

PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES

April 20 2019

7:15 p.m.

South Windsor Town Council

Virtual Meeting

**PURPOSE: To receive citizen input on the Proposed Board of Education
Budget for Fiscal Year 2020/2021**

Mayor Paterna called the Public Hearing to order at 7:18 p.m.; and requested that the Clerk of the Council read the call of the meeting (a copy of which is attached hereto, **Exhibit A**).

Mayor Paterna requested Town Manager, Michael Maniscalco to read public comments into the record. Mr. Maniscalco read the comments from the public into the record as follows:

Musharraf and Samreen Hussain (**Exhibit B**)

Mrs. Stephanie Dexter (**Exhibit C**)

Mr. Jon Stengel (**Exhibit D**)

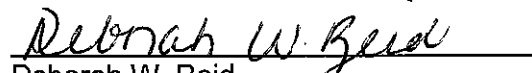
Mr. Matthew Burdzy and Ms. Leslie Maltby (**Exhibit E**)

The Town Council also received comments from the following:

Mr. Philip Richard (**Exhibit F**)

The public hearing was closed at 7:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Deborah W. Reid
Clerk of the Council



OFFICE
OF THE
TOWN COUNCIL

Town of South Windsor

1540 SULLIVAN AVENUE • SOUTH WINDSOR, CT 06074-2786
AREA CODE 860/644-2511
FAX 860/644-3781

Exhibit A

TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE JOURNAL INQUIRER

April 13, 2020

LEGAL AD

TOWN OF SOUTH WINDSOR

Notice is hereby given that the South Windsor Town Council has set Monday, April 20, 2020, at 7:15 p.m., as the time for a Virtual Public Hearing to receive citizen input on the proposed Board of Education Budget for Fiscal Year 2020/2021. The public is welcome to email comments to TownCouncilComments@southwindsor-ct.gov.

Dated at South Windsor, Connecticut this 9th day of April 2020.

Attested to by:

Deborah W. Reid

Deborah W. Reid
Clerk of the Council

<p>PUBLIC NOTICE LEGAL AD TOWN OF SOUTH WINDSOR</p> <p>Notice is hereby given that the South Windsor Town Council has set Monday, April 20, 2020, at 7:15 p.m., as the time for a Virtual Public Hearing to receive citizen input on the proposed Board of Education Budget for Fiscal Year 2020/2021. The public is welcome to email comments to <u>TownCouncilComments@southwindsor-ct.gov</u>.</p> <p>Dated at South Windsor, Connecticut this 9th day of April 2020.</p> <p>Attested to by: <u>Deborah W. Reid</u> Clerk of the Council</p> <p>Journal Inquirer April 13, 2020</p>
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April 16, 2020

RECEIVED

APR 20 2020

Mayor Andrew Paterna
Town of South Windsor
1540 Sullivan Avenue
South Windsor, CT 06074

SOUTH WINDSOR TOWN COUNCIL

Dear Mayor Paterna,

We are writing to you about the Miller Road Sewer Assessment Project that is currently being discussed by the Water Pollution Control Authority. We previously spoke with Dr. Saud Anwar and he explained how we should disclose our concerns to you about this matter.

We, as residents, are extremely worried with the proposed cost this assessment would place on each resident on the street. The expected cost of \$20,630.09 per household is beyond irrational. We understand that there was a resident who raised concerns over a public sewer line not being present on Miller Rd, but it is very irresponsible for the town to require everyone pay for a service they do not depend upon.

Personally, we are a middle-class family. We live pay check to pay check each month. My son is currently attending college and my daughter will be attending next year. As you are well aware, tuition is not cheap. This sewer project would just add a major unnecessary expense for our family. We simply cannot afford it. My house was built in 1969. We have already spent a lot of money trying to fix it up, and still have a lot of work to do. Repairs like a new roof, new well water pump, and new furnace are very imminent. We don't have extra money for the assessment or any additional costs this project might bring up. My neighbors can't afford this either; many of them are retired. Additionally, if anyone tries to sell their home, there will be a lien on the house. This would only complicate the selling and buying of homes on this street.

My main concern is why are we being forced to pay for the assessment; one which we don't need? Our septic system works just fine. We have no need to connect to the public sewer. Why does the problem of one resident mean that all residents have to suffer and pay?

We are aware that you have a lot on your plate as Mayor, especially due to COVID-19, but we are asking you to find a way so that we do not have to pay for a sewer assessment, especially since we do not require/ need one.

Thank you for listening to our concerns. We appreciate all that your office has done for the town.

Sincerely,

Musharraf and Samreen Hussain
99 Miller Rd
waleedhussain13@gmail.com

Reid, Deborah

From: cmsmailer@civicplus.com on behalf of Contact form at Town of South Windsor CT
<cmsmailer@civicplus.com>
Sent: Friday, April 17, 2020 9:07 AM
To: Reid, Deborah
Subject: [Town of South Windsor CT] April 20 PH for new Town Budget (Sent by Stephanie Dexter, Stephd3@cox.net)

Hello dreid,

Stephanie Dexter (Stephd3@cox.net) has sent you a message via your contact form (<https://www.southwindsor-ct.gov/user/656/contact>) at Town of South Windsor CT.

If you don't want to receive such e-mails, you can change your settings at <https://www.southwindsor-ct.gov/user/656/edit>.

Message:

Good Evening members of the Town Council, Town Staff and residents of South Windsor,

I am writing to ask that you strongly consider a 0% property tax increase for the next budget cycle. Considering the 3+% increase to the Grand List and BOE savings while our students are home schooling, this shouldn't be difficult.

I also ask you to acknowledge the economic recession we are in and the added hardship families are experiencing. There are other residents still battling the expense of crumbling foundations. Every day you read about private companies cutting pay or furloughing or laying off their employees. As wonderful as our Town Employees are, we are all in this together, right? We are way too top heavy with management and with perks that really are NOT the appropriate retention tools.

I am not suggesting that smart people haven't already gone through the budget line by line. What I am suggesting is that these same smart people take another look and make a budget decision for our Town TODAY, that is in line with the needs of the residents and not the wants of government.

Respectfully Submitted,
Stephanie Dexter
15 Larkspur Lane

Reid, Deborah

From: TownCouncilComments,
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2020 6:18 PM
To: Reid, Deborah
Subject: FW: Budget

From: Jon Stengel [joncstengel@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2020 12:14 PM
To: TownCouncilComments,
Subject: Budget

Hi Town Council

This is just a quick note to add my thanks to BOE and Town Council for their work, in unusual circumstances, in developing this year's BOE budget.

I'm a new resident to town. We have a student in the school district, and our finances have been stretched due to recent circumstances.

I understand the current proposal shows a 2.69% BOE increase without any significant cuts in student services.

That sounds like great work by the BOE and I support it's passage.

Respectfully,
Jon Stengel (5 Red Rock Lane)

Reid, Deborah

From: TownCouncilComments,
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2020 6:18 PM
To: Reid, Deborah
Subject: FW: Fiscal Year 2020/2021 Budget

From: Matthew Burdzy [m_burdzy@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2020 6:00 PM
To: TownCouncilComments,
Cc: Matthew Burdzy; Leslie iPad; Delnicki, Thomas; Tom & Audry Delnicki
Subject: Fiscal Year 2020/2021 Budget

Hello Council Members,

We are asking the town council for their support in a zero increase in the General Government Budget for Fiscal Year 2020/2021 and a zero increase in the proposed Board of Education Budget for Fiscal Year 2020/2021.

We are facing an unprecedented economic crisis by all accounts. To manage the crisis we need to look at reducing costs at the local level not increasing costs. I would like to ask the council to survey the businesses and residents in South Windsor to understand the impact we will see in projected delinquencies in property taxes. I would also ask the council to estimate the potential reductions in intergovernmental revenue and other sources of local revenue.

Now is not the time to increase spending. It's time to look at managing costs and developing a plan to best mitigate the impact. We should also be looking at all capital projects. The state will cut local support to our town to manage costs and we need to consider this during the budgeting process.

These are unprecedented times that needs a short term plan to bridge our community into the future.

Sincerely,
Matthew P Burdzy, Ph.D.
Leslie Maltby

63 Trumbull Lane
South Windsor, CT

Hello Town Council,

Exhibit F

Philip Richards (swct@ptrichards.com) has sent you a message via your contact form (<https://www.southwindsor-ct.gov/user/606/contact>) at Town of South Windsor CT.

If you don't want to receive such e-mails, you can change your settings at <https://www.southwindsor-ct.gov/user/606/edit>.

Message:

Council Members,

These are unprecedentedly difficult times, and the burden presented to you on deciding the town's budget for next year will obviously be overwhelmingly hard and could cause pain and outrage in a great number of voters, regardless of what you decide. With that in mind, I am offering the following observations:

1. At almost 2/3 of the town budget, the school board's budget presents a herculean effort in creating a budget that increases a mere 2.69%, despite a school population projected to increase another 3.3% in 2020. According to the CT Department of Education's data website (<http://edsight.ct.gov/SASPortal/main.do>), South Windsor had the third highest growth percent of all CT municipal school districts in 2019-2020. Of those three districts, it had the highest net quantity of new students and, in the entire state, the 5th highest net quantity of student additions in 2019-2020. Reductions in this budget would have devastating effects on the school systems ability to meet the added demand.
2. The superintendent has maintained an average budget increase of a mere 2.9% over the past 5 years, despite an unexpected student enrollment growth in South Windsor. This is opposite to the relatively stagnant growth in the majority of the state's districts. This fact clearly identifies fiscal responsibility as ranking high in the school administration's priorities.
3. In the recent referendum, the town has shown its clear preference for a strong education system in South Windsor. Crippling the Board of Education budget for the next year would require drastic cuts to programs that have been cultivated and added to the South Windsor schools to better advance the education of the students and provide a robust education to our youth.
4. A 0% increase in the town's taxes does not mean that there are no taxes due, and does not assist anyone that has been effected by this pandemic from having to pay a tax bill. At the expected mill-rate increase of 0.36, \$100K of assessed property would be taxed an additional \$36, which does not seem like a justifiable cut for the downstream impacts it would incur, not to mention the rework and time spent on the current budget being thrown away to scramble, find new cuts, reintroduce the changes to the boards, all of this while de-prioritizing other responsibilities that benefit the town. There is a real potential impact on town collection of revenue from bankrupt businesses and unemployed homeowners, so perhaps a better strategy would be to reduce penalties on delinquent tax payers.

In summary, if budget changes were not previously being considered, it is unclear what value a reduction of \$36 would do to improve a \$3,886, per \$100k annual property tax bill.

Best Regards,
Philip Richards
3 Copper Ridge Rd