

MIDDLEFIELD BOARD OF FINANCE
405 Main Street
Middlefield, Connecticut 06455

Minutes of the April 1, 2021 Budget Workshop Video Conference

Jim Irish started the meeting at ~7:04 pm.

Attendance:

Members

Others

X	Irish, Jim	X	Rusilowicz, Al
X	Kowal, Melissa	A	Bailey, Ed
X	Lowry, David		
X	Nick, Joel	X	Sue D’Orvilliers
X	Skelps, Michael	X	Rob Poturnicki
X	Wolak, Mary	X	Rebecca Adams-Reider

A=Absent

X=Present

Discussion with Sue D’Orvilliers regarding Senior Center/Social Services 2020-21 activities and proposed FY22 budget

- Susan has worked through Covid time period. Seniors have increased Grab and Go Meals - up to 35/week. Food Bank activity has also increased by ~130%; however, community support for restocking the food bank has been excellent.
- Program activities, which were largely in-person have suffered the most. Zoom exercise activity is one remaining program with good participation.
- Susan offered the ability to reduce her office assistant lone item (proposed at \$800) if we need it. Uncertain if she will need assistant under current operation modality.
- She is planning on a soft re-opening - perhaps September, assuming no major area wide reinfection issues
- Other budget items were straightforward.

Discussion with Rob Poturnicki regarding Emergency Management 2020-21 activities and proposed FY22 budget

- Rob mentioned that an inventory of items at our Memorial School shelter identified the need for replacement of cots, blankets, pillow, and perhaps the renting of a storage facility to enable improved storage of these items. Sundry expenses included PPE: N-95 masks, coveralls, facemarks and gloves - any acquired through fire department sources
- Memorial School as Middlefield’s Emergency Shelter was discussed. RDS13 had disconnected the fuel tanks from a failed generator. The generator is being replaced, which will allow emergency power at the facility again. *(Jim to check with RDS13 on generator replacement being part of the FY21 or FY22 school budget)*
- The issue of showers at the facility was discussed. RSD13 may be eliminating showers in an upcoming renovation of Memorial School. Rob will review options. One option for the BOF would

be to introduce a new line item in the FY22 capital budget to begin to put away funding for Emergency Shelter shower capability (could even be mobile [trailed] shower capability).

- A low YTD spending in Shelter supplies and Sundry Expenses was questioned. Many expenses this year have been able to be categorized in an alternate line item - Covid Related Expenses
- Overall, the requested budget represent an ~\$6K reduction vs the FY21 budget.

Discussion with Rebecca Adam-Rieder regarding Inland Wetlands 2020-21 activities and proposed FY22 budget

- Board interest was in the status of litigation regarding a lake property violation which represented a significant budget increase in FY21. With the courts being closed, little legal progress has been made. It is believed that the defendant may be facing foreclosure or possibly bankruptcy in other jurisdictions. Inland Wetlands is minimizing external legal expenses, and will be seeking a summary judgement from the court regarding this action.
- The requested FY22 budget is therefore, significantly lower (by >\$10K) than the FY21 budget.

Discussion of other miscellaneous budget topics

- DMIAAB joint BOS/BOF meeting is scheduled for April 13, 2021
- Donna Golub corrected her earlier statement (let weeks workshop) regarding grants. She has received over \$100,000 in Historical Preservation Grant money during her tenure as Town Clerk - an amazing achievement and success rate - saving the town significant funds for document preservation work.
- A request was made to have a full budget update available at the April 13 workshop, to understand and potentially approve many/most expense items going toward the BOF Public Hearing budget. (*Jim to talk with Al about having that available*)
- The 1st Selectman has requested current feedback from board members individually, regarding the purchase of the property next to the Town hall.
- The Fire Department Building Committee is moving forward; Melissa Kowal is representing our BOF on this committee and emphasized the current, cramped firehouse space, and reinforced the need for new structure to accommodate today's fire truck heights.

The meeting was adjourned at ~8:36 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Irish