

**TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON**  
**EAST HAMPTON, CT 06424**  
**BOARD OF FINANCE**  
**Public Hearing**  
Tuesday, March 22, 2021  
Town Hall – Room 107 & Via Zoom

**Minutes**

**Present:** Matthew Bennington, Wes Jenks (via Zoom), Ted Turner, Bob Hein, Alannah Coshow, Eric Peterson and Richard Brown

**Other attendee(s):** Jeffery Jylkka - Director of Finance, David Cox - Town Manager and Paul Smith – Superintendent of Schools

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

**3. Public Remarks:**

None

**4. 2021-2022 Budget Presentations:**

Mr. Smith outlined a proposed BOE budget of \$33,182,695\* (a percentage increase of 3.27%) highlighting that this increase reflects "No requests for additional staff" and "No increases to Operational line items (except contractual increases beyond our control)" but does include "Chromebook costs being removed from the Capital Budget and now added to the Education Budget." *(full presentation filed with Town Clerk)*

Mr. Cox followed by providing an overview of the total budget (Town & BoE) detailing the Town Operations, Debt and Capital portions. A total budget request of \$49,785,828\* which would equate to a Mill Rate increase of 1.59 mills (Mill Rate – 34.73) was proposed. *(full presentation filed with Town Clerk)*

**\*BOE budget numbers on 2 presentations vary slightly (difference of \$4,700).**

**5. 2021-2022 Budget Discussion**

Chairman Bennington allowed time for each Board member to make a statement holding questions for the workshops later in the week.

**Chairman Bennington** – While reviewing the budgets, he reflected on investments made over the past year or so and the benefits they awarded the town. He feels this is a rational budget being presented and looks forward to discussions during the workshops.

**Dr. Brown** – While past budgets seemed to be more wish lists, this budget seems to only include necessary expenditures (a barebones budget).

**Mr. Turner** - Concurring with the other members comments, he is encouraged by what he heard and agrees that this is a "lean budget".

**Ms. Coshow** – As always, she is frustrated with the timing and wishes "the unknowns" (state surplus, etc.) were known and could be factored into conversations.

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**Mr. Jenks** – Specifically expressed interest in hearing more about how the long-term funding will be addressed in regard to the math improvements discussed.

**Mr. Peterson** – Agrees with all of the other member's comments and stated that it will be more difficult than years past to make adjustments.

**Mr. Hein** – Hopes to accomplish the goal of putting forth a budget for all.

**6. Adjournment:**

*The motion to adjourn was made by Dr. Brown and was seconded by Mr. Turner.*

***Vote: 7-0. Motion Passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:44 pm.***

Respectfully submitted,

Renée Bafumi  
Recording Secretary