

**Town of East Hampton
Town Council Regular Meeting
Tuesday, May 9, 2023
Town Hall Council Chambers #107 and Zoom**

MINUTES

Present: Chairman Mark Philhower, Vice Chairman Tim Feegel, Council Members Pete Brown, Brandon Goff, Eric Peterson, Kevin Reich and Alison Walck and Town Manager David Cox

Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Philhower called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers and via Zoom.

Adoption of Agenda

A motion was made by Ms. Walck, seconded by Mr. Reich, to adopt the agenda as presented. Voted (7-0)

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Ms. Walck, seconded by Mr. Reich, to approve the minutes of the Town Council Special Meeting of April 25, 2023 and the Regular Meeting of April 25, 2023 as written. Voted (7-0)

Public Remarks

The Community members listed below which included teachers, students, parents and others provided comments on the proposed 2023-2024 budgets. They were unhappy with the cuts made by the Board of Finance to the Board of Education budget and urged the Town Council to send the budgets back to the Board of Finance for consideration of adding back funding. There were also comments regarding editorial letters in the Rivereast by some Town Council members.

Debra Field, 18 Oak Knoll Road
Matt Engelhardt, 27 Bevin Boulevard
Claire Foulis, 18 Fernwood Drive
Noelle Lavender, 16 Lakeview Street
Jennifer Palma, 3 Wangonk Trail
Enja Barry, 25 Collie Brook Road
Michelle Lemire, 210 Hog Hill
Martha Wick, 17 Maple Street
Brendan Hines, 9 Tarragon Drive
Denise Sawyers, 77 Barton Hill Road
Irene Kuck, 11 South Main Street
Alexis Tammaro, 25 Lake Blvd
Resident, 27 Tarragon Drive (gave time to Craig)
William Faber, 45 School House Lane
Stephanie Heine, 5 Melburn Ave
Jillian Ross, 81 White Birch Road
Donata Barber, 21 Carriage Drive
Lilly Cronin, 24 Abbey Road
Charlotte Cascio, 4 Nutmeg Lane
Grace Cronin, 24 Abbey Road

Danielle, Fernwood Drive
Jordan Werme, 32 Oak Knoll
Julie Foulis, 18 Fernwood Drive
Salem Didato, 3 Steepleview Drive
Peter Pach, 59 Middle Haddam Road
Cristin Flannery, 8 Flannery Row
Brian Corvo, 42 Sunrise Lane
Autumn Church, 9 Berkshire (gave time to Martha)
Rachel Mansfield, 10 Eastham Bridge Road
Daniel Finn, 85 Champion Hill
Sara Perez, 110 Comstock Trail
Craig Frost, 63 White Birch Road
Elaine Pellegrino, 6 Nutmeg Lane
Eric Rosenberg, 15 Bay Road
Adam Ducki, 64 Barton Hill
Katie William (gave time to Jillian)
Bob Hine, 19 Birchwood Road
Alisha Colegrove, 25 White Birch Road
Tiegan Frost, 63 White Birch Road
Cyndi Buchan, 42 William Drive

Lisa Johnson, 39 Skyline Drive
Braden Kramer, 146 Comstock Trail
Dean Markham, 1 Fairlawn Ave
Kelly Snyder, 18 Laurel Glen Drive

Macy Brazal, 8 Colchester Ave
Nicole Carl, 36 Charles Mary Drive
Riley Briggs, 19 Barton Hill

Presentations

None

Bids & Contracts

None

Resolution/ Ordinances/ Policies/ Proclamations

None

Continued Business

Sub-Committee Reports & Updates

Mr. Cox reported that there is information in the Town Manager's Report from the sub-committee.

Mr. Reich reported that the tennis court cracks will be repaired under warranty. There will also be discussions regarding an extension of the warranty to confirm the tennis courts will remain in the expected condition. Mr. Philhower would like Mr. Cox to find out what type of repairs were needed.

Mr. Reich also reported that members of the Middle School Roof Committee met with the administration and the Department of Administrative Services to review the packet that will go out to bid.

Mr. Philhower did a walkthrough of the Middle School for repairs. Mr. Fontanella will review the skylights to see if they will remain or will be removed during the roof replacement. They will also be moving the condensers on the roof during the construction.

Discussion on 2023-2024 General Government & Board of Education Budgets and Capital Plan

Town Council members reviewed the answers to multiple Town and Board of Education budget questions they submitted prior to the meeting. The detailed documents will be included with the minutes filed in the Town Clerk's Office.

Possible Action on 2023-2024 General Government & Board of Education Budgets and Capital Plan

A motion was made by Mr. Goff, seconded by Mr. Feegel, to include the too high/too low questions on the ballot. Voted (7-0)

A motion was made by Mr. Goff, seconded by Mr. Peterson, to approve the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 General Government budget in the amount of \$17,900,137 which includes the following reductions: \$3,277 from Town Hall Building Maintenance, \$1,902 from Collector of Revenue Other Purchased Services, \$20,000 from Transfer Station and \$30,000 from the Lieutenant position. Voted (3-4) Mr. Philhower, Mr. Goff and Mr. Peterson in favor; Mr. Brown, Mr. Reich, Ms. Walck and Mr. Feegel against.

A motion was made by Mr. Goff, seconded by Mr. Peterson, to approve the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Board of Education budget in the amount of \$35,608,655 as presented by the Board of Finance. Voted (4-3) Mr. Philhower, Mr. Goff, Ms. Walck and Mr. Peterson in favor; Mr. Brown, Mr. Reich and Mr. Feegel against.

A motion was made by Mr. Goff, seconded by Mr. Peterson, to approve the motion for a Town Meeting to be called for Tuesday, May 23 at 6:00pm in the Town Hall for the purpose of considering the 2023-2024 Board of Education budget and to immediately be adjourned to a referendum vote on Tuesday, May 30 in accordance with Charter Section 4.1. Voted (4-3) Mr. Philhower, Mr. Goff, Ms. Walck and Mr. Peterson in favor; Mr. Brown, Mr. Reich and Mr. Feegel against.

A motion was made by Mr. Goff, seconded by Mr. Peterson, to approve the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Capital Improvements Plan in the amount of \$809,500 contingent on final determination of ARPA funding. Voted (5-2) Mr. Philhower, Mr. Goff, Mr. Feegel, Ms. Walck and Mr. Peterson in favor; Mr. Brown and Mr. Reich against.

A motion was made by Mr. Peterson, seconded by Ms. Walck, to approve the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 General Government budget in the amount of \$17,995,316 as presented by the Board of Finance. Voted (4-3) Mr. Philhower, Mr. Goff, Mr. Peterson and Ms. Walck in favor; Mr. Brown and Mr. Reich and Mr. Feegel against.

A motion was made by Mr. Goff, seconded by Mr. Peterson, to approve the motion for a Town Meeting to be called for Tuesday, May 23 at 6:00pm in the Town Hall for the purpose of considering the 2023-2024 General Government budget and to immediately be adjourned to a referendum vote on Tuesday, May 30 in accordance with Charter Section 4.1. Voted (4-3) Mr. Philhower, Mr. Goff, Ms. Walck and Mr. Peterson in favor; Mr. Brown, Mr. Reich and Mr. Feegel against.

New Business

Discussion and Possible Action on 2023-2024 Schedule of Fees and Charges

Mr. Cox provided an overview of the proposed changes to the Schedule of Fee and Charges.

A motion was made by Ms. Walck, seconded by Mr. Peterson, to approve the 2023-2024 Schedule of Fees and Charges removing the .26 increase to Building Permit Fees for the State Education Fee. Voted (6-1) Mr. Reich against.

Town Manager's Report

Mr. Cox provided his written report for the Council members which will be included with the minutes filed in the Town Clerk's Office.

Appointments

Conservation-Lake Commission

John Purple of the Conservation-Lake Commission has requested to be moved to an alternate member at this time.

A motion was made by Mr. Goff, seconded by Mr. Reich, to move John Purple from a full member of the Conservation-Lake Commission to an alternate member and to move Jay Hartling from an alternate member of the Conservation-Lake Commission to a full member. Voted (7-0)

CT Yankee Fuel Storage Advisory Committee

A motion was made by Mr. Goff, seconded by Mr. Reich, to appoint Peter Strickland to the CT Yankee Fuel Storage Advisory Committee. Voted (7-0)

Tax Refunds

A motion was made by Ms. Walck, seconded by Mr. Reich, to approve tax refunds in the amount of \$1,348.85. Voted (7-0)

Public Remarks

Kate Werme, 32 Oak Knoll Road, expressed dissatisfaction with certain Council members' actions during the meetings.

Enja Barry, 25 Collie Brook Road, apologized for his outburst and is unhappy with the vote of the Council.

Jennifer Palma, 3 Wangonk Trail, asked questions about the motion process during the meeting.

Brian Corvo, 42 Sunrise Lane, expressed dissatisfaction with Council actions.

Claire Foulis, Fernwood Dr. gave her time to Brian Corvo.

William Faber, 45 School House Lane, is disappointed in the action of the Council.

Sal Nucifora, 147 Colchester Ave, commented on the Board of Education budget shortfall in this year's budget.

Christina Tammamro-Dzagan, 34 South Main St., commented on the work that was done by the Board of Education in preparing the budget.

Tyler Roman, 36 Eastham Bridge Road, commented on inflation and the budget.

Denise Sawyers, 77 Barton Hill, commented that she will make sure the Board of Education and students get what they need.

Daniel Finn, 85 Champion Hill, expressed dissatisfaction with Council actions.

Kitty Roman, 36 Eastham Bridge Road, commented on bullying.

Communications, Correspondence & Announcements

April 2023 Board and Commission Summary

The Council members received the April 2023 Board and Commission Summary.

Correspondence Regarding the Budget

18 emails were received from residents regarding the budget.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Ms. Walck, seconded by Mr. Goff, to adjourn the meeting at 9:47pm. Voted (7-0)

Respectfully Submitted,

Cathy Sirois
Recording Clerk