

Town of Montville Town Council  
**Public Hearing Board of Education Budget Minutes for April 26, 2016**  
6:00 p.m. – Montville High School – Auditorium

1. Call to Order  
Chairman Jaskiewicz called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence in honor of our military.
3. Roll Call  
Present were Councilors Caron, Longton, May (6:03 p.m.), Pollard, Rogulski, Tanner, and Jaskiewicz. Also present was Mayor Ronald McDaniel.
4. Public Hearing

TOWN OF MONTVILLE  
NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARINGS

Notice is hereby given that public hearings will be held at Montville High School Auditorium, 800 Old Colchester Road Oakdale, CT on April 26, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. on the Board of Education Budget and on April 27, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. on the General Government Budget for the Town of Montville for the fiscal year from July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017.

Revenue Summary 2016-2017					
Description	2015 ACTUAL	2016 ADOPTED	2016 YTD	2016 ESTIMATED	2017 MAYOR PROP
PROPERTY TAXES	36,712,292	38,334,608	37,391,345	37,923,945	39,805,335
LICENSES & PERMITS	754,432	795,569	521,742	647,867	650,500
REVENUE USE MONEY/PROPERTY	78,695	76,000	28,615	74,613	66,000
REVENUE OTHER AGENCIES	190,077	172,929	107,913	197,613	191,253
STATE GRANTS SCHOOL	13,354,473	13,431,028	6,623,313	13,229,644	13,424,717
STATE GRANTS UNSPECIFIED	4,388,944	4,179,424	3,213,510	4,184,384	4,098,858
CHARGES FOR CURRENT SERVICES	702,520	625,500	403,019	631,019	530,500
MISC REVENUE	940,451	791,000	839,753	849,751	842,000
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>57,121,884</b>	<b>58,285,980</b>	<b>49,329,210</b>	<b>57,738,838</b>	<b>59,619,163</b>

Expenditure Summary 2016-2017					
Description	2015 ACTUAL	2016 ADOPTED	2016 YTD	2016 ESTIMATED	2017 MAYOR PROP
GENERAL GOVERNMENT	2,187,254	2,457,893	1,552,871	2,407,893	2,716,360
INTERGOV'T CONTRIBUTIONS	65,126	61,800	14,300	61,800	59,300
FRINGE BENEFITS/INSURANCE	3,377,858	3,468,475	2,656,954	3,208,475	3,614,075
DEBT SERVICE	4,341,488	4,311,291	4,232,604	4,261,291	4,312,432
LAND USE	225,249	267,961	186,531	267,961	259,608
HUMAN SERVICES	579,083	632,397	403,275	632,397	611,145
CULTURE AND RECREATION	338,806	351,341	252,800	351,341	351,624
PUBLIC SAFETY	3,941,727	4,296,949	3,176,847	4,356,949	4,411,550
PUBLIC WORKS	3,516,207	3,669,586	2,440,671	3,504,486	3,766,769
EDUCATION	36,954,380	37,598,668	24,333,206	37,598,668	37,889,631
CAPITAL	1,116,575	1,169,619	613,158	1,166,358	1,626,669
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>56,643,761</b>	<b>58,285,980</b>	<b>39,863,227</b>	<b>57,817,619</b>	<b>59,619,163</b>

2016 Proposed Water Budget					
Description	2015 ACTUAL	2016 ADOPTED	2016 YTD	2016 ESTIMATED	2017 PROPOSED

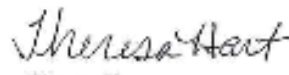
2016-17 Water Revenue					
Water Revenue	1,378,346	1,396,345	1,092,298	1,396,345	1,509,725

2016-17 Water Fund Expenditures					
WATER SALARIES & WAGES	50,944	98,100	40,787	98,100	98,200
WATER MAINTENANCE	11,225	32,000	5,913	32,000	29,000
WATER ENERGY & TRANSP	915,639	1,059,230	692,331	1,059,230	1,160,230
WATER INS & PR TAXES	28,507	29,865	22,000	29,865	30,145
WATER ADMIN EXP	95,431	21,550	10,999	21,550	36,550
WATER MISC EXPENSES	52,381	20,600	12,808	20,600	20,600
WATER RESERVE	-	135,000	-	135,000	135,000
<b>Total Water Fund Expenditures</b>	<b>1,154,527</b>	<b>1,396,345</b>	<b>784,839</b>	<b>1,396,345</b>	<b>1,509,725</b>

Detailed copies of the budget by department are available at the office of the Town Clerk or online at [www.montville-ct.org](http://www.montville-ct.org).  
Dated at Montville, Connecticut, this 12th day of April 2016.

  
Ronald E. McDaniel  
Mayor

  
Joseph W. Jaskiewicz  
Town Council Chairman

  
Theresa Hart  
Finance Director

Chairman Jaskiewicz opened the public hearing.

Bob Manfredi, 9 Heather Brook Road, Uncasville, questioned Montville Public Schools Superintendent Brian Levesque's statement regarding the reduction of the school budget by \$425,000.00, when they are actually gaining \$290,000.00. The residents of the Town are currently aging as school enrollment continues to decline, being down 40% since 2006, and will eventually lead to the closing of at least one of the elementary schools. He estimates that taxpayers are currently paying approximately \$19,000.00 per student and steps need to be taken to help bring down those costs.

Brian Levesque, Superintendent, Montville Public Schools, invited Mr. Manfredi to meet with him to discuss the issue and provide him with more accurate information. He thanked the Town Council for this evening's Public Hearing and stated that the Board of Education (BOE) and staff worked very hard to present a budget that not only meets the needs of the students, but also is fiscally responsible. The budget reflects an increase of 1.9% and includes a reduction of seven (7) teaching positions as the result of declining enrollment and a decrease in such items as fuel oil, electricity, natural gas, equipment, textbooks, and substitute teachers. The approximate increase of \$700,000.00 includes \$600,000.00 for the Special Education Program, a, relatively, uncontrollable cost. The Town Council's unanimous approval of the teachers' contract two years ago and the Board's ability to significantly mitigate costs has been remarkable. Understanding the issues at the State level, he respectfully requested that the Town Council support the budget, as presented, and continue to support the schools and its programs, staff, and students, who are the future of the Town.

Karen Duhamel, 1 Fox Hollow Drive, Oakdale, urged the Mayor and Town Council to work collaboratively and support the BOE's budget, as presented, and to maintain the quality of the schools and integrity of the community. Once the mandated special education costs and out of school district placement costs are paid, the increase amounts to a mere 0.3% budget increase. These costs amount to the needs of the students rather than the wants of the Board. She requested the Town Council also consider the fallacy regarding the declining enrollment in schools, citing a recent statement made by Salem School Superintendent Joseph Onofrio published in *The Day*. Recognizing the challenges brought about by the recent State cuts and the need for making sacrifices, she is prepared to pay a small tax increase so that the Town can maintain its superior teachers, their innovative ideas, and ensure small class sizes. In addition, quality schools impacts property values and compromising the quality of our education will discourage people from moving into or staying in the community.

Howard R. Beetham, Jr., 60 Riverview Road, Uncasville, spoke in opposition to the BOE budget, as presented, stating that the high cost of taxes is driving residents out of Town and requested the number and names of the students who are currently enrolled in the school system, which may persuade him to support the budget, as presented.

Carrie Baxter, 40 Jerome Road, Uncasville, spoke in favor of the BOE budget, as presented. Born and raised in Montville, she has taught in the school system and is currently a member of the BOE and has children enrolled in the district. She urged the Town Council to view the issue from the viewpoint of a parent whose children are students of the schools and the impact their cuts and decisions will have on their families and the community as a whole.

Kelly Beams, 24 Mayo Avenue, Oakdale, spoke in favor of the BOE budget, as presented. Not doing so would be detrimental to the diverse educational needs of the students. Both her parents and herself and husband have chosen to reside in Montville due to the quality of education their children have/are receiving. The programs that would be cut are necessities, not luxuries and are necessary for the children to reach and exceed the expectations of the current educational standards.

Lauren Terni, 24 Andersen Lane, Oakdale, spoke in support of the BOE budget, as presented. She asked the Town Council to consider the ramifications to the community, including an exodus of its residents and businesses.

Betty Waselik, 36 Andersen Lane, Oakdale, School Nurse, Mohegan Elementary School, School Nurse Supervisor, Montville Public Schools, begged the Town Council to support the BOE budget, as presented. Over the past 25 years, she has witnessed how hard the staff works with the children as they grow and the changing needs with regards to the social, emotional, and/or physical needs of the children.

Amy Ricupero, 217 Massapeag Road, Uncasville, spoke in support of the BOE budget, as presented.

Stephanie Treat, 26 Hunters Run, Oakdale, spoke in support of the BOE budget, as presented, citing the uncontrollable special education costs. Not supporting the budget would be unfair to the schools, the children and staff.

Rebecca Carroll, 50 New York Road, Oakdale, a recent Montville High School graduate, spoke in support of the BOE budget, as presented.

Steve Labranche, 53 Forsyth Road, Oakdale, spoke in support of the BOE budget, as presented, asking the Town Council not to send the Town into the wrong direction and keeping education as a priority.

Michelle Hedrick, 16 Mayo Avenue, Oakdale, parent of a child in Montville High School and Tyl Middle School and a daughter who will be entering kindergarten in the Fall, spoke in support of the BOE budget, as presented.

Brian Buscetto, 521 Chesterfield Road, Oakdale, parent of a child in High School, Junior High School, and Elementary School, spoke in support of the BOE budget, as presented.

Heather Browne, 7 Utz Drive, Oakdale, a school volunteer, urged the Town Council to support of the BOE budget, as presented, and vote based on the views of the townspeople rather than on his/her own personal agendas.

Susan Huntington, 24 Rene Drive, Oakdale, who has had three (3) children in the school system and lives on a limited income, spoke in support of the BOE budget, as presented.

Bob Manfredi, 9 Heather Brook Road, Uncasville, questioned the number of actual students enrolled in the school system.

Ellen Lavin, 16 Jennie Drive, Oakdale, spoke in support of the BOE budget, as presented.

Cindy Angell, 239 Conn Boulevard, Oakdale, spoke in support of the BOE budget, as presented.

Howard R. Beetham, Jr., 60 Riverview Road, Uncasville, enquired about the existence of a State Statute stating that, should the Town cut the BOE budget, the State will cut the Town's budget the following year. Other aspects of the budget such as oil, gas, sand and salt should also be reviewed when making a decision regarding the Town's budget. Should the budget not be cut, the Town will be forced to hold a referendum.

Lori Delucia, 19 Riverview Road, Uncasville, spoke in support of the BOE budget, as presented.

Mark Rewers, 1131 Old Colchester Road, Oakdale, spoke in support of the BOE budget, as presented.

Chairman Jaskiewicz asked three times if there were any additional persons from the public who would like to speak regarding the Board of Education Budget.

5. Adjournment

Motion made by Councilor Caron, seconded by Councilor May, to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 p.m. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Meeting adjourned.