BOARD OF FINANCE

Special Budget Meeting –Public Hearing

Monday, April 1, 2013

East Hampton High 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 M. Jylkka, Director of Finance, Michael Maniscalco, Town Manager

**1-2. Chairman Walton called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.**

**3. 2013-2014 Budget Presentation –** The Town Manager reviewed the town budget and explained the budget process.

**4. Public Remarks on the 2013-2014 Budget –**

James Royster, President of the Middle Haddam Library requested that the board consider

increasing the 2% that the library is currently receiving from the Town Budget in order to maintain the cultural and recreational activities of the library.

5 members of the community spoke in favor of the High School Renovation project and full time kindergarten.

**5. Discuss 2013-2014 Budget –**

Timothy Csere compared the Town Operations and the Board of Education trends since 2005 which showed a 42% increase in the Board of Education. He added that enrollment has decreased and that the education expectations have increased and that in his opinion, the Board of Education Budget is too high and that cuts need to be made.

Ted Turner felt that the lights for the athletic field should be paid over 1-2 years and be taken out of another fund. He went on to speak in favor of upgrading the technology and hiring 1 more kindergarten teacher but stated that the taxpayers could not afford an increase in taxes and that the Board of Education needs to make cuts in their budget.

Mary Ann Dostaler voiced her support for both budgets as presented and stated in her opinion the mill rate increase of 1.16% would be affordable for the taxpayers. She stated that she would like to see the Budgets put forth to the voters.

Patience Anderson suggested putting money in the Capital Budget to help defray the financial impact of larger projects and reducing the Board of Education Budget to 4%.

David Monighetti spoke in favor of the Town and Board of Education Budgets and asked that they put the budget forth to give the public the opportunity to decide.

Tom O’Brien stated his concern for the ability of the taxpayers to sustain a tax increase and asked that the Board of Education reduce the percentage to 4%.

Matthew Walton felt that the Board of Education’s budget increase is going in the wrong direction and that the Town cannot sustain the trend.

A discussion followed in response to Mary Ann Dostaler’s request for clarification from the board as to what the board members would like to see cut from the Board of Education budget and what the exact numbers would be if the percentage were reduced.

**6. Public Remarks on the 2013-2014 Budget –** Members of the public spoke in favor of passing the Board of Education Budget and giving the public the opportunity to vote on it.

**7. Adjournment: Patience Anderson motioned to adjourn at 9 p.m., seconded by Matthew Walton. Motion passed: 7-Yes; 0-No**

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Castonguay

Recording Secretary