

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

**PUBLIC HEARING – 2010/2011 FISCAL BUDGET
MAY 10, 2010 – 6:30 P.M.
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

R. Burns

A. Campbell

M. Ciacciarella

M. V. Fragoso

H. Kuczenski

R. Neth, absent

P. Scully

R. Woodfield

PRESS:

P. Singley

B. Cox

RESIDENTS: Fifty-two

FINANCE BOARD:

R. Lennon, Jr.

R. Butler, Jr., absent

D. Carten

R. Gallant

N. Hein, absent

M. Katra

J. Merrill

D. Scinto

J. Tavares

ALTERNATES:

J. Sampaio

D. Sheridan

DEPARTMENT HEADS:

W. McAllister, Controller

E. Carter, Mayoral Aide

J. Kallipolites, I.T. Director

J. T. Gibson, School Superintendent

T. Pompeii, Adult Education

C. Doback, Fire Chief

OTHERS:

D. Cronin, ZBA

B. Crispino, BOE

M. Diperna, BOE

J. Scully, BOE

M. Kalogrides, BOE

D. Heller, BOE

Sgt. S. Hunt, Police Dept.

J. Hunt, Hop Brook Principal

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.

Mayor Mezzo introduced the Chairman of the Board of Finance, Raymond Lennon, 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 taped legally.

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

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BOARD OF EDUCATION

D. Cronin

Teachers and Administrators should take a pay freeze. The Superintendent is one of the highest paid in the state. He should take a pay freeze. Why does he need a \$6,000 travel expense? Mr. Cronin feels that we should not have to pay back the furlough days.

S. Brouillet

Agrees with Mr. Cronin. She feels the BOE should function within a budget. If closing a school does not affect educating children, then we must close a school to save taxpayers money.

C. Miele, (spelling) Hopkins Hill Road

She feels this Board was elected to determine what is best for the Town overall. The kids should not have to suffer. She said to do what is right for the children. Where are the parents from Salem School to say that they would like a tax increase?

C. Broder

She is upset with the banter back and forth at the BOE and Joint Boards meeting. Ms. Broder feels the public spoke to keep Salem School open. Furloughs hurt children because they lose days of education.

P. Rotatori

He is from the Citizens Audit Committee. He said they manage the BOE finances. Mr. Rotatori said Naugatuck has the most closed real estate sales in the state. He asked the Board to continue working with the BOE.

P. Miller

If schools are so great, why do so many people pay to send their children to private schools? How many people does a supervisor need to manage? He thinks teachers are greedy.

B. Last name? (387 Allerton Farms Rd.)

The educational system is the back bone of our Town. He said take the time to make the right decision. Teachers and administrators have taken concessions. Let parents vote for the \$900,000 the BOE is asking for.

W. Hulbert

He said the Town does not have the money to bail out the BOE. He cannot afford a tax increase. Mr. Hulbert is on a fixed income. Is the \$300,000 going to improve the education of the kids? How is it going to hurt the taxpayers?

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T. Reilly

He is a Naugatuck teacher and could not speak because he is not a Naugatuck resident.

D, Heller

All three of his children went through the school system. He supports Naugatuck Schools. He said the Joint Boards need to give the BOE more money. Mr. Heller feels the necessary cuts were made and the fiscal mismanagement flag cannot be waved this year. He thanked the Board for the \$300,000 and hopes more funding can be found. He said over the last three years, funding to the BOE has been minimal.

D. Cronin

Reminded the Joint Boards that the Town had to bail the BOE out in the past. He does not want to get stuck next year like we did this year. Mr. Cronin said give the BOE less than they asked for and let them live within their budget. Households have to stay within their budgets. People in his neighborhood have walked away from their homes.

B. Mariano

He said he is a teacher in the school system. Massive cuts will dramatically damage Naugatuck.

G. Conan

State grants were decreased this year. Along with the \$300,000 the town is giving the BOE, taxpayers will be paying over \$800,000 for the BOE budget. He said in 2012/2013 grant funds will decrease. Mr. Conan said to make the painful cuts now. He said the Town can buy books and give directly to schools. Cautioned using the Fund Balance in the future.

C. Broder

She questioned the revenue side of the \$30 million dollars in state grants.

P. Perugini

He said there is a direct correlation between education and future success. He suggests cutting the mill rate one third a year so we are competitive and attract jobs.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

C. Broder

Questioned the postage in the Tax Department. She asked if the increase in IT payroll was due to contractual obligations.

L. Ramos

Asked if there was money in the budget for a Blight Officer once the blight ordinance is passed. She feels there should at least be a part time Blight Officer.

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PUBLIC SAFETY

C. Broder

Questioned the Police Department's education line item. She wanted to know why there were two line items (gas/oil and gas/utilities) with the same budgeted amount in the Fire Department's budget.

First name? Quinn

Asked if we can look at the amount of sick time paid to the Fire Department retirees?

W. Hulbert

What happened to the cell tower being put on the East Side Fire House?

G. Conan

What is being done to manage the Fire Department's overtime? Can they get temporary help or call back retired firefighters? Is the contract limiting us to the overtime?

D. Cronin

Stop calculating the overtime into the Fire and Police retirement.

HEALTH AND WELFARE

C. Broder

Why the increase in the WPCA payroll?

PUBLIC WORKS

W. Hulbert

R. Roland is doing a fantastic job. Was the contract changed to one employee per truck? Are the other employees going to sit around and do nothing?

D. Cronin

Are we getting eight acres donated by Uniroyal for the Street Department to relocate?

PENSION

G. Conan

Why is the Fire Department's pension amount so high?

NON-DEPARTMENTAL

S. Brouillet

Asked what percentage does the Town and employees pay into the employees' medical and hospital. She feels the amount is outrageous and is costing the taxpayers too much money. What is Heart and Hypertension?

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W. Hulbert

Have we looked into giving maintenance to outside contractors instead of CL&P?

C. Doback

Asked if the replacement traffic light was eliminated out of the budget. The Chief recommends the light be reinstated. He said it is difficult for apparatus to go in and out of the Fire Station. There was a remote that the Fire Department could control to change the light. The Chief feels it is not safe without the light. The Fire Station was struck by a vehicle and a pedestrian was also struck.

FINAL COMMENTS

D. Heller

He thanked the Board and commended them for keeping the tax increase low. He would like to see the traffic light in front of the Fire House reinstated. He spoke for the teacher that was not allowed to speak. He said there are four teachers in the Business Department and next year it will decrease to two teachers with a total of nine staff members. He said the Marketing/DECA Program at the high school is impressive. Students have scored high in competition.

S. Brouillet

She clarified she was not speaking about a specific school. She feels they should close whatever school is best for Naugatuck but not jeopardize the education for the children.

W. Hulbert

He said we need a zero, no increase in taxes. When are we going to get reimbursed from the other towns for the Probate Court improvements? Taxpayers are not the plastic card for the Town.

4. Chairman Lennon declared the Public Hearing closed at **8:32 p.m.**

A tape 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