Town of East Hampton

Board of Finance

Special Meeting

Thursday, June 5, 2014

Town Hall Meeting Room

**Approved Minutes**

**Present**: Ted Turner, Dean Markham, Don Coolican, Mary Ann Dostaler

**Not Present**: Alan Hurst, David Monighetti, Lori Wilcox (forwarded her recommendations via email)

**Other attendee(s):** Jeffery M. Jylkka, Director of Finance and Michael Maniscalco, Town Manager

Chairman Turner called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Public Remarks:**

Ken Barber, Daly Rd, would not like to see a decade of the town prospering being dismantled with this budget. He does not want to see entire education programs and services being lost. He feels that people paid for us to prosper and we should pay it forward.

Police Chief Sean Cox stated he was not here to beg for the Captain position. He reiterated the need for the position and for improvements to the Police Department offices and asked that if cut, the board has the courage to say it is just not going to be funded rather than it is not needed.

Jamie Krasnitski, Abbey Rd, has been paying taxes in town for 10 years and it is now her turn to have children in the school system. She reiterated the comments of Mr. Barber (above). She is looking forward to her children being in full-day Kindergarten and East Hampton providing her children with the necessary opportunities to succeed.

A concerned Mother, Daniel St, has lived in East Hampton for 19 years. She has 2 children: 1 graduating from EHHS and one entering EHHS in the fall. She sees that many of her son’s classmates are opting to go to schools outside of East Hampton rather than EHHS. She has even considered moving out of town for her son’s welfare. She is hoping to hear something encouraging in regard to the budget in order to want to stay in East Hampton.

Amy Ordonez, Main St, has concerns with the Education Budget. She voted yes to the first budget and sees the Town’s potential. She moved back to East Hampton to raise her children but has an obligation to them to provide them with the right opportunities to flourish. She asks for a reasonable decision on budget.

A frustrated Educator and Mother moved to East Hampton 2 years ago from the West Coast to raise her children and can’t believe her child may be denied the right to full-day Kindergarten. Her daughter received acceptance into a magnet school in Hartford and she is considering the commute at this point.

Kim Kiernan, Childs Rd, Has four children, two in the EH school system and two that will be soon in the school system. She sees the changing demands being enforced by Common Core and can’t imagine success with less teachers and paraprofessionals, bigger classes and some children only beginning their education with ½ day Kindergarten.

Stacey Gibson, Hyde Farms Terrace is a teacher in East Hampton and the mother of two children in the EH school system. She was on the Kindergarten committee and asked that no additional cuts be made to the education budget.

Dana Vick, Viola Dr, has lived in East Hampton for 16 years and has two children in the EH school system. She expressed concern of what children would do if extra-curricular activities were cut. She feels extra-curricular activities guide children to be responsible.

Josh Williams, N. Maple St, has lived in East Hampton for 12 years. He thanked the Board for volunteering their time and acknowledged the challenges the positions hold. He commented on the importance of education to the community and that more families moving to town for the schools results in more business and benefits the town. Conversely, families leaving and/or not utilizing town business will put a drain on the community. He expects that as the town grows, education should as well.

Michael Maniscalco, Town Manager, thanked everyone for attending and speaking out. Mr. Maniscalco reminded everyone that aside from the 3.06% BOE increase that is on the table there are both essential and non-essential town services that could be impacted through further cuts. At this point, further cuts could impact not only library options/hours, etc., youth & family services, parks & recreation services (inclu. summer camps), but also, public works. He then asked each person to talk to their neighbors and emphasize the seriousness of the vote.

Bill Marshall, 6 Fairlawn Ave and BOE member wanted to stress, one more time, for the record, the importance of the education budget, specifically staffing the technology needs. The technological demands of education today are only increasing and requiring more support. Additional cuts will only make East Hampton schools less and less competitive.

Cheryl Tyler, Sears Pl, utilizes the EH Sr. Center services and has attended multiple presentations by the Town Manager and Police Chief. Her concern and confusion is the constant back and forth on Police needs. She finds it very disconcerting that there is suddenly such a need for a Captain position too.

Ted Turner, BOF Chairman, thanked all attendees for the large turnout and stressed the importance of their input. He encouraged everyone to continue to attend meetings and reminded them that not everything in the papers is correct and that hearing it directly is the best way to stay informed.

**Discuss and Approve 2014-2015 Budget (3rd Referendum) for Town Council**

As the second budget was voted down at the referendum, with nearly similar number for and against (1,140 “no” votes & 839 “yes” votes) a revised budget needs to be formulated. Board members discussed the Police Captain’s position, funding for Middle Haddam Library, Education, Sears Park renovations and other possibilities.

With agreement from all present board members that a reduction in the Middle Haddam Library Grant, cutting the Sears Park boat launch and playscape renovations and cutting the Sr. Center part-time opening was necessary, much discussion and disagreement was had about the Police Captain position and the Education budget.

While some Board members felt that without additional cuts to BOE the budget will fail again, others felt it was crucial to the prosperity of the town/community. And while some members did not feel that the Captain’s position was essential others saw it as such and not a large drain on budget given it is not to be a long-term position.

A motion was made by Don Coolican and seconded by Mary Ann Dostaler, to reduce the budget by a total of $174,356 resulting from:

* Eliminating the Police Captain opening (salary and benefits = $60,356)
* Eliminating the Senior Center part-time opening ($13,000)
* Reducing the Middle Haddam Library grant ($10,000)
* Cutting the Sears Park Boat Launch renovation ($75,000)
* Cutting the Sears Park Playscape renovation ($16,000)
* Reducing the BOE budget ($107,700)
* Reinstating $$ into Capital Fund [mainly school building related improvements] (+$107,700)
* *Proposed mill rate 27.22 a 2.22% increase*

Voted (3-1) Ted Turner opposed.

**Adjournment**

A motion was made by Dean Markham, seconded by Don Coolican, to adjourn at 7:40 p.m. Vote was unanimous in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Renee Bafumi

BOF Recording Secretary