

## Roxanne Maher

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**From:** Adrienne P <adrienne.parad@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 11, 2025 10:27 AM  
**To:** Town Council Group; Roxanne Maher  
**Subject:** Resident statement prior to 6/11/25 meeting

Dear Town Counsel,

Tonight, I will read this statement during the time period permitted for resident input. I would not advocate for an improved budget that prioritizes the needs of the majority, not just the desires of a few.

A budget is not just a collection of numbers; it is a reflection of our town's values, our priorities, and our commitment to each other. We all recognize that resources are limited, and difficult choices must be made. But when we revise our budget, let us ask not, "What do people want?" but rather, "What do people truly need?"

As a physician, I often have difficult discussions with patients and colleagues about noting the differences between wants and needs. Just because one person may want a full body MRI, they likely do not need to have that. They do, however, need to follow evidence-based guidelines on screening for and treating any diseases. I can't be focused on Press-Ganey reviews when making tough medical decisions, and I have to focus on doing the right thing. In my profession, it is very difficult to simultaneously do the right thing and make everyone happy. It is not possible, so I choose to focus on making meaningful and actionable plans even if it doesn't necessarily make everyone happy. If I focused on my image and how people think of me all of the time, I wouldn't be able to make tough decisions and do the right thing.

So, what do we NEED? We need safe roads and reliable infrastructure. We need strong schools that prepare our children for the future. We need emergency services that protect us, social programs that uplift us, and economic initiatives that create opportunity—not just for today, but for the generations that will follow.

Of course, compromise is inevitable. No budget will satisfy every individual preference. But what matters is ensuring that we invest in the greatest good—the foundational services and initiatives that affect the majority of our town's residents. This means resisting pressure from loud voices advocating for pet projects that benefit a few at the expense of the many. It means making decisions based on necessity, impact, and long-term sustainability.

In my opinion, I would like to see the budget originally proposed by the Board of Education, with the adjustment of revenue, to be fully reinstated. Our school district is egregiously underfunded and we need to slowly try to remediate all of our deficiencies now, and focus on growth in the years to come. I also would like to see a compromise on the raises to the Town employees to show them that we value them, while not also burdening our residents with a large tax increase to pay for it. Additionally, I am a strong believer in environmental stewardship, and would like to see the town composting program to stay intact.

I urge you—our leaders—to craft a budget that stands for fairness, responsibility, and the collective well-being of this town. A budget that may not satisfy every want, but one that meets the essential needs of our

community. Because when we prioritize wisely, we don't just balance the numbers—we build a stronger, more equitable future for all.

Thank you.

Adrienne Parad

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