

MIDDLEFIELD BOARD OF FINANCE
405 Main Street
Middlefield, Connecticut 06455

Minutes of the March 23, 2021 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		
A	Nick, Joel	X	Betsy Dean
X	Skelps, Michael	X	Jess Lobner
A	Wolak, Mary		

A=Absent

X=Present

Discussion with Betsy Dean regarding DMYWC 2020 activities and proposed FY22 budget

- Betsy described the many, many activities undertaken by her organization over the past year.
- Many are courtesy of numerous grants she has successfully achieved.
- A bi-yearly survey of various types of risky behavior by our communities’s youth continues to show reductions in those behaviors.
- She continues to praise the Juvenile Review Board for its ability to offer an alternative to court for youth who have made their first unlawful mistake.
- Her budget of non-grant activities is roughly \$97K of which ~50% is town support.
- Her request for FY22 from Middlefield is \$20,500 - same as FY21’s support.

Discussion with Jess Lobner regarding Levi Coe Library 2020 activities and proposed FY22 budget

- Covid meant that the library had to close it’s doors; however, a very strong interaction with the community continued with novel approaches to distribution of e-books and digital resources.
- A “park and pick-up” program was begun allowing clients to gather resources from the library in paper bags in the entry way.
- Other programming has continued aggressively (including crafts and home activities), partially funding by book sales and assistance from the Library Friends group. The tasting programs were typically sold out at 30 families each session.
- The Library’s social media presence has been expanded and is an example of excellence.
- With the vaccination of folks, and current downward trends in Covid infection rates, Jess plans to open the library, perhaps two evening per week, to enable clients that cannot access day-time availability to engage with the library. This will require a slight adjustment to the

detailed budget Jess presented; however, she feels she will be able to make small line item changes to accommodate the increase in part-time staffing required.

- The FY22 operating expenses requested from the town are \$296,562, a nearly \$14K reduction from FY21 support.
- Jess wants to complete the repairs to the Library's front walkway. The current capital plan and overall balance should enable funding this repair in FY22.

Discussion of other miscellaneous budget topics

- Recent RSD13 surplus projections for FY21 indicates that additional monies may be able to be applied to the FY22 budget to reduce the net increase. The information will be discussed at future BOE budget meetings.

Next Workshop March 25 - Public Works and Parks and Rec.

The meeting was adjourned at ~8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Irish