

**TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON
FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018**



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.

PROCEDURE

- Include taxpayers in the budget process as early as possible utilizing our Town website, 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.

2017-2018 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 minimize new personnel for any department this fiscal year.
- The Public Works budget should include a plan to continue ongoing road improvements.
- General Government Budget and the Board of Education should make every effort to only limit budget increases to meet contractual obligations.
- The Capital Committee should update the Town's long-term Capital Improvement Plan to ensure the future financial discipline and funding stability of the Town.
- Conservatively estimate state revenues to be prepared for shortfalls in state funding.
- Funding should be allocated to address ongoing Town facility needs.
- The Council will:
 - continue to support the Town Manager's labor negotiation efforts to realize efficiencies and savings for taxpayers
 - support the implementation of those items from the Lake Pocotopaug 9 Point Plan that will preserve and improve the condition of the lake and its watershed with previously allocated funding
 - ensure social services and programs for seniors are adequately funded
 - provide continued support of public safety services, training and equipment
 - work to identify opportunities to "share" services between and among Town departments and the Board of Education
 - commit to continually replenishing and augmenting our mill rate stabilization fund

Approved by Town Council: 11/8/2016