Town of East Hampton

 Board of Finance

 Special Meeting

 Monday, March 25, 2013

 East Hampton Middle School Library

 **Approved Minutes**

**Present:** Timothy Csere, Mary Ann Dostaler, Ted Turner, Tom O’Brien, David Monighetti, Patience Anderson and Matthew Walton.

**Other attendee(s):** Jeffery Jylkka, Director of Finance

1. **Chairman Walton called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. followed by an announcement that item #4 on the agenda would discussed at a special meeting on Wednesday, March 27th .**
2. **Pledge of Allegiance followed the announcement of the change in agenda.**
3. **Public Remarks:** 12 members of the public spoke in favor of the Board of Education budget and their support of full day kindergarten.
4. **Discuss and deliberate on the 2013-2014 proposed budget –** Timothy Csere began the discussion by providing trend data and a review of the overall expenses of the town. Mr. Csere stated his opinion that the increase in the BOE expenses is not sustainable and that he would support the 3.7% increase for Town Operations and the 1.28% increase for the BOE Special Contingencies but that the 2.6% for the BOE Basic program would have to be negotiated.

Tom O’Brien asked that the BOE to find other areas in the budget to cut in order to contain costs.

Ted Turner spoke in favor of updating the technology.

Mary Ann Dostaler stated that it would be responsible for the board to push the budget forward so that it could be put to the voters to decide and she felt that the 1.16 mill increase was not excessive. She suggested adjustments in the budget in the coming year may be required to ensure adequate funding for Building Administration and Fire Marshall services. Mrs. Dostaler deferred to the Town Managers budget and requested that the Middle Haddam Library be moved from its own department to donations.

Patience Anderson stated that we need to boost the Capital Budget as an investment vehicle to plan for the future.

 Dave Monighetti would support the $400,000 for new staff and stated that

 the money coming in comes from the state and property taxes as opposed

 other towns who have commercial and industrial help.

 Matthew Walton said that the town cannot sustain the direction we’re going and that 71% of every dollar goes to education. He stated that he felt it was up to the BOE and the public to decide what cuts to make.

 Mary Ann Dostaler asked the Board to vote on moving the Middle Haddam

 Library from its own line item in the budget to donations. The board agreed

 to make no change to the current budget and develop a policy for donations and grants going

 forward.

1. **Discuss and take possible action on the budget content for the April 1, 2013 public hearing:**

Jeff Jylkka presented the non- interactive version by the Town Manager and the board agreed to the budget content in that version.

**Timothy Csere motioned to approve the budget content of the 3/19/2013 version. Motion was seconded by Patience Anderson.**

**Motion passed: 7-Yes, 0-No**

1. **Public Remarks:** Members of the public spoke again in support of the BOE budget and a discussion followed regarding what % increase the board of finance would deem acceptable.
2. **Adjournment: Timothy Csere motioned to adjourn at 8:43 p.m., seconded by Tom O’Brien. Motion approved: 7-Yes; 0-No**

Respectfully Submitted,

 Christine Castonguay

 Recording Secretary