

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE BOARD OF FINANCE

The Board of Finance held a public hearing on Thursday, February 16, 2017 in the Council Chambers at the Municipal Center, 3 Primrose Street, Newtown, CT. Chairman John Godin called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Present: James Gaston, John Godin, Sandy Roussas, Aaron Carlson

Absent: Mark Boland, Kelley Johnson

Also Present: First Selectman Pat Llodra, Finance Director Robert Tait, 27 members of the public and 2 members of the press

Public Comment on the Town of Newtown Budget and Newtown Board of Education School District Budget:

Lynn Edwards, 3 Sand Hill Road – She tested the Newtown messaging system from the website and it did not work. She officially requests that the e-mails of each board member go back onto the website at least through the budget season. She also asked them to trust the decisions of the Board of Education and support the budget put forth. Let the voters decide in April.

Karen Holden, 68 Berkshire Road – She asked the Board of Finance to leave the Board of Education budget as is. This is a very lean budget. The BOE is very knowledgeable and Dr. Erardi does a fantastic job. Dr. Erardi has a staff that has done remarkable things in the years. The special education budget is lower than it has in the past and that is due to his staff bringing services back to the district and that should be recognized. The teachers and staff are remarkable and are doing more with less.

Jordana Bloom, 34 Main Street – Asked the board to support the budget as is.

Dorrie Bertsche, 40 Cobblers Mill – Asked the BOF not to take more money from the BOE. When you take resources away, there is only so much the fantastic teachers in the school can do. This is a direct relation with property values.

Shelly Northrup, 47 Great Ring Road – She moved to Newtown 20 years ago because of the school system. Her children have graduated and are no longer in school and she still supports the budget, it is important for the community and the children.

Julie Conlin, 11 Old Castle Drive – The proposed school budget is too lean and she is concerned that it will not be able cover costs that may arise. As a parent it is frustrated to see the efforts of the BOE and the Superintendent be cut.

Kinga Walsh, 21 Horseshoe Ridge Road – She trusts what Dr. Erardi has put forth for the budget. She asks that they trust him and the BOE and put the budget forward. It is already a lean budget and doesn't want to see any services cut. The issue with the state is something we cannot control and it shouldn't influence our decision now.

Jason Zetoff, 16 Lakeview Terrace – Is in favor of the BOE budget. He is a Middle School teacher and wants to pass a budget that the students deserve.

Joanna Rosen, 60 Sugar Lane – Feels very good about the budget before them. They have an unbelievable BOE right now and trusts them. She also has trust in the First Selectman and the Towns budget. She asked that the budget be put forth and the voters decide.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:21pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Arlene Miles, Clerk