

## **PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES**

**April 20, 2020  
7:30 p.m.**

### **South Windsor Town Council**

#### **Virtual Meeting**

**PURPOSE: To receive citizen input on the Proposed General Government Budget for Fiscal Year 2020/2021**

Mayor Paterna called the Public Hearing to order at 7:30 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:

Mrs. Janet Moberg (**Exhibit B**)  
Mrs. Kathy Daugherty (**Exhibit C**)  
Mr. Philip Richards (**Exhibit D**)  
Mr. Roy Normen (**Exhibit E**)  
Mr. Kevin McCann (**Exhibit F**)  
Mr. Bruce Dexter (**Exhibit G**)  
Mr. Jeff Trachtenberg, (**Exhibit H**)  
Alan and Teresa Platteis (**Exhibit I**)  
William and Marjorie Glater (**Exhibit J**)  
Mrs. Stephanie Dexter (**Exhibit K**)

The Town Council also received comments from the following:

Mr. Matthew Burdzy and Ms. Leslie Maltby (**Exhibit L**)  
Musharraf and Samreen Hussain (**Exhibit M**)

The public hearing was closed at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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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 7:30 p.m., as the time for a Virtual Public Hearing to receive citizen input on the proposed General Government Budget for Fiscal Year 2020/2021. The public is welcome to email comments to TownCouncilComments@southwindsor-ct.gov.

Dated at South Windsor, Connecticut this 9<sup>th</sup> 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 7:30 p.m., as the time for a Virtual Public Hearing to receive citizen input on the proposed <u>General Government Budget for Fiscal Year 2020/2021</u>. 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: _____ Deborah W. Reid Clerk of the Council</p> <p>Journal Inquirer April 13, 2020</p>
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**Reid, Deborah**

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**From:** cmsmailer@civicplus.com on behalf of Contact form at Town of South Windsor CT  
<cmsmailer@civicplus.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 17, 2020 6:54 PM  
**To:** Reid, Deborah  
**Subject:** [Town of South Windsor CT] Budget (Sent by Janet D Moberg, janmoberg@cox.net)

Hello dreid,

Janet D Moberg (janmoberg@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:

To our Distinguished Town Councilors,  
I am writing to you to URGE you to pass a LEVEL (0% increase) town budget for the next year. The reasons why are obvious. This is NOT the time to be presuming upon the lifeblood of the town, its taxpayers, with an increase, who are experiencing drastic reductions in income at the least, in this pandemic. You would add insult to injury. We are watching you very closely, and strongly encourage you to respond appropriately in these most unusual and challenging times.

Most Sincerely,  
Janet Moberg, who, together with my husband, has paid an amount almost equivalent to the purchase price of our home to the town in property taxes, with no children.

April 19, 2020

Dear Members of the South Windsor Town Council:

My name is Kathy Daugherty; my address is 12 Roy Road in South Windsor.

I would like the following read into the record at the April 20, 2020 public hearing on the 2020/2021 budget.

Today, we are all facing very uncertain times. I know all of you are paying close attention, so I do not feel a need to remind anyone nor do I wish to insult any of you by talking about unemployment rates or furlough etc.

I know that you are all working diligently to come in with a budget that will have a zero tax increase. I applaud the bi-partisan approach and the fact that you are all sharpening your pencil to achieve this.

However, I would like to invite all of you to do more. It is extremely difficult to follow the budget process for both the BOE and the TC due to these extreme times and virtual meetings. So if the information I am providing is incorrect, allow me to apologize up front.

The fiscal 2021 budget for the town has 3 new positions, additionally prior to hiring our new town manager, two individuals were 'promoted' to assistant town manager and given perks such as cell phones, computers, car allowance etc. This was done so that there would be a succession plan with our previous town manager retiring. Neither individual was hired for the position. Why is it necessary to have two assistant town managers for a town our size? Glastonbury, West Hartford, East Hartford all towns larger than South Windsor do not have assistant town managers. Why are we so top heavy? We need to do more with less, especially now.

This budget needs to be one of needs and necessity not wants or nice to haves. In addition, having a zero tax increase DOES NOT mean a zero SPENDING increase. In fact, spending has increased almost \$10 million dollars in the last two years.

With fiscal year 2019 approved budget being \$118 million. And this proposed budget at \$127 million dollars.

This year the town has brought in \$4.4 million in new revenue. This was due to careful economic planning over many years.

This new money is in this budget, so even a zero tax increase is truly an increase in spending year over year. So as noble as it is to strive for a zero tax increase – we are still spending \$4.4 million more than last year.

As difficult as it is right now to help all of us to understand this budget; and to fully understand the spending, I am asking for a better understanding of this multi million dollar increase. Isn't there a way to provide relief to a community that generally supports initiatives but is now hurting?

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

**Reid, Deborah**

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**From:** cmsmailer@civicplus.com on behalf of Contact form at Town of South Windsor CT  
<cmsmailer@civicplus.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 20, 2020 5:25 PM  
**To:** Town Council  
**Subject:** [Town of South Windsor CT] Budget Comments (Sent by Roy Normen, roycjnoir@aol.com)

Hello Town Council,

Roy Normen (roycjnoir@aol.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:

Dear Town Councilors

Trust you are all doing well in this extremely challenging time. Thank you for all of your hard work on the budget. I also want to thank the Town staff and the staff of the Board of Education. I know from experience how much work it takes. While it was great to hear that the increase in taxes might be less than 1%, given the challenging times and people being laid off, consider a decrease in taxes. The over \$3 million increase in the property tax revenue from the increased grand list should be shared with the tax payers. We are a high tax town. The last State Municipal Indicator statistics for Fiscal Year 2018 shows that out of 169 towns South Windsor ranked 25 in adjusted mill rate. The 2018 Adjusted Tax Levy per Capita Show South Windsor ranked 39 at \$3812.

Under normal circumstances reducing taxes would not be prudent to do because next year would require a large increase just to stay up with inflation. The Town is in the unusual position of having this \$3 million dollars as recurring revenue with expectation of increased revenue next year. This is the first time in all my years that economic development paid off. The other problem that typically occurs is that all the new funds are spent practically before they come in the door. "We never have enough."

Please reduce the mill rate, move us down the rankings and provide relief to all those who have been affected by these challenging times.

Thank you for your time.

Roy Normen

**Reid, Deborah**

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**From:** cmsmailer@civicplus.com on behalf of Contact form at Town of South Windsor CT  
<cmsmailer@civicplus.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 20, 2020 4:28 PM  
**To:** Reid, Deborah  
**Subject:** [Town of South Windsor CT] Budget Hearing (Sent by Kevin McCann, kmccann@kkc-law.com)

Hello dreid,

Kevin McCann (kmccann@kkc-law.com) 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:

Dear Councilors,

In order to adopt an Annual Town Budget, the Council must hold a Public Hearing. Not a virtual hearing. A Public Hearing at which members of the public may physically appear and be heard.

Any action purportedly taken on a Budget without such a Hearing will be null and void.

I urge all of you not to violate this most fundamental provision of our Town Charter.

Sincerely,  
Kevin McCann



**Reid, Deborah**

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**From:** TownCouncilComments,  
**Sent:** Monday, April 20, 2020 6:17 PM  
**To:** Reid, Deborah  
**Subject:** FW: 2020-21 budget

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From: Bruce Dexter [bruced4@cox.net]  
Sent: Friday, April 17, 2020 12:34 PM  
To: TownCouncilComments,  
Subject: 2020-21 budget

Members of the Council,

If you closely examine the current and predicted economic conditions facing our society, the ramifications of this ongoing pandemic are far reaching, and have adversely affected all of us. This is a time like no other in our history. It has, and will change the way we function as a society, and how we do business.

The result to date has led to tremendous financial losses. Sacrifices by businesses large and small, as well as individuals have been made, and this trend will continue for the foreseeable future.

Our town government cannot operate in a vacuum. It, too must mirror the same strict fiscal responsibility and constraint being shown by the private sector during this time. Doing otherwise would be nothing short of irresponsible. It cannot be "business as usual".

I strongly encourage you to hold the line on spending for the upcoming budget year, and develop a budget which results in zero tax increases for South Windsor.

Sincerely

Bruce Dexter  
15 Larkspur Lane  
South Windsor

**Reid, Deborah**

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**From:** TownCouncilComments,  
**Sent:** Monday, April 20, 2020 6:18 PM  
**To:** Reid, Deborah  
**Subject:** FW: 2020-21 Budget Meeting 4/20/2020

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From: Trachtenberg, Jeff [Jeff.Trachtenberg@henryschein.com]  
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2020 5:49 PM  
To: TownCouncilComments,  
Subject: 2020-21 Budget Meeting 4/20/2020

Councilors;

Another 3% increase in the budget and additional future tax increases planned for future years. The more you get the more we spend. When is this going to stop!!!!

Most people in south windsor have had little to no increases in salary over the years but our town keeps spending. When are we going to freeze and even cut spending?

Our unfunded pensions are going to kill our state and town. We need to switch to a 401k retirement plan immediately. Why is this so difficult to comprehend? The reason we can't is due to unfunded pensions so we just kick the can down the road. This is why many of our townies are moving out of state. We need to cut spending.

South Windsor is an amazing town. Let's keep it that way. If we continue to spend like in years past, I too will be leaving this town and state.

Let's start being fiscally responsible. Do you really think this spending is sustainable?

Jeff Trachtenberg  
36 Simcka dr  
South Windsor

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E-mail messages may contain viruses, worms, or other malicious code. By reading the message and opening any attachments, the recipient accepts full responsibility for taking protective action against such code. Henry Schein is not liable for any loss or damage arising from this message.

The information in this email is confidential and may be legally privileged. It is intended solely for the addressee(s). Access to this e-mail by anyone else is unauthorized.

**Reid, Deborah**

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**From:** TownCouncilComments,  
**Sent:** Monday, April 20, 2020 6:18 PM  
**To:** Reid, Deborah  
**Subject:** FW: 2020-21 Budget Meeting 4/20/2020

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From: Alan Platteis [tamp2@cox.net]  
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2020 5:14 PM  
To: TownCouncilComments,  
Subject: 2020-21 Budget Meeting 4/20/2020

Councilors;

We note the Grand List increased 3.07% and there is additional future tax growth in the pipeline. It seems however that the more you get; the more you feel entitled to spend!

As we're both retirees on fixed incomes; we'd like to see a reduction in taxes.

Thank you for making South Windsor an affordable great place to live.

Alan and Teresa Platteis  
71 Quarry Brook Drive  
South Windsor, CT 06074

Sent from my iPhone

**Reid, Deborah**

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

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From: MARJORIE GLATER [glatrgirl@aol.com]  
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2020 5:22 PM  
To: TownCouncilComments,  
Subject: Taxes

I would like to ask you to consider the citizens that are on fixed incomes. I know that you are working to try to keep the increase down but as a family of two that are on a fixed income during our retirement ( which was not a choice) I beg you to keep the taxes the same or as little an increase as possible. We love our town and have been here for 52 years. Your citizens need your help now.

Marjorie and William Glater  
21 Hazel Street  
South Windsor

Sent from my iPad

**Reid, Deborah**

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**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**

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

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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

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