

Roxanne Maher

From: Timothy Ryan
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2026 3:49 PM
To: Jessica Buhle
Cc: Roxanne Maher; Carmen Garcia Irizarry; Fred Allyn, III
Subject: Re: Budget workshop on 3/19

First, I'd like to apologize for not being able to attend today.

As we have seen in the past three workshops, the general government budget is indeed running lean, with responsible, thoughtful budgets put forward by our town department heads.

Taking healthcare and town-wide capital out of the equation, we see the following increases in operations costs:

- General Government increases ~2.4% from 2025-26; this includes the mayor's request that we received today for an additional line item for \$1,000 for reimbursements, which I support.
- The BOE budget increases ~3.6%.

Beyond the edits and updates we have discussed in the aforementioned workshops, the only proposed budget changes I would have are the following:

- Reduce the increase to the top line BOE budget to \$1,000,000, for a new budget of \$41,462,242.

This represents an increase of nearly 2.5% from last year's BOE budget, and is a slightly higher increase than the general government, which generally faces the same inflationary and contractual salary challenges that the BOE cites in their presentation.

I believe this should result in a .25 mill, or nearly 30% reduction, to the proposed increase to the tax levy, but I'll leave the exact calculations to Finance Director Bonin and his team.

It is my position that ANY increase to the equivalent neutral mill rate after revaluation will have an outsized effect on all homeowners, since the value of a "mill" is substantially more than the last budget cycle. This, combined with the fact that revaluation shifted a bigger portion of the tax burden onto residential properties, and lack of any clear path to additional significant revenue at this time, demands that we pass a budget as minimal an increase as possible. The sad truth is that, even if we passed a budget with a zero mill increase, the average tax bill would still increase due to the effects of revaluation.

After last year's dramatic increase in the BOE budget, and two failed budget referendums, we need to put our best foot forward and control the ever-increasing burden on taxpayers.

I do remain hopeful that the CT Legislature will act fast on House Bill 5407, and we can amend our projected revenue prior to finalizing the budget; however, we can't assume that will be the case.

Again, my apologies for not being able to attend.

-Tim

Timothy Ryan

On Mar 18, 2026, at 11:16 PM, Timothy Ryan <tryan@ledyardct.org> wrote:

Jess;

I have an emergent schedule issue with my kids that will prevent me from attending tomorrow's workshop for more than 15 minutes.

I could support an earlier start (3pm) but I don't think that worked for Carmen, and it's inside of 24 hours, anyway.

While I want to be part of the discussion, I also don't expect the meeting to be canceled/rescheduled on my account. To that end, I will at least submit my written remarks tomorrow for yours and Carmen's consideration.

Sorry for the late notice.

-Tim

Timothy Ryan