

**TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON
FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017**



Town Council Budget Policy Statement

OBJECTIVE

The objective of this budget policy statement is to provide guidance from the Town Council to the Town Manager, Board of Finance, and Board of Education during the creation and implementation of the annual Town of East Hampton Budget.

GENERAL STATEMENT

The Town of East Hampton's annual budget should consider the needs of our community and reflect the taxpayer's ability to pay for those needs.

GUIDELINES

- Include taxpayers in the budget process as early as possible utilizing our Town website, the Citizens Guide to the Budget, local newspapers, Town notices and meetings.
- The budgets presented should reflect the guidelines presented here as well as projected available revenue, anticipated State funding shortfalls and current economic conditions.
- The Town Manager and the Board of Education will present their respective budgets at a Town Forum. Their budgets must include all proposed spending presented in a format that is easily read and understood by our citizens.
- A Tri-Board meeting will be called to discuss this policy statement at the earliest convenience of all.

2016-2017 BUDGET GOALS & FUTURE PLANNING

- The fund balance shall NOT be used to lower the annual mill rate or pay for Town operating expenses.
- Every effort should be made to maintain or where possible reduce staff.
- The Public Works budget should include an appropriate financial commitment and a plan to continue ongoing road improvements.
- The Police Department budget should include a plan (including associated costs) to participate in state or regional programming to combat substance abuse and traffic fatalities
- The Board of Education should maintain current spending levels.
- The Board of Finance and the Capital Committee should update the Town's long-term Capital Plan.
- The Council will:
 - continue to support the Town Manager's labor negotiation efforts to realize efficiencies and savings for taxpayers as well as continued pursuit of state and federal funding opportunities.
 - continue to financially support efforts to protect, preserve, and improve the condition of Lake Pocotopaug and the Lake Watershed.
 - commit to continually replenishing sinking funds.

Approved by Town Council: January 12, 2016