

**BOARD OF FINANCE
Public Budget Hearing
February 17, 2011**

Members Present:

Mark Smith, Chairman	Perry Molinoff, Alternate
Tom Tesoro	Steve Lupien
Andrew Palo	Alexandra Remson, Alternate
Cindy Penkoff, Alternate	Ken Martin, Jr

The First Public Hearing on the First Selectman's Proposed Budget for 2011-2012 was called to order at 7:00 PM at Madison Middle School. All those present joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Vice Chairman Smith welcomed all to the first Board of Finance Public Budget Hearing.

Name/Address/Comment

Harald Dale
38 Driftwood Lane

- In favor of FS budget proposal
- In favor of privatizing some of the non-educational school functions
- 22 students per class; some are at 28
- We are facing a fiscal tsunami
- My son received plenty of LD help and graduated summa

Richard Lambert
176 Fresh Meadow

- In favor of FS budget proposal
- Since Governor not cutting education funding, we need to address other needs in town
- Retired; no social security cost of living adjustments in two years or pension increases
- Large increase in taxes will impose a hardship on retired individuals who have realized increases in food, fuel and heating costs
- The taxpayer has no agency to petition to receive additional funds, unlike the state and towns
- Seniors have been hit hard enough; the BOE needs to live within its means or reduce the work force

Marjorie Rindos
227 North Street

- On November 2nd the Republicans gave a clear mandate to substantially cut taxes \$250 per household per quarter, not to increase by 1 or 2 percent
- There are 2 options available: Let the BOE budget be voted down as in Monroe and other towns, or let the contract expire and hire non-union teachers

Donna Mack (teacher)
148 Teller Road

- Need support staff
- Worries that children will suffer here, as in Florida

Reenie Demkin (teacher)

30 Golden Hill

- Afraid we might lose support staff in reading for struggling students
- Below 50% in the first grade will stay that way until 4th grade
- Reading scores might drop but right away
- Differentiated teaching is a must; integrated teaching is a must
- 70/100 best town to live in; has to do with our education system
- Get rid of leaf removal and put funds to education

Alma Lucopilla

82 Tashua Road

- Capital budget proposal includes an unnecessary \$1,000,000 improvement plan for a Nature Center
- Do not need more space for a new Ranger Station; existing one isn't that bad; needs to be cleaned de-cluttered and given a facelift Perfectly fine
- Trumbull signed to keep this as open space; it gets more use as time goes on and we do not need to take open space for this center

Art Mikucki

85 Canterbury Lane

- Tax payers have been generous with the BOE; 71% over the years the last 20 years
- Real estate taxes have increased 126% over 20 years
- Funds used for high school renovation did not add space; spent \$6 million
- New elementary school; spent \$14,000,000
- Receive 1000 applications each year for approximately 52 jobs; means no lack of teachers

Michael Smith

Teeter Rock Road

- Class size could jump to 26; most classes @26 or more in some instances
- Larger classes no desks available; not easy to have discussion groups in large classes
- Still using old textbooks; Economic book from 1992 references the Bush and Regan administrations
- Cuts will make existing issues even worse

John Pezzullo

14 Meadow Ridge Drive

- In support of budget
- Discrepancy funding cliff caused by stimulation package; BOE should have been more careful
- BOE is responsible for weighing all factors and question if the people can support these increases

Vicki Tesoro

133 Beechwood

- No children currently in the system
- 2 children thrived; went on to become quite successful
- Want to keep education as good; create a good balance, ie, lawyers' fees – these do not improve property values
- Ask teachers to let you know what impact cuts will have with BOE

Karan Egri

1 Morningside Terrace

- Commends FS and rest for keeping budget down
- Trusts that BOF will do the right thing

Cindy Katske

129 Meadow Drive

- Education advocate for 12 years
- Worried that cut in education in the budget request could have a dramatic negative impact
- Funding cliff is real issue
- Cutting BOE ½ will mean closing a school, increasing class size; hard to make up what kids lose in early grades
- Teachers have given up pay raise in order to assist keeping education level

Irene McGreachy

52 Ravin Road

- Trumbull's greatest asset is its school system
- Increase is not that out of line
- Demographics are families and children
- Where should funds go?
- Taxes were raised last year; not acceptable if you are not funding education
- If the quality of education diminishes so will property values

Steven Castro

44 Bullfrog Lane

- Salary tables of Town employees – Public Works, 5%; Technical Coordinator, 9% over initial request; Personnel Manager, 10% increase due to increased responsibilities
- When a full time position is eliminated in Accounts Payable, we expect others to pick up the slack
- If you can pick up extra responsibilities, what were they doing before
- Ask students to find ways to cut costs

David Weitzman

209 Fernwood Road

- Not wearing button with slogan; does not want to be a walking slogan
- Trumbull is in the same education group as other towns for testing proving we can do more with less; steaks to the qualifications and dedication of the educators
- Children have no voice in this process; they depend on the adults
- Cuts will decimate the quality of the education
- Moral issue to take away from the children

Pablo Sevilla

27 Brewster Place

- Education is very important
- Both a teacher and a concerned parent
- Lives in Trumbull because the education system is so good
- We cannot stop caring about our children
- Yes, economic times are hard This is all about the children; let us not forget that

Tammy Baillargeon

10 Waverly Road

- Trumbull rated 10th best town in country
- #1 in district of >6000 children
- CAP scores equates to good teachers here
- There are many applications for jobs due to good quality of teachers
- 187 teachers in the school system are also residents and tax payers
- Education quality keeps property values high
- FS asked teachers to step up to the plate and they did – no salary or step increases now the town needs to step up to the plate

Tony D'Aquila

29 Valley View Road

- Town should provide best they can
- Offers proposal – called year round education
- 2 months off in summer takes kids down
- Increase in air conditioning cost
- Close one school

Lannie McHugh

- Thanks to the BOF for allowing (ABCs of Budgeting) the use of the room prior to meeting
- Buttons meant to give people a chance to express opinion quietly
- Retired persons need 30 years to pay back the town for educating 2 children
- If we close 1 school, we still need to service the students. Where would you put them?
- It is not about the economic times; it is about our communities

Vice Chairman Smith – closing remarks

- The BOF has one single email address: BOF@trumbull-ctgov
- Send your questions
- Go to the website for Town to get email address
- 9 people here appreciate your concern; we will spend another 40-50 hours reviewing the budget before anything is done
- The next meeting with the BOE is March 1, 2011

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Phyllis Collier, Board of Finance Clerk