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Manager Assistant

From: claudette brochu <cbrochu30@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 26, 2016 9:39 PM
To: Manager Assistant
Subject: Budget talks

As the Select-board begins the arduous process of crafting a budget, I would urge you all to exercise restraint and present at least a level funded budget. I would also urge the board to re-examine the step process used to determine pay increases with the ultimate goal of eliminating this step program. The Condrey report points out vividly that Norwich public employees are paid very well and more than most other town employees in similar towns. I do not believe that a few years without a pay increase will force town employees to seek alternate employment. After all, most have seen huge increases in the past years that have well exceeded the level of inflation.

Considering the need for a new public service building and the resultant bond needed to fund the construction, any additional increase in the taxes may push out those who are struggling to stay in town. It seems quite oxymoronic to me to be talking about affordable housing projects in town while each year we see increases in our tax rate forcing out the people the town is saying it wants to attract!

Thank you Linda for having the guts to talk about a 5% reduction! And to Dan and Mary for advocating level funding. I too believe there are definitely areas in the budget that can be cut without decreasing the level of SAFETY, although not necessarily the level of service.

Thank you for your work.

Claudette Brochu
714 Upper Turnpike Rd