

**REVISED MINUTES
JOINT BOARDS OF MAYOR AND BURGESSES
AND BOARD OF FINANCE**

**PUBLIC HEARING – 2011/2012 FISCAL BUDGET
MAY 23, 2011
NAUGATUCK HIGH SCHOOL**

1. Mayor Robert A. Mezzo declared the **Public Hearing** open at **6:35 p.m.** with the following in attendance:

BURGESSES:

T. K. Rossi	L. Jackson
M. Bronko	R. Neth, absent
R. Burns	R. San Angelo, 6:50 pm
M. Ciacciarella, absent	P. Scully
C. Ernsky, absent	

PRESS:

R. DeRosa
A. Malik
L. Weschler
C. Massa
Channel 3 News

FINANCE BOARD:

R. Butler, Jr.	J. Merrill
D. Carten	A. Pistarelli
R. Gallant	D. Scinto
M. Katra	J. Tavares

ALTERNATES:

K. Kiernan
J. Branco Sampaio
D. Sheridan

DEPARTMENT HEADS:

W. McAllister, Controller
E. Carter, Mayoral Aide
J. Kallipolites, I.T. Director
J. Tindall-Gibson, School Superintendent
K. Hanks, Fire Chief
E. Murray, Deputy Fire Chief

OTHERS:

D. Cronin, ZBA
K. Carten, Code of Ethics
J. Jordan, BOE
J. Scully, BOE
Former Mayor J. Taf
D. Heller, BOE
Sgt. S. Hunt, Police Dept.
J. Hunt, Hop Brook Principal
S. Brouillet, Zoning Comm.
D. Brackett, BOE

RESIDENTS: Fifty-seven

2. Mayor Mezzo led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.
3. Mayor Mezzo welcomed everyone to the public hearing and acknowledged all present from the Board of Mayor and Burgesses, Board of Finance, the Controller, and Borough Clerk.
4. Mayor Mezzo introduced the Chairman of the Board of Finance, Robert Butler, Jr., who stated the purpose of the public hearing and gave the ground rules for conducting the hearing and also stated, for the record, that the hearing was being recorded legally.

Chairman Butler took comments from the public after they stated their name and address.

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GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

J. Taf

When the Human Resource position was established, the mayor at the time said it would save on legal fees. Mayor Taf stated the Human Resource Department's budget has increased over the years. Has any money been saved on legal fees?

PUBLIC SAFETY

C. Broder

Questioned the need for a Deputy Police Chief.

E. Forlenzo

Spoke in favor of the Blight Officer. Duties can't be covered by the ZEO; it needs a person solely dedicated to blight. She suggests trying for one year the part time, non benefits employee.

L. Ramos

The ZEO enforces zoning not blight. The Mayoral Aide cannot spend more time dealing with blight issues. A blight officer is needed now to enforce the Blight Ordinance.

J. Kelly

What does the Safety Patrol and Fire Police do?

E. Cerasale

He would like to see a more conservative approach toward blight. Conservatism with common sense.

E. Bronko

Not in favor of hiring a Blight Officer. Why would we hire another person? She feels it is a waste of money when current employees could be doing it. There is already a citing, fining and penalty phase currently. These are difficult times and we do not need more positions.

S. Brouillet

She is not suggesting someone should be hired but someone needs to be put in charge. People need to know who to call. Put someone in charge.

A. Wargo

We don't need a Blight Officer now; some other department can be used. There is no need for computer updates. Raises are not necessary for town employees.

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M. Livingston

Questioned how police officers are being used, especially senior officers. He said a police officer was used to direct traffic in a residential neighborhood during a sidewalk replacement project. Mr. Livingston has not received a raise but a decrease in his salary.

HEALTH AND WELFARE

A. Wargo

No reason there couldn't be a decrease in public safety or other departments.

PUBLIC WORKS

A. Wargo

The golf course deserves more cuts. If we can't make it self containing then we should get rid of it.

L. Flynn

Why is there overtime at the golf course and in the Engineering Department? She suggests increasing the part time seasonal help to decrease the overtime. Union workers are not facing the same salary decreases as the private sector. Can't you change the contracts with regard to pensions and raises?

C. Broder

The playground budget should be increased. The equipment at Linden Park and Baumers Pond is poor. It opens the Borough to increased liability and legal fees. She is concerned about the safety of the children.

R. Fayad

Why do Street Department employees receive an allowance to purchase safety equipment and reflective vests? Golf course employees are occupied by leagues. He has seen them sitting around. Residents are unable to use the course. What do they do during the off season? He thinks the Police Department should be used to enforce blight while they are driving around.

R. Palizay

He spoke in defense of the golf course. He feels it is an excellent source of exercise. Everyone can use it not just a select few. The golf course brings in revenue.

R. Fayad

How much of their salary do police officers receive when retiring?

J. Kelly

Since when do we mow the industrial park? Hire high school kids to mow. Is the golf course closed in the winter? Why do the employees work in the winter?

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D. Cronin

The golf course is \$60,000 in the hole? Why doesn't Naugatuck privatize the golf course if we are losing money? Jesse Camille's Restaurant costs the Borough of Naugatuck money. We paid a lot to renovate it. Sell the building to the owner of Jesse Camille's and privatize the golf course.

F. Silva

Raise the fees of the golf course and then it becomes self sustaining.

R. Pierce

He works for the golf course. He said there is a proposal to raise the fess for the golf course.

E. Forlenzo

Spoke in favor of the golf course. She said it is a great course. The fees need to be raised. People from out of town come to play and say the fees are very reasonable.

R. Stauffer

He supports the golf course. Mr. Stauffer thinks it is not cheap to play. Fourteen dollars is a good fee for senior citizens. It is open to the public.

Ms. Kozack (spelling?) Horton Hill Road

Why is the Senior Center budget being cut?

A. Wargo

He said there is no reason to mow the industrial park with overtime. If the grass cannot be mowed this week, then do it the next week. What is the income of Jesse Camille's? He thinks the rent should be raised along with the golf course fees.

R. Fayad

Asked if Street Department employees are in one bargaining unit? What are they doing when it is not snowing? He said the roads in the Borough of Naugatuck are in the poorest condition with snow removal and potholes.

E. Cerasale

Raise the fees of the golf course. He commends the Police Department for being a good solid Police Department and excellently managed.

R. Stauffer

He thinks it is commendable and in the right direction that the Public Works Department is overseen by one person.

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J. Kelly

How many parks do we have in Naugatuck for families to picnic? Not one.

G. Hughes

He has not received a raise. He does not agree with overtime being paid to cut grass. Need to look at Police Department employees receiving 75% of their pay and 50% for a non work related disability for the rest of their life. Very good job with the budget. It is not an easy task. Mr. Hughes thanked the Joint Boards for the long hours put into finalizing the budget.

L. Flynn

She said there were items not included in the budget that will be coming in the future, such as renovating schools and purchasing new vehicles.

A. Wargo

All department supervisors should stay within their budget for the year or be fired.

NON-DEPARTMENTAL

E. Bronko

Asked the Joint Boards to reinstate funding the Northwest Regional Mental Health Board if not for the full \$3,000 then at least half. It provides oversight of mental health and addiction services. Not funding the \$3,000 makes other towns shoulder the responsibility.

J. Kelly

Do we pay for lights that are out and not working?

C. Broder

The traffic light on Old Firehouse Road and Maple Street is not in the budget. Is it going to be installed?

A. Wargo

He had the following suggestions to cut from the budget: the Police Communications Upgrade, the sewer improvements, the 10 yard plow truck and the pool items. Mr. Wargo said to run the Reserve Fund down to 5% and use toward budget increases.

S. Brouillet

The intersection of Maple Street and Water Street is very dangerous.

E. Bronko

She is strongly opposed to spending \$60,000 for a Town Wide Strategic Planning Study. Mrs. Bronko feels it is the responsibility of the Mayor to review if departments are operating efficiently. Everyone is looking to cut in this economy; this is the place to cut.

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A. Wargo

He is opposed to the Town Wide Strategic Planning Study. Mr. Wargo said he thought the Mayor and Burgesses were elected and paid to perform those duties.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

C. Broder

She requested the Board of Education budget not be cut further. Her child has a half year of science which she thinks is ludicrous. The State of Connecticut pays more into our budget than the Borough.

J. Kelly

What does a teacher's aide do? Watertown charges \$2000 for all day kindergarten.

A. Wargo

He believes the Board of Education does not deserve one penny beyond what they received last year until they have a clue on how to handle their money.

F. Silva

What is the one and a half million dollars in lease payments?

D. Heller

Attorney Heller is the Chairman of the Board of Education. He thanked the Joint Boards for the time spent on the budget. The Board of Education's budget was cut \$1,600,000 from their original request. He is asking to be provided the \$57,200,000 as proposed without further cuts.

E. Bronko

What is the \$200,000 increase for social workers and the community service overtime?

M. Livingston

He cannot afford any more increases.

5. Chairman Butler declared the Public Hearing closed at **9:20 p.m.**

A digital recording of this meeting is available in the office of the Borough Clerk for further review.

Attest:

Nancy K. DiMeo
Borough Clerk

cc: Mayor/Joint Boards/Controller/Administrative Assistant/Signpost/File