

**Town of Trumbull  
Board of Finance  
Public Budget Hearing  
February 28, 2015**

**PRESENT**

Elaine Hammers  
Paul Lavoie, Vice Chairman  
Andrew Palo  
Thomas Kelly  
Roy Molgard  
Lainie McHugh  
Vincent DeGennaro, Alternate  
Karen Egri, Alternate

**ABSENT**

Bill Haberlin, Alternate

The Second Public Hearing on the First Selectman's Proposed Budget for 2015-2016 was called to order at 10:00 a.m. in the Madison Middle School auditorium by Chairman Elaine Hammers. All those present joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following individuals spoke:

Chris Rzasu

55 Fox Road

- Please keep TYA. Former TYA member and currently a journalism major in college.

Paige Francis

55 Rangely Drive

- Please reinstate the original BOE budget.

Natalie Clift

358 Daniels Farm Road

- Please keep TYA. She is a seven year member and TYA is her extended family;

Nathan Clift

358 Daniels Farm Road

- Please keep TYA. We need producers and we will lose our 2 producers if unfunded by the Town budget.

Annette Clift

358 Daniels Farm Road

- Please keep TYA. We need the two producers; we should be starting to work on this year's production

Jonathan Tropp

43 Stagg Lane

- Please keep TYA. This is a self-sustaining group and it is more than just a musical.

Tony Silver

23 Stagg Lane

- Please reinstate the BOE budget. We need to rethink priorities for the BOE and the Town. He does not want to see the Town become a high tax and low quality.

Scott Wich

47 Killian Ave

- Here to talk about BOE & TYA. Please reinstate the BOE budget. Cuts in the budget will impact the students, per Dr. Cialfi.

Annie Stachura

97 Ridgeview Avenue

- Please keep TYA; have been a member since 2001; overall sense of community; each person and their job has equal importance and stress is on being like a family.

Mike Stachura

97 Ridgeview Avenue

- Please keep TYA. Troubled that we are defunding an organization that sets us apart from other towns. It shows our children what are potential as a society can be through the efforts of Mrs. Wright and Mrs. Cornell and needs these women.

Gabby Tropp

27 Salem Road

- Please keep TYA. The TYA needs the expertise of Mrs. Wright and Mrs. Cornell in order to produce a show. You need expertise; not just anyone can run this program. Their salary is very important.

Kaylan Weller

35 Arliss Drive

- Please keep TYA. You must keep Mrs. Cornell and Mrs. Wright, since they are TYA. If you cut funding, you are asking these ladies to work for free and they are underpaid as it is. The adult members are not prepared to take over nor are the able to take over; some of us have jobs or attend school.

Sherri Weller

35 Arliss Drive

- Please keep TYA. We have made sacrifices to stay in this town and we have given our children what this town speaks volumes for – a wonderful start and a wonder future. TYA has been a large part of this. TYA is needed for those who aren't band and sports kids. The kids develop into the best they can be through the efforts of Mrs. Wright and Mrs. Cornell and their salary isn't even close to the minimum wage for all the time they put into this.

Tina Delucia

16 Elaine Place

- Please keep TYA. I am a member and TYA is a family. Defunding the program is hurting the TYA family and her personal family. She gained confidence by being in TYA and she is very proud of her TYA family and their professionalism during all of this.

Dan Wisnesk

93 Strobel Road

- Please keep TYA. He and his wife are volunteers with TYA; they both work in TV production business. Moving TYA to Parks and Recreation is not a good idea; change in program management is not a good idea. Keep TYA as is this for this year under the current leadership or as independent contractors while a non-partisan group works in conjunction with the Town to figure out how the program can continue for the 2016-2017 fiscal year.

Nina Cliff

358 Daniels Farm Road

- Please keep TYA. We have only 6 weeks each summer to put on our show. We need Mrs. Cornell and Mrs. Wright to function.

Savannah Mantone

1890 Old Town Road

- Please keep TYA. I have had a rough 4 years and TYA, her real family, has helped her get through everything she has had to go through since July 2011, the day she joined TYA. It is the best experience of her life. This family keeps me sane and I don't know what I would do without them.

Sophia Santos

45 Graylock Road

- Please keep TYA. TYA is my family. Mrs. Wright and Mrs. Cornell are my mom's; they do so much for us, and they love us as we love them. Please put the funding back on the budget.

Victoria Flam

92 Firehouse Road

- Please keep TYA. She is the mother of children who gravitate towards the arts. TYA fosters children who don't fit in with other town activities. She is very impressed with the quality of the program; Mrs. Wright and Mrs. Cornell encourage the children and know that kids need a safe and positive environment in which to thrive.

Lara and John Walden (letter read)

West Lake Road

- Please reinstate the BOE budget. The increase recommended by the First Selectman also includes pay for play being eliminated rather than phased out and the additional expense of TYA being added. Less funding and more expense.

Jen Kehley (letter read)

20 Hill Circle

- Please reinstate the BOE budget. The increase recommended by the First Selectman also includes pay for play being eliminated rather than phased out and the additional expense of TYA being added. Less funding and more expense.

Julie Massari

7 Norwood Terrace

- Please keep TYA. Impressed with the dedication and love that Mrs. Cornell and Mrs. Wright have for the children.

Vicki Tesoro

133 Beechwood Avenue

- Please keep TYA. Program has been run for years and the salaries paid for by the Town; without the Town support the program will not be possible. If put into the recreation department, make sure that qualified people are running the program.

Maurya Brown

20 Chestnut Hill Road

- Please keep TYA. She is the TYA junior director and a music teacher. Program cannot run itself. Think we should be thanking Mrs. Wright and Mrs. Cornell instead of removing them.

Fred O'Neill

24 Hidden Pond Lane

- Please keep TYA. Son was involved; he and his wife were amazed by the professionalism and effort that far exceeded whatever we are paying Mrs. Wright and Mrs. Cornell.

Kathleen Fearon

38 Sherman Avenue

- Please keep TYA. This should be a separate line item and would get buried in another department. Financial support by the Town is essential. We have no way of knowing how many lives TYA has touched.

Joanne McEniry

11 Applegate Lane

- Please keep TYA. Both children involved; positive experience; teaches team work and builds confidence.

Jen Brown

20 Chestnut Hill Road

- Please keep TYA. Has participated for the last 10 years. Allow children to perform in a professional production. Mrs. Wright and Mrs. Cornell have been involved in making costumes and for making this program what it is; they are the heart and soul of TYA.

Lisa Romanchick

30 Springwood Drive

- Please keep TYA. Mrs. Cornell and Mrs. Wright bring pride, passion and confidence to the youth of this Town. What they do is priceless; to cut them is to sacrifice our children.

Jason Keene

28 Sunrise Avenue

- Please keep TYA. Mrs. Wright and Mrs. Cornell are amazing women who have changed my life forever. They are truly needed.

Patricia Romanchick

36 Springwood Drive

- Please keep TYA. Program established by Mrs. Wright and Mrs. Cornell; they are role models for the Town; she learned lessons that she will carry with her for life.

Robin Wyckoff

191 Oldfield Road

- Please keep TYA. We need put \$50,000 back into the budget for at least one more year during a possible transition. TYA cannot run itself but it can pay for itself; however, we need the leadership of Mrs. Wright and Mrs. Cornell.

Kate Romanchick

36 Springwood Drive

- Please keep TYA. Children need to be able to pursue the arts.

Collin McLevy

176 Old Field Road

- Please keep TYA. Currently involved with TYA. TYA has taught him life values; teaches you things that you can carry with you through life; how to get through life and be a good person.

Susan LaFrance

45 Woolsley Avenue

- Please reinstate the BOE budget. She does not believe that the budget has any fluff and she believes the request is reasonable and necessary to advance the education system.

Jill Clark

93 Strobel Road

- Please keep TYA. We need Mrs. Wright and Mrs. Cornell; they are phenomenal and the hours they put in are far more that they are paid for. Please let them continue and give us a chance to make it self-funding.

Cathryn Lee

16 October Lane

- Please reinstate the BOE budget. Should be left as is; schools are not improving.
- Please keep TYA. Mrs. Wright and Mrs. Cornell take the children and build them, not as you want them, but as who they are and they teach them to love people for who they are. They prepare them for entering exclusive college programs for theater.

Carol Lawlor

16 Lincoln Street

- Please keep TYA. We need children to be bright and accomplished; we have an asset in TYA with Mrs. Wright and Mrs. Cornell. This is a treasure that our town should be proud of and support.

Kathleen McGannon

59 Jackson Drive

- Please reinstate the BOE budget. We aren't doing enough.
- Please keep TYA. TYA gave her son an incredible amount of confidence and he has continued in the arts in college. We should be funding low cost programs for our children and doing more for education instead of creating new high paying jobs that don't benefit the majority.

Gina Gallo

20 Maple Lane

- Need to research what goes into the job of Mrs. Wright and Mrs. Cornell, taking into account the number of hours and tasks that they actually perform before you try to replace them.

Second round of speakers

Tony Silver

23 Stagg Lane

- Take \$50,000 from funding the ARC and use it for TYA.

Scott Wich

47 Killian Ave

- Children that spoke were all products of the education system and TYA. Please keep TYA.

Vicki Tesoro

133 Beechwood Avenue

- Does not agree with cutting the Board of Education budget or defunding TYA.

Nathan Clift

358 Daniels Farm Road

- Please keep TYA, along with Mrs. Wright and Mrs. Cornell.

Tina Delucia

16 Elaine Place

- Please keep TYA

The public hearing concluded at 12:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Phyllis C. Collier  
Board of Finance Clerk