

From:  Budget 2021
Anna Pizzo <as4543398@aol.com>

Wednesday, April 22, 2020 6:30:18 AM



Subject: Fwd: Budget

To:  **Steve Gniadek**  **Krista Gramer**  Zachary Smith

Good morning,

I am writing to you in regards to the proposed budget. I am surprised to hear that during this difficult time where the economy has come to a screeching halt that the BOF would consider increasing the budget. Many residents within our small town that have not received a pay check since early March and this includes my family. Being a small local business owner on top of this in these uncertain times is stressful enough. Please, reconsider your options to not increase the town budget.

Sincerely,
Anna Pizzo
8 windy hill road

Sent from my iPhone

From:  Budget 2021
Becky Rappoccio <beckyrappoccio@gmail.com>

Wed, Apr 22, 2020 2:45:50 PM



Subject: Fwd: Board of Ed Budget

To:  **Steve Gniadek**  **Krista Gramer**  **Zachary Smith**

Good afternoon,
I am emailing as a Redding resident and parent to respectfully ask that when you vote on the town budgets this year that *you keep the Board of Education budget as is.*

Thank you for your consideration,
-Becky Rappoccio

From:  Budget 2021
bess512@optonline.net

Wednesday, April 22, 2020 7:52:43 AM



Subject: Fwd: Letter to the BoF

To:  **Steve Gniadek**  **Krista Gramer**  Zachary Smith

Dear Members of the BoF,

My family and I have lived here since 2016. Our first tax increase was in 2018 and it increased without a home inspection or discussion. Not sure how that was accurately assessed given the assessor never stepped into the home. Nothing had been done since we bought the home from the previous owner. I went to Town Hall to inquire and was told it was based on comps from that year. The increase had me reconsidering our move though I had been so happy with our choice to pick Redding.

We are a single income family and this economy has us worried daily that our only source of income could vanish any day. Our son is in Redding Elementary and I am very happy with his education thus far. However, we won't be able to take advantage of it if our taxes increase again so quickly.

I don't envy your positions but hope you all outweigh the current factors in our lives today. Unemployment at the highest it's ever been. No one is sure how many of these small businesses will survive. I understand that our school system needs to remain strong to keep residents and attract people to our town. But, it works both ways. If it's too expensive to live here, why would anyone? Please don't increase taxes.

Thank you,

Bess Williams

From:  Budget 2021
william miller <millerwillia@gmail.com> Wednesday, April 22, 2020 9:44:35 AM 

Subject: Fwd: Budget 2021

To:  **Steve Gniadek**  **Krista Gramer**  **Zachary Smith**

Members of the Board to Finance:

As a citizen of Redding, I am writing to you to share my opinion on the proposed budget for 2021.

Unless you've been in a comma for the last two months, we are facing an economic crisis not seen since our grandparents' generation. Our most highly respected financial institutions have predicted an unemployment rate and economic contraction equal to or greater than the Great Recession. On a personal, I was educated as an economist and had a successful career as a private banker for over thirty years. Consequently, I can state with absolute confidence that I have never seen anything like this and I hope I never will again. I do expect that the National headline/official unemployment rate (U3 for economy works which does NOT include part time/under employed persons) will exceed 20 percent and GDP for the year to contract at a similar rate.

Facing a calamitous financial future, I hope that the Board of Finance will act accordingly and reject the budget/s as submitted. As Americans, self sacrifice is part of our DNA. In times of crisis, we have rallied and done the right thing (sometimes it takes a while). Here, the right thing is to revisit the specific budgets Town Budget, Region 9 and BOE.

I know their respective boards will do the right thing; I don't fault any of Board members or the Select-persons. While preparing the proposed budgets, the boards and our Select-persons could not anticipated the impact of the virus on our community or for that matter the globe. I am acquainted with and admire many of the members of each board and Select-persons, I know they will do the right thing by submitting proposals that could save our neighbors' homes and potentially lives.

I thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,

Bill
William J Miller
14 Old Redding Road

Sent from my iPhone

From:  Budget 2021
 Brian Matzke <cfcwest@gmail.com>

Wednesday, April 22, 2020 8:52:56 AM



Subject: Fwd: BOF Budget Comments

To:  **Steve Gniadek**  **Krista Gramer**  Zachary Smith

Dear Members of the Board of Finance,

We are writing with the hope that you will not increase the town budget and look very carefully at existing expenses for areas of reduction. Under no circumstance should we be increasing the town budget in these times of crisis and uncertainty. The State has already made our local economy challenging with pro-spending/anti-business policies which have had the negative impact of increasing taxes and pushing companies and jobs out of the state. This has put additional burden on the tax payers and negatively impacted home values. With this in mind we urge you to ideally cut the current town budget. We can do more with less if we are creative with our spending. Throwing \$\$ at every issue of the day leads to prohibitive budgets.

Brian and Claire Matzke
Seventy Acre Road

From:  Budget 2021
Brian Ward <bbward71@gmail.com>

Wednesday, April 22, 2020 9:24:43 AM



Subject: Fwd: We support a reduction in the town budget

To:  **Steve Gniadek**  **Krista Gramer**  Zachary Smith

Dear Members of the Board of Finance,

I am writing regarding the BOF meeting this evening to discuss the town budget. I would like you to take strong consideration in how we can reduce the expense base of the town with the ultimate goal of decreasing the tax burden on our residents.

We are facing an unprecedented crisis in our state that will have wide and long lasting affects on our amazing town. We already face a heavy tax burden and in these times as people lose jobs, those property taxes will become low on the priority list of some of our community, shifting the burden to the rest of those that are able to pay. I myself have seen a pay decrease of 20% due to this crisis and recently sold our house that had been on the market for 1.5 years. We are very lucky to have done so before this crisis, but even then our final sales price was roughly equivalent to the tax assessment. I can only assume our real estate prices will continue to decline, but our tax base does not seem to follow suit.

Our state has lost some of that stalwart companies that have been a large part of our company such as Aetna and GE, creating a loss in tax revenues in the billions. At the same time, large incentives are offered to companies like Sikorsky to stay. This is causing a deficit that we as taxpayers across Connecticut will have to make up on a statewide level. We may not be able to affect the state budget, but now more than ever, we need to be diligent with our town budget to help alleviate the hardship and burden not just during this crisis, but the aftermath that will last for some time.

Please consider an action that will help reduce the tax burden for our community and relieve some of the hardship that we are all facing, and this starts with our town budget.

Sincerely,
Brian and Jennifer Ward
Beholm Road

From:  Budget 2021
cacict4 <cacict4@gmail.com>

Wednesday, April 22, 2020 3:29:45 AM



Subject: Fwd: Proposed budget

To:  **Steve Gniadek**  **Krista Gramer**  Zachary Smith

Dear members,

During these uncertain times, we need to be conservative about spending. I oppose any budget that increases taxes. There are too many burdens right now.

Sincerely,

Christina Calzolari

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

From:  Budget 2021
Cristie G <crisieg@gmail.com>

Saturday, April 18, 2020 8:21:47 AM



Subject: Fwd: Budget Concerns

To:  **Steve Gniadek**  **Krista Gramer**  Zachary Smith

To Whom It May Concern,

We are writing in support of the currently proposed budget. It is very important to support and adequately fund our schools during this time as this period of distance learning is undoubtedly having a detrimental impact on students' education. Children will almost certainly need additional support and time to catch up in the coming school year. As the parents of two RES students, we can attest that while educators and parents are working hard to support learning during this time we are all ill equipped to match the instruction that would have been provided in school, especially considering many are juggling multiple responsibilities at once. It is essential that the budget take the needs of students into consideration and provide appropriate funding to our schools.

Thank you for your consideration,

Cristina Galluzzo and Chrysovalanti Sakoglou
390 Newtown Turnpike

From:  Budget 2021
chuck_cilo <digpen@optonline.net> Wednesday, April 22, 2020 2:36:28 PM

Subject: Fwd: Lowering the Budget.

To:  **Steve Gniadek**  **Krista Gramer**  **Zachary Smith**



Attachments:  smime.p7s / Uploaded File (3K)

Wake up, people of Redding!

The COVID 19 pandemic has cost millions of Americans their livelihood, many here in Redding. Yet a callous few are actually considering RAISING an already onerous tax burden higher! One can imagine these soulless figures, sitting in front of their \$20K refrigerators, blithely eating ice cream, and turning up they noses at those less fortunate.

Do not add salt to our tax wound. Vote no to any increase in the budget.

~Chuck Cilo

From:  Budget 2021
  Claudio Rodrigo <carodrigo56@gmail.com> Wednesday, April 22, 2020 11:01:39 AM 

Subject: Fwd: BoF meeting - Budget -NO NEW TAXES

To:  **Steve Gniadek**  **Krista Gramer**  **Zachary Smith**

My wife and I have lived in town now for 12 years. I continue to be frustrated with the lack of Fiduciary Responsibility that the town leadership and Boards of Ed and Finance have demonstrated over the years. Our schools are seeing shrinking enrollment, yet the School administrators and BoE continue to ask for more \$\$.

We are in an unprecedented time with declining real estate values primarily due to continuously rising property taxes.

Covid 19 will certainly have a tremendous impact on everyone's income.

We cannot increase taxes, we should be looking to cut taxes by at least 10%.

Thank You

Claudio and Joyce Rodrigo

38 Umpawaug Rd, Redding, CT 06896

From:  Budget 2021
Courtney R <courtneymrodgers@gmail.com>

Wed, Apr 22, 2020 3:14:58 PM



Subject: Fwd: Budget

To:  **Steve Gniadek**  **Krista Gramer**  **Zachary Smith**

Please pass the Board of Ed budget as is. The school system cannot afford to take any cuts, especially considering the current school year has been so disrupted with COVID-19.

Courtney Canhao
17 Lamppost Drive
Redding, CT
--
<3 Courtney

From:  Budget 2021
danb1972 <danb1972@gmail.com>

Wednesday, April 22, 2020 3:08:43 PM



Subject: Fwd: Fund at levels submitted

To:  **Steve Gniadek**  **Krista Gramer**  **Zachary Smith**

I urge the Board of Finance to fund the budget at the levels submitted, particularly given the concerns our schools face with the continued impact of COVID-19. Even a cut as large as 10% would yield low monthly savings for the average middle class tax bill of \$12k-\$15k, at the risk of further reducing our homes' values in this important time.

Respectfully,
Dan Burgess
214 Black Rock Tpke

From:  Budget 2021
Evan Bassett <ebology@gmail.com>

Wednesday, April 22, 2020 3:18:13 PM



Subject: Fwd: Do not raise taxes

To:  **Steve Gniadek**  **Krista Gramer**  **Zachary Smith**

Please do not raise taxes, as the increased burden, especially with the current economic climate will be detrimental.

Please keep taxes flat or even lower by a few percentage points.

Thank you,
Evan Bassett

Sent from my iPhone please excuse any typos.

From:  Budget 2021
"Katie Zigmond" <ziggies@optonline.net>

Wednesday, April 22, 2020 11:12:19 AM



Subject: Fwd: Budget

To:  **Steve Gniadek**  **Krista Gramer**  **Zachary Smith**

Dear Members of the Board of Finance,

In the absence of a public referendum, we rely on you to act in the best interest of all taxpayers. As we all adapt and cut back during these uncertain times, we expect our Board of Finance's decisions to reflect this reality.

Now is not the time to increase our Town budget. We respectfully request that you reduce our Town budget; at the very least, refrain from any increase.

Sincerely,

Gary and Katie Zigmond

Wood Road

From:  Budget 2021
"Gay E. Yankowski" <gyankowski@me.com>

Tue, Apr 21, 2020 10:13:04 PM



Subject: Fwd: Budget increase

To:  **Steve Gniadek**  **Krista Gramer**  **Zachary Smith**

I am not in favor of a budget increase. We are all suffering in this economic downturn, and the town of Redding has to do what the residents are doing by cutting their budgets.

Cut the budgets just like we are doing in our own households.

Signed

Gay Yankowski

Sent from my iPad

From:  Budget 2021
"Gerald F. Valenti" <gerry@all-technologies.com>

Tue, Apr 21, 2020 10:03:17 PM



Subject: Fwd: 2021 Budget

To:  **Steve Gniadek**  **Krista Gramer**  Zachary Smith

To whom it may concern:

It has been twenty years since my wife and I moved to the town of Redding, which we absolutely adore. During this time period we have seen year after year tax increases that are over and above the inflation rate, while realizing insignificant increase in quality of services that have a real effect on our town experience. We also realize that some forces that effect cost are not under the control of the local officials in our town such as State mandated expenses which is why we empore BOF to reject any and all increases that fall under local jurisdiction! During these unprecedented times we expect our local officials to act prudently and in fact identify areas of budget reduction. We vehemently reject anything but budget reduction and if this trend of increase continues we will be just one example of many that will be vacating the town in the future.

I am especially disappointed in the hesitation of the er9 leadership to act at the beginning of this crisis in not closing schools, as well as allowing out of state visits. Finally and probably the most tragic element is the lack of readiness to roll out / embrace technology for e-learning.

The system has failed the taxpayer!

Best Regards,

Gerald F. Valenti

20 Lonetown Road.

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S10+, an AT&T 5G Evolution capable smartphone

From:  Julia Pemberton
info@townofreddingct.org

Wednesday, April 22, 2020 2:25:20 PM



Subject: Fwd: New submission from Contact Us

To:  **Steve Gniadek**  Kim Yonkers

Another one.

----- Original Message -----

What does this comment regard?
Budget Issues
Please include any questions or comments:
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. cut budget by 10%2. increase bond issue from \$5 mil to \$10 mil.3. vote on budget referendum online
Name
gus olsen
Email
gusolsen@hotmail.com

From:  Budget 2021
"Irene Caldwell" <Irene.Caldwell@ibm.com> Wednesday, April 22, 2020 11:48:14 AM 

Subject: Fwd: Budget Input

To:  **Steve Gniadek**  **Krista Gramer**  **Zachary Smith**

Hello town officials,

Given the current economic situation many people are facing right now, I'm in favor of tax reduction for this upcoming year. Please try to lower the overall budget.

Thank you for all you do for our wonderful town.

Kind Regards,

Irene Caldwell
5 Wayside Lane
Redding, CT 06896

From:  Budget 2021
Jeanne Halloran <jeannehalloran@gmail.com>

Wed, Apr 22, 2020 3:02:24 PM



Subject: Fwd: Budget

To:  **Steve Gniadek**  **Krista Gramer**  **Zachary Smith**

Hello, Our community needs each other more than ever and we need our budget to be able to support our town and schools without loss of programs. With so many houses on the market, we need to keep our schools strong and our town desirable. Please do not cut the budget, we need to maintain all the great things that make Redding home and keep it a place that encourages prospective home buyers to chose Redding.

Thank you for your service and please support the Board of Educations proposed budget,
Jeanne Halloran, 216 Black Rock Tpke

--
Jeanne

From:  Budget 2021
Jennifer Levesque <jennifermlevesque@gmail.com>

Wed, Apr 22, 2020 3:10:54 PM



Subject: Fwd: Board of Education budget

To:  **Steve Gniadek**  **Krista Gramer**  **Zachary Smith**

Hi there,

I'd like to encourage the Board to pass the Board of Education budget as is. I believe it is a great representation of how to best support our children. In the wake of COVID-19 they will need all the support they can get! Thank you for your consideration.

Warm regards on Earth Day :)

Jennifer Levesque
127 Peaceable St, Redding, CT 06896

--

Find Joy

**Be Brave
Warrior On**

*Do not go where the path may lead,
go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.*
<http://catskill-3500-club.org/>

From:  Budget 2021
Jim Lang <operaa1@optonline.net> Wednesday, April 22, 2020 3:23:50 PM 

Subject: Fwd: Budget 2021

To:  **Steve Gniadek**  **Krista Gramer**  **Zachary Smith**

Dear BOF

It's my hope the board seriously consider the significant impact the current unemployment rate between 17 and 18% will have on projected home owner tax defaults. Based on the Great Recession experience, the defaults will in the range \$4.2 million dollars. That is a significant shortfall on a budget of \$51,303,596. You may have other projections. If so please share them with us.

Proposals have been circulated with suggestions to help mitigate the short fall i.e implementing a 10% across the board cut of the current proposed budget. I support that that suggestion along with the addition of \$5 million dollars to the current bond issue proposal bringing the total to \$10 Million dollars.

My reason for strongly supporting these proposals is that I have a sense the town is not taking seriously the current economic challenges we will face. It seems like we are moving forward with business as usual. I heard this morning that Trumbull has laid off 30 members of its town staff. Similar actions will be occurring in other towns around us. I haven't heard such concerns, salary freezes or actions expressed here in Redding. If topics such as these are being considered, I would appreciate hearing the board's thoughts on how it plans to deal with the revenue short fall.

Thank you and respectfully

Jim Lang
Redding Ridge

Cell. 203 609 1025

Sent from my iPad

From:  Budget 2021
John Aletti <john.aletti@gmail.com>

Wednesday, April 22, 2020 12:18:28 AM



Subject: Fwd: Budget

To:  **Steve Gniadek**  **Krista Gramer**  Zachary Smith

Please do not raise the budget or increase taxes. Services provided have been reduced or canceled due to the virus situation.

Spending should be reduced,
If anything there should be a reduction due to the cancelled services.

Thanks for your time.

Regards,

John Aletti
Cell: (561) 578-0837
John.Aletti@gmail.com

Sent from my iPhone

From:  Budget 2021
John DeSpirito <jdespiri1224@gmail.com> Wednesday, April 22, 2020 10:33:05 AM 

Subject: Fwd: 2021 Budget

To:  **Steve Gniadek**  **Krista Gramer**  **Zachary Smith**

2021 Budget.

It is not hard to see what is going on in this country at the federal, state and local level, even while living in such an idyllic community. We are not going to just flip the switch in a month or two and have things are going to go back to normal.

The federal Government has taken out Trillions in loans. That deficit spending will make its way down to all of us in the form of higher taxes, inflation or a deflated currency, or high unemployment.

It's time for the town to take advantage of the savings that should be recognized during this period to prepare for the future.

The only budget that should be passed is one that shows a steady line of decreased spending over the next 5 years to reflect economic reality.

John DeSpirito
Redding Road.

John DeSpirito
Redding Road

From:  Budget 2021
jrsntoday <jrsntoday@gmail.com>

Wednesday, April 22, 2020 10:20:08 AM



Subject: Fwd: No new tax increases. Tax increases lowers home values. No will ever consider this town via...

To:  **Steve Gniadek**  **Krista Gramer**  **Zachary Smith**

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

From:  Budget 2021
RZC Webmail <randi@therzconnection.com>

Wed, Apr 22, 2020 9:02:26 AM



Subject: Fwd: Board of Finance Meeting 4/22/2020 - Budget Vote

To:  **Steve Gniadek**  **Krista Gramer**  Zachary Smith

Dear Members of the Board of Finance,

We are writing to strongly urge you to reduce the Town budget rather than increasing it.

As all of you realize, the impact of Covid 19 on all Americans including all of us in Redding has impacted lives emotionally and financially. Unemployment for many, pay cuts for others — all have been impacted in some way and hardships are real. The unknown factors of even receiving a stimulus check and/ or receiving unemployment checks are hitting the residents of Redding as those throughout the country. Figuring out how to pay mortgages without income is a real concern. So many unknowns, in particular, not knowing when we will be able to even get back to work and even when that time comes, how long will it take to reach the same income?

It would be irresponsible for the Board to consider increasing the Town budget and imposing further hardships on the residents of Redding.

We urge you to vote NO on any budget increase and represent the Residents of Redding as you took an oath to do. Thank you.

Kenneth and Randi Hutton
75 Giles Hill Road
Redding, CT 06896

From:  Budget 2021
Kevin Murray <kmurray@kmurrayassociates.com>

Wed, Apr 22, 2020 8:30:08 AM



Subject: Fwd: BOF - Town Budget

To:  **Steve Gniadek**  **Krista Gramer**  Zachary Smith

To the members of the Board of Finance.

It is incomprehensible to me that any of you would be considering an increase in the town of Redding budget during these unprecedented times. Every zip code in the Country will feel ripple effects from this situation, whether it be Silicon Valley, or any inner City, with Redding being no exception. How will you possibly know how much tax revenue will be received this coming July? Massive unemployment rates, coupled with an unknown time frame of when anyone can return to their vocations to support their families and pay their bills, is worrisome for all. It should be so for the Board of Finance as well.

Given these unknowns above, I do not know how any one of you could sleep at night proposing any sort of increase to Redding residents at this time.

Respectfully,

Kevin Murray
Parsons Lane

--

Yours,

Kevin Murray & Associates, Inc.
Bringing ease, confidence & stability to your long term planning
Group Health, Level Funding, Long Term Care
14 Parsons Lane
Redding, CT 06896
203-243-4277

From:  Budget 2021
THOMPSON <thompers@optonline.net>

Wednesday, April 22, 2020 2:31:31 PM



Subject: Fwd: Board of Finance Meeting

To:  **Steve Gniadek**  **Krista Gramer**  **Zachary Smith**

Dear Members of the Board of Finance,

Before last week's meeting, I wrote urging you to seriously consider the economic impact of the current pandemic upon the fiscal health of our Town and, more importantly, upon our friends and neighbors. I began my letter by reciting headlines of the day. Today, the Wilton Bulletin reported that *in a thirty minute meeting*, the Wilton Board of Finance agreed *unanimously* to ask their BOE and BOS to consider the impact of as much as a 10% reduction to their budgets, in light of these significant financial warning signs. The article is included below in its entirety.

Last week's budget presentation by the Redding BOE to your Board laid plain that their leadership has failed to appreciate the magnitude of these fiscal realities, and have prioritized their own increased funding over the concerns for the solvency of our Town's remaining taxpayers. I join many members of our community in urging you to seek the kind of cuts essential to allow our small Town and its citizens to weather this financial tsunami in the best way possible.

Kim Thompson

Old Stagecoach Road.

WILTON — In a quick half-hour meeting on Tuesday, April 21, the Board of Finance agreed to ask the board of education and selectmen to consider cuts that would range from no increase over last year's appropriated amounts to as much as a 10-percent reduction each.

In a 5-0 vote, chair Jeff Rutishauser and members Michael Kaelin, Peter Balderston, Chris Stroup and Stewart Koenigsberg agreed to ask both boards to outline what services would be lost in each of four scenarios: a 0-percent increase, 2-percent decrease, 5-percent decrease and 10-percent decrease.

Before the pandemic hit Connecticut, the Board of Selectmen had adopted a \$33.9 million budget for 2021, an increase of 1.22 percent over this year's budget of \$32.5 million. The Board of Education adopted an \$84-million budget, a 2.58-percent increase over the current budget of \$81.8 million.

At the meeting's outset, Rutishauser floated the idea of three scenarios, ranging from 0 percent to 2- and 5-percent decreases.

<https://www.wiltonbulletin.com/news/article/Wilton-finance-board-tells-town-schools-to-15216876.php>

From:  Budget 2021
Laura Verses <laura.e.verses@gmail.com> Wednesday, April 22, 2020 3:54:44 PM

Subject: Fwd: BOE Budget - Pass 'as is'

To:  **Steve Gniadek**  **Krista Gramer**  Zachary Smith



To Board of Finance Members,

I was recently made aware that because of COVID-19, we won't be voting as a town on budgets this year.

I wanted to drop a quick note to say that I hope you will pass the Board of Ed budget as is.

From what I've heard, there are people in town asking for a 10% cut which will lead to a reduction in teachers and larger class sizes!! The incoming Kindergarten class already has 20 kids per class. The current BOE budget was very thoughtfully put together with our kids in mind and we need to keep those funds for our schools!

Sincerely,
Laura Verses
10 Bartram Drive
Redding, CT 06896

From:  Budget 2021
Leslie Swan <leslie.swan@yahoo.com>

Tuesday, April 21, 2020 9:16:33 PM



Subject: Fwd: No new taxes

To:  **Steve Gniadek**  **Krista Gramer**  Zachary Smith

Raising the taxes is completely morally and fiscally irresponsible especially given the current economic climate. I consider myself lucky that we still have 1 income in our household. Many are less fortunate. Not sure how much longer we can afford to stay here if the taxes keep going up.

Leslie and Peter Swan
8 Indian Hill road

From:  Budget 2021
Linda Areklett <areklett381@hotmail.com>

Wed, Apr 22, 2020 10:11:49 AM



Subject: Fwd: Redding Budget

To:  **Steve Gniadek**  **Krista Gramer**  **Zachary Smith**

To whom it May Concern:

As a resident of Redding for over 22 years, I am greatly concerned about the position we currently find ourselves in. Our town taxes keep going up, while people are losing jobs and the economy is crashing around us. While the perception is that this has not impacted Redding, that is totally wrong. While I have been lucky enough to keep my job, half the people in my area alone have lost their jobs or been furloughed. Do you really think that they will continue to pay their taxes. Take a look at the number of homes that are in foreclosure or preforeclosure in Redding, the hidden secret no one wants to talk about.

There is no reason that the school budget cannot stay the same or be less. We need to be more efficient and streamline things more. Why is our town paying more per student and getting less? Why do we keep raising taxes when no one wants to move into this area when they can go to Ridgefield and get more for their money.

It is time that the Board of Finance stands firm and starts doing its job for the good of all.

Sincerely,

Linda Areklett

From:  Budget 2021
Mark Hoeing <mhoeing@yahoo.com> Tuesday, April 21, 2020 10:20:24 PM 

Subject: Fwd: Letter supporting A reduction in the Town of Red ding Budget

To:  **Steve Gniadek**  **Krista Gramer**  Zachary Smith

Dear Members of the Board of Finance,

I am writing to encourage you to take action to reduce the expense base of the Town and in doing so reduce the tax burden on the residents.

The magnitude of the interruption of commerce in our State and Country is immense. The consequences of this interruption will be wide ranging and painful for many; including an increase in the unemployment rate that we have not experienced as a Country since the Great Depression. The increasing unemployment rate and the decreasing level of wages means many will struggle to make ends meet. And as you know, when the economy slows down the percent of residents that cannot pay their property taxes increases; which means without a reduction in expenses the balance of tax payers will need to pick up that portion.

At the same time, and perhaps more unfortunately, the State of CT has pushed many companies out of our State; this has had the three fold negative impact of: (1) reducing the number of jobs opportunities for our citizens, (2) removing cash flows that previously came from companies to be paid to the State / Town in the form of income and property taxes, and (3) has removed the supply of capital / savings that consumers would have had to buy a home (through saved wages).

It is the combination of all of these realities that has created "the perfect storm" of economic hardship for our citizens. Please take action to relieve the economic burden and reduce our Town budget.

Sincerely,
Mark and Laura Hoeing
Umpawaug Road

From:  Budget 2021
Mary Lou Carlson <mlouc@optonline.net> Wednesday, April 22, 2020 3:32:30 PM 

Subject: Fwd: Budget Proposal for 2020-21

To:  **Steve Gniadek**  **Krista Gramer**  **Zachary Smith**

From Mary Lou Carlson, 10 Huckleberry Rd., Redding

Normally, I would be supporting the the current budget proposal. However, this is a very unique and stressful time for residents, for the Town of Redding, and for the St. of CT. Because of delays in the payment of taxes and increasing numbers of unemployed residents, there will certainly be an increasing debt burden on the Town of Redding as it works to meet needed expenditures. Members of the Bd. of Finance, the Selectmen, and the Redding Bd. of Education need to revisit this budget and be very careful with their decisions. While I would prefer to preserve the Bd. of Education budget to meet the challenges of educating and protecting all of our children, especially during this Covid19 crisis, there may be other areas to make adjustments or re-direct funds. Please investigate all Town resources and alternatives for meeting expenses before voting on the proposed budget that was developed earlier in the year. Perhaps a Select Committee with representation from each Board could meet to review this serious situation and report back by a specified date with alternatives.

From:  Budget 2021
Mike Hoffman <M.Hoffman@hoffmanlandscapes.com>

Wed, Apr 22, 2020 3:40:58 PM



Subject: Fwd: We Must Reduce The Budget

To:  **Steve Gniadek**  **Krista Gramer**  **Zachary Smith**

Dear Members of the Redding Board of Finance:

While I am a member of the Redding Board of Education, I am writing to you today as an individual Redding Resident and Taxpayer. Specifically, I am NOT speaking on behalf of the Board of Education.

Before the CV-19 crisis began, there was a case to be made for reducing the amount we spend (and tax) on a town wide basis. With property values continuing to decline, and what I expect will be a shocking property value reassessment coming next year, now would be a great time to reduce spending. This is what I was thinking on March 3rd.

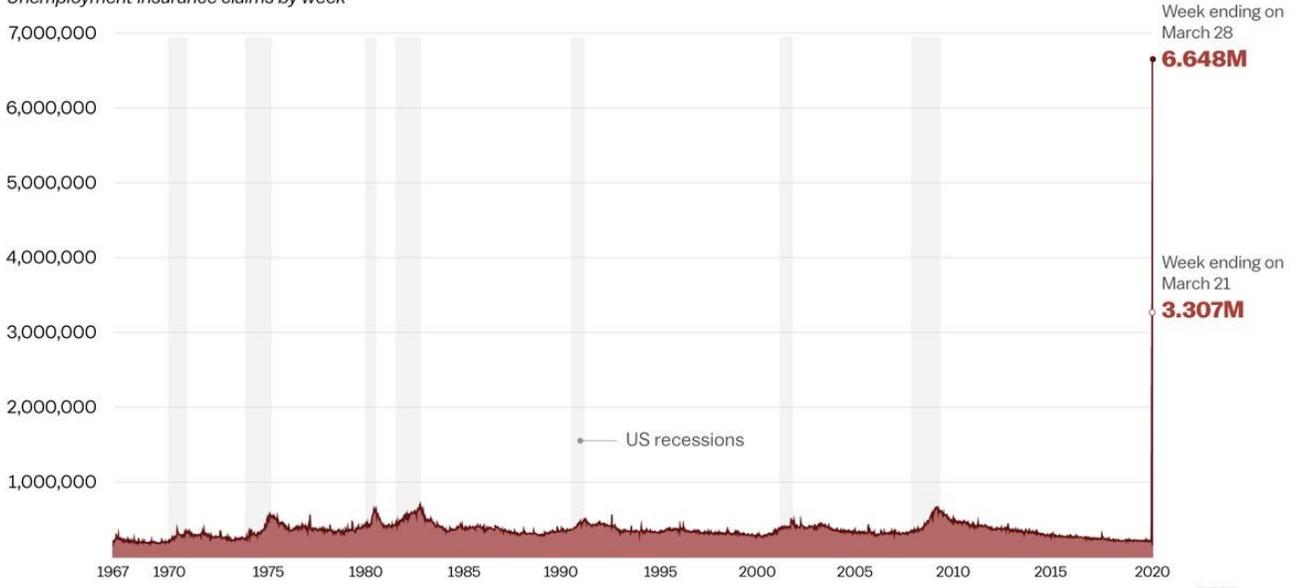
But just six weeks later, we live in a much different financial reality. The shutdown of businesses is like nothing that any of us alive today has ever experienced. Take a look at the graph below. The unemployment claims, *just through the end of March*, really put this into perspective. *What we experienced after 9/11 and during the 2008 recession are mere blips on this graph*. Keep in mind, we are only halfway through the shutdown, and that is assuming we will open all businesses again on May 20th. This is unlikely. So the financial crisis affecting our Redding friends and neighbors is deep and damaging. I implore you as members of the Board of Finance to react to this unprecedented situation with unprecedented action. Please take action to reduce the budget.

Thank You –

Mike and Sandy Hoffman
280 Black Rock Turnpike
Redding, CT

An unprecedented rise in unemployment

Unemployment insurance claims by week



Source: US Department of Labor



From:  Budget 2021
Nancy PelzPaget <nancypelzpaget@gmail.com> Tue, Apr 21, 2020 5:33:24 PM 

Subject: Fwd: Town Budget – Considerations to Keep TOR Financial Sustainability

To:  **Steve Gniadek**  **Krista Gramer**  Zachary Smith

To: Finance Committee, Town of Redding April 21, 2020

Fr: Nancy PelzPaget, 77 Stepney Rd, Redding

Re: **Town Budget – Considerations to Maintain TOR Financial Sustainability**

Having attended the last BOF meeting where Dan Sousa made a number of useful recommendations, I am writing to urge the TOR Finance Committee to seriously consider the data that Dan presented and the recommendations he has made. It is troubling to observe that the town does not seem to be taking seriously enough the need to take special action in response to the fiscal realities of our time. This is an unprecedented time in the history of the town and it calls for courageous, bold action.

To ensure the stability of the town's finances, I hope you will act to

1. Increase the amount we would seek in bond issue to \$10 million. We will undoubtedly need this cushion given the rate of growing unemployment among our residents and the likelihood that tax collection will be severely reduced.
2. Consider 10% budget cut across the board. We have perpetuated incremental budgeting and will not be able to sustain increases with reduced income
3. Switch to quarterly tax payments from twice a year. This is the easiest to accomplish and should happen with minor extra cost through changing the software program

Thank you for the hard work you have been doing and for the budget process that you are now undertaking.

Nancy PelzPaget

Tel: 917 885-0149

NEW ADDRESS:
77 Stepney Road
Redding, CT 06896

From:  Budget 2021
Nichole Atkins <dholiemaie@gmail.com>

Tuesday, April 21, 2020 10:08:48 PM



Subject: Fwd: Budget

To:  **Steve Gniadek**  **Krista Gramer**  **Zachary Smith**

To whom it may concern,

Given the current situation I don't think any budget increases would be wise at this time. Potential tax defaults could be burden enough. Thank you for your consideration.

Nichole Atkins

From:  **Julia Pemberton**
info@townofreddingct.org

Wednesday, April 22, 2020 1:54:03 PM



Subject: Fwd: New submission from Contact Us

To:  **Steve Gniadek**  Kim Yonkers

This came through the town's portal.

----- Original Message -----

What does this comment regard?

Budget Issues

Please include any questions or comments:

To: Board of Finance:

As the members of the Board of Finance are of course aware, our country is experiencing a unique and unprecedented financial crisis brought on by the Covid-19 epidemic. The steep drop in economic activity is unlike anything any of us have experienced in our lifetimes.

Austerity measures are being adopted by states and towns all over the country. As a town we cannot kid ourselves that modest measures will meet the requirements for financial solvency for the Town of Redding. There is also no point in trying to kick the can down the road a few weeks or months. The reckoning is going to come due and soon.

I fully support the following proposals that were made at the previous on-line Board of Finance meeting.

1. Cut the total budget equally across the board by 10%
2. Raise the amount of planned bond issue from \$5 to \$10 million
3. Switch tax collection cycle from semi-annual to quarterly.

I wish I could be highly confident that these measures would be enough to meet the current challenge. I do believe however, that adopting these measures would show that the Town truly recognizes the severity of the problem, and it would foster a spirit of "we are all in this together".

Respectfully submitted,

Roger Van Ausdal

Name

Roger Van Ausdal

Email

vanausdr@gmail.com

Address

21 Orchard Drive
Redding, CT 06896
United States

[Map It](#)

Phone

(203) 938-9027

Organization

Self

From:  **Julia Pemberton**
info@townofreddingct.org

Subject: Fwd: New submission from Contact Us

To:  **Steve Gniadek**

Tuesday, April 21, 2020 8:52:13 AM



Steve - This message came in from the website.
Please include it in the detail of public comments.

Thanks!

----- Original Message -----

What does this comment regard?

Budget Issues

Please include any questions or comments:

The Board should consider cutting the proposed budget by 10% for the coming year because of the economic disruption caused by Covid 19. I also recommend collecting real estate taxes on a quarterly basis.

Name

Ronald Frei

Email

[<mailto:cinronf203@sbcglobal.net>] cinronf203@sbcglobal.net

Address

9 Howes Lane

PO 65

Redding, CT 06896

[<http://maps.google.com/maps?q=9+Howes+Lane+PO+65+Redding%2C+CT+06896>

]Map It

Phone

(703) 785-1757

From:  Budget 2021
"Susanne Krivit" <sfkrivit@optonline.net>

Wed, Apr 22, 2020 10:38:16 AM



Subject: Fwd: Budget Comments

To:  **Steve Gniadek**  **Krista Gramer**  **Zachary Smith**

April 22, 2020

Dear BOF,

My husband and I moved to Redding in 1984. In reading the comments posted regarding this budget, I think it is unfortunate that I read the same two eternal sides lining up. Those that have children in the schools pleading for the budget, those that don't for budget cuts. Those that have children in the schools are suspicious of the motives of those that do not and vice-versa.

We need to pull together and support our community now in this unprecedented time even more than we normally do, and I encourage everyone to approach the budget as a member of a community rather than a household. We are a community of households with and without children. We require both to thrive.

We have reviewed the posted budgets for the Town and the Redding Schools. I attended some of the Region 9 budget meetings. We do not see anything in these budgets that is controversial or wasteful.

We are in favor of them.

Susanne Krivit
Kent Stivers
86 Barlow Drive
Redding, CT

From:  Budget 2021
Tina Dahm <tinadahm@sbcglobal.net>

Wednesday, April 22, 2020 10:41:12 AM



Subject: Fwd(2): Budget concerns

To:  **Steve Gniadek**  **Krista Gramer**  **Zachary Smith**

I want to express that no increase in our town's budget is acceptable!!!!

> We should be looking cost reductions at this time.

>

> Tina Dahm

> 70 Umpawaug Rd

>

> Sent from my iPad

From:  Budget 2021
Thomas Derderian <reddinggro@aol.com> Wednesday, April 22, 2020 9:39:57 AM 

Subject: Fwd: Please Reduce the Town Budget

To:  **Steve Gniadek**  **Krista Gramer**  **Zachary Smith**

April 22, 2020,

Dear Members of the Board of Finance,

We are writing to urge you to reduce this year's Town budget.

The shutdown of the world's economy brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic is unprecedented in our time and imposes great stress and hardship on the people of our community. Redding will not be immune from the staggering surge in job losses and unemployment filings that are occurring across our state and country.

Even worse, this crisis hits us at a time when critical parts of our local economy were already under pressure – rising property taxes, decline of home values and homeowner equity, net outflow of people and businesses from our state – due to the fact that we never really fully participated in the recovery following the economic recession of 2008.

This is a time for tightening our belts and focusing on matters of critical importance to our families. Against this backdrop, it would seem unconscionable to for the Board to consider increasing the Town's budget and, in so doing, putting even more stress on its residents.

Please vote to reduce the Town budget, and avoid adding further financial burden to our citizens at this time.

Sincerely,

Thomas and Vicki Derderian
48 Side Cut Road

From:  Budget 2021
TR <trdavis42@optonline.net>

Wednesday, April 22, 2020 2:30:57 PM



Subject: Fwd: Bof meeting

To:  **Steve Gniadek**  **Krista Gramer**  **Zachary Smith**

Dear board members. I have been a resident of Redding for 21 years now. I have always appreciated the tranquility and openness this town offers. Now i believe this town is not sustainable. When we moved here there was no commercialism and the town thrived. Now, still no commercialism but the town is bleeding. But we have increased tax rates and spending? Local government is not being fiscally responsible at all. Who is running this circus? Why do we increase budgets consistently when we have no revenue, income sources, and school enrollment is consistently down, im told? Everyone knows where the tax payers money is going. Is it time to stop this injustice?

From:  Budget 2021
Tracy Voornas <tvruns@gmail.com>

Wednesday, April 22, 2020 2:23:23 PM



Subject: Fwd: BoF - vote against tax increases

To:  **Steve Gniadek**  **Krista Gramer**  **Zachary Smith**

Hi,

I'm writing on behalf of my family who has lived and paid taxes in Redding, CT for the last 6 years. We are NOT in favor of approving or increasing the budget. especially given the wasteful overspending (Cobblestone street and granite curbs at the high school???)

I feel we need to reduce the budget by at least 35% due to the current economic environment. Any increase is simply not sustainable when unemployment has risen 500% since January 2020.

Please vote against increases and preferably reduce some taxes/spending.

Best,
Tracy Voornas

From:  Budget 2021
Urs Furrer <ubfurrer@aol.com>

Wednesday, April 22, 2020 8:02:15 AM



Subject: Fwd: Budget Comment

To:  **Steve Gniadek**  **Krista Gramer**  Zachary Smith

Dear Members of the Board of Finance,

I strongly urge you to reduce the Town budget rather than increasing it.

As each one of you know, the impact from CV-19 on all Americans, including all of us in Redding is unlike anything we have seen before. The unemployment rate has skyrocketed, with 22,000,000 or our fellow Americans seeking unemployment benefits in April alone. Here, in Redding, our unemployment rate has gone up as well. For those of us who are lucky to have not lost their jobs, the prospect of losing them as the shutdown continues is frighteningly real. For many others, we hope to keep our job but face lower wages.

In light of all of this, it is simply incomprehensible that the Board would consider increasing the Town budget and imposing more pain on the Town's residents. This is not the time for business as usual but for the Board to look at the world around us as it actually is today, not what it was three months ago.

I urge you to vote no on the budget increase and stand with Redding's residents, all of whom could use a break.

Urs Broderick Furrer
40 Seventy Acre Road
Redding 06896