**Approved Minutes**

**Present**: Ted Turner, Dean Markham, Marc Lambert, Alan Hurst, Lori Wilcox, Mary Ann Dostaler and David Monighetti (Mr. Monighetti arrived at 6:48 during discussion of item 4).

**Other attendee(s):** Jeffery Jylkka: Director of Finance, Diane Dugas: Superintendent of Schools, and Michael Maniscalco, Town Manager

**1-2. Chairman Turner called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.**

**3. Approval of Minutes:**

1. **Regular Meeting 3-16-2015**
2. **Budget Workshop 3-17-2015**
3. **Budget Workshop 3-19-2015**
4. **Budget Workshop 3-20-2015**

Mr. Hurst made a motion to approve the minutes as presented for the above listed Meetings. The motion was seconded by Ms. Dostaler.

**Vote: 6-0. Motion passed.**

1. **Budget Workshop 3-21-2015**

Mr. Markham made a motion to approve the minutes as presented for the above listed Meetings. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lambert.

**Vote: 5-0-1 (Mr. Hurst Abstained) Motion passed.**

**4. 2015-2016 Budget Presentation**

Chairman Turner welcomed everyone and stated that after brief recaps of the Town and Board of Education (BOE) budget proposal presentations (full presentations were made at the March 16th BOF meeting), it will be time for public comment. He hoped that with the presence of the Superintendent, Town Manager and Department Heads (Public Works

Director, Park and Rec Director and Chief of Police), the public remarks process could take the form of questions and answers and not just simply comments.

Ms. Dugas provided a brief recap of the proposed BOE budget of $29,222,785 (an increase of 3.39% or $957,688). A 9-page document was used to support the discussion. Bill Marshall, Chairman of the BOE Finance Sub-Committee, spoke briefly after Ms. Dugas to emphasize that the BOE (9 elected representatives) not the Superintendent created this proposed budget and for the first time in many years the BOE budget being presented was based on a unanimous vote by the BOE.

Mr. Maniscalco followed with a brief recap of the proposed Town budget of $42,289,329 (Mill Rate increase of 1.77 resulting in a Mill Rate of 28.91). While the same 17-page document (presented on March 16, 2015) was used to support the discussion, information was summarized rather than line by line detail.

**5.**  **Public Remarks on the 2015-2016 Budget:**

To begin the Public Remarks portion of the meeting, Chairman Turner acknowledged that the Town Manager received 15 emails (all in support of the budgets as presented) that will be made part of these minutes. The senders included:

1. Jennifer Marozzi – 29 Edgerton St.
2. Michelle Buccheri – 74C Clark Hill Rd.
3. Kathleen Koziel – 52 Smith St.
4. Lynn Szkoda – 52 North Maple St.
5. Kelly Snyder – 18 Laurel Glen Dr.
6. Nancy Nafis – 16 Daly Rd.
7. Peter & Carla Correia – 23 Tarragon Dr.
8. Stacie Ruggiero – 23 Charles Mary Dr.
9. Sherrie Muncy – 38 Mott Hill Rd.
10. Sarah Aresco – 21 White Birch Rd.
11. Sylvia DeMore – 3 Fern Ln.
12. Jennifer Pettine – 48 Emily Ln.
13. Konstantina Nanos – 11 Seven Hills Crossing
14. Cristin Flannery – Flannery Row (? – address not provided)
15. Kristen Lynch – 31 Charles Mary Dr.

Ms. Dostaler also shared 4 additional emails that she personally received as a member of the Board of Finance. The email text, that will be made part of these minutes, was sent from:

1. Dana Vick – 30 Viola Dr.
2. Eliza & Adam LoPresti – 203 Hog Hill Rd.
3. Mary Silverman – 34 Old Middletown Ave.
4. Mark & Nancy Kohler – 31 Daniel St.

Following the acknowledgement of emails received, Chairman Turner opened the floor up for Public Remarks:

**Susan Fielding – 11 Lake Dr.:** As an invested member in the town and Grandmother of East Hampton students, she wanted to implore “older” residents that they CAN afford this budget and that the Board should vote for this budget to go to the Council. Ms. Fielding also stated that “we all need to step up to the plate” and afford a modest increase in takes in order to invest in East Hampton.

**William DiNunzio – 40 Spice Hill Dr.:** Mr. Dinunzio urged the Board to put forth the budgets as presented. In his 11 years as a resident, he has seen budgets created based on “what will pass”. He is interested in seeing East Hampton progress and stated “a little bit of pain for a lot of progress” (citing the HS renovation project) is worth it. He is willing to make the sacrifice of giving up one night at the movies or one dinner out with his family a month or even a few less cups of coffee from Dunkin Donuts a month in order to see progress. Mr. Dinunzio then posed a question to the Chief of Police around the current “Officer in Charge” practice when a Sergeant is not scheduled for a shift and if there is additional training the Sergeants have (including supervisory training) that the “Officer in Charge” on a shift may not have had. Chief Cox confirmed that there is additional supervisory training as well as notarization of documents that Sr. Patrolmen may not have. This provides increased liability on the force. This is why the proposed budget is asking for an additional Sergeant (4 instead of the current 3).

**Joanne Barmasse – 6 Tiffany Ct.:** Ms. Barmasse posed a question to Ms. Dugas in regard to technology improvements included in this budget. Ms. Dugas responded by outlining the restructuring of the technology department which included adding a security position, and changing the data analyst job description as well as the library media technologist job description (but, still 1 person shared between Memorial and Center school). She also stated that while the technology line item was maintained at $75,000, a request for a matching state grant has been submitted in order to address replacement of

hardware and infrastructure. Ms. Barmasse then asked about any changes in Special Education funding. Ms. Dugas informed her that Special Ed funding is stable right now.

**Sue Greeno – 1 Stonegate Rd.:** As a member on the Commission on Aging, she came to represent the “grey haired residents” and stated that she IS in favor of the education budget. She went on to address the “life-long learning” focus of the Commission on Aging and asked that the Board to support the Health and Human Services line item in the budget. She also asked that the Sr. Center budget be approved as submitted.

**Stuart Winquist – 11 S. Main St.:** Asked that everyone support the budgets as presented.

**Tom Cordeiro – 32 Hog Hill Rd.:** Mr. Cordeiro began his statement by noting that as a graduate of East Hampton High School Class of 1986, he attended the same school as Chairman Turner (EHHS Class of 1964 – first graduating class of the school). He went on to state that he is in support of the “status quo” budgets being presented and is excited to see with the High School Renovation Project that one of his 3 children might get the chance to attend a school other than the one he did close to 30 years ago ( and Mr. Turner did over 50 years ago).

**Tonia Sones – 17 Curry Ln.:** Please support the conservative, fully transparent budget being proposed. Making any cuts will feed into the cycle of our children going elsewhere for their education. She also asked that the Town Manager’s proposed budget be supported, citing specifically the police budget as a must have. Finally, Ms. Sones addressed the 1.77 Mill increase and Chairman Turner’s 1.40 target mentioned at the March 23, 2015 BOF meeting. She showed that the difference between a 1.77 and 1.40 Mill increase is $5.53/wk vs. $4.48/wk respectfully (for a house assessed at $150,000). Please let the voters decide. It will be the resident’s responsibility to vote on May 5th, 2015.

**Laureen Coppolelli – 6 Michael Dr.:** Just moved into town a year ago and has a child starting Kindergarten in the fall. She asked that the proposed budgets be approved.

**Allison Mohler – 8 N. Maple St.:** As a resident without children but a High School Teacher, she wanted to speak on behalf of a different demographic and say that she does support the budgets as proposed.

**Bill Marshall – 6 Fairlawn Ave.:** Mr. Marshall acknowledged the underlying theme of the public remarks being the kind of community we want to have. While the BOF listens and presents a thoughtful budget the Town Council often cuts the budget more. He encouraged that the public attend and speak out at the Town Council meetings too to insure the public is heard (since some Town Council members do not attend the BOF meetings).

Chairman Turner closed the Public Remarks portion of the meeting by reminding the audience that the Citizen’s Guide to the Budget is available on the Town Website as well as at various municipal locations around town. He also provided dates of upcoming meetings (BOF on 4/1 and Town Council on 4/2, 4/7 and 4/14).

**6. Discuss, Deliberate and take possible action on the 2015-2016 Budget**

Mr. Markham opened the discussion by reading a written proposal (made part of these minutes) put forward on his behalf along with Mr. Hurst and Chairman Turner to establish a $750,000 “Technology Infrastructure Initiative” for the Elementary and Middle Schools. This “game changer” as he put it, would be paid for by a lease/purchase proposal and would take a comprehensive plan that the BOE, BOF and Town Council must agree to. With some additional adjustments being suggested, this proposal would enable the Mill Rate increase to be reduced from 1.77 Mills to .94 Mills.

With the information to support this proposal just being received by the other Board Members, they were unable to comment but did have comments on the original proposed budgets.

Mr. Lambert stated that through his review the increase being proposed by the BOE is strictly contract mandated and he does not see how anything can be cut. He does, however, have some things in the Town budget he would like to discuss further.

Following suit, Ms. Dostaler emphasized that in a presentation by the Finance Director, there is no correlation between FTEs and overtime (Police OT line item) and that that needs to be discussed further and Ms. Wilcox addressed changes being proposed to the Lake related line items but through further discussion discovered that related funds were being moved (from capital to operations) rather than being cut or eliminated. Chairman Turner expressed interest in gaining more information around specific plans/programs on Lake Improvements.

Ms. Dostaler expressed interest in proposed changes to the Capital Plan. She also, however, expressed concern that such changes could sabotage the budget as it moves to the Town Council since these options were never discussed at Capital Committee meetings. She went on to suggest that any significant changes to the Capital Plan be accompanied by a rationale document in order to insure there is no confusion.

Mr. Lambert reemphasized the responsibility of the Board to push forward a budget that “makes sense”, not a budget that they perceive (based on history) will be approved by Council.

Mr. Monighetti acknowledged that while discussion shifted to the Capital Plan, he wanted to express his concern with the $200,000 reduction being proposed ( in Mr. Markham’s proposal) to the education budget. He stated that a comprehensive budget with good explanation was presented and he will not support this reduction. He also reemphasized that the budget needs to be service driven not Mill Rate driven.

1. **Public Remarks:**

**Tonia Sones – 17 Curry Ln.:** Ms. Sones asked if Mr. Markham’s proposal would be available for public review. Chairman Turner, with the assistance of Mr. Maniscalco confirmed that the proposal would be posted in the morning on the town website for public review.

Chairman Turner emphasized the importance of the April 1 BOF meeting stating “the book is still open” on the budget, it has been a “tough process” and proves to continue to be. “Public opinion still counts”. “Please continue to participate”.

1. **Adjournment:**

Mr. Hurst made a motion to adjourn at 8:13 p.m., seconded by Mr. Lambert. **Vote was unanimous in favor. Motion Passed.**

Respectfully submitted,

Renee Bafumi

Recording Secretary