

BOARD OF FINANCE

Budget Deliberation

Wednesday April 3, 2024

Town Hall – Room 107 & Via Zoom

Minutes

Present: Bridget McLennan, Alannah Coshow, Richard Brown, James Radavich, Ted Turner, Anthony Spagnoletti and Kurt Comisky.

Other attendee(s): Jeffery Jylkka - Director of Finance, David Cox - Town Manager

1-2. The meeting was called to order, by Chairwoman McLennan, at 6:30 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Public Remarks:

The following individuals spoke in support of the East Hampton Ambulance Association's (EHAA) budget request which would allow for the sustainment of the improvements that were implemented over the last year. Recent incidents, response times and other statistics were cited.

Donald Scranton:	EHAA Chief
Nancy Brown:	EHAA Board Member
Mark Kimball:	EHAA Active Emergency Medical Responder
Debra Mayer:	EHAA Board Member

Brian Corvo – 42 Sunrise Ln.: Stated that he looks at this budget as purely a maintenance budget and that we are not a unique town. Every town is facing the same challenges and that while no one likes to pay taxes, in order to maintain the level of services we expect, we need to pay.

The following individuals spoke in support of the Sr. Center citing that 0.003% of the Town's budget goes to fund the Sr. Center which serves 20% of the town's population. It was asked that members review and consider increasing the Sr. Center budget.

Ria Irons:	Part-Time Sr. Center Employee
Sali Cosford-Parker:	Sr. Center Volunteer/ 30 Main St.

4. Discuss & Possible Recommendation on the Fiscal Year 2024 Budget for Town Council

Motion #1 – BOE Operating Budget

Ms. Coshow began discussion with a motion that was seconded by Dr. Brown.

Motion to approve and recommend to the Town Council the Board of Education Operating budget in the amount of \$37,725,499. A reduction of \$359,333 as presented by the BOE.

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After minimal discussion simply confirming that this reduction reflects only the savings Superintendent Smith identified at the March 18th Public Hearing, the motion went to a vote.

Vote: 7-0. Motion Passed.

Motion #2 – Town Operating Budget

Mr. Radavich followed with a motion that was seconded by Dr. Brown.

Motion to approve and recommend to the Town Council the Town Operating Budget in the amount of \$13,671,036. A reduction of \$194,910:

- ***\$173,910 Ambulance***
- ***\$2,000 Police Administration – Professional Technical Services***
- ***\$5,500 Fire Department – Physicals \$5,000 / Heating Oil \$500***
- ***\$2,500 Middle Haddam Library***
- ***\$11,000 Grounds Maintenance – Part-time salaries***

Discussion was had mainly around a complete reduction of the Ambulance Association support as reflected in the proposed budget. Dr. Brown referenced documentation from previous discussions to support the reduction, as well as, procedural documentation stating that all new funding must be initiated by Town Council. Mr. Turner, Mr. Spagnoletti and Mr. Comisky while supporting the need for a documented, multi-year plan, voiced *some* concern with not funding the Ambulance Association at all and how quickly a plan can be established between Council and the Association.

Vote: 5-2 (Spagnoletti & Comisky). Motion Passed.

Motion #3 – Debt Service Budget

Dr. Brown made the next motion that was seconded by Mr. Radavich.

Motion to approve a debt service budget in the amount of \$3,904,329

With no discussion requested, the motion went to a vote.

Vote: 7-0. Motion Passed.

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Motion #4 – Capital Plan Budget

Dr. Brown made another motion that was seconded by Ms. Coshow.

Motion to approve and recommend to Town Council a total Capital Plan in the amount of \$2,389,355. The Capital Plan contains the following changes:

- ***\$21,945*** - Flock Plate Reader – Remove project
- ***\$85,000*** - Board of Ed - HS projectors reduced by \$77,000 & Switch reduced by \$8,000 – Remove projects
- ***\$300,000*** - Road Repair / Maintenance at \$700,000 – Reduce funding
- ***\$72,650*** - Police Department Auto - Funded from Special revenue Police Special Services
- ***\$65,000*** - Park & Rec Airline Trail - Funded from Special Revenue Recreation programming

\$544,595 – Total

Funding for the FY 2025 Capital Plan will come from the following sources:

- ***\$1,349,055*** - General Fund
- ***\$350,000*** - ARPA
- ***\$172,650*** - Residual Project Balances
- ***\$304,000*** - Middle School Roof excess funds
- ***\$76,000*** - LOCIP grant
- ***\$72,650*** - Police Special Services
- ***\$65,000*** - Parks & Rec. Special Revenue

After confirmation that the reduction in road repair funding is with the understanding that, as discussed at the March 27th meeting, incremental increases each year will need to occur in order to get us to the anticipated end goal, the motion went to a vote.

Vote: 7-0. Motion Passed.

Motion #5 – Budget Transfers

Dr. Brown made one more motion that was seconded by Ms. Coshow

Motion to approve transfers to other funds in the amount of \$1,391,555

- ***\$1,349,055*** - Transfer to Capital Reserve
- ***\$42,500*** - Transfer to Compensated Absences

TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON
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With no discussion requested, the motion went to a vote.

Vote: 7-0. Motion Passed.

Motion #6 – Town Operating Budget

Mr. Comisky made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Turner.

Motion to restore the funding to the East Hampton Ambulance Association (removed in Motion #2 Above), in the amount of \$173,910 contingent upon the Town Council establishing a task force to develop a written plan to determine the fiscal support to be provided by the taxpayers for the fiscal years 2026-2030. This written plan will be submitted by November 26, 2024 to the Town Council, the Board of Finance and the Board of Directors of the Ambulance Association.

Discussion points addressed during Motion # 2 discussion were reiterated prior to the motion going to a vote.

Vote: 1-6 (Comisky). Motion Failed.

5. Public Remarks

Donald Scranton – EHAA Chief: In response to earlier discussion and concerns expressed by members, Chief Scranton referenced the 1996 Agreement and January 2021 Medical Services Plan. (documentation on file with Town Clerk).

6. Adjournment:

The motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Coshow and was seconded by Mr. Radavich.

Vote: 7-0. Motion Passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:26pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Renée Bafumi
Recording Secretary