

**MINUTES**  
**MIDDLEFIELD FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**JANUARY 25, 2010**

PRESENT: Joe Kearns, Scott Artioli, Tamarin Laurel Paine, Gita Jozsef and Ed Vivier

Chairman Kearns opened the meeting at 7:35 pm.

The minutes of the previous meeting on November 23, 2009 were approved as read with one change. The word pilot will be changed to all capitals as in PILOT.

Chairman Kearns passed out a draft of the proposed town meeting warrant noting areas to include recommendations by the Selectboard, Finance Committee and any other concerned departments.

Chairman Kearns read an undated letter from the Selectboard asking that all town departments cut their proposed budgets by 10%. A discussion followed with a reading of the Massachusetts General Laws and the Town By-Laws noting the duties of the Finance Committee. The Committee will send a letter to all departments regarding their submission of their proposed FY2011 budget in a timely manner to the Finance Committee.

Member Ed Vivier voiced his opinion as being for the letter but requested the words "for clarification please" by added.

A vote was taken regarding sending the letter and four members were in favor and one was opposed.

The Committee discussed the upcoming special town meeting warrant and the various articles.

A discussion followed regarding the bills from our town lawyers for various accounts. The bills were not itemized and the Finance Committee will request more information from the Selectboard.

Chairman Kearns will have additional numbers for the proposed town warrant including a possible 5% increase in health care premiums. The Committee discussed the new draft format for the town warrants.

Member Gita Jozsef noted that at our next meeting we could discuss and make recommendations to cut the budget.

Member Scott Artioli questioned the Selectboards 10% recommendations noting that if a department does not or cannot, for example, reduce their budget, could we place a "no" in the Finance Committee's recommendation.

Chairman Kearns explained that the Hampshire Council of Government had notified the town of a rebate in excess of \$600 for participating in their electricity program.

Our next Finance Committee meeting will be held on February 8, 2010 at 7:30 pm.

The meeting adjourned at 8:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ed Vivier  
Secretary