



East Haven Connecticut &lt;easthavenbudget@gmail.com&gt;

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**Budget address**

1 message

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**Michele DeLucia** <madelucia@east-haven.k12.ct.us>

Sun, May 17, 2020 at 9:01 AM

To: easthavenbudget@gmail.com

Cc: Kim Glassman &lt;kim.glassman@gmail.com&gt;, Joseph Deko &lt;jdeko@townofeasthavenct.net&gt;, Lou Pacelli &lt;loup44@comcast.net&gt;


I have attached my public comment, I would prefer it read into the meeting as I normally would but please submit accordingly

Best,

Michele A. DeLucia, MAIOP, Chair  
East Haven Board of Education

*\*In our district pursuit of open communication and transparency, I remind everyone that courteous and professional conduct is expected by all BOE members at all times. #EHBOEGoals*

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I have sat through several Board of Education budget request proposals in this town and have personally addressed the town council multiple times in the past few years, and each time I wonder if anyone even listens. There is a lot of work and time that go into an operation budget proposal, yet each year it is ripped apart by individuals that are not educators and don't seem to know much about education, especially the cost. This year the finance department and Superintendent in our district put together a very thorough and direct budget proposal. In fact, I thought the Superintendent delivered a clear solid presentation, but the majority of questions only seemed to point in one direction, to support the predetermined decision not to fund what was requested. We know that the town is experiencing economic hardship and that our current pandemic predicament has only inflicted further strain.

Every year Board of Educations are asked to present projected operating costs. This year Mayor Cafora asked what was needed to start making bigger strides in growth and that's just what we did, it could not have been predicted what he would find when examining the town finances. In knowing Mayor Cafora and through several conversations about his vision for this town, and I believe if it was possible he would support our proposed budget. However, with that being said, it is unfair that the Board of Education's Operating Budget Proposal was presented as requested and yet is villainized for doing just that. It seems many are fixated on the 4.9 million in health benefit reserve funding received last October a settlement resulting from the BOE split from the town's health insurance plan. This money belonged to the Board of Education and was directly deposited into the Board's new health insurance fund reserve under the ACE's Consortium. This is not money that can be withdrawn and can only be used to cover health insurance costs.

I have to say it is concerning that I have heard that Town Council members have indicated the BOE use the reserve funds to supplement the operating budget. After hearing that, I have questions. Is the town council in fact suggesting the Board of Education take funds from the Health Reserve to fund the budget? Is it the council's official recommendation that the BOE simply negate our budgeted monthly deposit into the health insurance account? Has the town done this successfully and if so is their reserve able to sustain that practice? I believe I heard a councilman suggest that the town withhold the entire amount listed in the health benefit line of the proposed budget. Maybe someone who knows more about the budget process can help me, being I am uncertain of the legality as well as the financial strategy behind that. In fact, I think everyone should be worried if that is what is being suggested by town officials.

I heard the word inappropriate was used to describe the Board of Education Operating Budget request, due to the amount in the health insurance reserve. I also can not help but ponder what that implication indicates. So I ask, should the Board of Education withhold line items in the operational budget proposal or report false accounting to the town council and citizens of East Haven due to the amount of money in our health insurance reserve account? I must admit the economic strategy and legality of that option would worry me even more. I hope that this could not be the case, but I can not otherwise understand why our required operating budget proposal was described as inappropriate.

I was saddened and disappointed by an accusation that we were wrong and irresponsible with spending, pointing out the purchase of new football helmets for our student athletes. Though we used current fundings allocated from this year's budget to ensure the safety of our students, it was described as frivolous spending of money that could of gone back to the town because "they were in bad shape". I'm sorry for the town, I truly am. I was born in East Haven, I am raising my family in East Haven so of course I care about the town but not at the expense of student safety. It is true we are spending money to make improvements and provide resources for the betterment of our school community with funding we already possess. If anyone thinks this is wrong, then let's agree to disagree.

The Board of Education is not the enemy, we all want what is best for this town. However, our responsibility is to the students and families of the East Haven School district. It has been stated several times that we understand the situation, so why resent the Board of Education when we are only telling you what your schools and children need. The town will give us what they can and we will continue to make it work the best that we can, as we have for as long as I can remember. Every year I try to point out that the School District is the greatest asset a town has and I may be biased but the only comment I feel to be appropriate is "I wish we could give more".

Sincerely,  
Michele A. DeLucia  
Chairperson, Board of Education



East Haven Connecticut &lt;easthavenbudget@gmail.com&gt;

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**Property tax increase**

1 message

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**Luanne** <herotheking1@sbcglobal.net>  
To: easthavenbudget@gmail.com

Sat, May 16, 2020 at 10:49 AM

Dear Mr. Mayor,

I will make this short and sweet. I have lived in East Haven 50+ years I love the town And it's services .

However, I think at the time of this pandemic, unemployment, and a failing economy is NOT, not the time to even consider increasing taxes for your citizens.

I realize you may have issues with the budget and the shortcomings from the state however I think this issue needs to be re-addressed. It is poorly managed if you continue to go through with this increase at this time.

Luanne Valente

LuAnne us  
Sent from my iPhone



East Haven Connecticut <easthavenbudget@gmail.com>

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**tax increases**

1 message

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**Luanne** <herotheking1@sbcglobal.net>  
To: easthavenbudget@gmail.com

Sun, May 17, 2020 at 2:21 PM

To all concerned,

Now is not the time to an act increases for property and car taxes in this town people are hurting enough we don't need you to add to our misery

LuAnne us

Sent from my iPhone



East Haven Connecticut &lt;easthavenbudget@gmail.com&gt;

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**Town Budget Charts**

1 message

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**Walter S Jr. Fritsch** <whymee96@gmail.com>  
To: easthavenbudget@gmail.com

Mon, May 18, 2020 at 12:25 PM

I would like to be able to view the various charts relative to the town budget meeting on the Patch. The first chart appears in landscape form in a upright position, but the following charts are displayed turned on their sides. I thought there would be a tool so that I could possibly flip the view, however I wasn't able to complete such. If there is any other method that I will be able to read the other charts in an upright position please advise  
Thank you for your time and cooperation with this matter.

Walter S. Fritsch Jr.  
96 Victor St.  
East Haven



East Haven Connecticut &lt;easthavenbudget@gmail.com&gt;

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**No tax increase**

1 message

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**Jared Strehlein** <jstrehlein@gmail.com>  
To: easthavenbudget@gmail.com

Fri, May 15, 2020 at 7:39 PM

I have lived in East Haven for 9 years. I am working class civilian who purchased a home in East Haven. I am not impressed that Mayor Carfora wants to increase my taxes by 300 dollars a year. 25 times 12 months a year is 300.

Thankfully  
Jared Strehlein  
Woodland Ave