

**TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON**  
**EAST HAMPTON CT 06424**  
**BOARD OF FINANCE**  
**Public Hearing: 2007-2008 Budget Minutes**  
Thursday, April 5, 2007  
7:00 PM  
East Hampton High School Auditorium

Members present: Chairman Ted Hintz, Vice-Chairperson Sharon Kjellquist, Kurt Comisky, Henry Thorpe, Jill Simko, and Katherine Avery

Staff Present: Town Manager Alan Bergren, Finance Director Jeff Jylkka, Fire Chief Chuck Stickler

Other Attendees: Town Council Members Kyle Dostaler and Scott Minnick, Board of Education members Chairman Alan Hurst, Joanne Barmasse, and Debra Robinson, and EDC Chair Maryanne Dostaler

1. Open Meeting:

Chairman Hintz called opened the meeting at 7:05 PM

2. BOF Draft Proposed Budget: Summary of presentation:

2007-2008 BOF Draft Budget: Summary of Spending:

- Transfers to other funds: 1,203,973
- Debt Service: 1,983,252
- General Government: 8,426,483
- Education: 23,543,089
  
- The total budget increase is 5.22%, education has the highest percentage increase at 75.57%, Town operations at 16.83%, Transfers to other funds 12.81%, and Debt Service at -5.20%
- Education: 5.93% (1,318,815) increase over last year  
General Government 3.61% (293,707) increase over last year  
Transfers to Other Funds 22.80% (223,540) increase over last year
- Important Dates:  
April 11<sup>th</sup> – BOF meeting – final deliberations on 2007-2008 budget and approval of budget to send to TC  
April 17<sup>th</sup> Town Council Meeting (tentative) – BOF presentation of approved budget to Council. Deliberation and adoption of budget by Town Council  
April 30<sup>th</sup> Town meeting (tentative) - to send the meeting to referendum  
May 8<sup>th</sup> (tentative) Town Vote
- BOF would like your comments: please send your comments via email to [bof@easthamptonct.org](mailto:bof@easthamptonct.org) or attend the next BOF meeting

3. Public Comments:

- There are misconception regarding BOE and them having their own building project. They sought information from others with experience regarding facilities. BOE shared information with TC. They will be sharing the drafted timeline with the hope that the town adopts the facilities project. Don't feel the reductions

made to BOE are appropriate as the BOE spent significant time developing a thoughtful budget.

- EDC position: Town manager recommended a full time coordinator which is important to the town. Feel there is a need for a full time position. If that is not possible, feel that money would be needed to contract out the work so that the town can fulfill the need.
- EDC position: “we are putting the cart before the horse, we need water first”. The town center needs water before we can move forward with anything else. Encourage BOF to eliminate the EDC position. Concern regarding legal fees: BOF made an artificial cut since the Town Council has already gone over the existing budget and nothing has happened, no one is holding to the budget/being held accountable.
- Advertisement of budget: Didn’t feel that there was sufficient publication regarding this meeting; the auditorium is empty; who is responsible for advertising the meeting? BOF noted that the advertisement was part of legal notices in the Rivereast. Who is responsible for putting advertisements in the paper? BOF advise that the Town Manager is responsible; Individual feels Town Manager not doing his job.
- Town Manager amendments: believe there is a need full time EDC position. Legal fees: went to recent planning and zoning meeting where she felt the town attorney should have attended and provided council; BOF does have the right to question why the fees have been so high, but they need to look into why the costs are high, what the money is being spent on since they may be valid. Look at the trees through the forest
- Feel more legal representation is needed at the planning and zoning meetings. State funding: if we receive the full amount, will the money be spent on tax relief? BOF noted that the money from the state goes to the general fund for the town; Timing of the budget/passing will impact what the funds may be used for, for example: if the mill rate is set before we know about the money from the state then the money cannot be used for tax relief; The individual reiterated he would like some money to go to tax relief.
- Congratulations on doing a conscientious job and pulling the budget together; feel the cuts made make the budget more affordable for tax payers; feel that BOF is going in the right direction; an empty auditorium doesn’t mean the public agrees with the budget; if we don’t have a water system then we don’t have much need for EDC to be marketing/doing, so the EDC position may be justifiable once the water system is underway; suggest cutting the entire position for now, may/will be needed in the future.
- Who is the watch dog for review of bills? Response provided, the Town Manager is responsible. Had heard that the town paid for legal fees for a web site issue relating to non-public officials, would like to know if that is accurate. BOF is not aware of matter, nor was the Town Manager. Chairman Hintz asked the Town Manager to look into the matter and provide a response at the next BOF meeting.
- Next BOF meeting is April 11<sup>th</sup> at the community center

4. Close Meeting: Chairman Hintz closed the meeting at 7:32pm

Submitted by:  
Karen Lee