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MIDDLEBY CORP
Form 8-K
February 18, 2005

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): February 15, 2005

THE MIDDLEBY CORPORATION
(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

| | | |
|---|------------------------------------|--|
| Delaware (State or Other Jurisdiction of Incorporation) | 1-9973 (Commission File Number) | 36-3352497 (IRS Employer Identification No.) |
|---|------------------------------------|--|

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| 1400 Toastmaster Drive, Elgin, Illinois (Address of Principal Executive Offices) | 60120 (Zip Code) |
|---|---------------------|

(847) 741-3300
(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)
N/A
(Former Name or Former Address, if Changed Since Last Report)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)

Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)

Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))

Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

ITEM 1.01 ENTRY INTO A MATERIAL DEFINITIVE AGREEMENT.

Pursuant to the terms of the Stock Repurchase Agreement, dated December 23, 2004, by and among the Company, William F. Whitman, Jr., the former Chairman of the Company's board of directors ("Mr. Whitman"), members of his family and trusts controlled by his family, the Company and Mr. Whitman entered into a letter agreement, dated February 15, 2005 (the "Letter Agreement"), whereby the Company agreed to pay to Mr. Whitman a lump sum in the amount of \$7,500,000 in full and final satisfaction of the Company's obligations to fund Mr. Whitman's monthly pension benefits.

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A copy of the Letter Agreement is attached hereto as Exhibit 10.1. The description of the Letter Agreement in this Current Report on Form 8-K is qualified in its entirety by reference to the complete copy of the agreement attached hereto as an exhibit.

ITEM 9.01. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND EXHIBITS.

(c) Exhibits.

EXHIBIT NO. DESCRIPTION

Exhibit 10.1 Letter Agreement, dated February 15, 2005, by and between The Middleby Corporation and William F. Whitman, Jr.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

THE MIDDLEBY CORPORATION

Dated: February 18, 2005

By: /s/ Timothy J. FitzGerald

Timothy J. FitzGerald
Vice President and Chief
Financial Officer

Exhibit No. Description

Exhibit 10.1 Letter Agreement, dated February 15, 2005, by and between The Middleby Corporation and William F. Whitman, Jr.