



Town of Middlefield

Finance Committee

08/06/24 Meeting

In attendance:

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

Also attending:

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 07/16/24 were approved as written.

Accounting Issues & VADAR transition:

The Town Administrator has yet to provide the Finance Committee with the view-only password to the VADAR accounts, as previously agreed.

We still do not have the new VADAR account numbers and FY 2025 balances.

Highway Department:

Owing to intensive ongoing work on Chipman Road the Highway Department superintendent has not been available to provide updates to FY 2025 budget needs.

Town Hall floor replacement:

The town received good bids on asbestos remediation.

Total expenditures should be well under the \$208,809 approved at the April 13, 2024 special town meeting.

At the July 31 Selectboard meeting it was proposed to use funds left over from the town hall floor asbestos removal and reflooring project to purchase partitions for reconfiguring town offices. In response, the Finance Committee unanimously voted to inform the Selectboard that as per Article 6 of the April 13, 2024 special town meeting warrant, all funds remaining upon completion of the project must "go into the General Stabilization account" and not be diverted to that or any other purpose.

Any other business:

The \$90K transfer from the Stabilization account to the General Fund has yet to be explained.

The town is overdue for a financial audit to help resolve this issue and identify any others.

The Town Administrator has yet to provide assurance that MIIA has matched the competitive offerings from VFIS.

A question was raised whether it was appropriate for town officials to attend a luncheon hosted by MIIA.

Karri Trask has applied to the Selectboard to fill the vacancy left by the (unfortunate) vacancy now that Jonathan Freiermuth is leaving town.

It was questioned whether committees should pay either members or others to take their minutes.

Next meeting:

The next meeting will be at the Senior Center on August 20th at 5 pm.

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 6:20 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen B. Harris". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S'.