

MIDDLEFIELD BOARD OF FINANCE
405 Main Street
Middlefield, Connecticut 06455

Minutes of the March 31, 2020 Budget Workshop Video Conference

Jim Irish started the meeting at ~7:03 pm.

Attendance:

Members

Others

X	Irish, Jim	X	Rusilowicz, Al
X	Kowal, Melissa	A	Bailey, Ed
X	Lowry, David		
X	Nick, Joel	X	Betsy Dean
X	Skelps, Michael	X	Sue D’Orvilliers
X	Wolak, Mary		

A=Absent

X=Present

Presentation by Durham/Middlefield Youth and Family Services Director - Betsy Dean (Handouts attached)

- FY-21 budget proposal is \$15,500, up from \$14,000 in FY-20. % increase is the same for Middlefield and Durham. Middlefield share represents <16% of organization’s total FY-21 budget.
- Betsy discussed a number of grants and programs including the STOP ACT grant, Drug Free Community grant, the CARA grant - with significant contribution by Middlefield’s Dr. Michael Kalanowski, the Network of Care - a mental health program w/ RSD13 for students grades 7 thru 12, the GIZMO’s program in the 4th grade run by Memorial teacher Barbara Allen, and the Juvenile Review Board.
- Betsy also described the ongoing polling of students in grades 7-12 about behaviors, giving a excellent trending data base on student actions. (Data to be distributed later)
- The BOF thanked Betsy for the outstanding influence and impact her programs have on our communities’s youth.

Presentation by Senior Center / Social Services Department Director - Sue D’Orvilliers (Handout attached)

- FY-21 overall department budget is up <\$1,000 over last year to \$77,602. Small increases in salary and cost of Dial-a-ride bus. Other line items constant vs. FY-20.
- Significant discussion regarding Sr. meals and the Food Bank - given current “Sequester” mandates. CRT continues to prepare shelf stable (frozen) meals for distribution to Seniors. Middlefield Food Bank has seen >25% increase in use/clients in 2020, prior to pandemic “lockdowns”. All disbursements are by prior phone-call arrangement with Sue. Donations have been goods and money. K-Club, Lions, Fire Department, Victory Church, Community Round-ups, and individuals are among many types of donors. Need for donations continues, however.
- Discussion held about Sue creating a “DONATE” button, so folks could offer monetary aid on-line. She will follow-up to us with any progress on actualizing the button.

- Dial-a-Ride and Senior Bus activities were reviewed. Dial-a-Ride activity level being requested from Middletown Area Transit, to understand Middlefield ridership. Sr. Bus currently had largest activity level for recreational journeys + small activity for out-of-county medical trips.
- BOF offered our gratitude to Sue for her expanding work and her outreach, letting people know of, and take advantage of, the programs available through her Department.

Additional discussion

- Suggestion was made to ask the Inland Wetland Commission to talk with the BOF regarding the FY-21 budget proposal, given a multi-fold increase in expenses in FY-20 and projected into FY-21. Jim to contact Rebecca Adams and Randy Bernotas for availability..

The meeting was adjourned at ~8:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Irish