

**Town of East Hampton  
Town Council Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, June 13, 2023  
Town Hall Council Chambers 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 submitted. 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 Regular Meeting of May 23, 2023 as written. Voted (7-0)

**Public Hearings:**

**2023 CT Neighborhood Assistance Act Applications Received from Epoch Arts and Town of East Hampton**

The CT Neighborhood Assistance Act is a tax credit program designed to provide funding for municipal and tax-exempt organizations by providing a corporation business tax credit for businesses who make cash contributions to these entities.

David Cox, Town Manager, provided an overview of the Town of East Hampton application for lighting improvements at Memorial School in the amount of \$50,000.

Omar Namen, Epoch Arts, provided an overview of the Epoch Arts Application for the replacement of windows with a more energy efficient model in the amount of \$40,000.

There were no other public remarks.

A motion was made by Ms. Walck, seconded by Mr. Reich, to close the Public Hearing. Voted (7-0)

**Public Remarks**

Eric Rosenberg, 15 Bay Road and Chairman of the Commission on Aging, appreciates the Board of Finance recommending funding for the Ambulance. He is hopeful the Town Council can find funds to change the two Senior Center part time positions to one full time position.

**Presentations**

None

## **Bids & Contracts**

None

## **Resolutions/Ordinances/Policies/Proclamations**

### **Resolution Regarding Use of American Rescue Plan (ARPA) Funds for the Capital Improvement Plan**

The proposed resolution identifies the use of \$1,942,100 of ARPA funds for a variety of projects and purchases in the community in the Capital Improvement Plan as shown in Exhibit A of the resolution. The resolution and exhibit will be included with the minutes filed in the Town Clerk's Office.

A motion was made by Mr. Reich, seconded by Mr. Goff, to adopt the resolution to allocate \$1,942,100 from the American Rescue Plan Act funds for the FY2024 Capital Improvement Plan.

Voted (7-0)

### **Resolution Regarding Use of American Rescue Plan (ARPA) Funds for the Ambulance Association**

The proposed resolution is based on a recommendation from the Board of Finance to provide \$280,000 from ARPA funds to the East Hampton Ambulance Association to offset operational expenses related to providing ambulance services in the community.

A motion was made by Mr. Reich, seconded by Mr. Feegel, to adopt the resolution to allocate \$280,000 from the American Rescue Plan Act funds for the Ambulance Association. Voted (7-0)

### **Consideration of a Collection Development Policy and Borrowing Policy for the Public Library's Library of Things**

The Library Advisory Board has recommended policies related to the collection development and circulation of non-traditional library materials. Childrens Librarian Christine Cachuela provided an overview of the Collection Development and Borrowing Policies for the Library of Things.

A motion was made by Mr. Reich, seconded by Mr. Peterson, to approve the Collection Development Policy and Borrowing Policy for the Public Library's Library of Things. Voted (7-0)

## **Continued Business**

### **Sub-Committee Reports & Updates**

Mr. Reich reported that the Middle School Roof project has gone out to bid. Once bids are received on Friday the Committee will review and make a contractor selection.

The bench for Bevin Park will be ready by Old Home Days. The concrete pad has been poured.

The tennis court repair is still being worked on. There will be additional discussion with the Public Works Director and the engineer.

### **FY 2023-2024 General Government & Board of Education Budgets**

#### **Discussion on 2023-2024 General Government & Board of Education Budgets**

The budgets were considered by the Board of Finance at a Special Meeting on June 6. The total recommended budget is \$53,987,781 which includes \$35,858,655 for Education and \$18,129,126 for General Government.

### **Possible Action on 2023-2024 General Government & Board of Education Budgets**

A motion was made by Ms. Walck, seconded by Mr. Peterson, to approve the Fiscal Year 2024 General Government Budget in the amount of \$17,995,316 (original figure). Voted (7-0)

A motion was made by Ms. Walck, seconded by Mr. Feegel, to approve the Fiscal Year 2024 Board of Education budget in the amount of \$35,858,655 (Board of Finance figure). Voted (7-0)

### **Set Town Meeting and Referendum Dates for the 2023-2024 Budgets**

A motion was made by Mr. Reich, seconded by Mr. Feegel, to direct that a Town Meeting be called for Tuesday, June 27, 2023 at 6:15pm in the Town Hall for the purpose of considering the 2023-2024 General Government and Board of Education budgets and to immediately be adjourned to a referendum vote on Tuesday, July 11, 2023 in accordance with Charter Section 4.1. Voted (7-0)

### **Consideration of the FY 2023-2024 Public Water System Operating Budget & Water Rate Recommendation**

Scott Clayton, Public Utilities Administrator, provided an overview of the Water System Operating Budget & Water Rates. The budget will be \$241,730 which is an increase of 1.60% (\$3,806.00) over last year, the water billing rates will be \$40/EMU and the Commodity Charge will be \$12.00/1000 gallons, if approved.

A motion was made by Mr. Reich, seconded by Ms. Walck, to approve the water budget and rates as presented. Voted (7-0)

### **New Business**

#### **Consideration and Action on the 2023 CT Neighborhood Assistance Act Applications from Epoch Arts and Town of East Hampton**

A motion was made by Mr. Peterson, seconded by Mr. Goff to approve the 2023 Neighborhood Assistance Act applications for Epoch Arts and the Town of East Hampton/Memorial School as presented. Voted (7-0)

#### **Consideration and Action on an RFQ for Lake Testing and Reporting**

Parks & Recreation Director Jeremy Hall reviewed the RFQ for the Lake Consultant/Limnologist.

A motion was made by Mr. Reich, seconded by Mr. Feegel, to approve the RFQ for the Lake Consultant/Limnologist. Voted (7-0)

### **Consideration and Action Regarding Police Department Policies/General Orders**

#### **1) General Order 10.4 - Communications**

A motion was made by Ms. Walck, seconded by Mr. Feegel, to approve Police Department General Order 10.4 Communications. Voted (7-0)

### **Consideration and Possible Action on Setting Temporary Mill Rate for personal Property/Real Estate**

Since the Town's budgets have not yet been adopted, the Council needs to set a temporary mill rate.

A motion was made by Mr. Reich, seconded by Ms. Walck, to establish a temporary mill rate of 34.66 until a final budget is approved. Voted (7-0)

### **Town Manager 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**

None

### **Tax Refunds**

A motion was made by Ms. Walck, seconded by Mr. Goff, to approve tax refunds in the amount of \$1,911.28. Voted (7-0).

### **Public Remarks**

Sal Nucifora, Colchester Avenue and Board of Education member, commented on the insurance savings in the education budget and commended the Board of Finance and Town Council on a tough budget year.

Donald Scranton, Ambulance Chief, thanked the Town Council for supporting the Ambulance Association.

### **Communications, Correspondence & Announcements**

#### **May 2023 Board and Commission Summary**

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

#### **CT Siting Council – Battery Energy Storage Project, 44 Skinner Street**

The Council received a letter regarding a battery energy storage project proposed at 44 Skinner Street. The letter will be included with the minutes filed in the Town Clerk's Office.

### **Adjournment**

A motion was made by Mr. Reich, seconded by Mr. Goff, to adjourn the meeting at 7:07pm. Voted (7-0).

Respectfully Submitted,

Cathy Sirois  
Recording Clerk