



Town of Middlefield

Finance Committee

08/29/23 Meeting

In Attendance:

Joseph Kearns, Chair
Stephen Harris, Secretary
Jonathan Freiermuth

Gita Jozsef
Adair Laurel-Cafarella

Also attending:

Ron Radwich

Quorum, call to order:

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

Review minutes from previous meeting:

Minutes from previous meeting on 8/22/23 were approved as read.

Work on 10-year capital plan:

As per the town bylaws, the FC worked on the 3-year capital plan plus ideas received for years 4-10.

Meet with departments (Fire):

Met with Ron Radwich to discuss Fire Department funding needs.

For the current FY 24:

- It is vital to repair or replace our broken fire siren, at an approximate cost of \$20K, as this is the only comprehensive means to alert the entire community in the event of emergency. Ron would also like to remove the old pole, and replace it with a new pole closer to the firehouse.
- The firehouse generator must also be upgraded to 20 Kw, so as to provide a reliable source of power to the siren, at a preliminary estimated cost of \$20K. The current generator could probably be redeployed to the Senior Center.

Future capital needs include a new tanker truck, for an estimated \$600K, and a used fire truck.

The state is pushing town emergency departments to upgrade to dual-band two-way radios including the 800 MHz band. At an estimated \$5K per unit, total cost to the town could be in the range of \$50-\$60K, with a possible 5-year phase-in.

Concern was expressed that should Ron spot a bargain, such as a no-bid used fire truck from another town, it will have been grabbed by another town by the time Middlefield is able to move.

It was agreed that Middlefield must do a better job at securing grants.

Ron will provide updates on various estimated costs, etc.

It was also noted that since Middlefield's CodeRED emergency notification system was being used to announce town meetings, people are now ignoring alerts, rendering the system ineffectual in the case of an actual emergency.

Financial timetable & responsibilities:

Adair will meet with Bev re September 1 approval of free cash.

Questions for various departments:

Adair will review draft questions and other concerns with the various departments.

Any other business:

Adair participated in a Zoom call re state pilot money.

Gita provided her estimated tax rate projection for the current year.

Next meeting:

The next meeting will be on September 12th at 5 pm.

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 6:09 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen B. Harris". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.