

REVISED MINUTES
JOINT BOARDS OF MAYOR AND BURGESSES
AND BOARD OF FINANCE
PUBLIC HEARING – 2013/2014 FISCAL BUDGET
MAY 13, 2013

1. Mayor Robert A. Mezzo declared the public hearing open at **6:32 p.m.** with the following in attendance:

BURGESSES:

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

PRESS:

E. Covey
E. Gugliotti
A. Malik
P. Singley

FINANCE BOARD:

A. Bottinick	J. Sampaio, absent
A. Campbell	D. Scinto
M. Katra	D. Sheridan, Jr.
J. Merrill, absent	J. Tavares
A. Pistarelli	

ALTERNATES:

K. Kiernan, absent
S. Stirk

RESIDENTS:

Forty-eight

DEPARTMENT HEADS:

C. Montini, Cross Street School Principal
F. Dambowsky, Emergency Management Director
J. Tindall-Gibson, School Superintendent
R. Butler, Asst. BOE Business Manager
B. Hendrickson, City Hill Middle School Principal

K. Hanks, Fire Chief
J. Kallipolites, I.T. Director
T. Stieber, VNA Director
W. McAllister, Controller

OTHERS:

D. Neth-Kunin, Board of Education
D. Heller, Board of Education
J. Jordan, Board of Education
J. Scully, Board of Education
Dr. Drawbridge, NYS Board
P. Corbett, Golf Commission

W. Malicki, Fire Commission
R. Merancy, WPCA
J. Miller, Library Director
S. Slausson, Board of Ed.
J. Walsh, NYS Board

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 Chairwoman of the Board of Finance, Diane Scinto 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. Chairwoman Scinto took comments from the public after they stated their name and address.

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GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

DiBiazzo

He asked what last year's line item was for Prospect Street School.

Schaefer

Why isn't the Police Department budget lower if the IT position was removed? Why isn't the Board of Education budget lower if Prospect Street School was removed? How much water is needed for an empty school?

PUBLIC SAFETY

R. Merancy

Would it make sense to hire two new people on the police force to save on overtime?

E. Bronko

She questioned the Police Department conference and dues line item and asked if this was in addition to the in-service school training. Are conference and dues required? Why were utilities and gas able to decrease for the Fire Department?

Schaefer

Why did oil and gas increase for the Police Department? Why did the Fire Department stay the same? Can we expect to see more police vehicles driving around Naugatuck?

E. Fennell

He asked for clarity with the ambulance service.

HEALTH AND WELFARE

R. Merancy

Who uses the services of the VNA? How many people use it? Can anyone in Naugatuck call the VNA for in home care?

B. Meyer

He is very upset the Senior Center is not handicapped accessible with an automatic door.

G. Drawbridge

NYFS is the longest serving youth and family services organization. He read to the board positive comments from area organizations. The proposed budget will not sustain the integrity of the agency. There is only one full time employee and a part time employee. He asked that the director position be added back into the budget.

DiBiazzo

He works for Waterbury Youth Services. He suggested considering cooperation between the two agencies.

A. Wargo

Why not impose a sewer usage fee? Not all residents use the sewer system.

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E. Bronko

Why isn't the NYFS Director position in the budget? She said no one called the NYFS Advisory Board to get advice on a director. It appears the consulting firm will decide whether youth services will stay. People in the borough need their services. They have children with mental health issues, adoptions, foster care and suicidal issues. It appears there was no accounting for repairs to the heating system. It is a town building and it is broken.

L. Flynn

Where are the golf course expenditures? Why is there overtime in the budget for VNA, Golf Course and WPCA? She questioned why WPCA legal fees doubled. What is the \$7,000 service contract under the Senior Center budget? If they make the doors handicapped accessible at the Senior Center, the bathrooms are not.

PUBLIC WORKS

P. Jurzinski

He congratulated the controller and wished him well. Knowledgeable gentlemen. Why can't we have a program budget for the Public Works Department? Is it a possibility?

B. Meyer

If the golf course is being subsidized by the borough then it should be breaking even or in the black. Are we going to continually subsidize the golf course?

E. Rachuba

He questioned the motor vehicle repairs line item and motor vehicles parts line item. Why two separate line items? Longevity bonuses do not make sense.

R. Merancy

Why is electrical up? Rates have come down. Why can't we have the actual costs paid last year? He wants to see year to date figures.

A. Wargo

Other departments' electrical came down. Why did this department go up? The town has done a horrendous job of controlling lights left on at fields. Control better. Fix timers because they are obviously not working.

PENSIONS

R. Merancy

What percentage of pensions are we funding?

NON-DEPARTMENTAL

P. Jurzinski

He said the library is very important to a community. There is always a lot of talk about fields. The library budget is minuscule. How many children become pro athletes? How many more become doctors?

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J. Friss

He utilizes the resources at the library like books, movies and computers. He does not have to purchase these items.

M. Yanarella

He is the Director of Youth Services at the library. They work with schools, churches and organizations. There is not enough money to supply all the needs patrons have. The function of the library is changing. There is a need for increased technology. It is becoming a community center and rec center.

B. Lin (student)

The library is a safe and quiet environment for education. The library provides technology that he does not own.

J. Larizoa (student)

He values the library. It provides technological resources for free that he can borrow. It is a necessity.

P. Grala

He is a volunteer at the library. He said that the technology at the library is very helpful to people who do not own a computer. The budget has been steady for seven years.

C. Solberg

He volunteers at the youth department of the library. He is representing the children that do not have a chance to speak. He has seen how the library struggles to provide services each year. Activities will become more difficult to provide as the year goes on.

E. Oumano

She is an employee of the library. The needs of the community are growing. The library is a place to freely access computers. They cannot increase hours do to a lack of money. The library receives calls asking how to apply for jobs online when they do not own a computer at home.

W. Sigworth

He supports the library's request for additional funding. Friends of the library pay for museum passes and the E-reader program. They cannot pay for all services.

A. Wargo

He seconds what everyone said about the library. It provides a service to everyone. He wants funds increased. Health insurance increased. What is going wrong?

E. Bronko

Is HRD just the busing program or more? Why is the Naugatuck Regional Mental Health Board not a line item in the budget? She asked the board to support it with at least a

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nominal amount, eleven cents per person. She also asked to have it put back in the budget as a line item and show that it is important.

J. Miller

She is the Director at the Whittemore Library. There hasn't been an increase in eight years. They no longer carry the *New York Times*. She is determined not to reduce library hours or employees' hours but where can she cut? Library use has increased over the past year. She asked the Joint Boards to please help fund library services as much as possible.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

A. Wargo

He requested that the Board of Education give a full breakdown of the school budget to the public. Take money from the education budget and give it to the library and youth services.

E. Bronko

Is the audio/video line item for the Police Department the lapel cams? She doesn't know if Naugatuck needs to have them. Decrease the amount for lapel cams so we can see how they work first. She feels we are behind the times in crisis training.

K. Kish

The VNA is 24/7 for in home care. It helps to keep people in their home instead of a nursing home facility.

S. Hebb

She recently had to use VNA services. They did their job well and joyfully.

A. Wargo

He feels the town should push back the state for their mandates.

E. Fennell

Are we on target for reimbursement of the \$80 million high school project?

5. Chairwoman Scinto declared the public hearing closed at **9:04 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