



Town of Middlefield Finance Committee

1/07/25 Meeting

In attendance:

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

Also attending:

Donald Trask Diane Thome Tamarin Laurel-Paine

Quorum, call to order:

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

Accounting issues:

All accounts are on a new computer.

Numerous FY2025 errors are being cleaned up by Kinsherb Accounting.

A special town meeting is required to fund Kinsherb for remainder of FY25.

Any funds remaining in town hall asbestos removal and floor replacement accounts upon the project's completion must go into the General Stabilization account, as per the approved Article 6 of the Special Town Meeting warrant of 3-28-24.

Reviewed FY2026 budget requests:

Town accountant increase from \$15K for an employee to \$36K for an outside accounting firm.

Town accountant \$800 expense account eliminated.

Voted to:

- Move PVPC account to selectboard expenses.
- Increase disposal area account from \$35K to \$40K.
- Fund \$3,300 for Hilltown Resource Management out of the \$4,200 disposal area grant.
- Approve Fire Department requests.
- Increase the librarian's salary by 2.5% and fund an assistant librarian for \$2,340.
- Eliminate the separate \$2,500 maintenance technician line from maintenance of public buildings.
- Increase reserve fund from \$10K to \$15K.
- Reduce police officer's compensation request from \$28,600 to \$22,000.
- Reduce Selectboard copier expense from \$2,000 to \$1,500.

- Eliminate \$2K treasurer bond fees as per treasurer's recommendation.

Questioned the need for the \$2K recording secretary line.

Discussed the need for a forensic audit owing to the passage of time and changing financial staff.

Next meeting:

The next Finance Committee meeting will be at the Town Hall on January 14th at 5 pm.

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 6:30 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'.