



# Town of Middlefield

## Finance Committee

3/11/25 Meeting

**In attendance:**

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

**Also attending:**

Donald Trask      Judy Hoag      Louise Harlow      Tamarin Laurel-Paine

**Quorum, call to order:**

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm.

**Review minutes from previous meeting:**

Minutes from previous meeting on 02/27/24 were approved as written.

**Reviewed and voted on FY2026 budget items:**

- Animal inspector salary & expenses.
- Building Commissioner salary & expenses.
- Minor Pioneer Valley Planning fee deemed to belong under Selectboard expenses, not as a separate budget category.
- The Planning boards one-time bylaw study should be approved at a special town meeting, rather than incorporated in the ATM warrant.
- COA salary & Senior Center custodian.
- Hilltown Resource management should be funded via corresponding grant.
- Biennial old dump tests should be financed via biennial ATM warrant articles.
- Gateway regular school & special ed assessments.
- Building maintenance technician should be put under maintenance of public buildings.
- Reserve Fund.
- Police Chief & Constable salaries.
- Tax Collector's salary.
- Town Clerk's salary.
- Treasurer's salary.

**Reviewed draft STM warrant:**

- Recommends Article 1 re removal of town hall asbestos flooring, provided the remaining funding goes into General Stabilization as originally voted.

- Do not recommend Article 2 \$80K for Senior Center repairs, as the town currently has enough funds allocated for contracted crawlspace structural repairs and related work, with Ken designated as spokesperson as to how subsequent repairs should be rolled out.
- Recommends Articles 3 & 4 free cash transfers for Highway purchase of grapple & pressure washer.
- Recommends Articles 5 & 6 property tax work-off programs.
- Recommends Article 7 to pay the accountants \$5K for professional services.
- Does not recommend Article 8 to renovate the playground as there is no advanced notice of project details and what it will cost.

Note: Article 8 in the draft warrant was not in the final STM warrant.

**Any other business:**

It is hoped that the Selectboard will incorporate the Finance Committee's recommendations in the STM warrant. If not, it was agreed that we will provide a separate FC handout.

Ken will draft FC recommendations to SB re Senior Center restoration.

**Next meeting:**

The next Finance Committee meeting will be at the Town Hall on March 20<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm, prior to the joint pre-STM forum with the Selectboard at 6 pm.

**Adjournment:**

Meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

