



**CITY OF DERBY
BOARD OF APPORTIONMENT & TAXATION
REVISED SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 20, 2019
7:00 PM
JOAN WILLIAMSON ALDERMANIC CHAMBERS**

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

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

Ms. Szewczyk opened the meeting at 6:00 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

**Present Mr. Borrelli, Mr. Bowers, Mr. Butler, Mr. Carloni, Mr. Malerba, Ms. Miani,
Ms. Pertoso,, Mr. Pollastro and Ms. Szewczyk**

Absent: Mr. Forte

Public Portion

Ms. Szewczyk opened the Public Portion, asking everyone to please keep their comments to three minutes, and the board would not be answering any questions.

- **Barbara DeGennaro, 51 Paugasset Road, member of the BOA, home owner, and business person. All departments should be tightening their belts and watching their expenses. All departments need accountability, and the union has contract,**

however, it is not a done deal. If the city cannot afford it, there should be no raises. As members of the Tax Board and as a member of the Board of Alderman, we have to start being more diligent in how money is being spent so we do not get into the situation we are in now. I feel sorry for all the taxpayers in this city.

- **Charles Sampson, 6 Commodore Hill Drive, President of the Board Of Alderman/Alderwoman.** Feels frustrated as a citizen of Derby. I have attended many meetings to see how all of the boards operate. Because of this double booking of this money, the city is effectively broke. The ball now is in your court, and we have been briefed on how the city will go forward. There are several plans, and business as usual will not be tolerated. According to the city charter, the BOA is powerless in making these decisions. Moving forward, we will not allow this to happen again. We will be looking to increase the grand list, open new businesses and have other projects that would benefit the city. We are proud of what this administration has done and also what this Board has done also.
- **Ted Anglace, 37 Bank Street,** spoke regarding the entire budget, saying he felt the BOE budget was too high, wanting an explanation of the money for the Highway department and the flood control., stating that all these departments are spending far too much money. Wanted answers, however, Ms. Szewczyk explained that we are just listening, and not answering any questions.
- **Walter Mayhew, 3 Jeanetti Drive,** said he felt the board should not cut the BOE budget. The school is what molds the citizens of tomorrow, and they should not be penalized in any way.
- **Mike Gray, 4 Commodore Hill Drive,** spoke in favor of giving the BOE the money that had requested. He has children in the school system and is very pleased with the education they are receiving, and does not want that to change.
- **Emre Akter, 18 Lombardi Drive,** spoke in favor giving the BOE their money. Does not want the education of the children to be hurt in any way.
- **Tara Hyder, 51 Franklin Avenue,** member of the Board of Education. Spoke in favor of giving the BOE the money that they have requested, and how it would hurt the education of the students, if it wasn't received. She also spoke on how hard the teachers work, and all the extra work they do on a volunteer basis. Praised the Superintendent and his staff, along with the BOE and all the good work that they do.
- **Diane Goodman, 26 Hillcrest Avenue,** spoke in favor the BOE and how they should receive the increase that they had requested. She commented that everyone should spend time in the classroom to see what the teachers have to go through. They deserve whatever they are requesting.

- **Betty Lilly, 157 Emmett Avenue, Spoke as a Senior Citizen. Most seniors are living on fixed incomes, and should not suffer for the mistakes made by the people in power. The board should look at expenses and how the money is being spent.**
- **Jim Gildea, Academy Hill, President of the Board of Education. Asked the board to reconsider giving the BOE the money they requested so the education of the students in the city would not be affected.**
- **Christine Lehave, 54 Grove Avenue, spoke in favor the BOE budget, that they should not be cut.**
- **John Kowarik, 62 High Street, spoke on keeping the mill rate down, that the citizens of Derby cannot afford these increases.**
- **Kristen Liggings, 196 New Haven Avenue, retirees have to handle the errors that have been made by the officials in this City. It is not fair to the senior citizens that are living on fixed incomes.**
- **Bob Carmona, 7 Grandview Blvd, BOE is owed this money, and should be paid. Don't know how it happened, but the citizens should not have to suffer for these mistakes.**
- **Anita Duggato, 69 Elizabeth Street, Business owner. Spoke on the budget, and how the Fund Balance Replenishment should be taken care of. She felt the departments should be watching their spending and everyone should have to be accountable. She felt that the present administration is spending money without being careful. More care should be done for the benefit of the citizens.**
- **Lisa Brailey, 7 Grandview Blvd. Spoke on behalf of the citizens of Derby, that they cannot afford this mill increase and it should not go up, All departments should be careful how money is being spent.**
- **Mayor Richard Dziekan, 17 Krakow Street, spoke regarding the budget, stating that he notified the department heads that the budgets should stay at a "0" increase regarding raises, and no department heads will be receiving any increases. We did our part; we found the problem and are currently working on fixing it.**
- **Debra Borrelli, 54 Mohawk Avenue, member of the BOE, asked the board to reconsider the BOE budget, she also said the mill rate is outrageous, and the city should go back to the state and try to get more money for the BOE.**
- **Ann Hayes, 276 Derby Avenue, She and her husband are new to town, and do not want to see a tax increase. Like the city, and hope the board will reconsider their decisions.**

- **William Crassili, 29 Paugasset Road, spoke regarding the mistake that was made. He said he loves Derby, but his problem is that because this mistake was made, this mill increase is going to stay with us. It will not go away in a couple of years. I feel that the BOE got their money and spent it, now we have to pay it back. The last thing we should do as someone mentioned is file bankruptcy. The state would take over and we would be in more trouble. Just like everyone else, I will have to suck it up. I like this town, and the children have to be educated, they are our future.**
- **Andrew Baklik, 501 Roosevelt Drive, Chief of Staff for the City of Derby. We owe the citizens of Derby an apology for the mistake that has happened. We do our best to meet with all the departments, and these problems go back to other administrations, and this has been going on for a long time. We are doing our best to correct all the errors, and apologize to all the citizens for these mistakes.**
- **Keith McLiverty, 15 Academy Hill. City Treasurer. Spoke to the group, explaining how the mistakes occurred, and what the city is presently doing to correct all these errors. Presented the Seven Point Recovery Plan that the city has, i.e. Debt Restructuring, Sale of Assets, Mill rate increase, Adjustment of long term costs, Tax Sale, Structured Organizational Changes, and Fund Balance Replenishments.**
- **Tara Hyder, 51 Franklin Avenue, Spoke again, asking the board to reconsider the BOE budget.**

Ms. Szewczyk, closed the Public Portion, and adjourned the meeting at 7:30 PM.