

MIDDLEFIELD BOARD OF FINANCE
405 Main Street
Middlefield, Connecticut 06455

Minutes of the May 4, 2021 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	Skelps, Michael		
X	Wolak, Mary	X	Ann Olszewski

A=Absent

X=Present

Discussion by all regarding proposed FY22 budget - Jim/Al presented line items and department summaries for Board consideration

- Thank you to Al Rusilowicz for preparing the currently proposed version of the full FY22 budget for the BOF to review.
- Revenues were reviewed with the largest change being an addition to the fund balance revenue (in effect, a mill rate draw down) that matched an increase in set-aside capital for the Fire Department Committee soft costs.
- Capital items were reviewed, with the only recent change being a \$50K increase in the F.D. building committee set aside - enabled by a recent receipt of over \$80K in back taxes to avoid a foreclosure. Overall, Capital funding will be up ~\$46K, with significant year to year increases to the fire department building committee and the set-aside for potential matching funds for a brush truck grant.
- Expense items were reviewed. A new change was the removal of the Development Coordinator salary from the municipal budget. Also, the Assessor hours were reduced from recent projections to 30 hours/week. When combined with a 10 hour/week assistant, this totals a FTE in the assessor role. Overall, the total town expenses are proposed to go down by ~\$15K - a small amount - but in the right direction for the tax payers.
- With reduced revenue expectations, the total amount needed to be collected by taxes does go up over FY21 by ~\$50K.
- By establishing a tax collection rate at, or just under historical averages, this still enables the board to propose a reduced year-to-year mill rate.
-

Discussion by all of other aspects of FY22 budget

- Al suggested we consider a couple options before finalizing the budget for public hearing:
 - consider increasing the tax collection rate to 99.25% from the proposed 99%. It would have the effect of reducing the mill rate to near that originally suggested by the 1st Selectman
 - consider increasing the mill rate buy-down with additional contribution from the undesignated fund. Tax collections this year have been significantly over 100%

- Al will provide his best estimate of the FY21 year end surplus for next week's BOF regular meeting - at which time the FY22 budget proposal will be published prior to the May 20th Public Hearing.
- Following that hearing, the BOF will finalize the Middlefield FY22 Budget for submission to the Town Meeting June 7th.
- After that meeting, the BOF will meet to define the mill rate.
- All members of the BOF expressed pleasure that the board likely will submit to taxpayers a budget offering a reduction in mill rate for the 4th consecutive year in a row.

The meeting was adjourned at ~8:46 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Irish