

**Roxanne Maher**

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**From:** George Hosey <ghosey924@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 17, 2025 3:36 PM  
**To:** Town Council Group  
**Cc:** Jay Hartling; Fred Allyn, III; BOE  
**Subject:** Budget

Dear TC and BOE members,

I'll start by saying I do not envy you the task before you as you attempt to finalize the town budget. Never an easy process, but seems to be especially contentious this year.

As usual, the diverse factions of the town are in vehement disagreement. It's certainly understandable that those with means and/or with kids in the schools would wholeheartedly support the budget, while those on fixed incomes or without kids would feel differently. It's also reasonable that some want an expanded tax base while others prefer to keep Ledyard a "bedroom community".

What is, I'm sure, exasperating for you all is that small but loud faction that thinks we can have it both ways when we cannot. We cannot continue to chase economic development opportunities out of town AND then turn around and complain that we have no economic development. That's simply ridiculous.

As the Council weighs the options and tries to balance the various points of view, I would ask the following:

- Those of you playing party line politics (you know who you are), please stop. The town needs a budget, so it's time to put that crap aside and get the work done in the best interest of the town. Quibbling endlessly over a fraction of a mil is not really productive.
- Please pass the budget with a minimum of additional cuts. Make no mistake, I fully understand that that is easy for me to say as one of those folks with a kid in the schools

and for whom a couple hundred bucks a year will not make or break my family and me.  
That said:

- As has been discussed at length, Ledyard has for a long time, been on the low end of per-student funding for its schools.
- It is not the town or schools' fault that inflation from 2021-2024 was a cumulative 21%, and whether we like it or not, we're playing catch-up. It's easy when inflation is ~2% to say budget increases should be in line with inflation, but I don't recall any of those same voices clamoring to be "in line with inflation" when inflation was 9% three years ago.
- Good schools are still the number 1 thing people thinking of moving to Ledyard are going to look for.

My 2 cents (adjusted to \$1.38 for inflation and increased to \$3.25 for unfunded mandates) ☺

Thank you for your attention.

**George Hosey**