

MIDDLEFIELD BOARD OF FINANCE
405 Main Street
Middlefield, Connecticut 06455

Minutes of the May 25, 2022 – Special BOF Meeting
 *** *Not Approved At the time of Filing* ***

Attendance:

Members		Others	
X	Skelps, Michael	X	Rusilowicz, Al
X	Kowal, Melissa	X	Anne Olszewski, Tax Collector
X	Lowry, David	X	Jason Wickham, Public Works
A	Boyle, Kevin		.
X	Lee Matterazzo		
X	Wolak, Mary		

A=Absent
 X=Present

Michael Skelps, Chairman, called the workshop of the Board of Finance to order at 7:00 pm.

Mike asked for a moment of silence to reflect on the tragedy and honor the victims in Uvalde, Texas.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of the Agenda

Mary made the motion to approve the agenda as submitted. Dave seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.

Public Hearing

Anne Olszewski asked the BOF to set the mill rate as proposed at the town meeting, rather than using the school budget reduction to lower the mill rate. Keeping the mill rate as originally proposed would lower the amount of unassigned fund balance to be used, resulting in a higher ending fund balance.

Discussion of the Mill rate

Mike proposed two options 1 – Use the BOE budget reduction to lower the mill rate, and leave the unassigned fund balance contribution to the budget at \$1,000,000. Option 2 was to keep the mill rate

approximately as presented on May 3 and to lower the unassigned fund balance contribution to \$800,000. The reduction of the school budget for Middlefield was \$203,499. Option 2 would result in a mill rate of 27.56.

Al explained that the town has never used \$1,000,000 of unassigned fund balance to balance the budget. This is a one-shot revenue stream, and artificially lowers the mill rate. The Lake Shore Drive culvert project currently in progress and hopefully to be completed in FY23. We have a STEAP grant of \$128K, and unobligated ARPA money of \$600K and Al is pushing to use for the culvert. Estimating the total project at \$900K, so we may require a town meeting to authorize these funds. All Board members weighed in and expressed support of Option 2.

Mary made a motion to set the Mill Rate at 27.56. Lee seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion of the Loader for Public Works

Jason had three quotes for the loader, all were close. John Deere is giving the most for a trade-in value. He is adding a three year warranty for \$1200. The total cost after trade-in will be \$144,000. After July 1, we will have \$163K in capital. He will purchase a used bucket for \$6,000 if one is available used. He is seeking permission to initiate a purchase order. Delivery will be about 270 days after ordering. No deposit is required and the invoice needs to be paid within 30 days of delivery.

Made a motion to approve the purchase order for the loader, effective immediately. Melissa seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

Mike reminded the Board that the next meeting was to be June 9. Mary and Melissa expressed interest in having the June meeting via Zoom.

Al reminded the Board that Rose DeLauro had allocated \$2.25 million towards the Emergency Operations Center Building Project.

Motion to adjourn was made by Mary, seconded by Dave. Meeting adjourned at 7:24pm.