

Over 30 residents attended the forum on Thursday at 6:30PM at Mrs. Mitchell's.

1) BUDGET Review / Sewer Rate hearing

A review of the budget took place noting that it is only in balance if a 60 cent increase is made to the sewer rates and a tax increase occurs for home owners.

2) Zone change request for Lower Westfield Road

The property that was the shop and the home next to it are properties being considered for a zone change. The owner wants to change them to a business zone. It is in the middle of a residential neighborhood and the neighbors are opposed.

3) Apremont Hwy intersection / Ashley Reservoir issues

The intersection is one of the 10 most dangerous in Holyoke and is the only one of the ten without a light. A light may be included in a bond for the intersection. The cost is around \$200,000.

At Ashley reservoir the parking situation has become extremely dangerous with people parking cars on both sides of 202 near the entrance to the reservoir. No parking signs have been requested to enforce current law that prohibits parking on 202.

4) Community Preservation Act

The proposal before the City Council is to add a 1.5% surcharge to property taxes for all property owners. This issue will be taken up at the **Government Relations Committee on June 13th at 6PM in City Council chambers**. Most in attendance were opposed to any tax increase at this time.

5) Solar Ordinance change

A modification to the solar ordinance was approved at the City Council meeting on May 3rd. The major change includes the requirement that a special permit for projects 10KW or more only be allowed by special permit of the City Council when in the residential zones.

6) Other requests: Lynch School Update & Mountainview Baptist Church update

The Lynch School will be coming up for a vote on a zone change in June. It is uncertain what the outcome will be, but there is quite a lot of opposition to the change. Some residents raised the issue of the new development at the church and that it includes a two

story structure doubling the size of the church. It was noted that the plans include clearing and water drainage development very close to their property lines. A resident had called and requested that I attend a meeting of the Conservation Commission shortly before this meeting and I agreed to learn more about the project and to ensure that the property and water concerns are adequately addressed.

Thanks to everyone for your interest, ideas and participation.

Submitted by,

Linda Vacon

Your Ward 5 City Councilor