

Town of East Hampton  
Tri Board Meeting  
Monday, December 4, 2023  
Town Hall Community Room #108 and via Zoom

**MINUTES**

**Town Council:** Chairman Dean Markham, Vice Chairperson Karen Wanat, Deborah Cunningham, Brandon Goff, Richard Knotek, Jack Solomon and Jordan Werme

**Board of Education:** Chairperson Nancy Kohler, Augie Arndt, Ken Barber, Michael Buck, Edie DeSimone, Matt Engelhardt, Christina Tammaro-Dzagan, and Sal Nucifora

**Board of Finance:** Chairperson Bridget McLennan, Vice Chairperson Alannah Coshaw (via Zoom), Kurt Comisky, Jim Radavich, Anthony Spagnoletti and Ted Turner

**Also present:** Town Manager David Cox, Superintendent of Schools Paul Smith and Board of Education Business Manager Karen Asetta

**Call to order & Pledge of Allegiance**

Chairman Markham called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. in the Town Hall Community Room and via Zoom.

**Town Council Budget Policy Statement**

Chairman Markham welcomed everyone to the meeting, spoke about the preparation of the budget and the Budget Policy Statement. His full comments will be included with the minutes filed in the Town Clerk's Office.

The Budget Policy Statement is posted on the Town website under Town Budget Information/2024-2025 Budget.

**Review and Discussion of Upcoming Fiscal Year (FY 2024-2025) Budget Planning and Issues**

- a. Initial Assumptions and Plans FY 2024-2025
- b. Review of Current Debt and Debt Repayment Schedules

Superintendent of Schools Paul Smith reviewed the current year budget status. He noted they budget for what they know, referring to Special Education students. He discussed new legislation regarding the age limit for special education students.

Town Manager David Cox reviewed the General Fund Expenditures and Revenues, the Fund Balance Projections and the Schedule of Debt Service. The worksheets will be included with the minutes filed in the Town Clerk's Office.

- c. Discussion of Anticipated Major Issues and Considerations for the Upcoming Budget

1) Board of Education Related Matters

Mr. Smith discussed a mandate for a reading program that would be an increase. He does not anticipate an increase in staff members.

2) General Government Related Matters

Police Chief Dennis Woessner reviewed staffing issues, more complex cases with the need for a Detective, recruitment issues, vehicle replacement and technology issues.

Senior Center Director JoAnn Ewing reviewed staffing issues noting the need for a backup van driver and a full-time position to support the Director and to assist with continuity and outreach for seniors.

Director of Public Works Matt Walsh reviewed road and drainage needs for the town.

Mr. Cox discussed Capital projects including roads and buildings along with other needs for the town including Public Safety, Ambulance, Fire Department, staffing/wages, a water system, sustainability and energy, vehicles and revenue.

**Discussion of Council and Board Member Questions, Goals and Considerations for FY2025 and Beyond**

Mr. Cox provided an overview of the budget timeline. There was discussion of a possible joint public hearing with the Board of Finance and Town Council. Mr. Arndt asked about a specific percentage increase in the Budget Policy Statement. Mr. Markham noted he wants to see the real need. Ms. Kohler discussed needs vs. wants. Mr. Werme discussed the need for a professional grant writer.

**Timing of Budget Meetings/Dates of Importance/Capital Committee Meeting**

More information will be provided on budget meeting dates and Capital Committee meetings.

**Public Comments**

Dave Shulman, Ambulance Board Member, invited everyone to the Ambulance Building Open House on Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Sirois  
Recording Clerk