

## Correspondence for May 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting

**From:** Christopher Rivers <christopher.m.rivers1@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Friday, May 7, 2021 4:27 PM

**To:** Colchester Town Budget <townbudget@colchesterct.gov>

**Subject:** Comment on Budget and Process

Hi,

My name is Christopher Rivers, and I wanted to take a moment (I'm hoping it will take you less than 3 minutes to read this) to provide my perspective on both the Budget proposal and the public comment process. I had intended to say this at this week's meeting. However, I had to be in DC for the burial of a good friend at Arlington National Cemetery.

1. Budget: As a relatively new resident, the proposed budget makes a lot of sense. Sure, no one likes to see taxes go up, but the raise is reasonable for what we get. And, what we get are solid investments into the community. Investing in things like recreation areas and police means that our community will be healthier and safer. Ideally, I'd prefer to pay more and invest more in education, but I'd accept the current proposal.

For those who think the BOE budget is worth cutting, or too much. There are a couple things I'd like to point out. The structure of our social programs and the ability for our country to pay our debt relies on the future generations being equipped to prosper in a globally competitive arena.

What does this look like on an individual level? Well, I am a product of a Connecticut Public School education, and what I learned during K-12 allowed me to make life and death decisions in Afghanistan, invent new technology, and help formulate solutions at the national and international level. While achieving all that, I relied on what I learned in my small town CT public schools to be a solid foundation. If generations before me kept cutting education spending, I'm not sure I would have accomplished any of that. The future is worth investing in.

2. Process: I've heard a number of fellow residents complain about how long some people speak for at public commenting periods, and it reminds me of research that I did at grad school. During this research, I discovered how censorship has changed. It used to be that those in power kept people from speaking. Now, censorship is a matter of flooding air waves and taking time away from others. I worry that the long comments have a censoring effect on fellow residents. Therefore, I recommend time limits. If people have more to say, they can write or they can convince fellow residents to echo their points. Everyone deserves a chance to be heard equally. Time limits is how to achieve that.

Thank you for your time.

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V/R

Christopher Rivers

From: john kulawy <johnkulawy@yahoo.com>  
Sent: Friday, May 7, 2021 5:54 PM  
To: Colchester Town Budget <townbudget@colchesterct.gov>  
Subject: Budget Question

Stop the spending. We already pay too much in taxes and most of us have wells, septic systems and have to pay for trash removal. So what is the tax increase for??? The school system?? Which graduates kids who can't pass an entrance exam to get into the military. My friend's son flunked it three times and that's six months after graduating from Bacon.

From: Susan Curry <currysj@sbcglobal.net>  
Sent: Sunday, May 9, 2021 11:29 AM  
To: Colchester Town Budget <townbudget@colchesterct.gov>  
Subject: Full support for budget

Hello,

I am writing to express my full support for the 2021-2022 town and education budgets. I think the funds requested are necessary and far from frivolous. We live in a great community with great public buildings and recreational areas. These buildings and areas need maintenance though if they are to continue to serve the community as they were meant to. The youth center roof requires repair. Our recplex needs maintenance and irrigation to remain a safe place to play. Our town service people also need our financial support. I believe this budget is fiscally responsible and is focused on keeping Colchester a place people want to live, work and play in - a town we can all take pride in.

Please move the current budgets through to referendum.

Kind Regards,  
Susan Curry