

# MINUTES

## MIDDLEFIELD FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

MARCH 4, 2013

PRESENT: Joe Kearns, Scott Artioli, Janine Savoy and Ed Vivier

The meeting opened at 7:07 pm.

The minutes of the meeting on February 19, 2013 were read and unanimously approved.

Fire Chief Ron Radwich met with the Finance Committee to go over his budget request. He again requested \$8,000 for his regular budget. Some of the money will go towards purchasing spare pagers, rope bags, glasses, gloves and other items to keep the firefighters safe. The Chief also noted that he was working on obtaining Firefighter I classes, possibly holding the classes with Peru and Hinsdale Fire Departments. He also noted that the cost of fuel had gone up and that the fuel tank at the highway garage is now metered. He said that the dept. is waiting for a Wildfire Grant to purchase much needed forestry equipment. The grant, if obtained, would require matching funds from the town of approximately \$1,748.50.

The Chief also requested an additional \$25,000 to purchase twelve more sets of personal protection equipment for his firefighters. That would include coats, bunker pants, boots and some helmets.

He said that there is a problem with the furnace in the fire station and he recommended that the town buy a new propane powered furnace. This would enable the town to remove the oil tank from inside the fire station, creating much needed space and that the propane tank could be located behind the station, possibly underground. Committee Chair Joe Kearns noted that the town could purchase a new heating system and take it out of the Maintenance of Public Buildings Account. Right now the account stands at 47%. The selectmen, of course, would have the ultimate decision.

Ron also inquired whether it would possible to have a specific account in the Stabilization Fund to use to purchase a tanker truck. Chairman Kearns said that he

would look into the possibility. Chairman Kearns also noted that we paid \$7,000 for the Fire, Police and EMS dispatch service for this year.

Currently the Fire Chief salary is \$500 and his inspection salary is \$300. Finance Committee member Ed Vivier questioned the fire chief regarding the physical health of his firefighters and their ability to perform the required fire task as needed. Should we be thinking of requiring physicals for our firefighters to reduce the liability to the town if a firefighter gets hurt? The physical could be along the lines of a DOT type, which the federal government requires of departments receiving certain grants. There were also questions from other committee members regarding aspects of the town's liability and firefighter's pre-existing health conditions while also serving on the dept. The discussion ended with both the Fire Chief and the Committee agreeing to investigate this matter in greater detail.

The Finance Committee also met with Ed Vivier, head of the EMS in Middlefield, regarding his proposed budget. Ed suggested that his budget remain the same as last year at \$1,000 to buy the necessary tools and equipment. He also proposed a line be added in the budget account to pay for EMT education, that would be \$2,000.

The next meeting will be on March 18, 2013 at 7:00 pm with the Council on Aging and the Library Directors presenting their budget requests.

We have also scheduled a meeting on April 1, 2013 at 7:00 pm.

The meeting closed at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ed Vivier  
Secretary