



# Town of Middlefield Finance Committee

**3/25/25 Meeting**

**In attendance:**

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

**Also attending:**

Donald Trask      Louise Harlow      Tamarin Laurel-Paine  
Maureen Longobardi      Al Longobardi      Daniel Bergeron

**Quorum, call to order:**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm.

**Review minutes from previous meeting:**

Minutes from previous meeting on 03/11/24 were approved as written.

**Preparations for the March 29 Special Town Meeting:**

- A strong case is to be made at the meeting that we will have considerable funds left over following completion of the current contracted Senior Center repairs and related work, so there is no need for Article 2's transfer of another \$80K from free cash.
- The case can be made that "free cash" is a misnomer in that when expended, unlike a donation or state grant, Middlefield taxpayers end up footing the bill.
- It would be appropriate to hand out our letter to the Selectboard re the Senior Center restoration at the special town meeting.

**Any other business:**

Reviewed the preliminary tax rate calculations for FY 2026.

Added \$500 to treasurer's expense in ATM warrant to cover bonding fees.

Reviewed articles 15-20 of the ATM warrant.

Found the pay rates for hourly employees to be eminently reasonable.

It was generally agreed that boards and committees should not pay their minute takers.

The DOR found that Middlefield's free cash amounts to 13.5% of its annual budget, far greater than its recommended 5-7%, regardless of town size.

It was agreed that the town should set up separate stabilization accounts for the fire, police, and highway departments, to cover future anticipated capital expenditures and facilitate the purchase of used equipment.

**Next meeting:**

The next Finance Committee meeting will be at the Town Hall on April 8<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm.

**Adjournment:**

Meeting was adjourned at 7:00 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'.