



## Town of Middlefield Finance Committee

07/02/24 Meeting

### **In attendance:**

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

### **Also attending:**

Doreen Black      Tamarin Laurel-Paine  
Donald Trask      Karri Trask  
Deb Schnappauf

### **Quorum, call to order:**

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

### **Review minutes from previous meeting:**

Minutes from previous meeting on 06/18/24 were approved as written.

### **Climate Compensation petition:**

The Finance Committee already has 50 signatures on petitions to compensate Middlefield for its positive financial climate benefits, offsetting the negative impacts of Boston and other localities. Steve will forward scans of the petitions to Sen. Mark requesting that he bring the issue before the state legislature and invite other towns in our senate district to join in our efforts.

### **Town Hall floor replacement:**

At least 8 contractors have come to town and at least one more is on the way to potentially bid on asbestos removal (July 12), and laying replacement tiles (July 19).

Concern was expressed that the process has been poorly handled from the start, without entertaining input from either the Planning Board or the FC.

### **Capital Planning:**

Discussed the Selectboard's designation of their capital planning committee as "ad hoc", in order to circumvent the absence of a vote to establish same at our annual town meeting, as required by Mass General Law.

It was also noted the designations of their appointment of the Police Chief and the Road Superintendent to the ad hoc committee had the appearance of conflicts of interest in determining their particular budgets.

**Highway Department:**

It was hoped that the Highway Superintendent could attend our next meeting to clarify the replacement schedule for Highway Department equipment and update us on the work on Clark Wright, Chipman, and other roads.

It appears that surpluses from the fuel account are being redirected to other expenditures.

**Accounting issues & VADAR transition:**

Marin requested a listing of accounts that must be converted to the new system.

It does not appear that old balances have been rolled over to the new account numbers.

**Any other business:**

It does not appear that the town applied for any road grants, even though these would have been given top priority.

The Finance Committee will seek to arrange a tour of the church for the purposes of capital planning.

Steve will create a form for year-end account transfers among accounts in May, June, and the first 15 days of July.

A \$1K transfer request was approved for the Hinsdale Ambulance Service.

Ken explained that it would be difficult to repair the existing playground, which also has no padding.

It was noted that the town website is no longer being regularly updated, such as for the FC's revised job description.

The Finance Committee approved the writing up of requests to the Selectboard re:

- The unauthorized transfer of \$90,000 from the Reserve to the General account.
- The failure to request MIIA to provide updated insurance quotes, including written assurances that they will match the VFIS quotes and continue coverage for employees over the age 65.

**Next meeting:**

The next meeting will be on July 16<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm.

**Adjournment:**

Meeting was adjourned at 6:55 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

