



Town of Middlefield Finance Committee

09/17/24 Meeting

In attendance:

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

Also attending:

Tamarin Laurel-Paine Donald Trask
Maureen Longobardi Al Longobardi

Quorum, call to order:

The meeting was called to order at 5:13 pm.

Review minutes from previous meeting:

Minutes from previous meeting on 09/06/24 were approved as written.

Accounting Issues & VADAR transition:

Tamarin has asked the town administrator to submit an application for a Community Compact Grant for the VADAR conversion.

The Selectboard has not yet hired a temporary "Accounting Consultant" – whose job is slated to end in six weeks' time.

There is still no posting on the website for a replacement accountant more than two months into the current fiscal year.

Adair provided FY2026 budget request forms with the new account numbers, in preparation for our meetings with departments.

The Town Administrator continues to hamper the Finance Committee's ability to carry out its mandate as the town's official fiscal watchdog by not fulfilling our repeated requests for a read-only password to the VADAR accounts.

The town has moved another \$350K into higher yielding accounts, as per the committee's recommendation.

The committee has yet to receive an explanation as to why the town renewed its insurance coverage with MIIA rather than pay VFIS \$2,361 less for better coverage.

Highway Department:

Attendees raised questions regarding required highway equipment, including the number of vehicles and whether to buy or lease, which will be addressed when we meet with the road superintendent.

Town Hall floor replacement:

Though much has been done, our next meeting will remain at the senior center.

Any other business:

The Finance Committee's five-year capital plan, plus years 6-10 & misc. ideas, was approved pending minor edits. It can be downloaded from the [FC Minutes page](#) on the town website.

Several current invoices reviewed continue to be neither signed nor dated by the submitting department – deficiencies noted in our May 7th minutes.

Next meeting:

The next meeting will be at the Senior Center on October 1st at 5 pm.

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 6:48 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'.