



Town of Middlefield

Finance Committee

02/07/23 Meeting

In Attendance:

Joseph Kearns, Chair Gita Jozsef
Stephen Harris, Secretary Adair Laurel-Cafarella

Also in attendance: Doreen Black

Quorum, call to order:

The meeting was called to order at 6:09 pm.

Reviewed FY24 requests for Website/Technology and Hosting:

Met with Catya Belfer to review website/technology and hosting budget requests. While there could be some variation in particular subitems, she believed that the 2023 budgeted amounts would be sufficient for 2024.

Her requests were approved unanimously.

Reviewed FY24 Assessors' budget requests:

Reviewed various Assessors' budget requests.

All cost requests were approved unanimously, with FC designated 5% salary increases in line with comparable pay increases. Adair recused himself from voting.

Reviewed FY24 Planning Board, Historical Commission, and Historical Records budget requests:

Met with Doreen Black to review FY24 Planning Board, Historical Commission, and Historical Document budget requests. She believed that the 2023 budgeted amounts would be sufficient for 2024.

All requests were approved unanimously

Members voted to recommend uniform 5% salary increases for Treasurer, Town Accountant, and Tax Collector to \$11,928.

Discussed the need for uniform account nomenclature for the warrant and town expense report to minimize confusion.

There was discussion of the apparently ever-changing exorbitant cost estimates for repairs and renovations to the Town Hall, Senior Center and other town buildings.

Discussed legal review of title for the church and its lot, for possible transfer of the property to the town.

Discussed the possibility of moving Council on Aging, Town Museum, and other functions from the Senior Center to the church building.

Discussed the need to separately account for the heating, electric, maintenance and other expenses of the six town buildings, especially in light of the extensive, renovations that are being entertained.

Adair will attend Gateway school budget meetings to gather information on these major FY24 projected expenses for the Finance Committee.

Unanimously rejected recommended \$100 FY24 Finance Committee budget request for membership in the Massachusetts Municipal Association, as the FC does not have a separate executive budget and such expenditure was deemed more appropriate for the Selectboard.

It was conveyed to Steve by those who attend Selectboard meetings that the SB was not supportive of his efforts to have Middlefield apply for recognition as an International Dark Sky Community.

Review minutes from previous meeting:

Minutes from previous meeting 1/31/23 were approved as written.

Next meeting:

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday 2/14 at 6 pm.

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 7:43 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'.