

Rosenson, Valerie

From: john scannell ~~johnscannell@yahoo.com~~
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2014 9:55 AM
To: Louizos, John; Bosak Jr., Gerald; Gabriele, Salvatore; drwill@optonline.net;
RFREEDMAN@GARDENHOMESMANAGEMENT.COM; Gilten, Lorraine C; Rosenson,
Valerie
Subject: Proposed budget increase

Lorraine, could you please forward this to Mary Lou Rinaldi on my behalf.
Valerie, could you please forward this to the Board of Representatives on my behalf.

I've been a Stamford resident since 1996 and I have absorbed many property tax increases, including last year's revaluation adjustment that significantly increased property taxes on my home in Shippan. I understand the revaluation process and I'm not appealing my tax assessment despite the large tax increase that this caused when a greater portion of property taxes were shifted to Shippan residents. However, enough is enough.

Mayor Martin's proposal to increase taxes another 5% in 2014 is absurd given the already high tax rates facing residents, the difficult employment situation facing many residents (or rather, the under-employment and unemployment conditions) and lost income during the a prolonged recession. Very few people have been able to restore their incomes to the level prior to the recession while spending and taxes have continued to grow in excess of the rate of inflation. It is fiscally irresponsible not to pare back the cost of administering the government of The City of Stamford and we are creating a house of cards that will collapse if taxes increase at a rate exceeding the ability of citizens to pay them. People and businesses have options and can move out of Stamford to other, nearby towns with significantly lower tax rates. Stamford government officials need to recognize that we compete for citizens and jobs with other towns and you must take proactive steps to lower taxes for citizens currently burdened with growing liabilities in a challenging fiscal environment, not allow large tax increases to occur unchallenged. We need fiscal restraint now more than ever.

There are numerous options for reducing spending in Stamford. While I could make specific suggestions and some will be more painful than others, those painful decisions need to be made by you, the representatives that have been elected to make these decisions. I know I won't agree with all of the decisions, nor will anyone, but they still need to be made now before the current year costs roll forward into a base expense for next year on top of which someone will want to increase spending greater than the rate of inflation.

Sincerely,

John Scannell
Stamford resident

1. The first part of the document is a list of names and addresses of the members of the committee.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

The names and addresses of the members of the committee are as follows:

1. Mr. J. H. [Name] [Address]

2. Mr. [Name] [Address]

3. Mr. [Name] [Address]

4. Mr. [Name] [Address]

5. Mr. [Name] [Address]

The committee has the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the [Date] and in reply to inform you that the same has been forwarded to the proper authorities for their consideration.

We are sure that you will understand the necessity of this procedure and we trust that you will be satisfied with the result.

Very respectfully,
[Signature]

Very truly yours,
[Signature]

[Name]
[Title]