARTICLE 1. To choose on one ballot

For the term of three years:

Selectboard

Assessor

School Committee

Cemetery Commission

Finance Committee (2)

Planning Board

Library Trustee

For the term of one year:

Moderator

The polls will open at 8 am – 1 pm at the Town Hall.

ARTICLE 2. To act upon the reports of the Selectboard, Treasurer, Tax Collector, Assessors, and other elected or appointed officers or committees of the Town.

ARTICLE 3. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the salaries and compensation of elected officers; or take any other action relative thereto:

	FY 2021 Adopted	FY 2022		
		Requested	FinCom Recommends	SB Recommends
Moderator	100	100	100	100
Assessors, Chair	4,008	3,960	3,960	3,960
Assessors, 2 nd Member	3,000	3,900	3,900	3,900
Assessors, 3 rd Member	2,004	1,740	1,740	1,740
Town Clerk	6,528	6,700	6,700	6,700
Selectboard, Chair	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
Selectboard, Member	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Selectboard, Member	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Constable 1 st	100	100	100	100
Constable 2 nd	100	100	100	100
Total	22,340	23,100	23,100	23,100

ARTICLE 4. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the salaries and compensation of appointed staff; or take any other action relative thereto:

	FY 2021 Adopted	FY 2022		
		Requested	FinCom Recommends	SB Recommends
Treasurer	10,600	10,812	10,812	10,812
Town Accountant	10,600	10,812	10,812	10,812
Tax Collector	10,600	10,812	10,812	10,812
Town Administrator	17,000	17,000	17,000	17,000
Recording Secretary	3,200	3,200	3,200	3,200
Asst. Town Clerk	2,000	2,040	2,040	2,040
Assessors' Clerk	5,400	7,000	7,000	5,508
Town Building Custodian	5,000	5,100	5,100	5,100
Town Maintenance Technician	2,500	2,000	1,000	2,000
Total	66,900	68,776	67,776	67,284

ARTICLE 5. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of money for General Government; or take any other action relative thereto:

	FY 2021 Adopted	FY 2022		
		Requested	FinCom Recommends	SB Recommends
Town Counsel	7,500	5,000	5,000	5,000
Election & Registration	2,400	4,000	4,000	4,000
Maintenance of Public Buildings	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
Insurance and Bonds	40,000	45,000	45,000	45,000
Medicare/Town share	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000
Total	103,900	108,000	108,000	108,000

ARTICLE 6. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of money for the Expense Accounts; or take any other action relative thereto:

	FY 2021 Adopted	FY 2022		
		Requested	FinCom Recommends	SB Recommends
Selectboard Expense	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Printing Expense	2,000	1,200	1,200	1,200
Copier Expense	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
Town Accountant Expense	740	740	740	740
Assessors Expense	2,100	3,000	3,000	3,000
Tax Map Update	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Assessors Software/Support	3,750	3,750	3,750	3,750
Assessors' Revaluation	6,000	2,500	2,500	2,500
Assessors' Utility Appraisal	3,400	3,400	3,400	3,400
Treasurer Expense	1,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Treas. Tax Title & Legal Fees	7,467	6,000	6,000	6,000
Treasurer/Acct Software Support	6,000	8,000	8,000	8,000
Payroll Software Support	2,100	2,500	2,500	2,500
Tax Collector Expense	3,800	3,800	3,800	3,800
TC Tax Title & Legal Fees	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
Town Clerk Expense	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
Planning Board Expense	500	500	500	500
Communication Comm. Exp.	300	300	300	300
Website/Technology Expense	2,500	5,529	5,529	5,529
Conservation Comm. Exp.	500	500	500	500
Zoning Board Expense	500	500	500	500
Constable Expense	150	150	150	150
Total	46,907	51,869	51,869	51,869

ARTICLE 7. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of money for the Highways; or take any other action relative thereto:

	FY 2021 Adopted	FY 2022		
		Requested	FinCom Recommends	SB Recommends
Highway Department Wages	158,000	163,000	163,000	163,000
Holidays	7,300	7,413	7,413	7,413
Vacations	6,800	9,622	9,622	9,622
Sick Days	6,800	6,843	6,843	6,843
Unemployment Insurance	500	500	500	500
Hampshire County Retirement	49,426	58,827	58,827	58,827
Health Insurance	42,500	42,500	42,500	42,500
Fuel	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000
Snow Removal	65,000	65,000	65,000	65,000
Highway Maintenance	40,000	45,000	45,000	45,000
Unpaved Roads Material	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000
Machinery Maintenance	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
Street Lights	500	500	500	500
War Memorials/Playground	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Bidding Services	1,700	1,700	1,700	1,700
Total	485,526	507,905	507,905	507,905

ARTICLE 8. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of money to the Library, Veterans and Cemetery Accounts; or take any other action relative thereto:

	FY 2021 Adopted	FY 2022		
		Requested	FinCom Recommends	SB Recommends
Librarian Salary	6,864	7,036	7,036	7,036
Library Expense	2,200	2,200	2,200	2,200
Veterans Agent Service	2,512	2,603	2,603	2,603
Veterans' Benefits	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Cemetery Expense	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500
Cemetery tree removal	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
Total	19,576	19,839	19,839	19,839

ARTICLE 9. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of money for Protection of Persons & Property Accounts; or take any other action relative thereto:

	FY 2021 Adopted	FY 2022		
		Requested	FinCom Recommends	SB Recommends
Police Chief's Salary	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
Police Dept. Operating Expense	10,200	10,200	10,200	10,200
Police Officers' Compensation	12,000	18,000	18,000	18,000
Police Officers' Training	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500
Cruiser Maintenance	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
Regional Lockup	495	495	495	495
CodeRED Notification System	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
EMS Service	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
EMS Education	2,100	2,100	2,100	2,100
Fire Chief/Forest Warden Salary	500	500	500	500
Fire Dept. Operating Expense	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000
Fire Dept. Inspector Salary	300	300	300	300
Fire Dept. Dispatch Service	9,138	9,412	9,412	9,412
Forest Fire	10	10	10	10
Emergency Mgmt. Expense	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
Bldg. Commissioner Comp.	9,600	9,600	9,600	9,600
Bldg. Commissioner Expense	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
Asst. Electrical Inspector Salary	100	100	100	100
Dog Officer's Salary	500	1,000	1,000	1,000
Dog Officer's Exp.	700	700	700	700
Insect Pest Control Expense	100	100	100	100
Animal Inspector Salary	400	750	750	750
Animal Inspector Expense	400	400	400	400
Board of Health Agent Comp.	2,400	5,000	5,000	5,000
Board of Health Expense	300	300	300	300
Total	85,743	95,467	95,467	95,467

ARTICLE 10. To see if the Town will vote to Raise and appropriate the sum of money to establish a Reserve Fund to provide for extraordinary or unforeseen expenditures, as provided by M.G.L. Chapter 40, section 6, as amended; or take any other action in relation thereto:

	FY 2021 Adopted	FY 2022		
		Requested	FinCom Recommends	SB Recommends
Reserve Fund	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000

ARTICLE 11. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of money for Health & Sanitation; or take any other action relative thereto:

	FY 2021 Adopted	FY 2022		
		Requested	FinCom Recommends	SB Recommends
Ambulance	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Hilltown Resource Management	2,943	2,968	2,968	2,968
Disposal Area	26,000	26,000	26,000	26,000
Visiting Nurse	2,500	2,625	2,625	2,625
Total	33,443	33,568	33,568	33,568

ARTICLE 12. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of money for the Miscellaneous Accounts; or take any other action relative thereto:

	FY 2021 Adopted	FY 2022		
		Requested	FinCom Recommends	SB Recommends
Council on Aging Expense	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000
Historical Commission Expense	600	300	300	300
Historical Document Committee	500	250	250	250
Pioneer Valley Planning	90	100	100	100
Recreation Committee Expense	1,000	750	750	750
Agricultural Commission Exp.	100	100	100	100
Total	9,290	8,500	8,500	8,500

ARTICLE 13. To see if the Town will vote to approve to replace the current Gateway Statutory Assessment of \$387,592 in Article 14 with an assessment of \$503,566 by adopting the Alternative method of computing each of the six-member town's assessment and payment of costs incurred by the Gateway Regional School district; or take any other action relative thereto:

Sponsor: Gateway Regional School District

Finance Committee: Does not recommend

Selectboard: Does not recommend

Explanation provided by the Gateway School District:

- I. The Alternate Assessment shall create an equalized percentage assessment to each member town and must be approved by all member towns.
- II. The member towns' combined operating, transportation, and capital/debt assessment shall be apportioned annually for the ensuing fiscal year by increasing each town's prior fiscal year assessment by the percentage of the total District assessment increase. The initial base year for the assessment is FY18 averaged with the previous five (5) years.

The alternative assessment formula will be recalibrated every five (5) years, beginning with the FY24 budget using the Statutory Method which will become the base for the next five (5) years.

- III. When using the Alternate Assessment Method, each town must meet its Minimum Required Local Contribution. If the equalized percentage assessment results in a member town(s) not meeting its Minimum Required Local Contribution, then the town(s) so affected shall have its assessment increased to the Minimum Required Local Contribution amount.
- IV. The remaining towns shall have their assessment reduced in an equal percentage.

Explanation from the Finance Committee:

As alternative assessments do not depend on number of students, the Town's proposed share of the alternative assessment for FY2022 would be **\$115,974 greater** than the Statutory Assessment in Article 14 below. Since the alternative assessment will take effect if, *and only if*, it is adopted by all six towns, Middlefield's "No" vote would effectively kill this measure.

ARTICLE 14. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following sum for Middlefield's Statutory Assessment for the Gateway Regional School District; or take any other action relative thereto:

	FY 2021 Adopted	FY 2022		
		Requested	FinCom Recommends	SB Recommends
Gateway Statutory Assessment	494,778	387,592	387,592	387,592

ARTICLE 15. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following sum for vocational education; or take any other action relative thereto:

	FY 2021 Adopted	FY 2022		
		Requested	FinCom Recommends	SB Recommends
Vocational Education	100,000	100,000	80,000	100,000

ARTICLE 16. To see if the Town will vote to authorize revolving fund accounts for the receipt of inspection fees, pursuant to MGL Chapter 44, Section 53E½, to be expended during FY2021 without further appropriation for the purpose of administrative duties, capped at the amounts in the table below; or take any other action relative thereto:

	FY 2021 Adopted	FY 2022		
		Requested	FinCom Recommends	SB Recommends
Electrical Inspector	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
Conservation Commission	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Zoning Board of Appeals	500	1,000	500	500
Plumbing Inspector	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000

ARTICLE 17. To see if the Town will vote to authorize a revolving fund, under Massachusetts General Law Chapter 44, Section 53E1/2, which may be spent on the Transfer Station without further appropriation during FY2022. Collected Transfer Station fees may be used for the Transfer Station attendant's salary, for capital equipment, grounds improvement, or other related expenses to benefit the Transfer Station. The Selectboard may spend up to \$7,500 in revolving

fund monies for the Transfer Station during FY2022 and retain in this account all collected fees; or take any other action relative thereto:

Sponsor: Selectboard

Finance Committee: Recommends

ARTICLE 18. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of money for Debt & Interest; or take any other action relative thereto:

	FY 2021 Adopted	FY 2022		
		Requested	FinCom Recommends	SB Recommends
Interest on Short-term Debt	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000

ARTICLE 19. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Assessors to appoint a member of the Board to serve as the Assessors' Clerk at the salary fixed and voted on by the Town; or take any other action relative thereto:

Sponsor: Board of Assessors

Finance Committee: Recommends

Selectboard: Recommends

ARTICLE 20. To see if the Town will vote to accept the Franklin Regional Transit Authority as the official transportation agent for the Council on Aging; or take any other action relative thereto:

Sponsor: Selectboard

Finance Committee: Recommends

ARTICLE 21. To see if the Town will vote to accept Chapter 90 and all other Highway grant Funds from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, for the purposes of repair, construction, maintenance and preservation of the Town's roads and bridges and other related costs; or take any other action relative thereto:

Sponsor: Selectboard

Finance Committee: Recommends

ARTICLE 22. To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$13,130 from FY21 Fuel Account to cover the overage in the snow removal account; or take any other action relative thereto:

Sponsor: Selectboard

Finance Committee: Recommends

ARTICLE 23. To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$68,000 from free cash to offset the tax rate; or take any other action relative thereto:

Sponsor: Selectboard

Finance Committee: Recommends

ARTICLE 24. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$27,894 to purchase an off-road rescue vehicle for the Fire Department; or take any other action relative thereto:

Sponsor: Fire Department

Selectboard: Recommends

Finance Committee: Recommends

ARTICLE 25. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000, transfer \$50,000 from free cash, and borrow up to \$75,000 to purchase and install a replacement Western Star chassis for the 2012 International tandem axle plow truck, including a new plow frame, hydraulic system and controls, along with blasting and painting the subframe on the old body; or take any other action relative thereto:

Sponsor: Highway Department

Selectboard: Recommends

Finance Committee: Recommends

ARTICLE 26. To see if the Town will transfer \$40,000 from free cash the Stabilization Fund; or take any other action relative thereto:

Sponsor: Selectboard

ARTICLE 27. To see if the Town will vote to allow the Selectboard accept funds and gifts on behalf of the town; or take any other action relative thereto:

Sponsor: Selectboard

Finance Committee: Recommends

ARTICLE 28. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 to repair cracks in the surface of the Town Hall basketball court, apply a new one-inch asphalt top court, and line the court to meet current NCAA guidelines; or take any other action relative thereto:

Sponsor: Citizens Petition

Selectboard: Recommends

Finance Committee: Table until FY 2023

ARTICLE 29. To see if the Town will have an open discussion and vote on the decision of which ambulance service will be the town of Middlefield's primary ambulance. Hinsdale fireman's association ambulance or Hilltown community ambulance; or take any other action relative thereto:

Sponsor: Citizens Petition

ARTICLE 30. To see if the Town will vote to authorized the Select Board to petition the General Court for the enactment of special legislation entitled "An Act Authorizing the Town of Middlefield to Continue the Employment of Fire Chief Ronald Radwich" as set forth below, provided however, that the General court shall be authorized to make ministerial, clerical and editorial changes of form only to said bill, unless the Select Board approves amendments to the bill before enactment by the General Court; and to authorize the Select Board to approve such amendments, or take any other action relative thereto.

**CHAPTER __ AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF MIDDLEFIELD
TO CONTINUE THE EMPLOYMENT OF FIRE CHIEF RONALD RADWICH.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General court assembled, and by the authority of the same as follows:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of any general or special law to the contrary, Ronald Radwich Chief of the Fire Department of the Town of Middlefield, may continue in such position until 10/26/25, until the date of his retirement, or until the date he is relieved of his duties by the Select Board, whichever occurs first; provided, however, that he is mentally and physically capable of performing the duties of his office. The Select Board may, at their own expense, require that Ronald Radwich be examined by an impartial physician designated by them to determine such capacity. No further deductions shall be made from regular compensation of Ronald Radwich under Chapter 32 of the General Laws for any service subsequent to 10/26/20, and upon retirement, he shall receive superannuation retirement allowance equal to that which he would have been entitled to had he retired on that date.

SECTION 2. Ronald Radwich shall be subject to the limitations on hours worked and on payments to retired Town employees under Paragraph (b) of Section 91 of Chapter 32 of the General Laws. To see if the Town will vote to change the Regular By-laws by changing Selectmen to Selectboard wherever it appears in the Regular By-laws; or take any other action relative thereto:

Sponsor: Selectboard

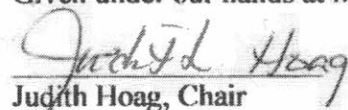
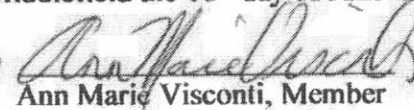
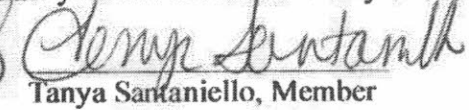
ARTICLE 31. To see if the Town will vote to change the Regular By-laws by changing Selectmen to Selectboard wherever it appears in the Regular By-laws; or take any other action relative thereto:

Sponsor: Selectboard

ARTICLE 32. To transact any other business to come before said meeting.

And you are directed to serve this warrant by posting attested copies of same in the Middlefield Post Office, on the bulletin board at the Town Hall, a designated place in the Bancroft section of the Town and a designated place in Smith Hollow, at least seven days before time of holding said meeting. Hereof, fail not and make due return of this warrant with your doings thereon to the Town Clerk at the time and place of meeting as aforesaid.

Given under our hands at Middlefield the 16th day of June in the year two thousand twenty-one.

 Judith Hoag, Chair
 Ann Marie Visconti, Member
 Tanya Santaniello, Member

I have this day posted copies of the above warrant.


Constable, Attest


Date