

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

**PUBLIC HEARING – 2012/2013 FISCAL BUDGET
MAY 21, 2012
NAUGATUCK HIGH SCHOOL**

1. Mayor Robert A. Mezzo declared the **Public Hearing** open at **6:30 p.m.** with the following in attendance:

BURGESSES:

T. K. Rossi
M. Bronko
R. Burns
M. Ciacciarella, absent
C. Ernsky, absent

L. Jackson
R. Neth, absent
R. San Angelo
P. Scully

PRESS:

R. DeRosa
A. Malik
L. Marshall

RESIDENTS: Fifty-seven

FINANCE BOARD:

R. Butler, Jr.
D. Carten
R. Gallant
M. Katra
J. Merrill

A. Pistarelli, absent
D. Scinto
D. Sheridan, Jr.
J. Tavares, absent

ALTERNATES:

K. Kiernan
E. Linares
J. Branco Sampaio, absent

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
B. Crispino, BOE

OTHERS:

D. Neth-Kunin, BOE
K. Carten, Code of Ethics Commission
J. Jordan, Board of Education
J. Scully, Board of Education
R. Stauffer, BAA
D. Heller, Board of Education

A. Brodeur, Fire Commission
R. Merancy, WPCA
J. Miller, Library Director
S. Brouillet, Zoning Comm.
G. Conan, BOE
R. Rebimbas, State Rep.

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.

Minutes – Joint Boards of Mayor and Burgesses and Board of Finance
Special Meeting – Public Hearing – May 21, 2012

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

R. Stauffer

He said the Tax Assessor is doing an outstanding job. Please reconsider adding his previous request to the budget.

C. Goldstein

Negotiate tougher with the unions. We cannot support benefits to employees. We don't have the tax base to support employees retiring at 50 years old and receiving \$75,000 a year. The Police Department should be in midsize cars not big cars. Renaissance Place garage, we build, developer gets the money.

R. Merancy

He would like to see the actual taxes collected last year. What is being done to address negligent taxes?

J. Tzenos

A lot of services are created on the public sector side. No one asks if people can pay.

D. McManus

She is a single mom who has older children living with her who are unable to live on their own. Hasn't had a raise in two years and cannot afford taxes going up. We have to get businesses in Naugatuck. What can't you attract businesses? How much money was lost on Renaissance Place?

M. Falzone

He moved to Naugatuck three years ago. He was involved in the local government in Danbury for ten years and they never had to raise taxes.

T. Ellingson

Asked how many people work in the Building Department, Town Clerk office and the Land Use office.

L. Huynh

The tax increase is a lot. It will not attract businesses and will drive residents away. He cannot afford to wait.

S. Anderson

Jesse Camille's is paying far too little at \$18,000 for rent.

PUBLIC SAFETY

R. Merancy

Has anyone talked to the union about what is going on in the private sector? Why do employees in the town think they are better than others?

Minutes – Joint Boards of Mayor and Burgesses and Board of Finance
Special Meeting – Public Hearing – May 21, 2012

S. Brouillet

She questioned \$600,000 in overtime and \$20,000 in part time help at the Police Department. Has a cost analysis been done on hiring?

S. Loban

He said page eleven of the Police Department budget has repetitive items. Repairs to motor vehicles, is it a fudge factor or an actual expense? The contract issue is something that needs to be discussed at the state level.

A. Wargo

Regarding the ten or eleven new officers, he proposes not bringing all of them in at the same time. The town has done an excellent job of taking care of the employees. Let the employees have the ability to strike. Every employee is doing very little and getting too much. Let the people that use the VNA pay for it.

J. Tzenos

Why doesn't the town use volunteers with prior experience to do the work of employees?

T. Ellingson

How many employees who live out of town take home vehicles?

M. Wargo

Why are we painting the guard fence with aluminum paint? Why can't the potholes be filled in at the high school parking lot?

HEALTH AND WELFARE

R. Merancy

What is the purpose of the VNA? Who is eligible and what are the services they provide?

A. Wargo

Commends the VNA for not having significant increases over the years. Let the people that use the sewer system pay for it. It should be self funding. Why should I pay for you or them to use it? You are stealing my money. There should be a user fee .You are going to be sued if you don't change the set up.

PUBLIC WORKS

A. Wargo

What is going on with the remediation thing? It has been going on for years and years and years. Who is the responsible party for not responding to the directive from the state? Don't do it now if the state is not requiring us to do it. Now is not the time to pay for it.

R. Rebimbas

She is a State Representative serving the 70th District. Thank you for all of the long hours putting the budget together. She requested the board to please hold the mill rate. Look at the contractual and mandated obligations. Where is the money going to come from to live and reside in Connecticut to pay the next bill?

Minutes – Joint Boards of Mayor and Burgesses and Board of Finance
Special Meeting – Public Hearing – May 21, 2012

R. Merancy

The bulky trash listed, not necessarily what it states?

S. Brouillet

She questioned the overtime for the Public Works Department.

P. Deiling

He moved here five years ago and his taxes have gone up. How can seniors pay for a tax increase? Social Security is not going up. They cannot afford it.

PENSIONS

R. Merancy

What percentage of pensions are we funding?

NON-DEPARTMENTAL

W. Hass

He is on the Board of Trustees for the library. They gave their employees a slight raise and the budget has stayed the same for three years. The library is an asset to the community. They raised funds for the rotunda repair, to replace the flat roof and to purchase books. He is looking for ten, fifteen or twenty thousand dollars to be added to their budget.

T. Dooling

He appreciates the job the board does. The library is the reason he is here. He loves the library for our children and the services it provides.

J. Friss

He is an advocate for the library. He uses the library for computer work. He does not own a computer. He reads newspapers at the library that he does not have a subscription.

M. Yanarella

He is a librarian at the library not a Naugatuck resident. It was stated that the library is partially a public building. The library was opened as a relief center during the recent winter storms. The library was used as a warming station, a charging station for cell phones and computers and MREs were passed out. The library is a community “catch all”. It is used as a venue for several functions free of charge. Newcomers come to the library for information regarding the town.

A. Wargo

He is not a proponent of the library. It has equal or more value than any other town department. We should support the library with additional funding.

J. McCasland

She uses the library often. You cannot buy all the books in the library. It is a place to learn outside of the classroom. Her children’s school does not have a school librarian. As a teacher she does not encourage internet use for research, it is not always reliable.

Minutes – Joint Boards of Mayor and Burgesses and Board of Finance
Special Meeting – Public Hearing – May 21, 2012

S. Colangelo

She cannot buy every book her son needs. She supports the library.

L. Williams

He has been a resident of Naugatuck for eleven years and is a member of the Naugatuck Cultural Council. He spoke in support of the library on behalf of his five year old son. There are three institutions that extol the virtues of education: 1. the home 2. the schools 3. the libraries. We should do everything in our power to make sure they get everything they need.

C. Galvin

She supports the library and takes her children to it often.

J. Miller

She is the director of the library. When the economy is bad, people need libraries more than ever. Many people can't afford to buy books, DVDs, internet access, computers, and toner or repair a printer. The library was open fourteen extra hours after the winter storms. Money is needed to repair additional sections of the leaking roof. A permit fee had to be paid to the Borough Building Department for the repairs. She would be grateful if some money is put back in the budget.

S. Brouillet

She asked if a Blight Officer is not being appointed again this year. Thanked Ed Carter for taking on a job without compensation. Where do we stand with getting a Blight Officer? Please reconsider doing something to get a Blight Officer. Maybe at least \$10,000 could be added for a part time Blight Officer. Is Ed Carter going to continue?

A. Wargo

The Fire Department leak never goes away. Reduce the number of new police vehicles. The Sewer Department is the biggest expenditure. The town should not be paying for sewers. Homeowners who use it should be paying for it. Don't you think it should have been put before the voters to purchase the Andrew Mountain land?

G. Connan

Citizens should vote on every budget. The switch to define contributions will save money in the long term. The field at Cotton Hollow smells in the summer time. It is not a problem getting a volunteer to be a Blight Officer. Tear down the Parcel C building.

K. Mitchell

He said to reserve installing the Police Department communication system. They can't force you to put in the system.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

R. Merancy

How much money was saved on the solar paneled roof at the high school?

Minutes – Joint Boards of Mayor and Burgesses and Board of Finance
Special Meeting – Public Hearing – May 21, 2012

A. Wargo

Requests that the Board of Education give a full breakdown of the school board budget to the public.

J. McCasland

Look at the needs of our children. She implores the board to protect the budget as is.

D. Heller

He is the Chairman of the Board of Education. He is speaking on behalf of the five thousand students that attend Naugatuck schools. He urges the board to stay at the level of funding in the proposed budget.

REVENUE

R. Merancy

The Veolia Water is offset by the \$450,000 from the Oxford Connection, \$33,000 for Beacon Falls, \$84,000 for the Veolia contract, 3.1 million for Veolia, another 1.1 million and \$208,000 from Middlebury. That is the revenue and it is a lot less than the six million dollars listed in the budget so people know what we are really paying for Veolia.

5. Chairman Butler declared the Public Hearing closed at **9:47 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/File