

Kayla Fortier

From: Andrea Migliaccio
Sent: Wednesday, June 28, 2023 1:42 PM
To: Boards & Commissions
Cc: Board of Finance; Art Shilosky
Subject: Fw: Budgets

correspondence

Andrea Migliaccio, Chairman, Board of Finance
860-705-1118

From: Erin Shuman <ebowers79@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 27, 2023 7:27 PM
To: Andrea Migliaccio <BOFChair@colchesterct.gov>
Subject: Budgets

Dear BOF Members,

I'm writing in regards to the budget changes that you're about to make on behalf of our town.

I realize that this has been a very contentious and heated process thus far. People feel very strongly and many of us on both sides of the aisle, including me at times, haven't spoken to each other in the most respectful of ways. The bottom line is that we all have what we think is best for our town at heart.

Throughout the process, we've heard from members of the board that they don't think the small group of people speaking at the meetings represent the general wants and feelings of the town. The recent referendum shows that we are the majority. Of course, we don't speak for every single citizen, but the results of the vote were clear. The results told you that Colchester voters feel that the BOE and town budgets are too low to support the programs that we need.

There's a rumor going around that you plan to cut the BOE budget by an additional \$200,000. I'm not going to put words in your mouth and assume this is true, but if it is, I'd like to respectfully ask you to think about what the purpose of this would be. Please don't make these decisions out of spite. I know that you worked very hard on the first budget, but the referendum is part of the process. If you were unsure before, now you know what people want. Reducing the budget further would not make sense, since it was clear why it failed in the first place.

Once again, I'm asking you as the BOF that represents all of us to respond appropriately to what the referendum clearly told you: these budgets need to be increased. Egos aside, that's what the referendum results say.

Thanks for listening (reading),

Erin Shuman

Sent from my iPhone

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