

TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON
EAST HAMPTON, CT 06424
BOARD OF FINANCE
Budget Deliberation
Wednesday March 27, 2024
Town Hall – Room 107 & Via Zoom

Minutes

Present: Bridget McLennan, Alannah Coshov, Richard Brown, James Radavich, Ted Turner, Anthony Spagnoletti and Kurt Comisky (via zoom).

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:

None

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

Chairwoman McLennan began by asking Mr. Cox to address a memo that he had handed out to members, just prior to the meeting. Mr. Cox shared that after additional review of potential funding sources as well as some potential expenditure reductions, he wanted to provide information and suggested modifications that could be made to the General Government budget. He went on to outline, in no particular order, six areas of possible modifications:

1. Reduction of the Firefighter Physical/Medical budget as a result of changes in requirements.
 2. Reduction of the Police Administration Professional Services budget as some planned activities will be completed in FY24.
 3. Reduction in seasonal staff salaries as some Grounds Maintenance duties could be outsourced to a private contractor.
 4. Identification of Recreational Special Services funds that could be used to offset recreation related expenses in the Capital Improvement fund.
 5. Identification of Police Special Services funds that could be used to purchase the requested police vehicle freeing up the funds in the Vehicle Sinking fund for another department to use.
 6. Multiple options provided for Road Improvements budget that would reduce the amount requested in FY2025 without impacting the level of improvements.
- (Full memo filed with Town Clerk)*

Q&A followed Mr. Cox's presentation, mainly focused on the road improvement scenarios.

Chairwoman McLennan then acknowledged that due to conflicting meeting schedules, Mr. Smith and

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BOE members were unable to attend. She asked that any questions or discussion around the BOE budget be held until the April 3rd meeting. She then opened up discussion to all members.

Mr. Turner began by stating that he would gladly support one of the new Road Improvement scenarios. He also supports the request for an additional Police Officer and while he supports the Ambulance Association he needs more information before making any decisions.

Ms. Coshow, Dr. Brown Mr. Spagnoletti and Mr. Comisky also expressed some concern with a long-term plan for the Ambulance Association feeling that the current request could just be a short-term stop gap.

Discussion then turned to Sr. Center restructuring proposals as a result of the retirement of the Coordinator and additional members voicing support of an additional police officer before returning back to Road Improvements.

Chairwoman McLennan then granted Town Council Chairman Markham the floor. Chairman Markham touched on discussions had at the 3/26 TC meeting in regard to IWWA and Zoning Regulations and current run-off concerns around town. In light of these mounting concerns coupled with the difficulty the Town is having in filling the current Planning and Zoning Official position, Chairman Markham requested that members consider adding a part-time Inspector position to not only help to address current issues, but also to assist the future Planner as these concerns will only increase as construction around town increases.

Acknowledging the entrance of Mr. Smith and BOE Vice-Chair Arndt, Ms. Coshow noted the increase in students' exposure to opportunities in the manufacturing and industrial fields through visits from/with Eversource and Electric Boat. She also asked Mr. Smith to explain why there seems to be little to no realized cost savings from retirements. Mr. Smith explained that in order to address the need for new curriculum, they are operating with a "Maintain but Grow" philosophy. This means that they are able to address new needs through retirements still netting a zero increase in certified positions. This is achieved by "swapping" available funds from a vacated position as a result of retirement to a budget that has a "need". So, the number of positions stays the same but new curriculum needs are being met.

5. Public Remarks

Donald Scranton – EHAA Chief: In response to earlier discussion and concerns expressed by members, Chief Scranton informed members that while they did have representation from the Town Council and BOF on the EHAA Board in 2023, after the November elections, participation stopped. He also shared that the agreement set forth last year was to collect data and establish a plan for improvement. He stated that while

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members feel that an agreement or contract should be in place, that is not what was discussed last year.

6. Adjournment:

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

Vote: 7-0. Motion Passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:48pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Renée Bafumi
Recording Secretary