

**TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON**  
**EAST HAMPTON, CT 06424**  
**BOARD OF FINANCE**  
**SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING**  
Thursday May 23, 2019  
EHMS Commons

**Approved Minutes**

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

**Other attendee(s):** Jeffery Jylkka: Director of Finance, Michael Maniscalco: Town Manager, Paul Smith: Superintendent of Schools, Jeremy Hall: Parks & Recreation Director, Ellen Paul: Library Director, Chief Woessner: Chief of Police, Karen Asetta: Business Manager of Schools

**1-2. Chairman Brown called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.**

**3. Public Remarks**

**Tania Sones -17 Curry Lane/Kim Fentress – 4 Curry Lane:** Ms. Fentress read a prepared statement from Ms. Sones which emphasized the small margin the BOE budget failed by (19 votes) and the lack of clear understanding of people's intentions when voting yes/no and too high/too low. She also stated that major cuts to the BOE budget will warrant a no vote. Finally, she asked that the \$300,000 for school technology be put back in to the Capital Budget and the police officer position not be cut.

**Matthew Walton – MHPL President/David Wezdenko - MHPL Treasurer:** Mr. Wezdenko spoke on behalf of the Middle Haddam Public Library Board stating that recent cuts have left them with a "strictly keeping lights on budget" and while they are working to change the perception of the Library and extend the impact of the Library to the community through surveys and guest events, any further cuts would make a very serious impact on their ability to do anything.

**4. Discuss and possible recommendation on the 2019-2020 Budget for Town Council**

Chairman Brown began the discussion stating that when considering any changes to the budget, he is looking for proportionate deductions; meaning since the overall town budget is 1/3 Town Operations and Capital and 2/3 Education, any reductions should, in his opinion, follow suit. He then opened the discussion allowing each Board member to provide comment suggested revisions. Discussion points included, but were not limited to:

- Teacher Pension Obligation
- Private Roads
- Library Purchasing

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- Building Maintenance (New Town Facilities Building vs. Current Town/ Education Offices)
- Capital Items (Various)
- Sidewalks
- Worker's Compensation Savings
- Middle Haddam Public Library
- Suggestions From Department Heads Present

***Motion:*** Ms. Coshow made a motion to reduce the Library Technology Budget by \$7280.00. The motion was seconded by Ms. McLennan.

**Vote: 7-0. Motion Passed.**

***Motion:*** Ms. Coshow made a motion to reduce the Capital Sidewalk line item by \$10,000. The motion was seconded by Mr. Peterson.

**Vote: 5-2 (Moore & Turner). Motion Passed.**

***Motion:*** Ms. Coshow made a motion to reduce the following items:

- Worker's Compensation by \$30,000
- Capital - Fire Dept. Accountability System by \$15,000
- Capital - Private Roads by \$10,000
- Middle Haddam Public Library by \$5,000

The motion was seconded by Ms. McLennan.

**Vote: 5-2 (Moore & Turner). Motion Passed.**

Based on the above, Chairman Brown addressed his earlier recommendation that total cuts reflect a 1/3 from Town/Capital and 2/3 Education. Given the above 3 motions total reductions to the Town/Capital budget in the amount of \$77,280 he asked if anyone would like to make a motion to reduce the Education budget by \$154,560.

***Motion:*** Ms. Coshow made a motion to reduce the Education budget by \$154,560. The motion was seconded by Ms. Jiantonia.

After a discussion of this option and the possible impacts (i.e. a failed 2<sup>nd</sup> referendum), the motion was withdrawn.

***Motion:*** Ms. Coshow made a motion to reduce the Town Contingency (reserved for possible teacher pension obligation) by \$151,185. The motion was seconded by Ms. McLennan.

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After a discussion of this item and the uncertainties that exist, the motion was withdrawn.

***Motion:*** *Mr. Peterson made a motion to reduce the Education budget by \$77,500.*  
*The motion was seconded by Mr. Turner.*

**Vote: 4-3 (Brown, Jiantonio, Coshow). Motion Passed.**

**5. Adjournment**

The motion to adjourn made by Ms. Moore was seconded by Mr. Peterson.

**Vote: 7-0. Motion Passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:41 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

Renee Bafumi  
Recording Secretary