

MIDDLEFIELD BOARD OF FINANCE
405 Main Street
Middlefield, Connecticut 06455

Minutes of the March 24, 2020 Budget Workshop Video Conference

Jim Irish started the meeting at ~7:07 pm.

Attendance:

Members

Others

X	Irish, Jim	X	Rusilowicz, Al
X	Kowal, Melissa	X	Bailey, Ed
X	Lowry, David		
X	Nick, Joel	X	Hannah Malcolm + Frank Wolak (board member))
X	Skelps, Michael	X	Amy Poturnicki
X	Wolak, Mary		

A=Absent
X=Present

Presentation by Park and Recreation Director - Hannah Malcolm (Handouts attached)

- Discussion of major changes in 2019 - “What has Park and Rec. Been Up To...?” (See attachment 1)
- Discussion of proposed expense items - (see attachment 2)
- Expense items proposed are ~\$3000 lower than FY20 budget
- Discussion of capital budget proposal - (see attachment 3). Several items were discussed as potentials should the BOF need to cut capital spending. Discussion of Tennis/Pickelball court support was postponed to have later with R. Yamartino/E.Bailey
- Hannah was thanked for her superior work moving our Park and Rec. programs and facilities forward.

Presentation by Lake Beseck Environmental Committee Chairman - Amy Poturnicki (Handouts attached)

- Discussion of progress, activities and efforts to improve the lake. (see attachment 4).
- Discussion of proposed expense items (see attachment 5 for both expense and capital proposals). Additional contractor actions and testing for permitting required by DEEP accounts for basic year to year expense increase of \$300.
- Discussion of capital needs. Capital request is ~\$1400 lower than FY20.
- Amy was thanked for her tireless efforts to engage with DEEP to get permissions to improve the Lake quality. Also her strong leadership with community outreach and Lake awareness/beautification campaigns.

General Discussion/clarification of budget items

- Relative to a concern about tax collection in FY21, a historical tax collections table (attachment 6) was presented by the Finance Director showing that Middlefield has been able to collect basically 100% of its yearly levy in each of the past 13 years.

- This includes the recession year 2008, where receipts were still above 99.4%
- And together with the fact that much of the July property taxes for properties with mortgages have likely been escrowed, this shed's positive light on some of the concern that Middlefield's tax collection rate would drop given the current economic conditions.

The meeting was adjourned at ~8:53 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Irish