

**TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON
EAST HAMPTON, CT 06424
BOARD OF FINANCE
SPECIAL MEETING**

Wednesday, September 26, 2018
EHMS Library & Media Center

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

1-2. Chairman Brown called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Public Remarks

Paul Smith: Superintendent of Schools – Asked that the Board reconsiders the proposal discussed at the July 16th BOF Meeting.

Proposal: appropriate unassigned funds from the 2017-2018 budget to the purchase of School Chromebooks and School Safety Improvements (currently proposed as 2018-2019 Capital Items) allowing for the 2018-2019 funds (once approved) to be used for costs associated with (3) teachers' salaries and benefits.

Marc Lambert: 20 Brookside Court – Stated that it is the responsibility of the Board of the Finance to get a budget passed and acknowledged that the rhetoric, from both sides, is not helpful. He encouraged the Board to consider using surplus funds in order to close the gap enough to get a budget passed so that everyone can move forward.

Ellen Tinson: 84 Tarragon Drive – Stated that she voted "NO" because Board members do not seem to be listening to the "new majority" and that if they still think people are voting No because the budget is too high, they need to include a question(s) that inquires as to why people voted the way they did.

Bruce Strong: 88 Main Street – Feels that excess does exist on the Town side while school custodial jobs are significantly understaffed.

Scott Minnik: 28 South Main Street – Feels the situation the Town is in is very unfortunate and that ECS funds should go to the Schools.

Tania Sones: 17 Curry Lane – Provided a handout to Board members that provided a comparison of student enrollment numbers by year and highlighted that, while enrollment numbers are the same as in 2014, there are 10 less teachers. (see attached [A] for detail).

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Nancy Kohler: 31 Daniel Street - Stated that she voted "No" because the budget is underfunding critical areas of the budget and after communicating this time and again, she feels that voting is the only way she truly is heard by the Board/Council.

Amy Ordonez: 116 Main Street - Asked that the Board reconsiders the proposal discussed at the July 16th BOF Meeting.

4. Discuss and Possible Recommendation on the 2018-2019 Budget for Town Council – 4th Referendum and other budgetary items.

Chairman Brown began the discussion referencing a "new proposal" that had been submitted to the Board. The proposal, created by Mr. Maniscalco and Mr. Smith was submitted as "a compromise in an effort to see our community come together supporting one another for the betterment of East Hampton."

Proposal: Decreasing the Education Capital requests by \$140,000 and allowing for the 2018-2019 funds (once approved) to be used for costs associated with (2) teachers' salaries and benefits. (see attached [B] for full detail).

Mr. Smith followed clarifying that while he did formulate the "new proposal" with Mr. Maniscalco, it was not supported by the BOE and he, therefore, is asking that they reconsider the "original" proposal from July 16th, rather than this "new" proposal.

Acknowledging Mr. Smith's clarification, Chairman Brown stated that the "new" proposal is still on the table for consideration. He went on to ask Mr. Smith and Mr. Maniscalco to provide the thought process behind the "new" proposal followed by each Board Member being allowed to question Mr. Smith, Mr. Maniscalco and/or Mr. Jylkka on any related information or areas requiring clarification. Question topics included, but were not limited to:

- Status of multi-year BOE related capital projects (asbestos abatement, school safety initiatives and HVAC maintenance)
- The amount of state grant matching that has been received
- The logistics around and impacts of mid-year teacher hires
- Special Education surplus previously mentioned by the Special Education Director
- Why other aspects of the BOE budget are not perceived to be considered before teacher layoffs
- ECS Grant funding
- Paying cash vs. financing large ticket items

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Motions

1. *Ms. Moore made a motion to recommend the July 16th Proposal [appropriate unassigned funds from the 2017-2018 budget to the purchase of School Chromebooks and School Safety Improvements (currently proposed as 2018-2019 Capital Items) allowing for the 2018-2019 funds (once approved) to be used for costs associated with (3) teachers' salaries and benefits] including the associated Mill Rate increase that would result (1.1 increase). Ms. Moore's motion was seconded by Mr. Turner.*

Vote: 2-5 (Brown, Jiantonio, Coshow, McLennan, Peterson). Motion Failed.

2. *Chairman Brown made a motion to recommend the "New Compromise Proposal" [Decreasing the Education Capital requests by \$140,000 and allowing for the 2018-2019 funds (once approved) to be used for costs associated with (2) teachers' salaries and benefits]. Chairman Brown's motion was seconded by Ms. Coshow.*

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

3. *Mr. Turner made a motion to include questions (wording and number of questions needed to be determined) on the 4th Referendum Ballot to address voters feelings on the budget (too high, too low, etc.). Mr. Turner's motion was seconded by Ms. Moore.*

Vote: 7-0. Motion Passed.

4. *Ms. Coshow made a motion to recommend a Town Budget of \$14,946,208 to the Town Council for consideration as the budget voted on at the 4th Referendum.*

Vote: 5-0-2 (Moore & Turner). Motion Passed.

7. Adjournment:

The motion to adjourn made by Ms. Coshow was seconded by Ms. Jiantonio.

Vote: 7-0. Motion Passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:26 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Renee Bafumi
Recording Secretary