

**TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON**  
**EAST HAMPTON, CT 06424**  
**BOARD OF FINANCE**  
**Public Hearing**  
Wednesday, March 31, 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:**

**Donna Roberts – 119 Middle Haddam Rd. / Middle Haddam Library Board President & Barbara Angelico – 1 Schoolhouse Ln. / Middle Haddam Library Board Vice-President**  
Requested that the town's operational donation be increased from \$5,000 to \$10,000 (reminding members that the donation used to be \$20,000 only recently being reduced to \$10,000 and then \$5,000). Stated that all renovations and improvements were completed through personal donations and not through any use of the operational budget. Wish to use the operational budget to create a learning and entertainment hub for the community.

**Lori Wilcox – 4 Hawthorne Rd. / Registrar** – Informed members that the submitted budget does not include any salary adjustments for the Registrar nor Deputy Registrars.

**4. Discuss & possible recommendation on the 21/22 Budget for Town Council**

Chairman Bennington allowed for each Board member to make a brief statement before opening up the detailed discussion and questions on each budget individually (Town, BOE, Capital). Member's statements were very consistent with all members expressing concern about how to address the \$400,000 gap in Capital (given the proposed budgets lend themselves to allowing for only minor cuts) and no members having a clear understanding of what COVID Relief funding looks like (amounts) and what it can be used for.

Each Budget was then addressed individually.

**Town Budget**

**Topics of discussion included:**

- COVID Relief (timing of news from the State Treasury vs. this budget process)
- Water Treatment (fall under COVID relief?)
- Registrar/Deputy Registrar pay rates (should match comparable positions in other departments)
- Emergency Management (storm shutters vs. protective film)
- Not wanting to "make cuts" just to feel like they did something

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**BOE Budget**

**Topics of discussion included:**

- Clarification on what grant money (ESSR1, ESSR2 and American Rescue Fund) has been and will be used
- Multi-year enrollment projections vs. number of teachers
- Youth Manufacturing Partnership with RHAM HS
- Long-Term Math improvements

**Capital**

**Topics of discussion included:**

- Postponing or splitting Fire Department renovations for Co. 1 and tanker replacement(s) over multiple phases/years
- HVAC replacements at Schools
- Town Clerk and Building Department permits/fees surplus
- Tax Collection Rate (on track for 98.5%)

Mr. Jylkka and Mr. Cox confirmed that the answers to any questions requiring more research or calculation would be provided prior to the meeting on April 7<sup>th</sup> allowing for all members to come planning on voting and ending the meeting with a recommended budget for Town Council.

**5. Adjournment:**

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Renée Bafumi  
Recording Secretary