

## MINUTES

### 2015-2016 Fiscal Year Budget as proposed by the Town Manager and Superintendent of Schools

April 1, 2015 6:30 p.m. Legislative Chamber

#### **6:42 PM Public Hearing Called to Order**

Present: Councilors Barnes, Cantor, Captain, Davidoff, Doar, Hall, Kindall and Slifka. Absent: Councilor Casperson

President Slifka: We are going to call the Public Hearing to order. This is on the 2015-2016 Fiscal Year Budget as proposed by the Town Manager and Superintendent of Schools. Roll Call Please. Thank you. We will go to the sign-up sheet please state your name and address for the record. The first person is Sandra Brook who is here on behalf of George Kennedy and the West Hartford Taxpayers Association, so it's five minutes.

Sandra Brook: My name is Sandra Brook, I live at 32 Winchester Drive, I am here in place of George Kennedy who could not read his speech due to a medical procedure he is having. Mayor Slifka and the Town Council members: The West Hartford Taxpayers Association is concerned about the proposed budget increase for the coming year. The WHTA is asking the West Hartford Town Council to please take a strong leadership role with this year's town budget to ensure that it is on parity with adjacent town budget increases. West Hartford taxes are already higher than most neighboring towns. The surrounding municipalities are proposing budget increases which vary from 1.2% to 4.2% with the average at 2.3%. Some towns are still working on their budgets. The West Hartford Town Council should ask the West Hartford staff to again review the proposed budget and make suggestions or establish caps to keep the budget increase at or below 2%. Since a majority of the surrounding towns have kept their budget requests to about 2%, the West Hartford Town Council should do the same. 2015-2016 Budget increases: Avon- 2.0; Bloomfield 1.2; Farmington 4.2; Glastonbury 1.4; Newington 3.1; Simsbury 1.6. The average is 2.3%. Thank you for your attention.

President Slifka: The next speaker is Kimberly Bouthiette.  
(Audio is off)

Kimberly Bouthiette, 123 Brace Road. Ms. Bouthiette requested that the Council look a little deeper at the budget, and thinks the growth of the town and the taxpayer base is not keeping up with the taxes year after year. She stated her family is happy living in West Hartford, however it is not sustainable by increasing rates without growth. She was disappointed that other residents did not appear to the budget hearings to speak to bring other suggestions to the table.

President Slifka thanked everyone for coming, and closed the Public Hearing at 6:49 p.m.

Essie S. Labrot  
Town Council Clerk