

BOARD OF FINANCE
PUBLIC HEARING
APRIL 12, 2017
MINUTES

Present: J. Scherban, O. Nejd, L. Saunders, D. Traynor, J. Olsen, J. Scully Welch, L. Santos and K. Carr

Scherban called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm in the Auditorium of the Town Hall. Scherban explained the budget process and reviewed the proposed budget cuts from the state.

The public hearing was opened to comments on the Town budget. The following remarks were made.

Police Chief DeMaio asked for \$61,890 to be added back into the salaries line item of his budget and to be restored back to 27 officers.

Police Commission members Peter Niles and Phil Sengle asked for \$61,890 to be added back into the salaries line item of the Police Budget.

Firs Selectman Farmer spoke in favor of reinstating the funding for the pump out boat.

Ethelene DiBona spoke in favor of restoring the Police budget.

Sandy Luke asked for additional funding for Economic Development and a town planner position.

Vincent Cimino, 26 Old Mill Road, recommended a zero budget increase and to restore the funding for the police department.

John Crete, 46 Sols Point Road, recommended a zero increase on both budgets.

Pam Fritz, 14 Old Road, spoke in favor of restoring funding for the police department and recommended budget reductions on both budgets.

Selectman Walter reminded the board that the Board of Selectmen didn't only reduce the police budget. Water Pollution Control budget was reduced by \$75,000.

Jane Nettleton, 77 Waterside Lane, spoke about the removal of trees on Waterside Lane.

Diane Grub, 30 Merrill Road, spoke in favor of restoring the police budget and having trouble paying taxes.

David King, 22 Kelseytown Road, spoke in favor of budget reductions.

The public hearing was now open to comments about the education budget. The following remarks were made.

Maryann O'Donnell, Superintendent of Schools, explained that the biggest increase in the education budget was the 16 percent increase in insurance. Due to plan changes with the teacher's union and additional health plan cost information she is recommending reducing the education budget by \$254,345.

11 members of the community spoke in favor of the education budget and asked for no further reductions.

Scherban received 29 emails from residents that spoke against both the town and education budget.

BOARD OF FINANCE
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The public hearing was closed at 8:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Schettino

Administrative Assistant

Why a 12% Tax Increase is Outrageous

Kim Roberti <kim.d.roberti@snet.net>

Tue 4/11/2017 10:28 PM

To: Jack Scherban <JScherban@dintonct.org>; clinton taxpayers@gmail.com <clinton taxpayers@gmail.com>;

Tell the BOF what a 12% increase
in property taxes means to you and your family.
Tell the BOF how it will depress your property
value and the tough decisions it will force you
to make about spending on necessities!
Please don't vote for this; they are forcing us to move out of Clinton!
Thank you,
Kim Roberti

Sent from my iPhone

49 Stanton Rd

17

Why a 12% Tax Increase is Outrageous

Doriedodds <doriedodds@yahoo.com>

Wed 4/12/2017 10:11 AM

To: Jack Scherban <JScherban@clintonct.org>; clintontaxpayers@gmail.com <clintontaxpayers@gmail.com>;

I am a senior citizen in the town of Clinton. I cannot afford to have my

taxes increased. It has just gone up to the point of breaking us financially. We cannot bear the burden anymore. This budget increase will result in just that. People are leaving this state by the thousands. Does the town of Clinton want to drive out the very people they continue to rely on for balancing their budget. It is time to say No No. No.

A very high tax paying citizen.

Dorie Dodds

Sent from my iPhone

23 next ad

Why a 12% Tax Increase is Outrageous

JOAN T <windcallii@yahoo.com>

Tue 4/11/2017 8:33 PM

To: Jack Scherban <JScherban@clintonct.org>; clintontaxpayers@gmail.com <clintontaxpayers@gmail.com>;

This will put us over the edge. If you want us to move out of Clinton, do this, Sincerely, Joan Ulate

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

3 Captains' walk

Why a 12% Tax Increase is Outrageous

fwmah3000@aol.com

Mon 4/10/2017 5:54 PM

To: Jack Scherban <JScherban@clintonct.org>; clintontaxpayers@gmail.com <clintontaxpayers@gmail.com>;

I am not willing to pay a 12% increase in my taxes! I have lived in this community for 38 years and have never experienced anything quite as ridiculous as this! Spending has gotten out of hand, our population has not gone up anywhere near this percentage and our school population has gone down! What is going on?

My Social Security has not gone up at all for the past 3 years and my 401K has not yielded anywhere near this kind of increase! Do you want to drive the senior population out of the town of Clinton? With increases like this, you will! And once more, you'll discourage others from coming here because of the taxes! Who negotiates the contracts in this town? Before I retired, I was happy to participate in the cost of my health insurance! I had no choice! I would ask how much our town employees and teachers participate in the payment for their health insurance! How many vehicles has our Department of Public Works grown by over the past 5 to 8 years? How many policemen do we have for our population compared to our neighboring towns? Are we in proportion to them?

We all knew the new school would be a burden but now it's coming due and the wonderful funding that was supposed to make it almost a wash is not so wonderful! I personally think the jigs up, and I think it will take a long time for the town of Clinton to get a budget to pass a referendum without some serious reduction! I for one will continue to vote it down until our town officials become realistic! It's time to get REAL!

Good Luck getting this budget passed!!!

Frank W Magill

147 Cow Hill Rd

Why a 12% Tax Increase is Outrageous

Claus <swedeninc@aol.com>

Mon 4/10/2017 5:57 PM

To: Jack Scherban <JScherban@clintonct.org>; clinton taxpayers@gmail.com <clinton taxpayers@gmail.com>;

How is it possible to increase taxes 12% when the budget has an increase of 4.4%? What ever happened to balancing the budget?

I am also retired and do not have the luxury of an increase in my income of 12% as most employed people never experience a 12 % salary increase or reduction of expenses by 12%.

C Morch

178 West Main St

Why a 12% Tax Increase is Outrageous

Howard Woolf <howard.woolf@gmail.com>

Mon 4/10/2017 5:59 PM

To: Jack Scherban <JScherban@dintonct.org>; CTA <clintontaxpayers@gmail.com>;

I am writing to you regarding the disastrous tax situation in our Town of Clinton.

We keep spending more and more while our population declines, house values drop and our ability to attract residents and businesses continually puts more and more financial pressure on our citizens.

All of the adjacent towns to us along the shore have improved their town and attracted new and expanding populations while we continue to use the same old strategy of tax and spend without regard to the negative financial impact on all of us.

It's time to turn that around and I encourage you to put a cost reduction plan in place that will reduce spending by 2%/year over the next 5 years.

It's time to be financially responsible to 'All' the constituents in Clinton.

Please accept this input as my hope for your rejection of the proposed budget increase and rather propose a 2% reduction!

Thank you!

Howard

howard.woolf@comcast.net
+1 917 330-2009

161 B Shore Rd

Why a 12% Tax Increase is Outrageous

Joseph Grzegorski <thatxavierboy@att.net>

Mon 4/10/2017 6:46 PM

To: Jack Scherban <JScherban@clintonct.org>; clintontaxpayers@gmail.com <clintontaxpayers@gmail.com>;

Jack,

While I know how we got here, we cannot tax our way to prosperity. Not all of us are dual income households.

Sent from my iPhone

7 Ironworks Rd

Why a 12% Tax Increase is Outrageous

Rick Kimball <rkimballoffices@aol.com>

Tue 4/11/2017 7:02 AM

To: Jack Scherban <JScherban@clintonct.org>; clintontaxpayers@gmail.com <clintontaxpayers@gmail.com>;

Please explain to the board that our taxes are already so high as to depress home values. This is a serious problem which will get worse as potential home buyers turn away from Clinton as a result of the high cost of living here.

Rick Kimball

40 Sol's Point

Why a 12% Tax Increase is Outrageous

Bndelaney@aol.com

Tue 4/11/2017 9:37 AM

To: Jack Scherban <JScherban@clintonct.org>; clintontaxpayers@gmail.com <clintontaxpayers@gmail.com>;

A 12% increase in the mill rate is unthinkable. There have been cutbacks from the state of which Clinton has been targeted for a large share. Where are our state reps and what have they done to fight for our town. The tax base has decreased. Ok what has been done to put new business into the Cheeseborough & Boswitch locations not to mention the old high school. I remember Willy had big plans for these properties, what happened.

When the new high school was built and by the way it is still the lowest performing high school on the shoreline, there should have been contingency plans in place to fund the debt in case the funds from the state were not forthcoming. It is and has been for a long time no secret that the state of CT is broke.

I thought when a republican selectman was elected that he would bring some sanity to the spending that had been going on in Clinton during the Willy years.

So much for wish full thinking !!

Brian Delaney

18 Dorely Commons

Why a 12% Tax Increase is Outrageous

RON & TINA ACCETTA <cablemann@comcast.net>

Tue 4/11/2017 9:47 AM

To: Jack Scherban <JScherban@clintonct.org>;

Cc: clintontaxpayers@gmail.com <dintontaxpayers@gmail.com>;

This town government is out of their minds you all need to go, we have a new school we did not need, there has been no improvement in the town except to build a CVS on property owned by a board member and take down historic buildings which contributes to the charm and attraction to the town that's not corruption at all, My house is worth nothing thanks to the leaders in Clinton and this will make it worse, where is this money going??? we went from Willy who spent too much on stupid and dangerous ideas to Bruce who does nothing, it's time to change the leadership in Clinton or move out. I and my family will be voting NO on all budget proposals as I will convince all who I know to do the same.

13 Happy Acres Rd

Keep our taxes FLAT

rmatt97@gmail.com

Mon 4/10/2017 6:03 PM

To: Jack Scherban <JScherban@clintonct.org>;

The Clinton mill rate is ridiculously high compared to other shoreline towns. We are not interested in a 4.4% tax increase or ANYTHING higher (12%!) than that to cover the debt service for the new high school. The school enrollment is declining and has been for many years so stop sinking so much money into the school budget! If you have any financial background at all- be responsible be for cryin out loud! My husband and I do not have children in school and are tired of seeing the budget increase with no consideration to the fact that enrollment is down.

Sent from my iPad

*Ruth Mathews
31 Indian Dr*

Why a 12% Tax Increase is Outrageous

GBob2@att.net

Tue 4/11/2017 7:58 AM

To: Jack Scherban <JScherban@clintonct.org>; clintontaxpayers@gmail.com <clintontaxpayers@gmail.com>;

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

I have lived in this town for all of my 72+ years, I am a Viet Nam vet living on Soc. Sec. I live in a 1500 sf house with no attic and no basement. Own a 7 year old and 11 year old car. My taxes are \$4700.00 which is three (3) months of my S.S. checks. When is this town going to stop the horrible spending habit. CUT the SPENDING!!

*Dlen Meri
48 Brickyard Rd*

Why a 12% Tax Increase is Outrageous

David Staszewski <drstaz60@hotmail.com>

Wed 4/12/2017 4:01 AM

To: Jack Scherban <JScherban@clintonct.org>; clintontaxpayers@gmail.com <clintontaxpayers@gmail.com>;

Mr. Scherban,

I am writing to let you know as a resident of Clinton, I oppose any budget that will increase our taxes up to 12%. We need to tighten our belts until we understand how the funding cuts by our Governor affect us financially. It would be irresponsible to allow any budget or tax increases that add to our current tax burden.

Respectfully,

David and Deborah Staszewski
37 Uncas Rd
Clinton.

Sent from Outlook

Why a 12 percent tax increase is Unacceptable

wz1v@juno.com

Wed 4/12/2017 11:06 AM

To: Jack Scherban <JScherban@clintonct.org>;

Please consider over 90 percent of Clinton's taxpayers are not employed by the Clinton School system. They are a small minority utilizing social media to organize large gatherings at every town meeting to serve their own agenda and interests by out-voicing everyone else. It's all well-rehearsed to sway public opinion in their favor. This year there needs to be a reality check. Simply passing the buck to the taxpayers every year is unsustainable and unacceptable. Every other town in our State is calling for deep cuts in their education budgets due to the State funding cuts. Clinton needs to do the same. Our Town's fiscal responsibility is to all it's tax-paying residents and businesses, not just a select few. Please weigh their emotional cries against the reality of driving business and other tax-paying residents into poverty. While "Our children are our future" may ring true, the idea of passing along the entire cost of guaranteed raises with no layoffs for this elite group onto a tax base whose income is fixed or falling is ludicrous. If we the other 10,000 residents have to cut back every year to keep our heads above water, they can teach themselves to do the same. Increasing the number of foreclosures and business closings does nothing for OUR future.

Ron Klimas
Jefferson Circle

Stop Fighting The Symptoms Of Skin Issues, Fight The Problem

Gundry MD

<http://thirdpartyoffers.juno.com/TGL3132/58ee40cc405fe40cc10afst01wc>

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Why a 12% Tax Increase is Outrageous

michelle rodriguez <mickeyrod52@hotmail.com>

Mon 4/10/2017 9:27 PM

To: Jack Scherban <JScherban@clintonct.org>; clintontaxpayers@gmail.com <clintontaxpayers@gmail.com>;

My name is Michelle Rodriguez, Milton Rodriguez
99 Shore Rd.

I added the address so you will understand what I am about to say. I have witnessed the decline of the Town of Clinton over my 25 years there. We had a plan to retire there after our home is winterized. At the rate of tax increases and limitations forced upon us we do not see this happening. It saddens me to get to our 65 year old age bracket and can not retire as planned.

You all should be ashamed of the regression of this town. Especially since the surrounding towns have grown without hesitation. I'm ashamed to tell people this is where I wanted to live but will not be able to due to town politics gone awry.

Shame on all of you
Michelle & Milton Rodriguez

P.S.
We will be voting "NO"

Why a 12% Tax Increase is Outrageous

Junes Email <junejdoo@aol.com>

Mon 4/10/2017 8:40 PM

To: Jack Scherban <JScherban@clintonct.org>; clintontaxpayers@gmail.com <clintontaxpayers@gmail.com>;

The taxes on our shore property are too high already. The property has been in the family for over 70 years and several generations would like to be able to spend summers there. We support businesses in the community, do not send children to schools, just enjoy the beautiful sound and would like to be able to continue to do that, but the taxes are making it almost impossible and certainly will for the next generation. Please be considerate of long-time summer residents who cost you nothing, but enhance the community. Certainly, an increase is this large is unthinkable. June M. Johnson, 10 Sol's Pt. Road. Clinton

Sent from June Johnson

Why a 12% Tax Increase is Outrageous

Dan Wilkes <dan@wilkesgroup.com>

Mon 4/10/2017 6:09 PM

To: Jack Scherban <JScherban@clintonct.org>; clintontaxpayers@gmail.com <clintontaxpayers@gmail.com>;

Dear Mr. Scherban,

When we bought our "retirement" house in The Hammocks (the Richards Development) in 2010, the taxes were \$13k. Now they are \$20k with no changes to the house or property. This became a real problem. A 12% tax increase up to \$22,400 would be beyond belief. This has to affect our home values. As you probably know, our community is 55+ so no school impact and roads to maintain or plow.

If nothing can be done to help, our community should become its own tax district and leave the town of Clinton. The community is well on its way to having 50+ homes.

Sincerely, Dan & Lynda Wilkes, 15 Osprey Commons South

PS—I am 81!

April 12th Board of Finance meeting

Heather Moore <hbernhard28@hotmail.com>

Thu 3/16/2017 5:58 AM

To: Jack Scherban <JScherban@clintonct.org>;

Hi Jack,

I will not be able to attend the Board of Finance public hearing on the proposed town and education budgets. I heard that I could email you in my absence.

I support both the proposed education and town budgets!!!!

Thank you!

Heather Moore
7 Hide-A-Way



BUDGET

Kristin Cafferty <klcafferty@sbcglobal.net>

Wed 4/5/2017 8:48 PM

To: Jack Scherban <JScherban@clintonct.org>;

Mr. Scherban,

I will be away for the the April 12th Budget Referendum.

I support the education budget and do not want any additional cuts. I think the cuts we have are already far to significant. Please include my budget support into the minutes.

Kristin Cafferty
70 River Road
Clinton

860-664-5257

support of education budget

Kevin Colebank <kcolebank@gmail.com>

Thu 4/6/2017 12:55 PM

To: Jack Scherban <JScherban@clintonct.org>;

Jack,

I will be traveling with my kids for spring break next week and will not be able to attend the public hearing regarding the education budget on 4/12. Please accept this email as my voice of support for the proposed budget.

Thank you.

Kevin Colebank
8 Fernwood Lane
Clinton, CT 06413

I support BOE Proposed 2017-18 Education Budget

Laura Colebank <lcolebank@gmail.com>

Thu 4/6/2017 1:02 PM

To: Jack Scherban <JScherban@clintonct.org>;

Dear Jack,

My family and I will be out of town for school break. Please accept this email as my support for the proposed BOE 2017-18 education budget at the public hearing on April 12th.

Contractual costs (medical and salaries) aside, the education cost increase is only .59% (operating budget) Significant cuts have already been made. I firmly oppose additional cuts to staff or programs which will negatively impact the quality of Clinton education. The proposed budget provides what our students *need* and is fiscally responsible.

A quality school system provides the opportunity to attract more people to move to Clinton. If we don't invest, we can be sure our tax base will stagnate! I urge all residents to vote support the proposed education budget and vote yes on May 10th.

Laura Colebank
Clinton PTA VP
8 Fernwood Lane

Education budget

Matt Cafferty <mjcafferty@sbcglobal.net>

Thu 4/6/2017 4:00 PM

To: Jack Scherban <JScherban@dintonct.org>;

Mr. Scherban,

I will be away for the the April 12th Budget Referendum.

I support the education budget and do not want any additional cuts. I think the cuts we have are already far to significant. Please include my budget support into the minutes.

Matt Cafferty
70 River Road
Clinton

860-664-5257

Sent from my iPad

Education Budget

Hang Nguyen <hanglam638@icloud.com>

Thu 4/6/2017 4:14 PM

To: Jack Scherban <JScherban@clintonct.org>;

Mr. Scherban,

I will be away for the the April 12th Budget Referendum.

I support the education budget and do not want any additional cuts. I think the cuts we have are already far to significant. Please include my budget support into the minutes.

Hang Nguyen and Ky Nguyen

14 Happy Acres Rd

Clinton

Sent from my iPhone

Budget referendum

Amy O'Donnell <odonnellaj@aol.com>

Thu 4/6/2017 6:04 PM

To: Jack Scherban <JScherban@clintonct.org>;

Mr. Scherban,

I will be away for the the April 12th Budget Referendum.

I support the education budget and do not want any additional cuts. I think the cuts we have are already far too significant. Please include my budget support into the minutes.

Amy O'Donnell
1 Pine Place
Clinton
860-664-3876

Sent from my iPhone

4/7/2017

Budget Referendum - Jack Scherban

Budget Referendum

Heather Rice <hrjr1022@icloud.com>

Fri 4/7/2017 12:06 AM

To: Jack Scherban <JScherban@clintonct.org>;

Mr. Scherban,

I will be away for the the April 12th Budget Referendum.

I support the education budget and do not want any additional cuts. I think the cuts we have are already far to significant. Please include my budget support into the minutes.

Heather and Jeff Rice
29 Mallard Lane
Clinton
860-552-4455

Sent from my iPhone

Budget referendum

Margaret Monty <margaretmonty@sbcglobal.net>

Fri 4/7/2017 1:24 PM

To: Jack Scherban <JScherban@clintonct.org>;

Dear Mr. Scherban,

I will be away for the April 12 Budget Referendum. I support the education budget and do not want any additional cuts. I think the cuts we will have are already significant and will impact student and teacher support. Please include my budget support into the minutes.

Sincerely,

Margaret Monty

40 Silver Birch Lane

Clinton, CT 06413

860-669-5648

Sent from my iPhone

Budget

Katherine Madura <katemadura@me.com>

Fri 4/7/2017 1:27 PM

To: Jack Scherban <JScherban@clintonct.org>;

Hi Mr Sherman

I will be away during the budget town meeting. I am in full support of the budgets (town and education) as proposed. Working in the schools I see the dramatic impact that this budget already will have on our students. Hopefully it passes!

Thanks

Kate Madura

Sent from my iPhone

Clinton Budget - April 2017

wbm@cherubim.net

Mon 4/10/2017 6:40 PM

To: Jack Scherban <JScherban@clintonct.org>;

Cc: Constance <ccc@cherubim.net>; wbm@cherubim.net <wbm@cherubim.net>;

Dear Mr. Scherban and members of the Board of Finance:

We are retired people who moved to Clinton when we retired, because of Clinton's many fine qualities as a town and community.

We live on a fixed income.

You might think we would oppose the proposed budget, since that is what some parties in town spend a lot of time and effort turmpeting through whatever means they can find.

No, we do not oppose the proposed budget.

We support it.

Why:

For the good of the town and the community, for the good of the people of all ages, the young and the old, we need good public services and good public education.

We have to take care of things now so that, in the future, there will still be a good community and a good town here on the shore between Westbrook and Madison.

Yes, taxes may go up.

But everything is going up! Clinton can't fix that.

These retired people, say approve the budget as presented!

Thank you

Constance Coles

W.B. McKeown

Budget Referendum

Brooke Mazarella <brookems26@hotmail.com>

Mon 4/10/2017 3:15 AM

To: Jack Scherban <JScherban@clintonct.org>;

Mr Sherban,

I will be away for the April 12th budget referendum. As a parent and teacher in this town, I support the education budget. It is crucial that we do not make any more cuts, as the ones we have already made are far too significant. Please include my support of the budget into the minutes.

Brooke Mazarella
175 Glenwood Road
Clinton, CT 06413
(860) 669-2160