



Town of Middlefield Finance Committee

04/09/24 Meeting

In attendance:

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

Also attending:

Ken Murray

Quorum, call to order:

The meeting was called to order at 5:06 pm.

Review minutes from previous meeting:

Minutes from previous meeting on 03/26/24 were approved as written.

2025 budget & ATM warrant:

It is unclear how much the replacement plow truck will cost and how it will be financed. The Road Superintendent and Town Administrator will be invited to discuss at our next meeting.

It was not deemed necessary to include a warrant article establishing a \$2K fund for the issuance of treasurer's bonds.

Any other business:

A number of townspeople feel betrayed by the Finance Committee's support for the town hall asbestos removal and floor replacement project, since they were led to believe that the project would be grant financed. Even though the project will cost approximately \$700 per household, it was deemed necessary for the health and safety of the building's occupants.

Ken Murray gave the town administrator an extensive list of potential bidders for the project and will provide Finance Committee oversight over the bidding process.

Frustration was expressed over the continued refusal to provide the Finance Committee with access to the town's bank account balances, hindering our oversight role. The town appears to be forgoing thousands of dollars per year in potential interest earnings.

Concern was expressed over the lack of progress in transitioning town accounting from Springbrook to the VADAR Systems municipal accounting software. The project was supposed to have begun in March and transitioned by May in time to work out any kinks

prior to start of the 2025 fiscal year, yet the VADAR has not been given the promised accounting history, creating a critical delay.

Concern was also expressed in the lack of oversight in the spending of technology grant funds.

Next meeting:

The next meeting will be on April 16th at 5 pm.

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 6:50 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'.