

PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES

April 27, 2017

7:00 p.m.

South Windsor Town Council

PURPOSE: To receive citizen input on the Proposed General Government Budget for Fiscal Year 2017/2018

Mayor Mirek called the Public Hearing to order at 7:03 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**). There were approximately thirty (30) people present in the audience.

Mayor Mirek stated that the Governor's proposed budget includes a potential decrease of \$8 million dollars funding to South Windsor. The Town Manager, Superintendent of Schools, and staff have been working diligently on both budgets. Earlier today, Mayor Mirek explained that she went to the Capitol to hear the State Republican's Budget proposal titled "Confident Connecticut" which could level funding for South Windsor and fund schools in an equitable way. This is a great place to begin budget discussions at the State level. There is still a lot of work that needs to be done for the State budget but South Windsor must move forward to meet our Town Charter requirements and approve a budget on or before May 22. Town officials will continue to look for efficiencies on both the Board of Education side and General Government side while continuing to keep taxes reasonable and provide exceptional services.

Mr. Galligan explained that the current tax increase at this time is 3.6% which the Council was going to review to see if there is anything they would like to take out of that proposal. The State has taken \$8 million dollars in the funding from the Town which would have left South Windsor with a 12% tax increase. The Town needs to review the impact from the State budget and consider how to handle these impacts. The Board of Education and Town should work together to come up with solutions in order to keep services at the level that residents are accustomed to. The proposed increase for this year's budget is at 1.99%. The State should not be putting their burden on the Town's.

Mayor Mirek asked if there was anyone from the public that would like to speak.

Mr. Don Gonsalves, 40 Bayberry Trail came forward and questioned why the Council and/or Town Manager do not provide requested information to residents. Mr. Gonsalves spoke in opposition to the budget. No money should be taken from the Fund Balance or healthcare. Mr. Gonsalves then questioned why South Windsor has gone from being impacted by \$6.8 million dollars to \$4.8 million dollars when other Town's that are smaller are experiencing larger impacts.

Mr. Gene Botteron, 34 Victor Lane stated that he would like to have a 0% budget increase. Connecticut has high taxes and will continue to lose residents. Everyone wants more but have to realize that there is a cost associated with each item. Mr. Botteron stated he would rather see non-essential services reduced or eliminated rather than paying more taxes.

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Mr. Joe Handleman, 22 Gray Road questioned why does South Windsor voters not vote on the budget? Mr. Galligan explained that South Windsor's form of Government is Town Council and the Town Council decides on the budget. Every local Government is structured differently so other Town's do have a vote on the budget by the public.

Mr. Pinal Patel, 102 Beelzebub Road stated that there are tough decisions that will have to be made with this budget due to the position the State is in. All Towns are going to be affected. Mr. Patel said he would be willing to pay more taxes because South Windsor has really great schools. There have been two incidents that occurred where his 3rd grade son was dropped off at the wrong bus stop. Some services should be looked at more closely. There is also bullying going on in his class. Resources are already constrained.

At 7:31 p.m. the Public Hearing was recessed in order to call the Board of Education Budget public hearing to order. The General Government Budget public hearing was reconvened at 7:32 p.m.

Mr. Alan Gold, 12 Riverview Drive came forward and stated that he does not want to pay more in taxes. Mr. Gold said that it is his understanding after reading the newspaper that the Town was looking to recoup some money that is being lost from State funding on the backs of people who live in condominiums. Condominium owners pay the same taxes as everyone else and have to pay for other services that homeowners get. Mr. Galligan explained that Mr. Gold has received false information, the Town is not making up the loss of the State funding by taking it from condominium owners.

Mr. John Wrynn, 195 Wood Pond Road questioned the tax increase? Mr. Galligan explained that the tax increase is not going to be a 12% increase. The Town Manager and Superintendent of Schools worked together to bring that 12% down to a 1.99% increase. This number is being worked on to try to reduce.

Mr. Joel Ziff, 73 Autumn Drive explained that his family are new residents of South Windsor and are very excited about the school system in Town and seeing the school projects moving forward.

Mr. Tim Carmon, 61 Rainbow Trail thanked the Board of Education on providing comments. There is a tax increase related to the new schools and he feels because of the constraints to the budget this year, the Town should consider delaying one of the school projects. Please analyze the impact of making some changes or delays.

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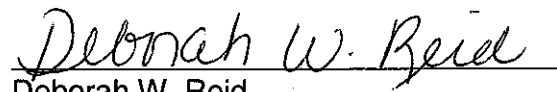
Mayor Mirek asked for a Straw Vote, the results of which were as follows:

Those supporting the proposed General Government Budget: 9

Those opposed to the proposed General Government Budget: 5

The public hearing was closed at 7:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Deborah W. Reid". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Deborah W. Reid
Clerk of the Council

Public Hearing Notice – Exhibit A

received April 21, 2017 @ 10¹⁵ am
Conrad Armstrong, ATC



OFFICE
OF THE
TOWN COUNCIL

Town of South Windsor

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TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE JOURNAL INQUIRER

April 20, 2017

LEGAL AD

TOWN OF SOUTH WINDSOR

Notice is hereby given that the South Windsor Town Council has set Thursday, April 27, 2017, at 7:00 p.m., Timothy Edwards Middle School, Room Alt #6, 100 Arnold Way, South Windsor, Connecticut as the time and place for a Public Hearing to receive citizen input on the proposed General Government Budget for Fiscal Year 2017/2018.

Dated at South Windsor, Connecticut this 18th day of April 2017.

Attested to by:

Deborah W. Reid
Deborah W. Reid
Clerk of the Council

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Dated at South Windsor, Connecticut this 18th day of April 2017.
Attested to by: Deborah W. Reid Clerk of the Council
Journal Inquirer April 20, 2017