

**BOARD OF FINANCE**  
**Public Budget Hearing**  
**March 5, 2011**

**Members Present**

Mark Smith, Chairman  
Tom Tesoro  
Andrew Palo  
Cindy Penkoff, Alternate

Perry Molinoff, Alternate  
Steve Lupien  
Elaine Hammers  
Alexandra Remson, Alternate

**Members Absent**

Ken Martin, Jr.

The second Public Hearing on the First Selectman's Proposed Budget for 2011-2012 was called to order at 10:00 a.m. at Madison Middle School. All those present joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Smith welcomed all to the second Board of Finance Public Budget Hearing

**Name/Address/Comment**

Magda Lowenberg  
25 Placid Street

- I urge the Board of Finance to look at long and short impact of cuts

Marjorie Rindos  
227 North Street

- Cut BOE budget substantially

JoAnn Zimmerman  
4672 Madison Ave

- Wants original % reinstated

Mark Leclair  
43 Linley Road

- Last 10 years of tax increases largely driven by education budget
- 2.9% increase in income; 1% population growth
- Taxpayer paying 9% of gross will pay just under 11.5% over next 10 years
- Increases are not sustainable and people will leave

Allen Finkenaur  
34 Heritage Drive

- Time for BOE to work with town to reduce budget

Carmen Denicola  
66 Great Neck Road

- Country has changed a lot from the time I was raised; after 10 minutes at a BOE hearing, I realized town has a problem
- Believes that the F/S has youth, vigor, vitality, etc.
- Believes that we are being misled due to "top levels"

Amy Palmer  
45 Calhoun Avenue

- Ask for support of Trumbull Ed., etc.
- Asks for restoration of civility between town and population

Mary Beth Thornton  
24 Cherry Gate Lane

- I agree that the budget needs to be reduced

Claire Weisman-teacher  
209 Fernwood

- Simpler times—math, penmanship, read the same book and do a book report; however, times have changed
- Expectation of students graduating is greater – thinking, reasoning verbal skills, understanding, and technology.
- Technology in schools now essential, not nice to have
- Eliminating TAG programs is not good
- Instead of looking to hire technology teachers we are thinking of eliminating paraprofessionals

Dorothy Lewandowski  
24 Poplar St

- Support F/S increase. Increase is lower and board looking to cut – they should also look to save

Lucille Borowy  
31 Towerview Drive

- Ask schools to help fund budget

David Weitzman-teacher  
209 Fernwood Road

- Trumbull is recognized for its stellar education system
- Ranked 14/167 of districts in Connecticut
- Rankings are earned when town leaders support education
- Restore the budget cuts

Mary Ann Gragorcewicz  
300 Strobel Road

- You only hear about cuts to the BOE; yet every year BOE receives more money than the previous year and has a surplus which is returned to the Town
- In 2010 the \$850,000 surplus was kept by the BOE and used to buy school books
- Board of Education budget is not accurate and it needs to be

Daniel Carley  
33 Riverbend Road

- Eliminating a speech pathologist will impact early intervention and it helps all types of problems with students
- Removing speech and language support means children won't reach potential

John Discko  
4956 Madison Ave

- I support the F/S's budget
- Town in debt and needs to get out
- Board of Finance – accept the F/S budget

Lynn Springer  
33 Johnson Street

- I want to stress value of early intervention
- My child made great strides before entering 1<sup>st</sup> grade; intervention has changed his life
- There will be more children; do not let these kids down

Aurora Montini  
2790 Reservoir Avenue

- BOE cuts mean the BOE cannot offer same level of education despite the increase
- \$3 million more this year and yet cannot provide same services
- Not only taxes fund BOE also receive Federal grants, etc., assist in funding
- BOE reduced budget using federal stimulus for operating expenses
- 1.96 funding cliff created due to mismanagement by BOE
- Cut salaries back to 2008 levels across the board for the BOE and the problem is solved

Cindy Katske  
129 Meadowview Drive

- Small classes are a priority
- Admin and BOE - since 2008 many cuts made
- Request funds be added back

Kevin Farley  
41 Saranee Circle

- 14/167 is nice but we are moving down in quality of education
- Increasing class size and reducing number of schools is detrimental
- Our kids will not be able to compete
- Accept Board of Education budget

Pamela Discko  
4956 Madison Avenue

- Supports the First Selectman

Douglas Werner  
639 Booth Hill Road

- Moved here for the education system
- Concerned about budget cuts – do not cut

Vicki Tesoro  
133 Beechwood Avenue

- Does not support the First Selectman

Allison Yao  
26 Westwood Road

- Please increase the budget back to the original request
- I agree we need to cut but let us not compromise our school system

Lanni McHugh  
132 Freshmeadow Drive

- Does not support First Selectman budget request

Robert Weiss  
34 Wendover Road

- I do agree that it is important to have a great school system
- Concerned about the planning process in the town
- Never hear how we can do things better, only how to cut costs

Rebecca Jarvis  
46 Teeter Rock Road

- Told that if BOE did not get funds, there would be drastic ramifications
- Supports the First Selectman

Fran Pechtoll – teacher  
10 Trailwood Lane

- Teachers can manage with larger class sizes but can the students?
- Does not agree with First Selectman budget

Ann Kelly-Lenz  
71 Cranberry Drive

- Have watched BOE pad budget knowing that they will spend down because they will not get it next year
- Cuts aimed at hurting children; amazed at the waste by keeping town and BOE separate; duplication of efforts
- Need to operate more like corporation; pay more toward insurance, etc.

Loretta Chory- BOE member  
26 Dale Road

- Supports Mrs. Herbst's recommendations

Art Mikucki  
85 Canterbury Lane

- The increase recommended by the First Selectman is too high
- 1.29% is unconscionable in this economy

Roy Fuchs  
221 Fitch's Pass

- Munis package is nice but do one that allows us to see the breakdown with totals

Ed Maloney  
27 Monitor Hill

- Leave the budget alone for Education
- If we do not support our kids, they will fall behind the global environment
- Do we look at the processes in our town; are there overlaps

Charlotte Janis – Principal, Tashua School  
Fairfield, CT

- School system has sustained many cuts over the last years
- Makes it difficult to support instructional programs
- Budget approved by the First Selectman cannot support the programs
- Please reinstate BOE request

Darlene Ference – teacher  
71 Barnswallow Drive

- Keep the budget as originally presented

Patricia Galloway  
Bonnie View Drive

- First Selectman budget should be accepted

Vin Lapinsky  
8 Walker Road

- First Selectman salary is equal to that earned in 2007; he contributes to his insurance; he is trying to add ½ secretary he cut last year
- BOE and Public Works can work together; BOE and Town to combine insurance

John Annick  
Pryor Lane

- Comment on list of cuts propose to shut down channel 17 budget of \$22,000
- Address 45,000 in the town
- Lab environment for the children

Carol Hudak  
296 Daniels Farm Road

- Does not agree with the First Selectman

Tony D'Aquila  
29 Valley View Road

- Budget proposed by BOE too high; First Selectman's, too low
- Eliminate services that are inefficient and ineffective, i.e., leaf collection

Sharon Miller  
54 Chatfield Drive

- First Selectman increase is very generous when compared to what occurred over the last 8 year

Liz Polzerro  
74 Roosevelt Drive

- Support Board of Education Budget

Bill Holden  
6 Woodfield Drive

- Former Town Council member
- Ask that you keep the budget as low as possible; tax increases coming from governor
- Support the First Selectman

Wesley Galloway  
65 Bonnie View Drive

- First Selectman budget is realistic

Tammy Baillargeon  
110 Waverly Road

- Do not support cuts

Jennifer Granniz  
183 Wake Street

- Give the students what they are entitled to; we need to remember that children are the future
- Supports BOE budget

Renee Taormina  
23 Pam Bar Road

- Supports the Board of Education budget, especially the special education staff

Renne Neiger  
4797 Madison Ave

- Supports the Board of Education Budget

Matthew Hepfer - teacher  
194 Putting Green Road

- In full support of the Board of Education Budget

Robert Marino  
231 Church Hill Road

- In full support of the Board of Education Budget

Kathleen McGannon  
59 Jackson Drive

- Must be somewhere between the First Selectman and the Board of Education budgets

Tracey Lapore  
124 Cottage Street

- Moved here for the education system; system has not let us down
- In support of the Board of Education Budget

Fran Pechtoll - teacher  
10 Trailwood Lane

- Classrooms of today are different
- Inviting the Board of Finance to visit her classroom

Patricia Galloway  
65 Bonnie View Drive

- To ask seniors to pay more when they cannot afford it is not respectful or realistic
- Look at the curriculum- there may be economies that can be made even if we have to focus like a laser and demand ultimate productivity from every dollar spent

Allison Yao  
26 Westwood Road

- Does not support the First Selectman's budget

Kathy Dornbush  
Linley Road

- I support a reasonable increase, e.g., 3.41% Redding; 0.71% Monroe; 2.31% Easton

Carol Hudak  
296 Daniels Farm Road

- Does not support the First Selectman's education budget

Chairman Smith thanked all for coming. The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Phyllis Collier, Board of Finance Clerk

