

Town of East Hampton
Tri-Board Workshop
Thursday, February 22, 2024
Town Hall Council Chambers and via Zoom

MINUTES

Town Council: Chairman Dean Markham, Vice Chairperson Karen Wanat, Deborah Cunningham, Tim Feegel, Richard Knotek and Jordan Werme

Board of Education: Chairperson Nancy Kohler, Augie Arndt, Edie DeSimone, Matt Engelhardt and Sal Nucifora

Board of Finance: Chairperson Bridget McLennan, Vice Chairperson Alannah Coshow, Richard Brown, Kurt Comisky, Anthony Spagnoletti

Also present: Town Manager David Cox, Finance Director Jeff Jylkka, 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 5:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers and via Zoom.

Presentation of Draft/Preliminary Board of Education and General Government Budgets

Town Council Chairman Dean Markham welcomed everyone to the meeting noting the efforts being made to make the budget process as transparent as possible with the expansion of the Tri-Board meetings and the formation of Listening Sessions to hear from the public.

Town Manager David Cox spoke about the general government budget. He noted there is a brochure available that outlines the Town budget process. He provided an overview of the draft General Government Budget. The largest increases on the general government side of the budget are in Public Safety and Capital Improvement. Public Safety includes Police, Fire and Ambulance increases and Capital has increases in road improvements.

Superintendent Paul Smith provided an overview of a document of the impact of State funding reductions on the East Hampton budget which will be included with the minutes filed in the Town Clerk's Office. He reviewed the decrease in the Education Cost Sharing funds from the State.

Discussion of Budget Priorities, Goals & Expectations

The members of the boards discussed what can be done to communicate with the legislators to assist in providing the needed funds for the Education Cost Sharing including contacting Norm Needleman and Irene Haines and writing letters other legislators in Hartford.

Public Comments

Eric Rosenberg, 15 Bay Road, Chairman of the Commission on Aging, commented that the Commission on Aging is very interested in the budget process. They are advocating for 2,180

seniors noting it is an anxious and unsettling time for the seniors. JoAnn Ewing is retiring and the seniors want to be sure their needs will be met. He noted the Senior Center is looking for an additional full time staff person.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Sirois
Recording Clerk