

Correspondence to Board of Finance for May 12, 2020 Meeting:

- 1. West Hill Pond Association Budget Request to New Hartford 2020-2021**
- 2. Email from Steve Unger to Regina dated May 9, 2020 re: updated budget info**
- 3. Open Letter to New Hartford's Elected Officials and Appointed Committee Members from David Rosengren**
- 4. Email response from Judy Palmer dated March 16, 2020 answering questions posed to Regional 7**
- 5. Email from Denton Butler dated April 20, 2020 re: WPCA Quarterly Bill Tracking**
- 6. Email from Sue Lundin to Board of Finance dated April 22, 2020 re: BOF Budget Hearing**
- 7. Email from Regina Wexler dated April 25, 2020 to Board of Ed and First Selectmen re: mitigation**
- 8. Email from Molly Sexton Read dated April 30, 2020 re NWR 7 Bus Contracts and Teacher Contracts**
- 9. Email from James Hall dated May 1, 2020 re Education Budgets**
- 10. Email from Dan Jerram re: May 6 BOF meeting (possible municipal reductions)**
- 11. Email from Jay Bailey dated May 4, 2020**
- 12. Email from Regina to BOF and BOE dated April 29, 2020 re: BOF meeting May 6**
- 13. Email from Lourena Helt dated May 5, 2020 re: Bakerville Library**
- 14. Email from Jen Starble dated May 5, 2020 re: Beekley Library (includes budget request**
- 15. Email from Regina Wexler dated May 7, 2020 re: NWR7 Budget**
- 16. Email from Richard Winn dated May 10, 2020 re: NWR7 Budget**
- 17. Email from Denton Butler dated May 11, 2020 re: BOF**
- 18. Email from Molly Sexton Read dated May 4, 2020 re: Budget Timeline**

①

WHPA Budget Request to New Hartford 2020-21

Thanks again to New Hartford for their continued support; assuring the investment in Brody Park and high lake property values. There are many benefactors of the managed water quality and lake level, including Brody Park visitors, users of the boat launch, and property owners.

1. Past WHPA budgets have been between \$44 and \$52K. This year's WHPA budget is estimated at \$60K, and includes the following expenditures:
 - a. State of CT is mandating increased spillway capacity (estimated at \$15K/year for 3 years)
 - b. DEEP requirement to update and maintain the new State Mandated Emergency Action Plan for the event of a dam catastrophe.
 - c. This year's expanded watershed analysis has been increased to \$15K to include winter measurements and water sample analyses.
 - d. Weed removal services: the budget for this service is being increased again because of the proliferation of weeds. Adding an additional day on (and under) the lake will increase this summer's estimated cost to \$7500.
 - e. WHL is one of only 2 lakes in CT with boat launches without invasive weeds in the lake. Last year, a new budget item was added to provide for supplementing the state inspection services to minimize gaps in coverage at the boat ramp. Thanks to New Hartford's participation, this program was highly successful and will be continued this summer. The estimated cost is \$8K.
2. Without good water quality and dam maintenance, Brody Park's waterfront becomes diminished as are tax base revenues. Thanks again to the Towns of New Hartford and Barkhamsted for their monitory and crew services support.
3. Funding Requested from New Hartford for the WHPA in support of the expenditures summarized above: \$15,000. This is the same amount requested and funded for the current fiscal year, even though the lake association budget is increasing about 20% to cover increased expenditures for water quality testing and labor costs for weed removal and boat launch monitoring activities.

WHY WEST HILL LAKE IS SPECIAL

The following excerpt is from the Introduction section of the "West Hill Pond 2016 Monitoring Report & Initial Watershed Analysis" written by professional limnologists from the NorthEast Aquatic Research company (NEAR):

"West Hill Pond is the most pristine of all Connecticut lakes with public access. This rank is based on excellent water clarity, low nutrient level, scarcity of aquatic plants, lack of invasive aquatic plants, and well oxygenated waters. It was ranked the 5th cleanest of 70 Connecticut lakes assessed in the 1970's, and the cleanest of 56 Connecticut lakes in the 1990's. West Hill Pond is a beautiful lake with excellent water clarity and low nutrient levels. It is one of the few lakes in Connecticut that has cold oxygenated water, essential trout habitat, and it is one of only two publically accessible lakes in Connecticut without invasive aquatic plants."

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Christine Hayward

From: Regina Wexler <regina@wexlerfamilylawct.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 9, 2020 3:50 PM
To: Board of Finance 2019; Pj Miller; Christine Hayward
Subject: Fwd: Board of Finance questions
Attachments: 20-03-05 WHL Budget Request to New Hartford - final.docx; ATT00001.htm

Correspondence to Board

Regina M. Wexler
94 Church Street
2nd Floor
Torrington, CT 06790
860 307 9481

Sent from my iPhone- pls excuse any abrupt tone, thumb typing or Siri dictation errors!

Begin forwarded message:

From: Steve Unger <ungerst@gmail.com>
Date: May 9, 2020 at 3:26:39 PM EDT
To: Regina Wexler <regina@wexlerfamilylawct.com>
Cc: "town@newhartfordct.gov" <town@newhartfordct.gov>, Daniel Jerram <djerram@town.new-hartford.ct.us>
Subject: Re: Board of Finance questions

To the New Hartford BoF Chair and Commissioners,

Hello Regina,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide updated information on the previously submitted budget request on behalf of the West Hill Lake and Pond Associations. I have attached a copy of that budget request below for your reference. It summarizes five of the most important expenditures planned for the upcoming year, commencing this July. Each of these budget items plays an important role in complying with CT DEEP mandates and in maintaining excellent lake water quality. Beneficiaries include the lakefront property owners, Brody Park visitors, Boy Scouts, members of lakefront associations like the West Hill Beach Club, and the many visitors to the lake who access the lake via the lake boat ramp.

Before addressing the anticipated impacts on our expenditures, I want to respond to your specific question about whether our non-profit lake association has applied for any loans, grants or other emergency relief in the past few months. We have not. The West Hill Pond Association (WHPA) and the West Hill Lake Shore Property Owner's Association (WHLSPOA) are managed by volunteers; since there is no payroll, it is our understanding that we did not qualify for any relief via the CARES Act.

The lake association Boards understand the need of the BoF to re-evaluate the budget for the upcoming fiscal year. Our budgeted expenditures include both annual engineering / limnology studies and the harvesting of weeds, as well long-term on-going costs associated with building reserves to comply with CT DEEP mandates. One such mandate is the conversion of our temporary spillway, which is overdue. The engineering proposal for that conversion this year is \$12,950 and the mandatory EAP (Emergency Action Plan) preparation is expected to cost \$6,500.

Annual on-going expenditures are not expected to change much, up or down, from our March 5 budget request because of this unprecedented health crisis. While it now appears that we will be seeing the anticipated increase of \$2,000 for weed removal and a 20% increase in water quality testing and analyses, this is not a result of the pandemic. Our request of \$15K remains unchanged from last year.

West Hill Lake has already seen an increase in usage this spring, which is expected to continue throughout the summer. Should social distancing remain in effect, West Hill Lake presents a unique opportunity for individuals and families to get outdoors for safe activities such as boating, swimming, fishing and contemplating nature while maintaining safe distances.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Thank you, and stay well,
Steve Unger
President, WHLSPOA

③

Open Letter to New Hartford's Elected officials and Appointed Committee Members

Dear Honorable elected officials and appointed committee
members of the Town of New Hartford,

I have attended every meeting the AET has conducted to present its case for selling our water and sewer treatment facilities and have listened attentively to the arguments made by the current Chair of the WPCA. I have also done extensive investigation and research into this matter on my own.

Aside from the many inaccuracies and misleading statements contained in the presentations made at those meetings, one thing that has stood out for me, and perhaps to those of you who have listened to the Chair's presentation, is that he has been, by his own admission, intensely focused on the goal of selling our facilities for over a decade and has been the chief architect in establishing and heading the AET towards that goal. The problem with that kind of approach is twofold: (1) we do not get an objective evaluation of the pros and cons of a sale; and (2) the pre-determined result of a sale does not fix the underlying problem.

The problem confronting us is that our sewer and water rates have been near the highest in the State for over a decade, because we, as a Town, have insisted that the lion's share of the costs of the systems be borne by the users. Many of you have heard me speak (or at least attempt to speak) at the AET meetings and express my belief that the current "sell" proposal *does not fix that problem and will in all likelihood exacerbate it.*

We keep hearing at these presentations that the AET has *worked for over 3 years on the water and sewer issue*, so its plan to sell the systems must presumptively be correct and in the best interest of the users and the Town. But time invested is hardly a measure of whether a plan is correct or not. Nobody says, "well, I've worked on this thing for x years, so it must be right," and, in this case, the efforts of the AET have not produced the right result.

At the last AET information session, a resident from the Pine Meadow area described the circumstances he and his spouse will be faced with if that portion of the plan involving the construction of a sewer extension in Pine Meadow, goes through. I believe his situation perfectly illustrates my argument that the sale of our water and sewer facilities will **not** solve the core problem of the intolerable rates imposed on their users.

That resident now has a septic system that costs him, on average, approximately \$100 dollars a year to maintain (one \$400 clean-up every 4 years). After researching the current sewer rates, he calculated that, when he is obligated to hook up to the proposed Pine Meadow extension, his average yearly bill will be approximately \$1,600! To add insult to injury, he estimates that his "hook-up" fee will be about \$16,000. (Imagine your reaction if you received your July tax bill with a \$1,600 increase and, just for good measure, a \$16,000 surcharge.)

The proposed Pine Meadow sewer extension will service 106 existing households, all of which are now on septic systems and all of whose residents will suffer similar devastating financial consequences. Most, if not all of the residents in Pine Meadow live on modest incomes, and in many cases, fixed retirement incomes. For those of you who are thinking rates will go down as more people are forced to "hook-up," please think again.

Rates never, ever go down! They always go up. That is as inevitable a reality as death and taxes. At the *very best*, rates *may be stable for 5 years*, but even that is not certain because only the State regulatory authority, PURA, controls that decision, and, as the WPCA Chair has admitted, any help the Town *may give the users, is contingent on how much the planned Pine Meadow Sewer extension will cost.*

So, my question to all of you, as elected officials and appointed committee members is -- why are we thinking of doing this to our neighbors and friends? Why are we constantly avoiding what a responsible community should do, which is to spread the burden of community obligations among all members of the community? Would any of us for a moment propose that the 400 hundred or so families, who have kids in the public schools, take on the burden of paying the entire bill for our school system? Where is the justice in that? How could such thinking be anything but a gross distortion of the idea of community, and, indeed, of the Golden Rule? We pride ourselves on believing that we are a "small, close knit community." If those words are to have any meaning and not simply stand as a hollow and cruelly misleading reminder of our indifference to our neighbors' welfare, then we must not let this plan go forward as proposed.

We have time to devise a plan that works for our entire community. The sky is not falling. Even if the plan as proposed were to be approved by the Town tomorrow, it will be years before that plan wends its way through the labyrinth of the State Administrative approval process and construction of new sewer lines begin. Let's take the time necessary to put a sensible and prudent plan together for consideration by our Town's people. It can, and must be done. The Town is currently subsidizing the WPCA debt service (as it rightly should based upon our Ordinance 86-1) and the WPCA has pledged not to raise rates for the foreseeable future. The basis of any workable plan would contemplate that the Town acknowledges that, like our schools

and roads infrastructure, each taxpayer pays in a nominal sum to the capital upkeep of our systems through our capital expenditure and debt service portions of our budget.

While I was listening to the AET presentation this past week at New Hartford Elementary, I thought that anyone in the audience would be easily seduced into thinking that the proposed plan would solve all our problems associated with our water/ sewer systems. It was slickly produced to achieve its intended result. But many of us will recall that we went through a similar experience a dozen years ago when our elected officials assured us, time and again, that our Town would benefit from a new sewer plant that would soon be serving an unprecedented boom in economic development and that such growth would not only stabilize rates but *reduce rates in the long run. We made a horrendous mistake then, let's not be seduced into making another one now.* Things that sound too good to be true nearly always turn out to be too good to be true. Let's not forget history, lest we repeat it.

Yours Sincerely,

David Rosengren,
Selectman

495 Town Hill Road
New Hartford, CT 06057
davidrgren@gmail.com
860 306 6863

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Christine Hayward

From: Pj Miller <penny56r@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020 12:07 PM
To: Christine Hayward
Subject: Fwd: answers

Here are the questions & answers from Dr. Palmer.

Let me know what else you are missing. Maybe you and I should coordinate what you are listing so that I have all the copies I am supposed to send to Donna.

It appears that Regina has a BOF folder for the board members where she puts correspondence. It would be nice to have access to that folder.

Penny

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

From: Pj Miller <penny56r@aol.com>
To: regina@wexlerfamilylawct.com
Sent: Tue, Mar 17, 2020 5:40 pm
Subject: Re: answers

Hi Regina,

Were these questions submitted before the Saturday meeting or afterwards? I assume that you also want them to go with the filed minutes for that meeting.

thanks

..... Remember kindness begins with just one word.

~ Penny

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

From: Regina Wexler <regina@wexlerfamilylawct.com>
To: Judy Palmer <jpalmer@nwr7.org>
Cc: Board of Finance 2019 <BoardofFinance2019@wexlerfamilylawct.com>; lourenaghelt@gmail.com <lourenaghelt@gmail.com>; Penny Miller <PMiller@newhartfordct.gov>; PMiller <penny56r@aol.com>
Sent: Mon, Mar 16, 2020 4:16 pm
Subject: Re: answers

Thx Judy.

Regina M. Wexler
94 Church Street
2nd Floor
Torrington, CT 06790
860 307 9481

Sent from my iPhone- pls excuse any abrupt tone, thumb typing or Siri dictation errors!

On Mar 16, 2020, at 4:02 PM, Judy Palmer <jpalmer@nwr7.org> wrote:

Hi,

I hope you are doing well.

Here are the answers to your Board's questions:

Dear Regina,

Here is the information requested in your email:

1. Details regarding teacher's contract negotiation relative to classes, periods per day, class times, etc. and how this will change with the new credit requirement.

These categories within the contract did not change. The *schedule* will change next year to provide more opportunities for students to earn the 25 credits required within specific discipline areas.

2. Details regarding the current amount of required credits, the average amount of credits last year's class actually had at graduation, and the resulting delta between that average and the upcoming 25 credit requirement- how many additional average credits per student will need to be made up? Given the current class sizes, what portion of that can be made up without additional HS staff?

Our High School Principal, Director of Guidance and Power School Director determined the need for additional high school staff after averaging the number of credits students earned in each discipline area over a 3-year period. Because of this study, we delayed hiring staff until the 2020-21 school year to coincide with the anticipated drop in Middle School enrollment. This plan was literally 3 years in the making.

After that exhaustive study, here are the results that we used to analyze our staffing needs:

With our current 7 period day schedule, a student can only earn a maximum of 6.5 credits per year, excluding Ag Ed students who can earn a maximum of 7.5 annually. Here is the class group credit status (December, 2018):

Grade 10:

5.5 or more ~ 96%

6 or more ~ 88%

6.5 or more ~ 76%

Grade 11:

11 or more 98%

11.5 or more ~96%

12 or more ~ 86%

12.5 or more ~ 74%

13 or more ~64%

Grade 12:

18 or more ~84%

18.5 or more ~ 71%

19 or more ~ 56%

19.5 or more ~42%

However, the comparison of credits from any group of past students to next year's graduates **cannot be made** because the specific credits mandated for graduation are different. It is not merely *the number of credits* needed for graduation, but the specificity of the credits required.

The current freshman are required to graduate with 25 credits in the following disciplines: 9 Humanities, 9 STEM, 1 PE and Wellness, 1 Health and Safety Education, 1 World Language, 1 Capstone, and 3 Electives.

Our high school class sizes average from approximately 15-25.

We have changed our schedule to an 8 period day to accommodate the additional credit requirements.

3. Details of budget impact on administrative raises and staff contract increases.

Superintendent: 8.15% Compounded over 2 years.

Director of Finance: 4%

Administrators: 2.70%

Additionally:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
4. Please provide a breakdown
5. of class size by grade and town. Middle School: Ave. class size: 15-16 High School 15-25. We do not break down this information by town.

- 6.
- 7.
- 8.

- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
5. Please provide a total
6. # of students receiving special Ed services at R7 and a breakdown by town. 184 Special Education students being serviced at R7. Again, we do not break this information down by town.

- 7.
- 8.
- 9.

3. Please provide the Total # of outplacements. 15 outplaced. 6 Magnet School of Choice.

4. Please provide the # of Tuition paid Students. 29

5. Please provide the # of Tuition paid vocational-agricultural Students. 60

Sincerely,
Judy

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ave received this communication in error, immediately advise the sender and delete the original and any copies from your computer system.

Judith A. Palmer, Ed.D
Superintendent of Schools
Regional School District No. 7
100 Battistoni Drive
Winsted, CT 06098

5

Christine Hayward

From: Denton Butler <budbutlercpg@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2020 6:11 AM
To: Daniel Jerram; regina@wexlerfamilylawct.com
Cc: David Douyard; Jill Healey; Joe Toro; LeClaire Mike; Mary Beth Greenwood; Pam Colombie; Polly Pobuda; Wes Marsh; Christine Hayward
Subject: WPCA Quarterly Bill Tracking

Good Morning:

As you finalize budgets, I would like to provide a data point concerning the current impact of the Covid-19 virus as it relates to collections by the WPCA for essential water and sewer services in our most recent billing cycle, April 2, 2020.

The WPCA monitors numerous compliance and financial indicators of our business. Among the most significant, billing receipts. While it is early in the second quarter billing cycle, two weeks since issuance of bills, it is our first measurement point. In the last quarter billing cycle (January) we collected \$35,132 in the ensuing two weeks after bill issuance and for the same corresponding two week period for the April quarterly billing, we've collected only \$5,522, an 84.3% decline in receipts. It is too early to determine if there will be an impact on the WPCA's ability to make non WWTF debt payments coming due in June and July.

The trend for usage also continued its downward trek. This was not unexpected. In the January quarter ending, we billed \$155,887 based upon drinking water consumption and sewer discharge fees and in the most recent cycle \$140,442. However, our most recent billing does not reflect the full impact of the "stay at home" requirement dictated by the virus which can only serve to amplify the problem.

Our next critical financial review will come at the (30) day mark. A comparative review with other utility billing is difficult, but we do know this: TWC's 90 day delinquencies have doubled when compared to the same period as last year; (2) AWC has observed a slow-down in payments but have not released any specific figures.

As you enter your final budget deliberations, this may be one of numerous data points that you will consider as you examine the impact of the pandemic on taxpayer's ability (willingness) to pay. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call me. – Bud Butler

Bud Butler
860-485-8647

(6)

Christine Hayward

From: Sue Lundin <suelundin@charter.net>
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 4:17 PM
To: Christine Hayward
Subject: BOF Budget hearing

To Regina Wexler, Chairwoman BOF and Board of Finance committee members :

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed budgets. I want to focus my attention to the New Hartford School's budget.

If you look at the budget numbers from the previous years, for 5 of the past 7 years, the budgets have had a negative or 1% final number. These past 2 years there has been a significant increase in the budget, especially the current year. And yet through all of this there has been a steady decline in student population. In an effort to keep the budget level funded or decreased, when there is an increase in one area (in this case Special Education), there needs to be subsequent decreases in other budget items to balance it out. It is difficult to determine if there were such discussions as the minutes are scant at best.

Do we really need another Social Worker when we already have one plus a Psychologist? An administrator should review the current caseloads to prioritize who really needs the services rather than just adding the position. Community services are also available at no charge from the Winchester Youth Service Bureau and possibly other non-profit agencies at a minimal cost (much less than a full time Social Worker with benefits).

The 2018-2019 budget was approved on the day it was presented. How much time was spent questioning some of the expenditures with little time to seriously review each line item. For the 2019-2020 budget, it was approved at the 2nd meeting. Again, how much due diligence was put into that? As a former member and Chairperson of the local BOE I can tell you we spent many meetings asking the difficult questions for 4-5 meetings. We kept pushing back on the Superintendent to come up with a 0% increase or a decrease of some sort.

The question of downsizing the number of schools, given the continued decrease in total student population, has not been discussed in a few years. The train of thought has been to close one primary school, which of course has been controversial. Ann Antolini School, not that long ago had over 600 students in the classrooms. With the current total student population of 430 (down 7 students from last year), there seems to be no reason why all students cannot have their needs met in Antolini. What once were classrooms are now occupied by one or two staff without full time use of the room. A serious look at the usage of the rooms could certainly accommodate the primary schools population.

If you have any questions, please contact me. Thank you for the opportunity to comment, even at a virtual meeting.
Sue Lundin

Sent from my iPhone

(7)

Christine Hayward

From: Regina Wexler <regina@wexlerfamilylawct.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 25, 2020 12:28 PM
To: Tim Goff; murphyb@newhtfd.org; 'Molly Sexton Read (msexton-read@charter.net)';
rjerramBOE@nwr7.org; Judy Palmer; Noel Gauthier; David Rosengren; Alesia Kennerson
Cc: Daniel Jerram; Christine Hayward; Board of Finance 2019
Subject: Mitigation efforts/ NWR7 and NH public schools

Good afternoon all:

As we are coming up on our school budget presentations, please be prepared to present C-19 related mitigation efforts to the Board of Finance, including but not limited to efforts relative to the transportation contracts. Gov. Lamont's Executive Order 7R (Paragraph 3) dated March 31, 2020 specifically anticipates that we would negotiate a reduction in the contractual payments with the bus companies.

Please contact me directly with any questions or comments prior to the upcoming meetings.

Enjoy the weekend and stay healthy.

Regards-
Gia

Regina M. Wexler, LLC
94 Church Street
2nd Floor
Torrington, CT 06790
Ph: (860)307-9481
Fax: (860)201-1059



Christine Hayward

From: Regina Wexler <regina@wexlerfamilylawct.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2020 12:30 PM
To: Board of Finance 2019; Pj Miller; Daniel Jerram; Christine Hayward; Tim Goff; Brian Murphy
Subject: Fwd: Follow up- Bus contracts

Penny- pls include in "correspondence to board" in next week's meeting. Dan pls include as a public doc. Christine I will send you an agenda tomorrow.

Regina M. Wexler
94 Church Street
2nd Floor
Torrington, CT 06790
860 307 9481

Sent from my iPhone- pls excuse any abrupt tone, thumb typing or Siri dictation errors!

Begin forwarded message:

From: Molly Sexton Read <msextonreadboe@nwr7.org>
Date: April 30, 2020 at 11:20:05 AM EDT
To: Regina Wexler <regina@wexlerfamilylawct.com>
Subject: Re: Follow up- Bus contracts

Regina,

Thanks for providing both the questions and feedback about our proposed budget for 20-21. One of the challenges in conducting meetings via a virtual platform is that it can limit the ability to make sure that one is speaking clearly and being understood. Your question about my summary of the District's approach to the bus contracts is a point in case. I was trying to explain that we were actively working with the vendors to reach a negotiated settlement that would be fair to both sides. It is my understanding that one goal of the Governor's Executive Order is to ensure the maintenance of payroll. It is with that understanding that we are negotiating. Of course, if a vendor has been successful in procuring a PPP loan, we would not be including payroll in the negotiated amount as that would already be paid. We will be asking for payroll certification from the vendors as a part of any settlement. Another specific piece of the Executive Order is that vendors should not be enriched through this process. Again, we will be using that as our guidance in this process. I wish that you had taken the opportunity to join our hearing directly so that I could have clarified my statements and our approach during the public session.

As you learned from our hearing, at this time the majority of the Board does not support the idea of no raises for staff. We will continue over the next few weeks to gather input from as much of the community as we can engage. We will be working towards adopting a budget that is sensitive to all concerns.

Stay well,

Molly

On Tue, Apr 28, 2020 at 4:34 PM Regina Wexler <regina@wexlerfamilylawct.com> wrote:

Molly and Judy-

Molly mentioned last night that negotiations re: bus contract presume that we would not ask for cuts that would result in loss of employment for the bus drivers, only for savings in gas, etc. Please clarify your reasoning on this. The bus companies are eligible for PPP funding in the form of forgivable loans provided that they keep their drivers on the payroll. If we continue to pay for the cost of their employment, and the bus companies receive these forgivable loans, it will result in an unearned windfall for them. In the interim, their employees are eligible for CT unemployment benefits. I am very sensitive to loss of employment of our residents who may work for the bus companies. I would obviously prefer to pass the cost of their compensation on to the Federal Govt in the form of the PPP loans or the State of CT unemployment insurance fund. I do not think we can ask our taxpayers, many of whom are facing financial hardship themselves, to pay for services they are not receiving.

Again, I cannot stress enough that I appreciate the efforts of your administration and teaching staff during this trying time. It is unfortunate that some on your board characterized the request to seek cuts, which might include a temporary compromise or delay in expected raises, as a "slap in the face" to the teaching staff. I suspect our taxpayers, many of whom are in financial distress, may likewise consider your "business as usual" budget to be lacking in empathy.

Regina M. Wexler, LLC

94 Church Street

2nd Floor

Torrington, CT 06790

Ph: (860)307-9481

Fax: (860)201-1059

(9)

Christine Hayward

From: James Hall <jms_hall@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, May 1, 2020 10:03 AM
To: Christine Hayward
Subject: Town -- and Education -- budget

To begin let me say that it is probably just as well that comments this year need to be written -- that gives me the chance to consider what I say, rather than just sounding off!

Second, I would like to congratulate both the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance on being able to maintain a responsible and reasonable Town budget. You all have done well; even if these were not difficult times, I know you would have done well -- and you have. Thank you!

Now. The Board of Education. Not so much.

The temptation to say that the proposed increase is ludicrous and let it go at that is very strong. It is not, however, particularly helpful.

With regard to the union contract, I have to admit that I tend to agree with Mr. Rosengren. The salary increases are in the new contract, and asking the Teachers' Union to forgo those increases is a fool's game. They are interested in one thing and one thing only: more benefit for themselves, and the community interests are nowhere in sight. I hasten to add that this isn't true of the teachers themselves -- most of the ones I know are dedicated, hard-working (often overworked) individuals who would in many cases be willing to shoulder the same sacrifices as the rest of us. This is not true of the union leadership, and that is with whom we are dealing here.

Now if this were any ordinary multi-million dollar business, an increase in labour costs would have to be justified by an increase in productivity or justified in product cost by an increase in quality. This is Economy 101. I have never been able to understand why a school system should not perform to the same standard. Do we see an increase in productivity? No. If anything, student numbers are lower, so we can't justify an increase in labour costs on that ground. Can we then consider an increase in quality of the product -- that is to say better educated, more capable graduates? I regret to say that my observations -- which are admittedly quite limited -- indicate that the answer to that is also no. Not that quality has dropped particularly -- I doubt that Region 7 graduates are much worse educated than they were when my children (who were bored silly) were there, but they are no better, either. It would be interesting, if discouraging, to challenge them to produce a coherent history of the United States, never mind the world. It would be interesting, if discouraging, to ask them to analyse a significant problem in the sciences -- such as climate change, perhaps, or energy production. I suspect that a prose essay on a set subject might be a real challenge. Many of them would find reading a simple sentence in a foreign language impossible. For that matter, it would be interesting, if discouraging, to ask them to perform significant maintenance or repair on their car or house. So we can set general quality aside as an excuse. There is a factor which is not covered here: the nature of the product has, to a certain extent, changed: because of various unfunded State mandates, the quality and quantity of instruction for special education has skyrocketed, and this is a very significant expense, but one which does not improve either the quantity of output nor the overall quality; it is a socially mandated expense and, therefore, has to be considered -- and paid for.

Enough of that. I have an aversion to complaining without offering positive recommendations which are at least practical - if not always pleasant.

The plain situation is that the Region 7 budget needs to be reduced by about a million dollars. Since the greater part of the labour expense is somewhat out of control for the present, where and how to do this? In most businesses, this actually wouldn't be that hard, and we see it happening nationwide: reduce overhead. I suggest that the best approach to the problem would be three fold: first, freeze all non-union salaries at the 2019-2020 level. Although the exact figures aren't available, this should save perhaps as much as \$100,000. Second, eliminate completely all non-essential capital and equipment purchases. In the old Yankee phrase, if it ain't broke, don't fix it. The schools do not need new widgets or fancy hardware. Essential should be defined as something which is broken and the school simply can't function without. There is no way of knowing what this tactic would save, as the details are buried -- and I dare say that the administration probably doesn't know, either. Third is what is known in industry as "reduction in force". This should apply to both teachers and administrative personnel. Because of the multipliers on salaries, it seems unlikely that it would be necessary to eliminate more than half a dozen to certainly no more than eight or nine positions to achieve the desired

reduction in budget. I will grant that this may be hard to do within the teaching staff; while it should be done on the basis of merit, the way the rules are written it is likely to fall hardest on the more junior -- and hardest working -- teachers. This can't be helped. This may also be hard to do for the administrative staff, as no one likes to be considered redundant, and so -- again -- it is likely to fall hardest on the most junior staff. In the case of administrative staff and even to a limited extent actual student contact teaching staff, however, the Board of Education has considerable say in the matter, and should assume their responsibility to properly oversee their business, just as any other board of directors would do.

So it really does come back to the Board of Education. They need to actually assume their responsibility to the people of the Towns and examine their business, as any other board of directors would do, and find the economies which can be taken without hurting the product -- they are there -- and do them -- and bring a prudent, fiscally sound budget back to the people of the Towns.

If I have rambled, I apologize -- and thank you for reading this far (if you have!).

Sincerely,
James C. Hall
511 Town Hill Road
New Hartford, CT 06057
860.379.2158
jms_hall@yahoo.com

10

Cc: Board of Finance 2019 <BoardofFinance2019@wexlerfamilylawct.com>

Subject: RE: May 6 BoF meeting

Regina,

The Board of Selectmen discussed the fiscal 2020/2021 proposed budget on 4/28/2020.

While no changes to the proposed budget were approved by Board vote, and it remains the same as was presented on 3/14/2020, the Selectmen asked that I prepare an updated draft for the next BOS meeting that would show the impact of modifications in the following areas:

1. Possible elimination of pay raises (approximate -\$40,000 reduction),
2. Possible reduction in Library support (approximate \$7,200 reduction),
3. Possible reduction in West Hill Pond Association support (approximate -\$1,000 to -\$2,000 reduction),
4. Possible hiring freeze (approximate \$70,000 reduction),
5. Possible capital spending reductions (approximate \$65,000 reduction).

The cost savings included above are rough estimates and were to be considered (by the BOS) in relation to the fact that the Selectmen's current proposed budget for 2020/2021 that has already been significantly reduced.

The BOS didn't want to approve lowering of any specific line items at the that time because they wanted to wait and see how the BOF discussion unfolded. We (again the BOS) were seeking an overall equitable resolution to the budget challenge, in collaboration with the BOF, knowing that as it stands now – the Selectmen's budget is in the negative already (combined operations and capital is down roughly \$10,000).

So, just to be clear, these were individual budget options under consideration. They were not meant to be deemed as a "recommendation" to the BOF to cut the entire total. These were individual components that would be considered individually by the BOS to hypothetically meet a BOF request for reduction.

Thanks,

Dan

From: Regina Wexler <regina@wexlerfamilylawct.com>

Sent: Wednesday, April 29, 2020 12:30 PM

To: Daniel Jerram <DJerram@newhartfordct.gov>; Tim Goff <gofft@newhtfd.org>; murphyb@newhtfd.org

Cc: Board of Finance 2019 <BoardofFinance2019@wexlerfamilylawct.com>; Penny Miller (penny56r@aol.com) <penny56r@aol.com>

Subject: May 6 BoF meeting

Good afternoon Brian, Tim and Dan:

As you know, I have scheduled a Special Meeting for Wednesday May 6, @ 7pm. The agenda will consist of discussions regarding the municipal and BoE budgets, and how we may proceed on same based upon the emerging information we have regarding the current and future financial stressors on our taxpayers. I will put you all on the agenda so we can work collaboratively towards a resolution. Please provide with a summary of areas and amounts of potential cuts which your respective boards are considering, , as well as progress on bus contract negotiations and other current fiscal year savings and/or additional costs so we can factor these in as well.

In the meantime, thank you all for keeping the lines of communication between us open. Feel free to call me at any time to discuss.

Stay well-

-Regina.

Regina M. Wexler, LLC
94 Church Street

2nd Floor
Torrington, CT 06790
Ph: (860)307-9481
Fax: (860)201-1059

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Christine Hayward

From: jay bailey <sawyer-88@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 4, 2020 8:36 PM
To: Christine Hayward
Subject: Board of Finance

To Board of Finance,

Re: Teachers receiving raises proposed prior to the Coronavirus lock down of the nation.

I feel the raises should be put on stall for the following reasons:

- 1) The teachers should feel fortunate that by doing classes on the internet, they made more money already, like it's a "raise in advance", since they do not have to commute. And they save money on lunches, too.
- 2) The teachers should feel fortunate to be paid in full; considering the circumstances, and the fact that many people in our nation are not allowed to work at all.
- 3) The teachers should feel fortunate that they are in a small town where their exposure to the virus is at a minimum, as they contemplate the restart of classes; since this situation is not going away any time soon.
- 4) The teachers should feel fortunate that they have financial stability, at a time when a large percentage of our nation's population has become completely unstable.
- 5) The teachers should count their blessings, and be happy.

Sincerely,
Jay Alden Bailey
Main St New Hartford

12

Daniel Jerram

From: Regina Wexler <regina@wexlerfamilylawct.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 29, 2020 12:30 PM
To: Daniel Jerram; Tim Goff; murphyb@newhtfd.org
Cc: Board of Finance 2019; Penny Miller (penny56r@aol.com)
Subject: May 6 BoF meeting

Good afternoon Brian, Tim and Dan:

As you know, I have scheduled a Special Meeting for Wednesday May 6, @ 7pm. The agenda will consist of discussions regarding the municipal and BoE budgets, and how we may proceed on same based upon the emerging information we have regarding the current and future financial stressors on our taxpayers. I will put you all on the agenda so we can work collaboratively towards a resolution. Please provide with a summary of areas and amounts of potential cuts which your respective boards are considering, , as well as progress on bus contract negotiations and other current fiscal year savings and/or additional costs so we can factor these in as well.

In the meantime, thank you all for keeping the lines of communication between us open. Feel free to call me at any time to discuss.

Stay well-

-Regina.

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(13)

Christine Hayward

From: Pj Miller <penny56r@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020 11:48 AM
To: Christine Hayward
Subject: Fwd: Bakerville Library

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

From: Regina Wexler <regina@wexlerfamilylawct.com>
To: Board of Finance 2019 <BoardofFinance2019@wexlerfamilylawct.com>
Cc: Penny Miller (penny56r@aol.com) <penny56r@aol.com>
Sent: Wed, May 6, 2020 6:52 am
Subject: FW: Bakerville Library

More correspondence to Board

Regina M. Wexler, LLC
94 Church Street
2nd Floor
Torrington, CT 06790
Ph: (860)307-9481
Fax: (860)201-1059

From: Lourena Helt <lourenaghelt@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 5, 2020 6:51 PM
To: Regina Wexler <regina@wexlerfamilylawct.com>
Subject: Re: Bakerville Library

Almost 100% will be used for payroll.

On Tue, May 5, 2020 at 6:45 PM Regina Wexler <regina@wexlerfamilylawct.com> wrote:

Understood. Remember you have to use 75% of PPP on salary

Regina M. Wexler
94 Church Street
2nd Floor
Torrington, CT 06790
860 307 9481

Sent from my iPhone- pls excuse any abrupt tone, thumb typing or Siri dictation errors!

On May 5, 2020, at 6:35 PM, Lourena Helt <lourenaghelt@gmail.com> wrote:

Our big fundraiser is our car raffle that starts soon...it accounts for 22% of our budget. If it doesn't kick off as well as usual we will definitely need the PPP help. We truly run very lean.....no endowment etc.

Lou

On Tue, May 5, 2020 at 6:31 PM Regina Wexler <regina@wexlerfamilylawct.com> wrote:

Ok thx

Regina M. Wexler
94 Church Street
2nd Floor

Torrington, CT 06790
860 307 9481

Sent from my iPhone- pls excuse any abrupt tone, thumb typing or Siri dictation errors!

On May 5, 2020, at 6:23 PM, Lourena Helt <lourenaghelt@gmail.com> wrote:

No...we have three part time people with no medical benefits....we are just retaining what we have.

Lou

On Tue, May 5, 2020 at 4:53 PM Regina Wexler <regina@wexlerfamilylawct.com> wrote:

Yes thx! Did the library law anyone off that needs to be rehired?

Regina M. Wexler
94 Church Street
2nd Floor
Torrington, CT 06790
860 307 9481

Sent from my iPhone- pls excuse any abrupt tone, thumb typing or Siri dictation errors!

On May 5, 2020, at 4:52 PM, Lourena Helt
<lourenaghelt@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi Regina

You emailed Paulina Auclair, President of the Bakerville Library Board, requesting information regarding PPP loans. We had submitted an application for \$12,000 on April 7th and finally got notification that we were approved on Wednesday, April 29th. We have not received closing docs so no money deposited yet. The amount we applied for covers two months of payroll and operating expenses.

If you need any more info please call me. 860-482-6386.

Lots of correspondence coming in for our meeting tomorrow night. Hope you staying healthy.

Lou

14

Christine Hayward

From: Pj Miller <penny56r@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020 11:50 AM
To: Christine Hayward
Subject: Fwd: Beekley Library update of on-line services and federal loan applications
Attachments: Beekley Library COVID Services.docx

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

From: Regina Wexler <regina@wexlerfamilylawct.com>
To: Board of Finance 2019 <BoardofFinance2019@wexlerfamilylawct.com>
Cc: Penny Miller (penny56r@aol.com) <penny56r@aol.com>
Sent: Wed, May 6, 2020 6:53 am
Subject: FW: Beekley Library update of on-line services and federal loan applications

Yet another

Regina M. Wexler, LLC
94 Church Street
2nd Floor
Torrington, CT 06790
Ph: (860)307-9481
Fax: (860)201-1059

From: Yahoo <jenstarble@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Tuesday, May 5, 2020 11:03 PM
To: Regina Wexler <regina@wexlerfamilylawct.com>
Cc: David Rosengren <davidrgren@gmail.com>; Dan Jerram <djerram@newhartfordct.gov>; akenneron8926@charter.net
Subject: Beekley Library update of on-line services and federal loan applications

Hello Regina,

I hope that you are doing well and staying safe during this trying time. I understand that you are looking for information from New Hartford Boards and Committees that receive town funding as the BOF reviews the 2020-2021 town budget. Please see the attached information from our Director, Dave MacHenry, summarizing how the Library has responded to meet the needs of the community during the pandemic. Note that the Library quickly responded to the mandatory state closings by anticipating the needs of our community. Our director and staff have provided information and resources related to the crisis while actively promoting our online entertainment and educational tools. In addition, they continue to seek ways to help keep the community connected during a time of social distancing. As soon as it is deemed safe, the Library will expand its services to town residents in a manner that is safe for both employees and patrons.

Our treasurer, Conni Kremski, has spent numerous hours researching and applying for public and private loans and grants. At the first mention of possible federal assistance, Conni began her research to find programs for which the library would qualify. As a result, she has secured a Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan of \$41,800 and an Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) of \$10,000 to help get us through this difficult economic time. It is our understanding that neither of these loans will require repayment.

The Library Board understands the need of the BOF to re-evaluate the budget for the next fiscal year. As you do so, please keep in mind that due to the mandated closures, the Library has been unable to hold various fundraisers over the past couple of months. Most significantly, we have been forced to cancel the Nights at the Beekley Concert Series, on whose proceeds we rely to subsidize our yearly budget. Like many non-profits that rely on donations for revenue, we also find our annual appeal donations to be dramatically less than previous years at this time.

As we maneuver through the uncertainty of the next few months, one thing is clear: the Library will continue to be a cornerstone of our community and will continue to adapt to meet the changing needs of our residents during this unprecedented time.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance to you before your Board of Finance meeting.

Thank you for your time,
Jen Starble
Beekley Library Board President
860-655-2894

Beekley Library Services During COVID 19

The Beekley Library may have closed the door to our building but we continue with our mission to engage and serve our patrons and larger community. All services are free and open to everyone. A partial list follows.

Ebooks, Audiobooks and video streaming.

- Audiobooks and ebooks can be checked out on two services we subscribe to: RBDigital and Overdrive.
- RBDigital also offers access to Acorn TV, independent films, concerts of all genres, the Great Courses and health and wellness information.
- On Overdrive you can view movies, TV shows and magazines.
- Kanopy offers classic, independent and foreign films including selections from the Criterion Collection.

For those who wish to use these services but don't have a card we issue them and assign a barcode and renew expired cards through email.

Virtual Programs

- We offer two weekly story times for children through Zoom. Nicole has gathered her finger puppets, bubbles, music and storytelling for groups on Friday mornings and Val has continued with activities, songs and stories for Pajama Story Time on Thursday evenings.
- The Beekley Book Club opened it's first meeting with *The Giver of Stars*, by Jojo Moyes, a fictional account of WPA's Packhorse Librarians, women who delivered books on horseback to rural families in the 1930's.

YouTube Channel

In discussion with librarians in the Farmington Valley Health District and with the Northwest Connecticut Library Directors the consensus is that programming at libraries will be suspended through the summer. In anticipation of this we have begun a YouTube channel. Programs are being arranged and among those we plan to include are:

- A series of historical lectures with Hamish Lutris
- "From Seed to Harvest" by John Burdick
- Meditation sessions
- Arts and crafts activities by staff.
- A travelogue, *Horse Trekking in Mongolia's Nomad Valley*, by town resident Anne Bailey. Anne was scheduled to present it at the library on April 21st and instead will post it and others on our channel.

Weekly Beekley Challenge

- To keep in touch on a more personal level we have initiated a weekly activity inviting patrons to join in and participate in a challenge, quiz or discussion. It has included sharing stories of how their daily activities have changed during the quarantine, a funny pet picture contest and Show Us Your Masks, asking for pictures of patrons with their homemade masks.

We've posted links on our website, www.beekleylibrary.org to resources that we hope will be of interest and useful to our patrons. They include:

Health

- Links to the Connecticut State Coronavirus Information Center, the Center for Disease Control, Harvard Medical School Coronavirus Resource Center and the New York Times Coronavirus Briefing.

Children and Adults, Academic and Family Oriented

- Guides and advice on home schooling.
- Sources for free ebooks and audiobooks from pre-school to adults.
- Study plans and textbooks.
- Reference and research databases.
- Movies, television shows, games and read alongs.
- Children's book readings from the Screen Actors Guild.

Arts and Culture

- Virtual guides to over 2,500 museums in Connecticut and around the world.
- Concerts from the Norfolk Chamber Festival, the New York Philharmonic, the Metropolitan Opera and more.
- Theatre including Broadway, off Broadway, the National Theatre of London, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, BBC drama and films and radio, ballet and modern dance.

We're planning to open in stages. We'll offer curbside delivery of books and other library materials to patrons by the end of this month. Patrons will contact the library by phone or email with requests and will arrange a time to pick them up, bagged with their name outside the library. We'll schedule times appropriately so that social distancing is maintained.

The seed library, a popular program for the last five years, offering free seeds to patrons will also resume with curbside delivery.

Thank you. We take our commitment to our patrons and the community seriously and hope we have provided them with resources and options to help them in this difficult time. If you have any questions or if we can provide more information please don't hesitate to get in touch.

The Licia and Mason Beekley Community Library Budget Request – Fiscal Year 2020-2021

Each year we struggle to keep our operating budget as lean as possible without sacrificing services. At the same time demand continues to grow and costs continue to increase. Programs which have relied on grants from local organizations and state support have seen funds decrease due to economic strains. We know that to remain vital to our community we must remain current with our resources and services. To that end the library has offered more programs and reached out to community organizations to better serve the needs of our patrons and the town.

Strong Relationship with Town Schools

Our relationship with the town schools remains particularly close. The children's librarian participates in programs at the elementary schools and Regional 7, works with the teachers and librarians to coordinate our collection with their core curriculum and runs the summer reading program every year. A parent teacher book club was established to discuss child rearing and education and a workshop was held on understanding dyslexia.

Students from Shared Services volunteer at the library offering them a work opportunity that they might not experience elsewhere. For our pages, employment at the library is often the first job opportunity many of them have. Students in the National Honor Society, those enrolled in civics classes and the Agricultural Education Program at Regional 7 fulfill volunteer requirements at the library.

For children who are home schooled we are their school library, offering resources both in print and online they would not find elsewhere. A home school from several area towns meets weekly for group discussion and to coordinate curriculum and classes.

Those who wish additional help with tutors find that the library offers a quiet space and educational materials not available at home. Students from Kindness in Motion meet. They bring together high school students to help first graders with their school work, benefitting both age groups.

Our teen advisory group has added a series of teen movie nights, made cards for homebound residents and offered free technology classes several times this year for seniors and others.

Increased Use of Space

Our conference room has seen increased usage every year and the children's room and the director's office are often offered to accommodate groups when the room is in use by others. Community and business groups including the New Hartford Business Council, New Hartford Land Trust, Our Lady of Hope Parish Council, tutors, small classes, study groups and workshops, book clubs and a writing group all use the room on a regular basis, often reserving it months in advance. Small businesses that need a larger work and planning area often request the space for its size and the fiber optic wi-fi. For those who need a room for quiet and confidential job interviews or Skype conferences, the director's office is often the only site available in town.

Children's Programming and Events

Children's programming is an extremely important and much appreciated service to the community. In addition to two story time sessions each week we host programs by the staff and outside presenters year round including school holidays and in service teacher workshop days. Children and parents have enjoyed making tie dyed shirts, jewelry, dolls, gingerbread houses and Ukrainian Easter eggs, There are knitting and karate classes, and Monday movies in the summer. Visits from presenters have included nature programs, a puppet show and children's authors. The New Hartford Fire Department entertained the children with their fire trucks and gave a lecture on fire safety. The Nutmeg Book Club, a summer reading program with students reading and discussing the Nutmeg Book winners and nominees was more popular than ever. Hosted by Fran Stouffer, for grades 3 – 8, the classes was filled within a few days and extra copies of books had to be ordered. Fran and Corrin Tangarone again organized the Lee Tangarone Story Walk and children's program, yearly highlight.

Community and Arts Center

A Gallup poll from January of 2020 has found that visiting the library remains America's most common cultural activity by far and that is very apparent to patrons and staff at the Beekley Library. Our larger common areas have become popular venues for area businesses to offer presentations on college funding, investment, estate planning, retirement and health insurance. The Northwest Community Bank hosted its annual program on Medicare and Social Security offering talks during the day and evening to better serve the schedule of those who would be attending. It is used by Lions Club for their annual scholarship awards program, authors for book talks, the Beekley Historical Lecture Series, international children's art shows from the Fermata Arts Foundation and other groups who consider the library to be the town's community center, serving everyone from infant to seniors. An extremely popular family program, Bingo at the Beekley was held twice this year due to popular demand. The National Beat Poetry Foundation has made the library their venue for monthly readings and presentations and this year again held an international festival presenting poets from around the country and Europe.

BookFriends and the New Hartford Business Council held their Holiday Marketplace again this year, offering a venue for local businesses, artisans, over 100 organizations and individuals statewide as a fundraiser for the library. Local entrepreneurs have held programs on legal aid, meditation and art classes.

We have met with the new Senior Director, Robin Buzzi and will work together in offering programs and activities. Those who are not able to come to the library will soon have access to books and other material when we begin our delivery to patrons who are homebound.

The library also hosts The Nights at the Beekley Concert Series, now in its 13th season bringing people from Connecticut, other states, and Canada to New Hartford who would not have travelled here otherwise. They have all been impressed not just with the concerts but the town, its restaurants, and its natural beauty and recreational offerings.

For the second year in a row we've hosted a recital by the Viano String Quartet, Music Fellows at Norfolk Chamber Music Festival. They returned last summer despite a very full schedule of international competitions and recitals, citing the library as one of their favorite venues. We have made arrangements with Yale and the Festival to continue to hold concerts at the library while the performers are in residence in Norfolk.

From its start four years ago the seed library has been extremely popular and will be repeated this year. Seed companies who provide organic and non GMO vegetable and flower seeds have donated seeds which enable us to in turn make them available for free to patrons. It also provides a learning experience for the children in story time programs who begin the seeds indoors and then transplant and care for them in the four raised beds outside the children' room.

The public computers continue to be extremely popular and necessary. It is not unusual to see all seven in use at the same time, with laptops available for overflow. With more business conducted solely online, including household accounts, personal banking, and government accounts we are seeing a new group of users. Those who never thought they would need computer skills are now coming to the library needing online access and very often asking how set up email accounts, how to pay bills online, and wanting advice on searching for jobs and sending resumes to prospective employers. This is often time consuming for patrons and staff who have the technical and personal skills to give assistance. We have offered computer and technology classes designed for, but not limited to seniors and will continue to schedule more.

For those who have computers but want a quiet place to study or conduct business we offer fiber optic wi-fi and our desks and tables are often fully occupied by students and remote workers using the library as their office.

All these programs and use of the conference room and library space are free and open to the public, drawing audiences from New Hartford and area towns.

Collection Development

Our collection for both print and non-print items is substantially higher than similar sized libraries in the state as can be seen in the attached charts. We constantly review our collection, weeding and adding new material as needed to stay current and to retain those books and other items that are relevant and requested by our patrons.

Our electronic and streaming options have increased over the years as demand has grown, not only among younger patrons but seniors as well who may not be able to visit the library but want access to e-books, audio books, movies and TV shows. Classic and independent films, Acorn TV, music, SAT preparation, health and wellness information, and the Great Courses are available.

Health Initiatives

Earlier this winter we again held a flu shot clinic, this time with the Farmington Valley Visiting Nurses Association.

Finances

We have worked hard to increase services to our patrons and, like the town continue to deal with cuts from the state. Internet service that was once free from the Connecticut Educational Network now costs the library \$1,800 a year. That and the elimination and reduction of grants and other free services once available from the State total approximately \$6,000. A onetime unexpected cost this year of \$3,800 was necessary to replace staff and patron computers in order to update to Windows 10.

To offset those costs in part the library has assumed a former role of the BookFriends and we are selling used and donated books, not just a onetime sale every summer but year round in our foyer. Those that aren't sold are sent to an online bookseller that shares the profits when they sell them. In addition, some of the books that are donated go directly into our collection reducing costs to our book budget.

Still, we find ourselves faced with financial difficulties. We are very aware of the strain that cuts in state aid have placed on the town. We know this is a tough budget year and have worked hard to accommodate patron needs, library expenses and costs to the town.

As indicated in attached charts the town libraries operate with less municipal revenue than other libraries in the state and wages and salaries are a smaller percentage of operating expenditures. The Beekley Library when compared with other libraries has more library visits, higher circulation, and a larger print and non-print collection per capita. Patrons borrow close to 70,000 books, DVDs, CDs, audiobooks and e-books, and attend over 200 programs and children's story times.

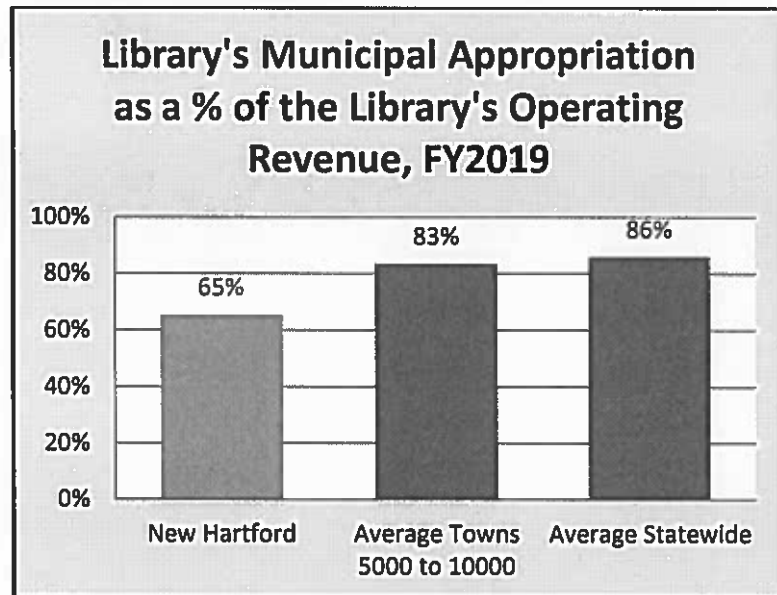
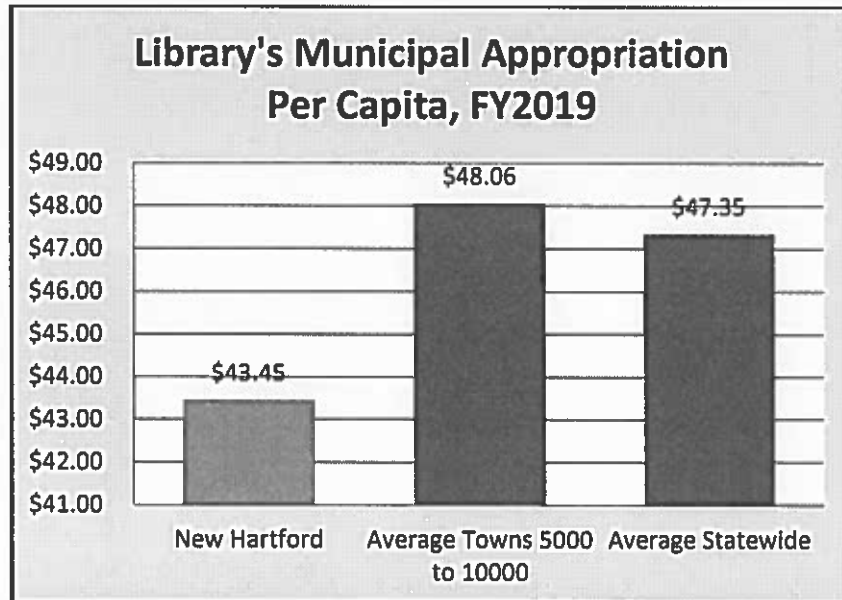
The staff is proud of what we have achieved and how we are perceived and appreciated by our patrons and community, and the businesses and organizations that use our resources. We have worked hard to increase services to our patrons. With this in mind, and looking forward to an increased presence in town activities, and additional offerings to its residents we are requesting a 2.0% increase or \$5,000 over last year's grant which will go towards, but not fully cover a 3% increase in staff salaries and related costs.

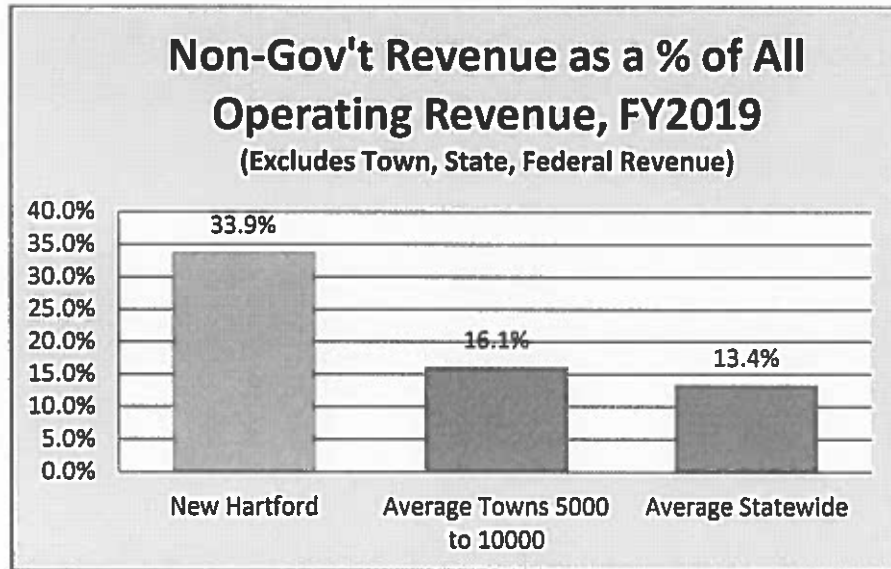
We understand the need for the library to raise its own funds and continue to supplement the town's contribution with new fundraising, with income from our endowment, our annual appeals, support from BookFriends, Nights at the Beekley, grants and other activities. We realize the town's finances are limited but we feel that our services to the town and its residents are more important than ever. We thank you for your continued support and will offer the best services and resources possible.

David MacHenry, Library Director
Jennifer Starble, President of the Board
Conni Kremski, Treasurer

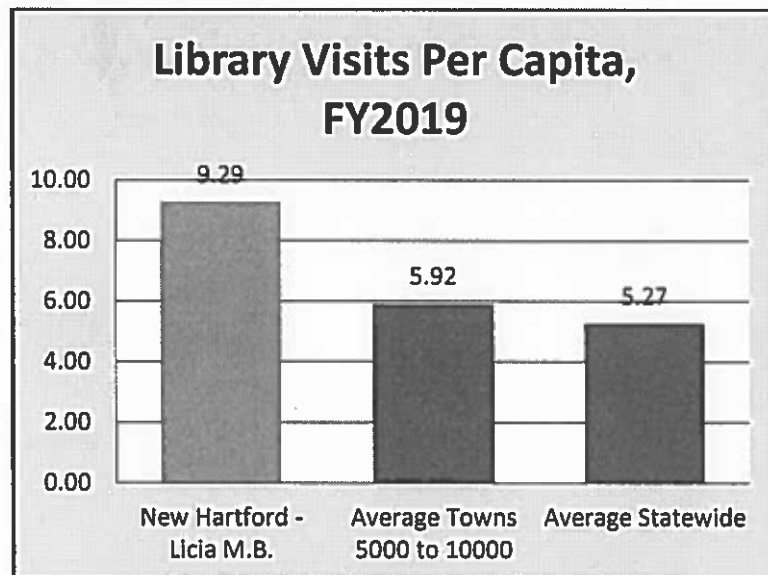
From *Connecticut Public Libraries: A Statistical Profile*.

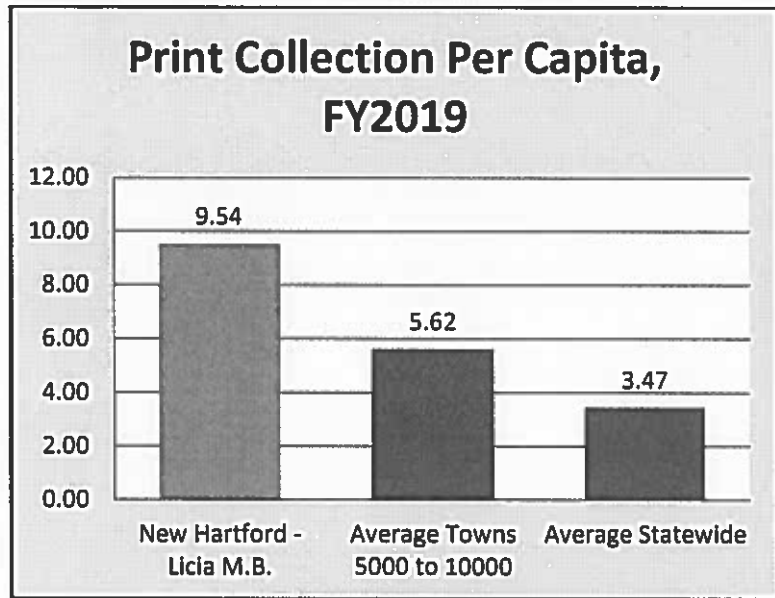
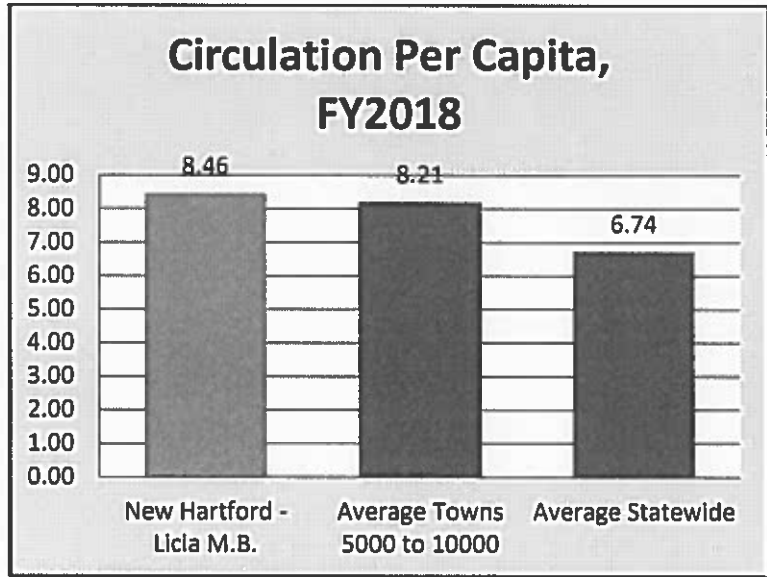
Charts for the Municipality of New Hartford, including the Licia & Mason Beekley Community Library and the Bakerville Library, to include town funding for all library services.



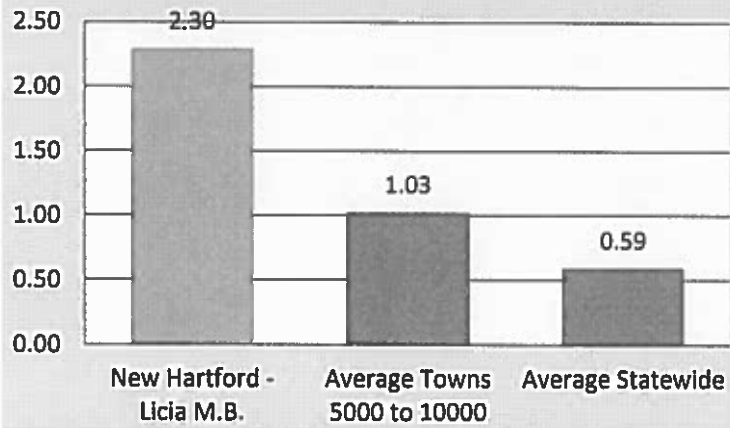


From *Connecticut Public Libraries: A Statistical Profile*.
Charts specific to the Licia & Mason Beekley Community Library.

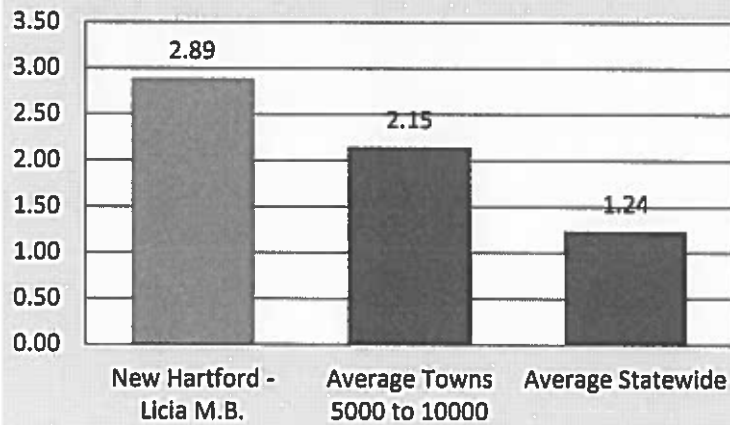




Non-Print Collection Per Capita, FY2019



Children's Book Collection Per Capita, FY2019



15

Christine Hayward

From: Regina Wexler <regina@wexlerfamilylawct.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2020 7:46 PM
To: Molly Sexton Read
Cc: rjerramBOE@nwr7.org; Noel Gauthier; Board of Finance 2019; Penny Miller (penny56r@aol.com); Christine Hayward; Tim Goff; Daniel Jerram; Michael Sconyers; richard.t.winn@snet.net; millar06021@charter.net; Brian Murphy
Subject: NWR7 Budget

Molly:

The New Hartford Board of Finance voted at its Special Meeting last night to object to your 2020-2021 budget as presented, and to request a \$200,000 reduction to the budget. In addition, we expect that you should realize at least that much in savings by virtue of the abbreviated school year and cancelation of Spring sports. Our local Board of Education initially presented a budget to us with a flat operating budget, exclusive of contractual and special education increases, which together totaled 2.84%. Last night, our Chair and Superintendent proactively came to us with \$100,000 of savings due to school closure and a 50% reduction in CAPEX for next year, recognizing that we are just beginning to feel the effects of the economic impact of this pandemic. Our Board has not ruled out the possibility of approaching our bargaining units with a request to defer salary increases. We are working collaboratively to mitigate both the financial impact to our taxpayers while minimizing any further educational impact to our students. I would urge your Board to reconsider your "status quo ante pandemic" approach.

We have a Board of Finance meeting this coming Tuesday May 12. Please provide us with current information on closure-related savings, both realized and anticipated, and any additional information which may assist us in assessing our fiscal responsibilities and options.

I have joined in recent discussions with my Board of Finance counterparts in the other member towns. We look forward to working cooperatively going forward

Regina M. Wexler, LLC

94 Church Street

2nd Floor

Torrington, CT 06790

Ph: (860)307-9481

Fax: (860)201-1059

16

Christine Hayward

From: Regina Wexler <regina@wexlerfamilylawct.com>
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020 5:39 AM
To: Board of Finance 2019
Cc: Pj Miller; Christine Hayward
Subject: Fwd: Regional #7 Budget

Correspondence to Board

Regina M. Wexler
94 Church Street
2nd Floor
Torrington, CT 06790
860 307 9481

Sent from my iPhone- pls excuse any abrupt tone, thumb typing or Siri dictation errors!

Begin forwarded message:

From: RICHARD WINN <richard.t.winn@snet.net>
Date: May 10, 2020 at 8:54:45 PM EDT
To: Molly Sexton Read <msextonreadboe@nwr7.org>, Judy Palmer <jpalmer@nwr7.org>
Cc: Regina Wexler <regina@wexlerfamilylawct.com>, "jmsconyers@ackerlybrown.com" <jmsconyers@ackerlybrown.com>, "millar06021@charter.net" <millar06021@charter.net>, Erica Dyndiuk <edyndiuk@barkhamsted.us>, John Doyle <thedoylegr@aol.com>, George Walsh <barknguns@yahoo.com>, Julia Pattison <pattisonjulia@gmail.com>, Jim Agostine <jagostine@barkhamstedschool.org>, Steve Egbertson <shegbertson@gmail.com>, Don Stein <dstein@barkhamsted.us>, "David R. Dave Moulton" <dave.moulton1776@gmail.com>, Salvatore Tartaglione <salvatore.tartaglione@ms.com>, Matt Kelly <mjkone2@aol.com>, Spencer Monroe <smonroe@barkhamsted.us>
Subject: Regional #7 Budget

Hi Molly and Judy,

Although Barkhamsted will see a reduction in our Regional #7 assessment this year, we have seen significant increases three out the last five years. With the Covid 19 pandemic having a major impact on everyone, our Board of Finance has taken steps to reduce next year's budget to ease the financial burden on our taxpayers by reducing our mill rate. One major step was to postpone planned capital projects. Also our First Selectman, Don Stein has agreed to no increase in his salary. We have asked both the Board of Selectmen and Board of Education to reduce their budgets.

The local Board of Education does have an increased budget, but that is mostly due to Special Education. They had one or more special education students over the last year that required outplacement that was not planned. They had warned us earlier in the year that they would likely be seeking additional funds in the current year to cover some of those costs. At this point they believe the school closing has saved enough money to cover the unexpected costs. I don't know the exact savings, but I am guessing it is

better than \$100,000. In discussions with other chairs of the Boards of Finance it seems the local Boards of Education in Regional's area are seeing savings from school closures. I hope that the Regional #7's Board of Education will take this into consideration and use any of their savings to offset next years budget. Please consider the financial burden the pandemic is having on our taxpayers when finalizing your budget.

Respectfully

Richard Winn, Chairmen
Town of Barkhamsted
Board of Finance

(17)

Christine Hayward

From: Denton Butler <budbutlercpg@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020 10:55 AM
To: Christine Hayward
Subject: Board Of Finance

To: Board of Finance Members

Our economy is in "free fall." I know of no term stronger than disaster to describe it. None of us is going to escape either the intended or unintended consequences of Covid-19. We haven't made a recovery from the "great recession" of 2008. Can anyone imagine if there is a near-term recovery date available to this disaster? The consequences are about money, so I'll cut to the chase.

Some people lack conviction to make hard calls and some are filled with passionate intensity when it comes to supporting budgets, regardless of their worthiness. As evidenced by the NW Regional #7 budget hearing, we are surrounded by people who are "above the fray and don't have to sacrifice for anybody." What we need is some strong common sense judgment on the issue of current expenditures.

No budget – Town, Local BOE, or Regional #7 should escape a reduction in spending this year. The ability to meet these budgets has one common denominator – the taxpayer. As the foot soldiers common to the denominator of tax revenues, it falls to us to fund these budgets. Accordingly: (1) Don't take away the taxpayers vote on these critical budget issues. We can do a drive-through referendum. There is no magic to that process. (2) BOF, stand for reductions in these budgets that at the very least eliminates salary increases at a time when many are working with reduced salaries or no job income at all. (3) Take a position that calls for all agencies to rethink the way they do business, because it is not business as usual, nor will it be anytime soon. Respectfully submitted – Bud Butler

Christine Hayward

From: Christine Hayward
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020 2:41 PM
To: Christine Hayward
Subject: FW: Budget Timeline

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

From: Regina Wexler <regina@wexlerfamilylawct.com>
To: Daniel Jerram <DJerram@newhartfordct.gov>; Penny Miller (penny56r@aol.com) <penny56r@aol.com>; Christine Hayward <CHayward@newhartfordct.gov>
Sent: Mon, May 4, 2020 2:34 pm
Subject: FW: Budget Timeline

Pls include in correspondence to Board

Regina M. Wexler, LLC

94 Church Street
 2nd Floor
 Torrington, CT 06790
 Ph: (860)307-9481
 Fax: (860)201-1059

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WARNING: FRAUD ALERT. If you receive an e-mail from this office requesting that you wire or otherwise transfer funds, you must confirm the request and any corresponding instructions via telephone before you initiate any transfer. Hackers are targeting e-mails of attorneys and other businesses in attempts to initiate fraudulent wire requests.

From: Molly Sexton Read <msextonreadboe@nwr7.org>
Sent: Monday, May 4, 2020 2:33 PM
To: Regina Wexler <regina@wexlerfamilylawct.com>
Cc: Judy Palmer <jpalmer@nwr7.org>; Michael Sconyers <jmsconyers@ackerlybrown.com>; millar06021@charter.net; richard.t.winn@snet.net
Subject: Re: Budget Timeline

Regina,
 It is my intention at this point to postpone the adoption of a budget until our meeting on the 27th. I will work to have that reflected in our timeline.
 At this time I have no new information to share with your Board.

Best,
Molly

On Mon, May 4, 2020 at 12:05 PM Regina Wexler <regina@wexlerfamilylawct.com> wrote:

Molly and Judy-

Your budget timeline on the webpage still indicates May 13 is the date for your budget vote- but we seem to recall that you bumped that to May 27 at your last meeting? Please confirm the date as it will affect our local timelines as well. I still have you on the agenda for our May 6th Special Meeting in case more information comes up that you would like to share.

Thanks- Regina

Regina M. Wexler, LLC

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