



CITY OF DERBY

**BOARD OF APPORTIONMENT & TAXATION MEETING
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
MAY 14, 2019
7:00 PM
LOWER LEVEL AMPHITHEATER**

**Jerry Borrelli
Ray Bowers
James Butler
Christopher Carloni
Robert Forte**

**Carlo Malerba, Jr.
Shirley Miani
Rose Pertoso
Sam Pollastro, Jr.
Judy Szewczyk,**

2019 MAY 17 AM 9:00

Ms. Szewczyk opened the meeting at 7:00 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Present: Mr. Borrelli, Mr. Bowers, Mr. Butler, Mr. Carloni, Mr. Forte, Mr. Malerba, Ms. Pertoso and Ms. Szewczyk.

Absent: Ms. Miani and Mr. Pollastro

Public Portion

Mrs. Tara Hyder, 51 Franklin Avenue, wanted to respond to the letter written by a BOAT member regarding the Derby School System. She found the letter very disturbing. She has been a teacher for 23 years in another town. The analyses made of how it costs \$11,000 in a private school and \$3000 more to educate a student in Derby. What this BOAT member did not consider is that in the private school there is pay to play, uniforms, books, cost of private transportation and I could go on and on. Also, private schools can and often opt to not accept any special education students. This member also said that the education in Derby is "not even close" to the education offered in a private school. This is his opinion. This Tax Board member is misrepresenting the numbers based on his personnel opinion. I have taken my children out of private schools and have sent them to Derby schools for the past 6 years. The Board of Education has taken assertive steps to address the Special needs costs by streamlining Human Resources and adjusting programming, this must be recognized. To call this BOE a financial burden, that is a shame. Education of children is the single most important attribute of any single town. By calling the education a burden is showing your true colors as a non-supporter of public education in general. Our kids and teachers need the budget the BOE is currently requesting. I work in a town where there is a lot of fat to trim, but I assure you there is no fat to trim in the BOE budget. As a middle class tax payer, as you addressed in your letter, I am not burdened by this budget as you say all taxpayers are. I am grateful and proud of them. I ask this Board to approve this budget and I ask that realizing that the BOE has worked out this budget to be as sufficient as possible to give our kids the best education possible. I ask that this Board member to retract his statements correcting this misinformation.

Mr. Jerry Borrelli, 54 Atwater Avenue. There was one misrepresentation in that statement, and as a citizen of Derby, I cannot afford to live here anymore. There were a lot of misrepresentations in the statements just made, but we are not here to argue, we all generalize, but I have a lot of details.

Ms. Szewczyk asked if anyone wished to speak, no one else wanted to speak, so she asked everyone to attend the Public hearing next week.

Presentation by Linda Fusco, Chairwoman of the Derby Housing Authority

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Ms. Fusco introduced Mr. Bob Henderson, the Section 8 coordinator. She said that Dr. Conway had asked her to come and address the board regarding the opening up of the Section 8 vouchers, as he is concerned about what expenses may be involved when this happens. She stated that all of their expenses are covered by the state and Federal Government, for Section 8 or HUD when it was developed. They presently have about 223 filled apartments, if we don't fill all the apartments, the state takes the money back. The

new board has 100% of a new staff, and we hope to open the Section 8 requests by May. There will be 59 new families and hopefully, this will be a good thing.

Mr. Henderson said he has been working on the Section 8 program for 25 years. There are 278 vouchers mandated to be filled. In the last 19 months, we have 6 new admissions. 19 families have left us to go to another jurisdiction, and 16 families have made other moves. Of the 223 families we have, 99% are without children. To be eligible, they must provide an income statement, there is a criminal background also done on each applicant.

Mr. Borrelli asked if the City would benefit from taxes, and his answer was that this authority does not pay taxes on the properties, but the board does pay the city a stipend each year. He asked if it was mandatory that the City participate. His answer was that the City has participated since 1945 or earlier. No other questions were asked.

Continuing discussions of Department budgets, revenue expectations.

Ms. Szewczyk proceeded to go through the budget, line by line, showing where she had taken at least 10% from some departments, mostly in the supply line item, or where the department had not spent at least 80% of the monies in that item. However, this is subject to change. She will be sending a "preliminary copy" to the department heads to review. The following dates were proposed:

Tuesday, May 21, Special Meeting & Preliminary Budget

Tuesday, May 28, Public Hearing

Wednesday, May 29, Final Adoption of Budget

Friday, May 31, Publish Final Budget

Executive Session to discuss Legal Aspects of Education Funding

There was no executive session.

Possible vote on Preliminary Budget

There was no vote.

2019 MAY 15 PM 4:03

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Butler and Seconded by Ms. Pertoso. The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Louise Pitney

Recording Secretary

***** These minutes are subject to the approval by the Board of Apportionment & Taxation at their next regular meeting.**

2019 MAY 16 PM 4:08