

**TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON  
EAST HAMPTON, CT 06424**

**BOARD OF FINANCE**

Monday March 19, 2018  
EH Middle School Library

**Approved Minutes**

**Present:** Mike Rose, Richard Brown, Bridget McLennan, Janine Jiantonio, Alannah Coshow, Barbara Moore and Ted Turner

**Other attendee(s):** Jeffery Jylkka: Director of Finance and Michael Maniscalco: Town Manager

**1-2. Chairman Rose called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.**

**3. Adoption of Agenda**

*Upon a motion from Ms. Moore, seconded by Dr. Brown and unanimously carried, the Agenda was adopted as presented.*

**4. Approval of Minutes:**

**a) Regular Meeting 2/20/2018**

*Dr. Brown made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Moore. **Vote: 5-0-2 (Jiantonio and Coshow). Motion Passed.***

**b) Special Meeting 3/12/2018**

*Ms. Moore made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Coshow. **Vote: 6-0-1(Rose). Motion Passed.***

**c) Budget Workshop 3/14/2018**

*Dr. Brown made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Coshow. **Vote: 4-0-3 (Rose, Moore and Turner). Motion Passed.***

**d) Budget Workshop 3/15/2018**

*Dr. Brown made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Moore. **Vote: 5-0-2 (Rose and McLennan). Motion Passed.***

**e) Budget Workshop 3/16/2018**

*Dr. Brown made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Jiantonio. **Vote: 6-0-1(Rose). Motion Passed.***

**f) Budget Workshop 3/17/2018**

*Dr. Brown made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Coshow. **Vote: 6-0-1 (Rose). Motion Passed.***

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**5. Public Remarks:**

Dr. Brown prefaced the public remarks portion of the meeting stating that the goal is to work together (BOF, BOE, Town Administrators and Tax Payers) to come up with a budget that tax payers can be comfortable with and that can move our town forward. He welcomed any suggestions on revenue streams and/or where expenses can be cut in order to offset the needs.

**Joanne Mercaldi – 1 Aldens Crossing Rd.:** Asked that the Board approve the budget without changes and allow the tax payers to vote on what was presented.

**Bob Hein – 19 Birchwood Rd.:** Acknowledged that while painful, it is time to pay for years of overly conservative budgets.

**Lois Villa – 3 Stonegate Rd.:** As a BOE Member, she sat through all of the meetings listening to the public's comments and discussing the budget. It is a well thought-out budget and was not just thrown together.

**Amanda Amtmanis – 40 Old Middletown Rd.:** Feels the BOE has been very efficient with their budgets over the last few years but, as with anything, you get what you pay for and neglect will cost more in the long run.

**6. Financial Transactions:**

None

**7. Special Presentations:**

None

**8. Correspondence:**

Mr. Rose acknowledged one written letter submitted via email by James Monahan - 19 Forest Glen, in support of the Public Library improving and advancing the services it provides.

**9. Status Reports [Financial]:**

Mr. Jylkka provided a brief status on the FY 2017-2018 Revenues and Expenditures to date.

**a) 2017-2018 Revenue**

Mr. Jylkka shared that with the results of the Tax Sale that occurred in February, it is expected that revenue will finish \$300,000-\$350,000 above the previous estimate.

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Monday March 19, 2018

EH Middle School Library

**b) 2016-2017 Expenditures**

Mr. Jylkka shared that it is expected that expenditures will finish at a break-even point. He also mentioned a broken pipe was recently discovered in the Fire Departments Water Main. Estimates are being collected with an early expectation that repairs will cost \$20,000 or more. Contingency will be looked at to fund these repairs.

**10. New Business:**

None

**11. Continued Business:**

**a) 2018-2019 Budget Deliberations**

While each Board member provided a brief glimpse into their thoughts on the budgets and what their thought process/focus will be during deliberation, no action was taken. Thoughts included but were not limited to:

- What can Tax Payers truly afford
- The 22% increase in the Mill Rate over the past 3 years and that most people are not getting a 7-8% salary increase every year
- Planning for East Hampton's future
- The need to look at revenue and not just spending
- The responsibility of the Board to address the budgets not just push forward
- Wanting to hear from the Tax Payers at Public Hearing

**b) Website Upgrade**

Due to the repairs needed to repair the Fire Department Water Main (see item 9b above), the contingency funds will no longer be available for any website upgrades in the near future.

**c) TIF Zone Proposal**

Mr. Maniscalco shared that Planning & Zoning meetings to discuss have been postponed twice due to weather. Nothing further will occur with the proposal until Planning and Zoning has completed the actions required by that commission.

**d) Teacher Contract Negotiations**

Mr. Rose confirmed that negotiations are still planned for August with an invitation to this Board promised.

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**BOARD OF FINANCE**

Monday March 19, 2018

EH Middle School Library

**e) Tax Bill Modifications**

Mr. Jylkka confirmed that mock-ups of a document that would accompany a tax bill or be sent alone (if taxes are escrowed) outlining the breakdown of how tax dollars are spent are being created and will be shared at a future meeting.

**12. Committee/Liaison Assignments**

**a) Town Council (Coshow/Jiantonio)**

No Report - Meeting cancelled due to weather

**b) Board of Education (Finance Sub-Committee) (Rose/Moore)**

No Report – Conflicting meeting times

**c) Economic Development Commission (Turner)**

Sports on 66 is business of the month for March

**d) Lake / Conservation (Moore)**

Nothing with a financial impact discussed

**e) Fire Commissioners (Brown)**

Awards system being changed to a tier system to allow for more incentive to volunteer

**f) Brownfields/Redevelopment (McLennan)**

Nothing with a financial impact discussed

**g) Park & Rec. Advisory Board (McLennan)**

Nothing with a financial impact discussed

**h) Water Task Force (Jiantonio)**

No Report – Couldn't attend and meeting minutes not yet posted

**13. Public Remarks**

Chairman Rose opened the floor for public comment.

**Marc Lambert - 20 Brookside Ct.:** As a current BOE member and former Chair of BOF, he does not envy the job of the BOF. While he agrees that the Board has a responsibility to address the budgets and not just push it forward as presented, he cautioned the Board, however, to make sure they understand the priorities of all tax payers and what they are willing to pay. In his opinion, tax payers do understand the ramifications of increasing the budgets and are willing to take that on.

**TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON  
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Monday March 19, 2018

EH Middle School Library

**Julie Foulis - 18 Fernwood Dr.:** East Hampton needs to catch up to other comparable towns whose mill rates are significantly higher.

**Loretta Mele - 48 Depot Hill Rd.:** In what she described as an opposing view, she stated that it is not the few hundred dollar increase a year that is an issue for some, it is the few hundred dollars on top of the thousands tax payers already pay that makes it significant.

**Ines Venetianer – 17 Berkshire Dr.:** The Superintendent already did the necessary vetting of the BOE budget and it should be approved as presented.

**Joanne Barmasse – 6 Tiffany Ct.:** This year's BOE Budget is heavily curriculum driven and therefore consists of needs not wants.

**14. Town Manager's Report**

No Report

**15. Adjournment:**

The motion to adjourn was made by Dr. Brown and was seconded by Ms. Jiantonio.

**Vote: 7-0. Motion Passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:22 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

Renee Bafumi  
Recording Secretary