

**MIDDLEFIELD BOARD OF FINANCE**  
**405 Main Street**  
**Middlefield, Connecticut 06455**

Minutes of the April 14, 2020 Budget Workshop Video Conference

Jim Irish started the meeting at ~7:02 pm.

Attendance:

Members

Others

X	Irish, Jim	X	Rusilowicz, Al
X	Kowal, Melissa	A	Bailey, Ed
X	Lowry, David		
X	Nick, Joel	X	Rebecca Adams Rieder
X	Skelps, Michael	X	Randy Bernotas
X	Wolak, Mary		

A=Absent

X=Present

**Presentation/Discussion by Inland Wetlands Director, Rebecca Adams-Rieder and Inland Wetland Agent, Randy Bernotas (see attachment 1)**

- Spending is up significantly in 2020 and anticipated to be high in 2021 because of multiple requests/applications and extended enforcement activities being pursued.
- Court action being pursued, including attorney's fees due to non-compliance situation with offender in purposeful violation of regulations. Coronavirus circumstances mean courts not open and further activity will await re-opening for pursuit.
- Ms. Adams stated that her team has prepared a proposed draft of a new town ordinance that would enable the town/commissions to charge fines for extended violations of town regulations. Towns are enabled to do that by state statute; however, the municipality must have an ordinance in place to be able to do that. Ms. Adams will forward a copy of the draft for review and possible co-endorsement of the proposed ordinance to the 1st Selectman.
- Additional activities were described, including an activity at Laurel Brook reservoir with the town of Middletown, and an application for an indoor soccer field by AMI.
- Both Ms. Adams and Mr. Bernotas were thanked for their work to assure our wetland properties are maintained in concert with regulations.

**Capital Plan Discussion: Jim Irish / Al Rusilowicz / et.al.**

- The capital plan was reviewed by line item, with differences in funding from last year (FY20) described. Specific items of concern included:
  - Item 9145 - the rationale for the funding holiday for the auditorium floor
  - Item 9174 - the intention for rebuilding of the town website
  - Item 9115 - elimination of the new permitting software
  - Item 9291 - should the excess balance for the guard rail mower go to the loader - item 9293
  - Item 9310 - New quote needed for walking path completion

- Currently proposed, overall numbers were summarized (*see attachment 2*) - FY21 capital funding total is up \$115K over FY20 without considering LED lights (special town approval granted). If LED lights are included in FY20 - FY21 capital is down ~\$130K vs. total FY20 funding.

**Discussion of BOF FY21 Budget Process Going Forward - all**

- A new e-mail address ([BOFcomments@middlefieldct.org](mailto:BOFcomments@middlefieldct.org)) has been created to allow the public to offer comments regarding the budget proposal(s) to the BOF. It will be distributed to town political party chairmen, to the Town Times with a copy of the budget process going forward, and we will try to post the address on the home page of the town website.
- The calendar of future activities was discussed and agreed to as in *attachment 3*.
- A discussion of “requested DMIAAB follow-up” summarized to having Mr. DelVecchio forward his new information in writing to the BOF and having Jim Irish send out Mr. DelVecchio’s recent analysis of comparative transportation costs.

The meeting was adjourned at ~9:53 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jim Irish