



Town of Middlefield Finance Committee

12/19/23 Meeting

In attendance:

Joe Kearns, Chair
Adair Laurel-Cafarella
Gita Jozsef
Stephen Harris, Secretary
Jonathan Freiermuth

Also attending:

Ken Murray
Tamarin Laurel-Paine

Quorum, call to order:

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 pm.

Review minutes from previous meeting:

Minutes from previous meeting on 12/05/23 were approved as written.

2025 budget & ATM warrant:

Began reviewing FY2025 budget requests and making FC recommendations. Will meet with departments in subsequent meetings.

Any other business:

The town administrator has secured five grants for a total of \$48,698. No grants have been secured for any of the four priority projects he identified at our October 10th meeting.

Discussed the advantage of having a split tax rate for commercial vs. residential properties, which would lower the tax rate for residential properties. It was noted that the "recreational" commercial designation allows certain property owners to enjoy a relative advantage over non-recreational property owners, while conveying minimal public benefit. Gita will research the issue, including what is done in other towns.

The Selectboard requested that the Finance Committee do a Reserve Fund transfer for the library. It was voted that since this was not an extraordinary or unforeseen expense, the FC cannot employ the reserve fund for this purpose, rather, the Selectboard will have to bring it before a town meeting.

It was noted that the town received an additional \$101,628 in Chapter 90 funds from the MA Fare Share Amendment.

Next meeting:

The next meeting will be on January 2nd at 5 pm.

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 6:40 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'.