

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
APRIL 22, 2013

Special Town Meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by Town Moderator, Wayne C. Perkins, who declared a quorum present in the Middleborough High School Auditorium.

The Moderator then introduced the following: the Veteran's Council who led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance; Miss Middleboro 2013, Nicole DiBlasi, who played the National Anthem on a violin, and acknowledged and thanked the members of the Middleborough High School Student Council for acting as pagers and counters for the evening.

The Moderator asked everyone to join in a moment of silence in honor of the victims of the Boston Marathon bombing on Patriots' Day. He also took a moment to recognize three members of the Middleborough Police Department. Officers Steven Avelino was activated by the Army National Guard and deployed to the City of Boston to assist in the securing of the crime scene perimeter as well as security at several locations including train stations. Officer Angelo "AJ" Lapanna and Officer Alan Cunningham are members of the SEMLEC Regional Swat Team. The SEMLEC Swat Team responds to emergencies in Southeastern Massachusetts including Middleborough. Like many law enforcement agencies, the team was called upon to respond to the terrorist attack in Boston. Officers Lapanna and Cunningham were activated with the Swat Team several days following the attack, including the overnight hours of April 19, 2013. Officers Lapanna and Cunningham were in Watertown searching houses door to door looking for the bombing suspect that had just murdered a police officer. Like many officers, they performed this duty without hesitation. The Moderator thanked those officers for their dedication, professionalism and bravery during the days following the attack while searching for an armed and extremely dangerous terrorist.

The Moderator introduced the Student Council members from the Middleborough High School who would be acting as Counters for the Town Meeting. He thanked the Student Council and Mr. Paul Branagan, Principal of the Middleborough High School for allowing the students to participate.

The Moderator invited the members of the Historical Commission to present a brief recognition ceremony. Ms. Jane Lopes of the Middleborough Historical Commission invited the representatives of the South Middleborough Protective Association, members of the Green School Committee, Richard Stefani and representatives of the Central Congregational Church to the stage. The following was read by the Middleborough Historical Commission:

The Middleborough Historical Commission periodically honors those within Middleborough that have worked to preserve the community's cultural heritage for future generations. Tonight we honor a group of individuals and organizations for their work in restoring, rehabilitating and preserving five historic Middleborough structures. Three individuals and groups will be awarded with a certificate of merit in recognition of their work in the area of historic preservation, while a fourth organization will receive the Commission's Community Preservation Award which recognizes the highest level of commitment to historic preservation within the community. The William Bourne Wood House on South Main Street has long been an imposing landmark. The exterior of this multi-unit residence, once a

single family home, has been restored to its original grand appearance. The Middleborough Historical Commission would like to award its Certificate of Merit to Richard Stefani for the exterior restoration of the William Bourne Wood House. One of two schoolhouses recognized this year, the Green School was threatened with demolition when a fuel oil leak permeated the soil around surrounding the building. The Green School Preservation Committee, a group of concerned residents headed by former Selectman Lincoln Andrews, raised enough funds to mitigate the fuel leak, save the building and preserve the exterior of the structure. Through its efforts, the Green School Preservation Committee has helped preserve an important structure which documents Middleborough's educational past, as well as the history of the historic Green area. The Middleborough Historical Commission would like to award its Certificate of Merit to the Green School Preservation Committee for its preservation of the Green School. The South Middleborough School was constructed in 1882 to serve a wide area of the community at South Middleborough. Discontinued for school use in 1990, the South Middleborough School was acquired by the South Middleborough Protective Association which is working towards its rehabilitation. The Protective Association's actions have helped preserve this significant structure which was listed on the National Register of Historic Places as part of the South Middleborough Historic District in 2009. The Middleborough Historical Commission would like to award its Certificate of Merit to the South Middleborough Protective Association for its exterior restoration and rehabilitation of the South Middleborough School. The Central Congregational Church and Chapel have long been distinctive landmarks in downtown Middleborough. First built was the Chapel which was constructed in 1843 to house worship services for the Congregationalists at Middleborough Center and later used for a variety of purposes, including the home of the Middleborough Co-operative Bank. Five years later, the Central Congregational Society erected the imposing church, the design of which has been attributed to Middleborough architect Solomon K. Eaton, the designer of Middleborough Town Hall and other noted structures. Not only important in the religious life of the community ... The Congregational Church was the scene of numerous community-wide functions, including numerous baccalaureate services for graduating classes of Middleborough High School. On Memorial Day, 2009, the church was the victim of a devastating fire that left the interior of the church gutted and the exterior severely damaged, including its iconic steeple which for over 150 years was a feature of Middleborough's skyline. Rather than demolish the remnants of the church, the Central Congregational Society, recognizing the church's historic place within the community, worked to preserve what remained and to rebuild the church in exacting detail. Since the fire, the Central Congregational Society has worked tirelessly to rebuild the church and chapel, restoring the church to its appearance before the fire and relocating the chapel to a more visible site along Webster Street. The work was carried out with great attention to the historic character and architectural significance of the structures, and has restored two significant structures to the community. The Middleborough Historical Commission would like to present its highest award, the Community Preservation Award, to the Central Congregational Society in recognition of its preservation and adaptive re-use of the Central Congregational Church and Central Congregational Chapel.

The Moderator recognized and thanked two retiring Selectmen, Chairman Alfred Rullo and Selectman Steven Spataro for their years of service to the Town of Middleborough.

Voted unanimously to allow as necessary the following non-resident individuals to address Town Meeting: Charles Cristello, Town Manager; Steven Dooney, Town Accountant;

Lance Benjamino, Fire Chief; Joseph Silva, Water Superintendent; Andrew Bagas, DPW Director; Roseli Weiss Superintendent of Schools; Kathleen Piatelli, School Business Manager, Ellen Driscoll, I.T. Director, Jane Kudcey, Acting Director of the Office of Economic and Community Development, Michael McKeon of Kastle Boos Architects and further for taking a voice vote first on those votes requiring a super majority.

Before any action was taken, the Moderator asked if everyone had a copy of the articles and the budget book. He stated copies were available in the lobby. In addition, he noted the budget pages and motions would be projected on the screen for Town Meeting. He reminded those in attendance to turn off all cell phones and pagers; a motion to amend must be in writing for the record allowing time for those to write out the amendment if needed; anyone who would like to address the meeting to use the microphone stating their name and address to be recognized by the Moderator; debate and questions are healthy but to maintain order should be directed through the Moderator and as always maintain civility.

The Moderator certified that the warrant had been posted, served and returned in a proper fashion by Police Chief Bruce D. Gates.

The following act on was taken:

ARTICLE 1: The following was voted unanimously:

\$35,000 be transferred from the Employee Benefits Health & Life Insurance Account # 517400 to the Law Department Special Counsel Account #530400:

\$7,500 be transferred from the Employee Benefits Health & Life Insurance Account # 517400 to the Elections & Registration Election Officers Account #511108:

\$40,000 be transferred from the Employee Benefits Health & Life Insurance Account # 517400 to the Police Department Regular Pay Officers Account #511126:

\$235,000 be transferred from the Employee Benefits Health & Life Insurance Account # 517400 to the DPW Snow Removal Account #015293:

\$45,000 be transferred from the Employee Benefits Health & Life Insurance Account # 517400 to the Veterans' Services Medical & Cash Aid Account #577000:

\$70,000 be transferred from the Employee Benefits Health & Life Insurance Account # 517400 to the Unclassified Interest on Tax Abatement Account #015780

ARTICLE 2. Voted unanimously to postpone this article indefinitely.

ARTICLE 3. Voted by majority vote to transfer the sum of \$58,306 from the Employee Benefits Health & Life Insurance Account #517400 to fund sick leave buy-backs in the following departments:

Police Department	#519700	\$20,170
Fire Department	#519700	\$36,136
Library	#519700	\$ 2,000

Voted unanimously to dissolve the meeting at 7:29 PM.

A true copy, attest:

ALLISON J. FERREIRA
Town Clerk