

Janice Rockwood-Berry

From: Tammy Wakefield <tlwakefield669@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020 10:07 PM
To: Budget Comment
Subject: 2020-2021 budget comment
Attachments: council5142020.docx

Hello Council and Mary,

I typed a word document with my comments to be included in the May 14 meeting.

Thanks in advance,

Tammy

Tammy Wakefield
130 North Street
Killingly

I am writing this to be included in the public comment section of the Killingly Town Council meeting of May 14 in regards to the 2020-2021 budget.

These are difficult times for everyone in this area as well as throughout our state and country. Millions of Americans have lost their jobs. Businesses are closed, and some are not reopening. Our state is now many more billions in deficit and expecting Connecticut tax payers to make up this expense. The town government side of the Killingly budget has always been very lean and taken a lot of losses over the years to make sure the education budget could continue their programs.

I understand that the Killingly government side of the budget is a flat increase budget, and once again money has been given to the education side to help meet their contractual obligations. In light of the capital building projects as well as the continued push to install a million dollar turf field at the high school, I think it would be very prudent to expect the Board of Education and Mr. Rioux to come in with a budget that reflects a flat spending increase like the town.

The Board of Education will be returning money to the general fund, and I would also expect that a certain amount is being added to their non-lapsing account. If distant learning continues as some have suggested, the need for fuel for buses and bus maintenance will be greatly reduced. The amount of electric and heating for buildings will also be reduced. I do not think it is unreasonable to ask them to flat fund their budget. Mr. Rioux has a flat funded budget prepared, and I think that that budget should be considered by the town council before just giving the school system any extra funding.

I am a life long resident and a die-hard Redmen fan. However, tax payers of Killingly deserve some tax relief, and if the Council can provide tax payers with even a small mill rate **decrease**, then I think that would be the prudent to expect the same sacrifice from Mr. Rioux and the Board of Education.

Janice Rockwood-Berry

From: brian.card@sbcglobal.net
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020 6:32 PM
To: Public Comment; Budget Comment
Subject: Fwd: Budget comments

Sent from my Verizon ASUS tablet

----- Original Message -----

From: Brian Card

Sent: Mon, 11 May 2020 15:22:28 -0400

To: janderson@killinglyct.org, "budgetcomment@killinglyct.org", "publiccomment@killinglyct.org"

Subject: Budget comments

I am providing the following comments relative to the proposed FY20-21 Town Budget. While I give credit to the Council for wanting to be prudent with the taxpayer money, I believe the cuts that are being proposed are detrimental to the Town in the long run. I offer the following specific comments:

1. Mil rate reduction - With all the cuts proposed, the mil rate is being reduced by 1% to 24.76. At most, the mil rate should remain steady with the current \$24.96 to match the current budget. This way when going into the FY21-22 budget season, the inevitable increase that will be needed to restore services being cut will not be such a large increase from current levels.
2. Reduction in Road maintenance should not be considered. This will increase future costs to repair the roads as they continue to deteriorate over time
3. KPRD reductions should not be done as these services will be necessary to keep kids healthy and engaged
4. BOE cuts - when listening to many budget discussions, council members kept discussing keeping the BOE to a zero increase. While this proposal allows for the contractual increases as needed, it cuts out \$750K of the requested budget, which inevitably means less services to our students. This is the wrong message to send if we want to be a leading Town. Our school staff are some of the lowest paid in the State and it continues to be difficult to attract top talent and to offer the best education to our students with continued cuts.

If Killingly wants to be a growing vibrant Town then we must continually invest in our roadways, recreational opportunities, and education system to provide the residents a quality of life that wants to keep them in the Town and spend. Right now, residents do not stay in town and go out to other towns to recreate, dine, etc. Like I said, trying to adjust the budget to these circumstances is understandable, I just believe you went too far and are cutting too many necessary items.

Brian & Beth Card
60 Mason Hill Road
Dayville, CT