

MIDDLEFIELD BOARD OF FINANCE
405 Main Street
Middlefield, Connecticut 06455

Minutes of the March 22, 2022 Budget Workshop#2
**** Not Approved At the time of Filing ****

Michael Skelps, acting chairman, called the workshop of the Board of Finance to order at 7:02 pm.

Attendance:

| Members | | Others | |
|---------|-----------------------|--------|-----------------|
| X | Boyle, Kevin | X | Rusilowicz, Al |
| A | Kowal, Melissa (Zoom) | X | Jessica Lobner |
| X | Lowry, David | X | Dena Miccinello |
| X | Skelps, Michael | X | Betsy Dean |
| X | Lee Matterazzo | | |
| X | Wolak, Mary | | |

A=Absent

X=Present

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of the Agenda

Lee made motion to approve, David seconded. Approved Unanimously

Public Comment

None

Review and Discussion of Durham-Middlefield Youth and Family Services

Betsy read the DMYFS mission statement, provide programs and resources to empower children and families to make positive choices for a healthy community.

Staff is Betsy, executive director; a prevention coordinator and part-time coordinator and bookkeeper, paid by a federal grant which is ending September 30, 2022. Grant amount was \$125,000 per year.

No substantial physical assets.

Checking account with about \$60,000, earmarked for the remaining half of the FY expenses.

The expiring grant... there have been many grants over the past 12 years, totaling \$1.7 million. Most of the grant money flows through to the community.

Betsy is retiring June 30, 2022.

Challenges include mental health of youth in the community. Legalization of marijuana is another concern. Don't want youth to turn to drugs and alcohol as a crutch.

There has been higher usage of the Juvenile Review Board.

This year, they are seeking an additional \$10,000 compared to last year from Middlefield.

Al stated that they are pulling \$42,000 per year in ARPA fund which is not included in the budget numbers presented. Durham has included ARPA funds in their budget so it is difficult to compare the two budgets.

Review and Discussion of Levi E. Coe Library

Library provides materials, education, enrichment and programming to the community.

Five staff members. Average tenure is around 12 years. Governed by an association board of 18 members.

Labyrinth funded by a patron, the only library with one, has brought in a lot of foot traffic.

Endowment \$139,605.45 (provided after the meeting).

Plan is to add more hours, 2 more evenings per week. This would be about 15 person hours per week (total of 148).

Fundraising took a big hit. Durham Fair only generated \$1,000.

Annual appeal just went out recently.

Replaced front walkway and stairs from Capital fund. Looking at back stairway and patio next. They currently have a brick drive for walkway to labyrinth. 80 bricks sold so far.

Book club has been popular.

ARPA grant -- \$15,000, but the usage was very constrained. Had to be technology related or to fund something required "due to Covid". They added solar picnic tables for charging. They received a CT Education grant to put in stronger wifi in back yard. Library created a logo this year.

Circulation went up during Covid. Last year, library delivered 268 programs with about 12,000 participants. Library card usage and renewals were also up.

Budget request was reviewed. Jessica presented a "reach" budget. Goal is to increase hours to pre-covid levels. Many items remained flat or close. Insurance estimate is an increase of \$2,000. Total budget is up 3% per year from pre-covid, two years ago.

The endowment is used very selectively and very conservatively to fund projects. Primarily, the town is the source of capital improvements for the library.

RSD 13 Discussion

Mike shared an email from the RSD Chairman. Lucy said she didn't think a joint BOE BOF meeting would happen, so she requested written input from the board. The board is concerned about the cost increase. Mike agreed to draft a letter to the BOE as well as an additional request in to have a BOF

representative speak with the BOE in person. Points to be covered – BOF views the school budget increase as unacceptable. Al said that the enrollment reduction is a key factor and the budget should be reduced including headcount. David shared some numbers of about repairing Pickett Lane versus the complete project. David also suggested that students in each grade need to be in one school in order to save fuel. He said there should also be one program as previously approved (not contingent on a particular school closure).

Upcoming Dates

Upcoming workshop and other relevant dates were reviewed.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Mary. Seconded by David. Meeting adjourned at 8:41pm.