



Town of Middlefield Finance Committee

07/16/24 Meeting

In attendance:

Adair Laurel-Cafarella Gita Jozsef Ken Murray
Stephen Harris, Secretary Jonathan Freiermuth

Also attending:

Doreen Black Tamarin Laurel-Paine
Donald Trask Karri Trask

Quorum, call to order:

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm.

Review minutes from previous meeting:

Minutes from previous meeting on 07/02/24 were approved as written.

Accounting Issues & VADAR transition:

The Accountant has not tried VADAR software on the current computer nor had new computer set up. No balances entered in VADAR yet, even though we are well into FY 2025.

The town continues to use Springbrook accounting software, for which funding was not authorized in the FY 2025 budget.

Concern was expressed that backdated checks for FY 2024 expenses may have been written after the 7/15/24 deadline.

Highway Department:

The Finance Committee voted to roll FY 2024 Highway Dept. vacation days over to FY 2025 as there are sufficient funds in the current budget.

Need to determine remaining number of vacation days.

New lines have been painted on most of the paved roads, at a cost of \$11,000 so far.

Construction has begun on Chipman Road, from the intersection with Root Road down to Clark Wright Road.

PVPC has put in for a multi town grant (\$600K would be Middlefield portion for Clark Wright Road).

Chapter 90 funds are being employed for tree removal, culverts, grinding, paving, etc.

Town Hall floor replacement:

Bids for asbestos removal and laying replacement tiles are due on July 19. The town has contracted for the accompanying furniture removal and replacement.

Any other business:

Voted to raise the work-off allotment per senior from \$500 to \$1,000 and establish a work-off allotment of \$1,000 per veteran.

The town is continuing to lose approximately \$50,000 per year by maintaining funds in accounts paying little or no interest.

Approved \$93 payment of annual dues for the Association of Town Finance Committees.

The Finance Committee continues to seek to arrange a tour of the church for the purposes of capital planning.

The church is set to resume occasional services, while it remains unclear whether \$120K in funds held by the mother church can be employed for necessary repairs.

There appear to be insufficient funds in tax title account to cover multiple emerging demands, though the town should benefit in the end.

It's a contested issue whether the playground should be maintained in place or moved at considerable cost behind the town hall. The town has applied for an \$80K playground grant.

The Finance Committee has yet to receive answers from the Selectboard to its written requests re:

- The unauthorized transfer of \$90,000 from the Stabilization account to the General account.
- The failure to request MIA to provide updated insurance quotes, including written assurances that they will match the VFIS quotes and continue coverage for employees over age 65.

The FC will seek recourse via Division of Local Services or other means in light of stonewalling of requests to the SB, town administrator, and financial team.

Next meeting:

The next meeting will be at the Senior Center on August 6th at 5 pm.

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 6:44 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

