



Town of Middlefield Finance Committee

12/05/23 Meeting

In attendance:

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 pm.

Review minutes from previous meeting:

Minutes from previous meeting on 11/21/23 were approved as amended.

Work on 3/10-year capital plan:

PVPC is impressed with our plan and is looking into filing for grants on behalf of our town.

2025 budget & ATM warrant:

Worked on cover letter for FY2025 budget request forms currently being distributed.

Concerns were expressed re the effect of increased expenditures on the town's tax rate, including the decision to proceed with projects despite the state's rejection of their respective town grant applications.

The town administrator has apparently yet to apply for grants with respect to any of the four priority projects he identified at our October 10th meeting, as well as the possible USDA grant to cover two-thirds of the cost of a new truck.

Any other business:

Discussed a number possible ways to raise revenue so as to limit tax increases to between 2½% and 3% per year.

Apparently, seven town assets are not on the current MIIA list. The three vehicles are now on the list; their previous absence exposed the town to significant financial liability. By not spending its ARPA (Covid-19 recovery) funds, the town risks losing its \$79,808 allocation.

By sending \$300K to the Mass Mutual Depository Trust (MMDT) the town would earn \$12K in interest.

Both town applications for one-stop grants were denied.

An MVP grant to create an emergency shelter at the town hall was discussed. Concern was expressed that this would require major additional uncovered expenditures on the part of the town to meet all the shelter requirements.

The Selectboard scheduled a joint meeting with the Finance Committee for January 17th at 6:30 pm.

Next meeting:

The next meeting will be on December 19th at 5 pm.

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 6:44 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen B. Harris". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.