

Town of East Hampton  
Town Council Special Meeting  
Wednesday, April 1, 2020  
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Chairman Pete Brown, Vice Chairman Dean Markham, Council Members Tim Feegel, Derek Johnson, Barbara Moore, Mark Philhower, and Kevin Reich and Town Manager David Cox.

**Call to Order**

Chairman Brown called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**Adoption of Agenda:**

A motion was made by Ms. Moore, seconded by Mr. Johnson, to adopt the agenda as written. Voted (7-0).

**Public Remarks**

None.

**Consideration & Adoption of Amendment to the Budget Policy Statement**

Mr. Markham provided an overview and read through the proposed amendment to the Budget Policy Statement. The document will be included with the minutes filed in the Town Clerk's Office.

A motion was made by Mr. Markham, seconded by Mr. Reich, to adopt the amendment to the Budget Policy Statement as presented. Voted (5-2). Mr. Philhower and Mr. Feegel against.

Prior to the vote Mr. Philhower commented that he feels there should be no new hires at this time and there should be wage freezes throughout due to possible financial issues due to the pandemic. Mr. Johnson feels the wording in the amendment is appropriate. Mr. Feegel agrees with Mr. Philhower that there should be no tax increases. Mr. Reich commented that the Board of Education and Town staff should be given the opportunity to show what they believe is important for their budget. The Board of Finance and Town Council will review the final budgets. Mr. Markham noted the existing budget policy statement talks about new hires and the Town Manager would evaluate that closely before anything is done. Regarding wage freezes it would be handled on a case by case basis as contracts come up and there is no ability to change existing contracts. Mr. Brown added that all boards have the welfare of the town in mind and feels the proposed amendment covers all that is needed.

**Consideration & Adoption of Resolution Pertaining to a Modified Calendar for the FY2020-2021 General and Capital Fund Budgets Authorized by Executive Orders 2020-7B, 7C and 7I**

Mr. Cox provided an overview of the resolution and the Executive Orders. The resolution and executive orders will be included with the minutes filed in the Town Clerk's Office. The Governor has issued several executive orders that extend the budget action calendar by 30 days and requires that the Town Council adopt a process where the Council adopts the budget and mill rate without town meeting and referendum. The resolution was written as close to the Town's process as possible.

A motion was made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Markham to adopt the Resolution Pertaining to a Modified Calendar for the FY 2020-2021 General and Capital Fund Budgets Authorized by Executive Orders 2020-7B, 7C and 7I as presented. Voted (7-0)

**Adjournment**

Chairman Brown adjourned the meeting at 6:40pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cathy Sirois  
Recording Clerk