

**MINUTES**  
**JOINT BOARDS OF MAYOR AND BURGESSES**  
**AND BOARD OF FINANCE**  
**PUBLIC HEARING – 2014/2015 FISCAL BUDGET**  
**MAY 27, 2014**  
**CITY HILL MIDDLE 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 | R. Neth, absent        |
| M. Bronko   | A. Olbrys              |
| R. Burns    | P. Scully, Sr., absent |
| C. Ernsky   | R. Vitale              |
| L. Jackson  |                        |

**PRESS:**

L. Marshall  
P. Singley

**RESIDENTS:**

Sixty-six

**FINANCE BOARD:**

|                            |                            |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| A. Bottinick               | D. Scinto                  |
| J. Branco Sampaio          | D. Sheridan, Jr.           |
| A. Campbell, absent        | S. Stirk                   |
| K. Kiernan, arr. 6:40 p.m. | J. Tavares, arr. 9:30 p.m. |
| A. Pistarelli, absent      |                            |

**ALTERNATES:**

F. DiPerna, absent  
W. McAllister, absent  
J. Savarese

**DEPARTMENT HEADS:**

C. Montini, Assistant School Superintendent  
E. Murray, Deputy Fire Chief

K. Hanks, Fire Chief  
R. Butler, Controller

**OTHERS:**

D. Neth-Kunin, Board of Education  
Dr. Matusz, Elderly Commission  
J. Jordan, Board of Education  
Dr. Drawbridge, NYS Inc. Board  
S. Brouillet, Zoning Commission  
C. Marengi, Arts Commission

P. Mallane, WPCA  
J. Scully, Board of Education  
J. Miller, Library Director  
J. Walsh, NYS Inc. Board  
E. Carter, Mayoral Aide

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**

**D. McFarlin – 436 Horton Hill Road**

Passing through the budget too quickly. Need to go slower and in more detail.

**D. Carin – Spring Street**

Nothing is listed in detail such as car allowances, overtime and payroll. What are the harsh marks in the budget?

**B. Meyer – 107 Thunderbird Drive**

Sees in the budget the golf course revenue but doesn't see listed the expenses for the golf course. Has the golf course paid the borough back the money?

**S. Hebb – 136 Conrad Street**

If Prospect Street is sold, what happens to the money? Where does it go?

**J. Lempke – 147 Park Avenue**

There's an increase in scanning for Probate Court. If scanning, why is there an increase in office supplies?

**M. Stopa – 43 Fieldstone Terrace**

Why did the price double for Building Department code books? There are wage increases in the budget. He personally accepted a zero wage increase for the next three years.

**A. Wargo – 1058 Rubber Avenue**

When the state comes out with new code books, they don't insist you buy the books immediately. They will allow a period of time to obtain. The money for the code books should be removed.

**F. Flores – 12 Lorann Circle**

What is the Naugatuck Economic Development Corporation (NEDC)? He has a problem with giving the same amount every year. There is a reduction in the Senior Center budget but NEDC has stayed the same. An increase in taxes is difficult for people.

**PUBLIC SAFETY**

**S. Loban – 100 Barn Finch Circle**

Can't the maintenance computer line item be handled within the IT Department? Why has the clothing allowance increased for the past two years? Why is there an increase in firearms and medical supplies?

**M. Stopa – 43 Fieldstone Terrace**

Why has the grounds/building maintenance line item increased? Shelton has twenty-five percent more residents than us but we have four more police officers than they do. Fairfield hired a specialist division for road jobs instead of using police officers. The electricity line item is very high. Turn off the lights and get off Facebook.

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**A. Wargo – 1058 Rubber Avenue**

Naugatuck Economic Development Corporation should be reviewed. There was a plan at one time but it failed. Why is computer maintenance so high at \$62,000? Practice firearms once a year instead of twice. Is it mandated or insurance regulated? Shouldn't we make some allowance for EMS? There are desires in the budget we don't need.

**E. Fennell – 10 Parkman Place**

Why do we need to train new firefighters? Aren't there trained firefighters that we can hire? Can't we put in a prequalification?

**J. Lempke – 147 Park Place**

Questioned the money used for Information Technology. Are they going to come up with a structure? Will this be changed in the coming years?

**E. Fennell – 10 Parkman Place**

The IT Consultant will be getting \$155 per hour.

**HEALTH AND WELFARE**

**S. Hebb – 136 Conrad Street**

What will happen to the Visiting Nurses Association building at the end of September? Where is the VNA located that may go into that building? South Central has patients in the lower part of the valley. Naugatuck residents have doctors in the Waterbury area. If South Central VNA has a satellite office in Naugatuck, Naugatuck residents won't go there. She understands the building can't be used for town offices but can it be rented or sold?

**L. Pompano – 101 Ruela Drive**

She thinks the question of the Visiting Nurses Association should have been left up to taxpayers. How many bargaining units are there?

**J. Lempke – 147 Park Avenue**

Why is there such a big difference between departments in utility costs? The Senior Center decreased and the Police Department increased. Why are the Police Department's expenses so much higher than other departments? It would be great to figure out how to lower the electricity in the Police Department.

**K. Kish – 36 Crestwood Drive**

The Visiting Nurses Association doesn't cost the town a million dollars a year but \$300,000 a year. They are a wonderful group of people.

**Dr. Matusz – 464 Hillside Avenue**

The problem with South Central VNA, Waterbury VNA or Watertown VNA is they don't know the area. Naugatuck Visiting Nurses Association knows the streets and the patients. He has sent patients to NVNA for years. He has stopped sending patients there.

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He will not refer patients to South Central VNA, Waterbury or Watertown. It is a sad situation. NVNA are a group of talented, devoted and experienced professionals.

**S. Anderson – 30 Joseph Road**

Stop raising taxes. People in Naugatuck can't afford to pay a 4.3% increase. Consider retirees on a fixed social security income with no increase in years. Naugatuck is not a good place for older people to live.

**D. McFarlin – 436 Horton Hill Road**

Are you replacing the lighting at the Police Department? That is a big increase, consider LED. Taxes didn't go up for years. Now taxes are going up every year. Tax increases don't affect just residents but businesses as well. His budget has been reduced not increased.

**C. Mieth – 194 Bluebird Drive**

What big businesses are coming into town to help offset the taxes? Peter Paul left and Coca Cola is leaving. She can't afford to pay her taxes, has to work two jobs.

**A. Wargo – 1058 Rubber Avenue**

The Visiting Nurses Association is one of the very few services in place strictly for the benefit of the residents in town and you're getting rid of it. A very sad decision was made. The whole function of the Water Pollution Control Authority should be a service paid for by user fees not the town as a whole. Sewer fees are going up because Naugatuck does not know how to run a sewer plant. Anyone capable of leaving is moving out of Naugatuck and Connecticut.

**B. Meyer – 107 Thunderbird Drive**

He understands the Visiting Nurses Association was closed to save money. He uses Watertown VNA and hasn't had a problem. The bond money is outrageous. We own the General DataComm building that is not bringing in any money. We had to dump money into the building to fix the roof. Why? Can't believe we bought the building at this critical time when people are just getting out of a recession.

**PUBLIC WORKS**

**M. Stopa – 43 Fieldstone Terrace**

Departments are looking for an increase. Shelton's Mayor Mark Lauretti says departments come looking for increases every year. Tell departments to come up with better budgets.

**B. Meyer – 107 Thunderbird Drive**

How much does it cost to maintain the golf course? Has the money been paid back to the borough? We are breaking the Borough Charter. Why isn't the HR Department doing the background checks? He recommends this budget go to referendum. The budget is too high.

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**M. Katra – 84 Walnut Street**

There is a 4.7 million dollar increase even though trash was privatized, Visiting Nurses Association was closed and Naugatuck Youth Services was closed. We should be seeing a \$100,000 savings a year due to privatization. The sale of the trucks is put into revenue which is one-time revenue not ongoing.

**D. McFarlin – 436 Horton Hill Road**

Is there a line item for consultants? We spent \$35,000 on a consultant for road repairs. The Street Superintendent we hired should know the condition of the roads and which need to be repaired. If he doesn't, who will? We are using a lot of consultants lately. Do we have a consultant line item?

**L. Flynn – 135 Thunderbird Drive**

Is the decrease in overtime for the Public Works Department due to trash being privatized?

**S. Behlman, Jr. – 198 Beacon Manor Road**

Public Works seasonal help increased. What are they doing? What is the new building/maintenance account? Why did hazard waste increase? How many vehicles for the GPS tracking? Why did clothing and uniforms increase? There is \$5,000 this year and nothing in previous years.

**A. Wargo – 1058 Rubber Avenue**

There is a new account, dumpster collection. How are we saving? We privatized.

**DEBT**

**M. Katra – 84 Walnut Street**

There is \$306,559 in carts and \$114,719 in a Bank of America auto lease. One-time expense, let's pay it off.

**D. Rooney – 16 Walnut Terrace**

The town has agreed to bond a lot of projects. Never hears about bonds coming to closure and the mill rate dropping.

**PENSIONS**

**J. Lempke – 147 Park Avenue**

If the actuary update is every two years, why did it double?

**M. Katra – 84 Walnut Street**

Last year someone asked for the budget hand out to have actual figures not just what was proposed in prior years.

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### **INSURANCE**

#### **S. Brouillet – 205 Osborn Road**

Is the Employee Group Life Insurance paid by the town or self-contributory? Is there any way employees can pick up part of that? Are they paying in other areas? What is heart and hypertension? She appreciates the job the board does. Something has to be done to stop taxes from increasing and to bring business into Naugatuck. In other states, people over fifty-five get a tax break. Seniors should get a break. Is that a possibility?

### **COMMUNITY SERVICES**

#### **J. Friss – 111-7A Wooster Street**

How come the library budget stays the same? Expenses go up. Salaries should go up. There are fewer magazines and newspapers. He uses the computers in the library approximately three times a week. Is it possible for the library budget to go up this year?

#### **J. MacDonald – 86 Johnson Street**

She has become part of the substitute staff at the library. She sees what the library offers and how it is being used. Applications for library cards are being filled out daily. Naugatuck needs the library.

#### **J. Carlson – 46 Walnut Street**

He congratulated the board for all they do on the budget. He supports the library and spends a lot of time there. He would like to see the staff receive an increase.

#### **B. Mariano – 561 South Main Street**

She has worked at the library part time for twelve years. As an employee of the library, she sees how it is used by unemployed residents. Employees give reliable help. The Children's Department is crucial to give students access to technology beyond the school setting.

#### **C. Espinal – 36 Autumn Ridge Road**

He has been going to the library since he was very young. He doesn't have a computer at home. He does all his essays and projects at the library. He has volunteered over 300 hours. He would go to the library after school to complete applications for college. He supports the library.

#### **M. Yannarella – 11 Round Hill Circle**

It is a thankless job doing the budget. He is the head of Youth Services at the library. Going on in the library are ten free programs a week, school work help and access to free internet. Only eighty percent of high school students have access to stable internet. The library's endowment has shrunk over the years. Blum Shapiro stated we should utilize the library more. Think about the spirit of the Whittemores and increase funding to the library.

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**W. Sigworth –99 Deepwood Road**

He supports the request for increased funding to the library. The library is an important resource. There were over 122,000 visits to the library last year. It is a source of electronic information with over 18,000 internet sessions.

**W. Hass – 104 Evelyn Drive**

The library has not received an increase in over six years. The town is not supporting the library one hundred percent, there is an endowment. He would like to see the town increase funding by \$60,000 this year. That would be a five to six dollar increase per homeowner on average and only a fifty cent per vehicle tax increase. It's time the town recognizes the value of the library and starts funding it.

**C. Marengi – 241 City Hill Street**

He is the Chairman of the Board of Trustees to the library. Blum Shapiro stated the library is important and should be supported. The library is here for the town during an ice storm as a warming center or every day as a resource. Where would children buy or get books needed for school at no cost? Nothing brings people downtown more than the library. He is asking for an increase. Costs go up and library employees make well below clerical employees in town. The library cannot function on the amount the town is providing. Books will not be purchased and the library will have to be closed a day or two if funding is not increased. \$621,000 would be flat funding. Please consider raising funds to the library.

**A. Wargo – 1058 Rubber Avenue**

This is one place he does not want the board to cut. It's the best and most important resource that serves the entire community. It's a place for education far and above school. He's not an advocate of the internet. Golf course is supposed to be self-funding. Segregate it so we can see it.

**J. Miller – 385 Park Avenue – Howard Whittemore Library Director**

Part of the training for librarians is to help patrons process reliable information on the internet. Association libraries on average receive 1.11% of the town's budget. The borough funds the library at **XX%**.

**M. Sherman**

Her mother rides the Greater Waterbury Transit District bus three times a week to go to dialysis. It will cost her mother \$36 dollars a week now to get to her appointments. She can't afford to pay this amount.

**M. Katra – 84 Walnut Street**

He is a card carrying member of the library. He would like to see the library budget kept flat. Give some money to the library for capital expenses. Share IT services with the town.

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**S. Behlman, Jr. – 198 Beacon Manor Road**

We are going to pay to demolish a building we do not own?

**A. Wargo – 1058 Rubber Avenue**

You can save money by not buying golf carts. Have fees charged to users to pay for the Water Pollution Control Authority study.

**L. Carlson – 15 Hillview Street**

If you implement a sewer usage fee, you would have to adjust real estate bills. She is a title searcher and it's included in the taxes as a sewer fee.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**A. Wargo – 1058 Rubber Avenue**

Eliminate capital expenses. It is ridiculous to spend \$310,400 for things you forgot to put in the building committee report and \$60,000 we don't need now for fields. Decrease pension bond obligations.

**M. Katra – 84 Walnut Street**

Why did the music accompanist double? Social worker salaries seem extravagant. He agrees with the comment to remove the \$310,000 security line item. He questioned general carpentry, general electrical and general plumbing line items. Eliminate the field maintenance. If we put in natural grass, there would have been reimbursement from the state.

5. Chairwoman Scinto declared the public hearing closed at **11:22 p.m.**

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

**Attest:**

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Nancy K. DiMeo  
Borough Clerk