

MIDDLEFIELD BOARD OF FINANCE
405 Main Street
Middlefield, Connecticut 06455

Minutes of the April 12, 2022 -- Budget Workshop #8
 *** *Not Approved At the time of Filing* ***

Michael Skelps, Chairman, called the workshop of the Board of Finance to order at 7:01 pm.

Attendance:

Members		Others	
X	Skelps, Michael	X	Rusilowicz, Al
X	Kowal, Melissa	X	Anne Olszewski, Tax Collector
X	Lowry, David	X	Peter Tyc, Fire Chief and Fire Marshal
X	Boyle, Kevin	X	Paul Pizzo, Chairman Fire Bldg Comm.
A	Lee Matterazzo		
X	Wolak, Mary		

A=Absent

X=Present

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of the Agenda

Dave made motion to approve the agenda as submitted. Kevin seconded. Approved unanimously.

Public Comment

None

Review and Discussion of the Fire Department Building Committee

Paul said they had a late start getting the architect on board. This round of work is scheduled to be finished by July. Last year, they were given \$100,000 in capital. They are adding some items which will require additional funding, including soil testing, survey of boring locations, septic review, well capacity test. Additional \$30,000 has been requested. Kevin had suggested increasing this to \$35,000, but Al pointed out that there was a \$10,000 contingency. Mike said that there was also \$2300 left from previous capital, and recommended we leave the increase at \$30,000. Al said we haven't received a bill from attorney Bruno for work performed months ago and we don't know how much that will be. He wouldn't be surprised if it was \$3,000 or more. Paul reiterated the request for \$35,000 since we didn't know how

much this legal bill was for. Dave said that Firehouse Building work was still town business, therefore it could be charged to the town attorney line item, and that we should move the Bruno bill into town council for this fiscal year. Mary agreed. This would keep the increase at \$30,000. Paul said they might spend all of this by June 30, or it could go into next year. Al said if it was spent before June 30 it was okay, and we would carry a negative balance into FY23.

Paul said that we are trying to get an application to Rose DeLauro's office for grants as soon as possible.

Capital Non-recurring fund review

Town Hall and Community Center are shown on First Selectman's office as single line items, so he reviewed the breakdown. \$7500 is being added to the Community Center budget for auditorium chair lift. Mike asked about capital funding for adding electrical outlets to the Middlefield Historical Society. Al said there were some items that this could come from, such as interior major. Al received a quote for the access control system with many bells and whistles for \$80,000. He will seek another pared-down quote. Mike suggested adding more money to this line item since it only has \$14,500 in it. Mike pointed out a probable error where Boiler Replacement and Brickwork are both shown as \$22,491 and asked Al to review for correctness.

We are eliminating capital funding for two town vehicles and leaving it for one vehicle (First Selectman's vehicle).

Storm contingency fund was used for the first time ever \$26,575 (Storm IDA) We need to restore this. Mike suggested breaking this down into two years to reduce the capital contribution for FY23. \$1,000 is being added to Capital for 2002 Pumper replacement at the request of the Fire Chief.

There was a discussion of how we handle revenue generated from sale of old capital items (e.g., old truck). It could be added to the capital fund and reduced from general fund. This would make revenue from sale of capital items more transparent. The board members present supported this change in accounting going forward.

First Selectman requested that we add \$5,000 for architectural fees for assessment of the changes needed at Memorial School in order to support using the school as a shelter.

Mary said that our revenue budget includes \$127,000 from the state due to the mill rate being capped, but this is still being negotiated at Hartford and should we look for a way to make up that \$127,000.

Library was briefly discussed. They received \$13,000 in PPP Loan in FY21. Also, they own substantial property behind the railroad tracks of 8.67 acres.

Anne also said there was a property at the lake that was owned by the town which could be sold to generate revenue for the town.

Upcoming Dates

Upcoming workshop and other relevant dates were reviewed.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Mary, seconded by Melissa. Meeting adjourned at 8:28pm.