

BOARD OF FINANCE

Public Hearing

Monday, March 18, 2024

Town Hall – Room 107 & Via Zoom

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Minutes

Present: Bridget McLennan, Alannah Coshov, Richard Brown, James Radavich, Ted Turner, Anthony Spagnoletti and Kurt Comisky (arrived at 6:34 during agenda item 3)

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

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:

The following individuals spoke in support of the East Hampton Ambulance Association's (EHAA) budget request which would allow for the sustainment of the improvements that were implemented over the last year.

Donald Scranton:	EHAA Chief
Barbara Sargent:	EHAA Public Events Coordinator/Active EMR
Ekaterine Tchelidze:	Resident @ 47 Chatham Fields Rd.
Madison Starr:	EHAA Asst. Chief
Tom Donnelly:	EHAA Emergency Medical Responder
Dave Shulman:	EHAA Treasurer
Kim Danaher:	EHAA Active Emergency Medical Responder

Cindy Craig – 3 Candlewood Dr.: Spoke in support of the Sr. Center and how she does not want it's budget to be overlooked or minimized given the Coordinator's recent retirement. Would like to see increased bus services and is concerned about impacts of the rumored Sr. Center/Social Services merger.

Catherine Mojo – 20 Summit St.: Spoke in support of the Education budget and the significance of teachers and conducive learning environments for our children.

4. 2024-2025 Budget Presentations:

Town Budget

Mr. Cox provided an overview of the total budget (Town & BoE) detailing the major areas that contribute most to Town Operation increases. A total budget request of \$54,791,257 which would equate to a Mill Rate increase of 3.05 mills (Mill Rate – 39.11) was proposed:

- Town Operations - \$ 13,865,946
- Education - \$ 38,084,832
- Debt - \$ 3,904,329
- Capital/Transfers - \$ 1,936,150

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Significant increases to Town Operations include, but are not limited to:

- **41% - Public Safety**
 - EH Ambulance Assoc. Support
 - New Position (Police Officer)
 - Increase to the Fire Department Stipend
- **42% - Contractual Obligations**
 - Salary Increases
 - Pension & Retirement Contribution Increases

(full presentation filed with Town Clerk)

BOE Budget

Mr. Smith outlined a proposed BOE budget of \$38,084,832 (a percentage increase of 6.21%) stating that this budget should be looked at as 2024-2025 costs of maintaining the 2023-2024 Budget. With the significant decrease in state funding while state mandates increase, Mr. Smith was happy to share that \$359,333 in savings has been realized from data obtained after this budget was submitted. Changes in health insurance carriers and certified salary adjustments through identified retirements, as well as, transportation and building maintenance cost adjustments are the main contributors to a 5.21% increase of \$37,725,499 instead of the original proposal listed above.

(full presentation filed with Town Clerk)

5. Public Remarks

None

6. 2024-2025 Budget Discussion

In lieu of upcoming workshops (3/19-3/21), no additional discussion was had.

7. Adjournment:

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

Vote: 7-0. Motion Passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:29pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Renée Bafumi
Recording Secretary