

Correspondence for 04/30/2020 BOF Meeting

From: Lisa Anfuso <lanfuso@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, April 29, 2020 3:13 PM
To: Robert Tarlov <BOFChair@colchesterct.gov>
Subject:

Hello,

I am writing regarding the town budget. Below is a post I put on Facebook and was asked to pass along to you.

“Why can't we do mail in ballots? It has worked in so many other places. Passing an increase without a vote seems like they are taking advantage. Having an increase at any time is difficult, but having this now is unthinkable. “

I feel we elected you all to do a job. Now the job has become more challenging due to the pandemic situation. The easy way out would be to pass a budget without a vote. However, there seems to be several ways to accomplish the goal of giving citizens the ability to vote. Businesses of all kinds are coming up with ways to get things done safely. Yes, it may take some imagination and effort, but that is what is best for Colchester. As a group, I'm confident you can put a procedure in place that would allow us all to have our vote.

Sincerely,
Lisa Anfuso

Sent from Xfinity Connect App
From: Greg VZ <outtalinedj@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 29, 2020 1:29 PM
To: Robert Tarlov <BOFChair@colchesterct.gov>
Subject: Twon Budget Suggestion from 4/28

Hi Mr. Chairman,

As it was late I'm not sure that a suggestion I made at the end of Tuesday's workshop may have been completely clear.

What I had intended to say was that in lieu of a salary freeze to consider only an increase of 1/2 of whatever percentage employees were slated for.

If a freeze would cut \$125,000.00, then half of that would be very close to getting the current proposal to a zero increase.

Thank you for all the hard work that you and the board are doing.

Regards,
Gregory Van Zilen
Brindlewood Path

p.s. Another creative math suggestion. If you were to consider a salary freeze that would leave approximately enough money to hire a 3rd Firefighter/EMT and still be near a zero increase.

From: Lynn Stewart <lwarrenstewart@yahoo.com>

Sent: Wednesday, April 29, 2020 9:50 AM

To: Mike Egan <megan@colchesterct.gov>; Robert Tarlov <BOFChair@colchesterct.gov>; Mike Hayes <mhayes@colchesterct.gov>; Andreas Bisbikos <abisbikos@colchesterct.gov>; Andrea Migliaccio <amigliaccio@colchesterct.gov>; Bernard Dennler <BDennler@TownofColchester.onmicrosoft.com>; Heide Perham <hperham@colchesterct.gov>

Subject: Budget Concerns

Hello everyone,

I hope this email finds you all healthy and well.

I am writing to express my thoughts regarding the budget. I have sat in on and listened to as many meetings as I have been able, and I have reviewed both the town and BOE budgets. At this point, there are two things that concern me:

- (1) The potential for an increase in taxes if the town and/or BOE budget increases from last year; and
- (2) The potential that there may be no referendum and no opportunity for the townspeople of Colchester to voice their support (or not) of the proposed budgets.

With regard to the first issue, in light of the unusual circumstances associated with Covid-19, there are many individuals who have been relieved of their employment unwillingly. Many of these individuals were deprived of **any** income for an extended period of time for many reasons (e.g., delays in receiving unemployment, being self-employed, delays in receiving the relatively small stimulus, etc.). As a result, there are many people in this town who are stressed and anxious about where their next meal will come from or whether they will be able to pay their bills. This affects people now, but will also affect them even after they go back to work as they try to make good on deferred payments/bills and re-establish a sense of financial security, which may or may not have been present to begin with.

The Mission Statement of the Board of Finance is "Balancing the needs of Colchester **with its ability to pay.**" I believe that this year, the ability of many Colchester residents to pay additional taxes is non-existent. While not all residents are in the above-described situation, any decision to increase taxes would affect all residents regardless of income, and in light of the present circumstances, would be insensitive and unconscionable.

I am also of the opinion that the scenario created by Covid-19 is a rainy day scenario, and that if there are expenditures that simply cannot (i.e., versus WILL NOT) be deferred, that this is a perfect time to

utilize the rainy day fund - which has been funded by the taxpayers in this town - as the resource to cover these expenditures.

With regard to the second issue, I believe the people of the town should be given the opportunity to voice their opinion through a vote. If there is no way to conduct a referendum, I advocate that the 2019-20 budgets for both the town and the Board of Education be adopted for 2020-21. In my mind, moving forward with any budget resulting in even a minimal tax increase is taking advantage of a difficult situation on the backs of the taxpayers and is demonstrating a lack of sensitivity to our neighbors and friends.

Thank you for your time and effort as you work to develop a budget for the upcoming year.

Best regards,
Lynn Stewart
95 Caisson Road

From: Robert Tarlov <BOFChair@colchesterct.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 29, 2020 5:20 AM
To: Eva Avery <lovely123avery@gmail.com>
Cc: Board of Finance <boardoffinancemembers@colchesterct.gov>; First Selectman <selectman@colchesterct.gov>; Amber Albee <aalbee@colchesterct.gov>; Valerie Geato <vgeato@colchesterct.gov>
Subject: FW: Important please read immediately

Hi Ahviel,

Thanks for reaching out to us.

We have not discussed closing the Youth Center at the Board of Finance meetings. I have not heard this suggested outside the meetings either.

I think many people feel like you and realize the value of Center.

Rob

Rob Tarlov, Chairman, Board of Finance
860-608-4293

From: Eva Avery <lovely123avery@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2020 8:35 PM

To: Robert Tarlov
Cc: Amber Albee
Subject: Important please read immediately

Hello, this is Ahviel Rodriguez. I am the daughter of Eva and I would like to make a statement of opinion that lots of other kids would agree with. I heard that you might be shutting down the Youth Center and all of their other groups. once I heard all of this news I immediately felt sad and felt as if I should voice my opinion. You most definitely should not shut down the Youth Services because they support and make lots of kids feel comfortable like they fit in. For example they have a group that involves LGBTQ ☐🌈 and in this group they invite everyone and anyone that want to know more about LGBTQ and wants to find more about themselves and are just interested in LGBTQ. Some parents don't support their kids sexuality and this group will always support you no matter what. Also the Youth Services encourages kids to be active and involved in activities for example they run multiple activities competitions and more. Also just in general the Youth Center is a fun place to be where you can socialize have fun and be involved. so you most definitely not shut it down as it would make me and many others very sad and I would feel like a part of this town in missing.

From: Robert Tarlov <BOFChair@colchesterct.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 29, 2020 5:26 AM
To: Kevin <papawu77@aol.com>
Cc: Board of Finance <boardoffinancemembers@colchesterct.gov>; First Selectman <selectman@colchesterct.gov>; Valerie Geato <vgeato@colchesterct.gov>
Subject: Re: Youth Services Means To Me

Hi Kevin.

Thanks for reaching out to us.

We have not discussed closing the Youth Center at the Board of Finance meetings. I have not heard this suggested outside the meetings either.

I think many people feel like you and realize the value of Center.

Rob

Rob Tarlov, Chairman, Board of Finance
860-608-4293

From: Kevin <papawu77@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2020 1:20 PM
To: Robert Tarlov <BOFChair@colchesterct.gov>
Subject: Youth Services Means To Me

Hello,

I am writing this letter to express what Youth Services means to my family and I. I have two daughters (7th grade and 12th grade) and the Youth Center has been a huge part of their life.

My daughter Hailey who is a class of 2020 student at Bacon first started going to Youth Center in 7th grade for "Girl Circle". We were new in town and this was a great way for her to make new friends and enjoy all the great things they did together as a group. Hailey is now working as a Supervisor at the Youth Center and loves it. She also volunteers to help out with Half Day Hooray events at CES and hopes to continue working with the kids and the Youth Center in the future.

Jillian who is in 7th grade started going to the Youth Center after school from WJMS in 6th grade. She has also joined Girl Circle just like her older sister has in the past. Has gone on trips and joined other clubs that the Youth Center has put together in the past.

The Youth Center is very important, not just to my family, but to the town of Colchester!! They run great programs, It is somewhere for kids to go and do things together and learn from each other. The staff is amazing and are all needed not only to watch our children but to also teach our children so many great things in life. Without the Youth Center & Services there is nothing for the kids!!!

Thank You!!

Mr. Kevin Jones