**Approved Minutes**

**Present**: Ted Turner, Dean Markham, Marc Lambert, Alan Hurst, Lori Wilcox, Mary Ann Dostaler and David Monighetti

**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.**  **Public Remarks:**

**Bill Marshall – 6 Fairlawn Ave.:** Mr. Marshall asked the Board to please recommend the budgets to the Council as presented by the Town Manager and the Board of Education (BOE). He went on to state that he was concerned with the Town Council scheduling a special meeting on April 2 (Holy Thursday) and that it could be perceived as the Council trying to make a decision on the budget on a night where public presence could be minimal. He suggested to the Town Council members in the audience to consider rescheduling the April 2 meeting.

**Kyle Dostaler – 56 William Dr.:** Reading from a prepared, written statement that was submitted and made part of these minutes, Mr. Dostaler expressed concern with the sudden shift by the Democratic Board members to stray from the open and willing transparency the BOF has portrayed throughout budget discussions to date and to begin acting in ways that are secretive, dictating, circumventing other Boards priorities and in violation of their own adopted policies. Mr. Dostaler did not dispute that the technology initiative is needed and wanted, but feels that it was improperly planned, is poorly timed and lacks the necessary detail and narrative to be considered this late in the budget process. Finally, he asked that this technology initiative be tabled from this budget to allow for proper discussion and planning and the budget go to the Town Council as proposed by the BOE and Town Manager.

**Barbara Moore – 7 Overlook Dr.:** As Town Council Chair, Ms. Moore addressed the comment made by Mr. Marshall about the April 2 Town Council Meeting. She stated that the April 2nd meeting was added in order to provide more opportunity for public

involvement not less. She went on to state that there would be 3 opportunities for the public to come, listen and provide comment: April 2, 7 and 14th with the current plan being that the Council will adopt a budget at the April 14th meeting.

**Tom Cordeiro – 32 Hog Hill Rd.:** Mr. Cordeiroimplored the Board to move forward the Budget as presented and to let the people of East Hampton vote on the budget as is.

**Tonia Sones – 17 Curry Ln.:** Ms. Sones concurred with Mr. Cordeiro asking the Board to let the citizens of East Hampton vote on the budget as presented by the Town Manager and BOE.She also asked that the Board let Superintendent Dugas and the BOE do their job and empower them rather than impose initiatives on them.

**Ken Barber – 39 Daly Rd.:** Reading from a prepared, written statement that was submitted and made part of these minutes, Mr. Barber thanked the BOF for its review and understanding of the BOE budget and for their recognition of the issues caused by a lack of technology infrastructure. He applauded the Board for their courage to present such a “game changing” solution and while unorthodox in its development, stated the vision is commendable. He closed by saying that the BOE is enthusiastic to work with the Board and the Town Council to see this initiative through and will have a proposed plan in the very near future.

**Karen & David Terry - 37 Daniel St.:** Providing a written statement, read by Ms. Dostaler in their absence, Mr. and Mrs. Terry stated that they do not support the $200,000 cut to the BOE budget being proposed as part of the Technology Initiative and that while needed, technology improvements are not the only issues facing the school district. While the new proposal in intriguing and worth further exploration, that should be done at a future date with all impacted parties involved and all issues being discussed. They closed by stating that slow erosion to our town facilities and school system because of a lack of will to make the necessary choices to fund both adequately has to stop.

The Board also acknowledged a significant number of emails received (and made part of these minutes), all in favor of the budgets as originally presented. Submitters included:

1. Marissa Taylor – 2 East Hayes Rd.
2. Marcy Flemke – 15 Terp Rd.
3. Joelyn Leon – 10 Curry Ln.
4. Anthony Buccheri – 74 Clark Hill Rd.
5. Michele Buccheri – 74 Clark Hill Rd.
6. David Curylo – 4 Blue Heron Dr.
7. Laureen Coppolell – 6 Michael Dr.
8. Julie Johnson – 3 Saffron Ln.
9. Allison Mohler – 8 N. Maple St.
10. Meghan Gagne – 25 S. Main St.
11. Jen Pettine – 48 Emily Ln.
12. Sherrie Muncy – 38 Mott Hill Rd.
13. Sarah Aresco – 21 White Birch Rd.
14. Steve Jones – 3 Jacobson Farm Rd.
15. Kasha Morris – 28 White Birch Rd.
16. Audrey Stein – 124 Main St.
17. Mark & Nancy Kohler – 31 Daniel St.
18. Kathy Perkins – 36 Emily Ln.
19. Sylvia DeMore – 3 Fern Ln.
20. Lynn Szkoda – 52 North Maple St.

Ms. Dostaler closed the Public Remarks portion of the meeting by making the observation that with this being her 4th budget cycle as a member of the BOF it is the only budget where there has not been anything but full endorsement by the public of the budgets as presented.

**4. Approval of Minutes:**

1. **March 23, 2015 – Special Meeting**

Mr. Monighetti made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 23 Special Meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Markham. **Vote was unanimous in favor. Motion Passed.**

1. **Discuss and possible recommendation on the 2015-2016 Budget for Town Council**

***Mr. Markham began the discussion by making a motion (to be followed with an amendment) to accept the Town Managers proposed budget of $42,289,329 for General Operations and $2,395,000 for Capital Bonding. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hurst. No Vote after discussion.***

Mr. Markham followed the first motion with the submission of an amendment (provisions distributed) related to his proposed changes at the March 30th meeting. He stated that after further discussion some changes were made to the March 30th proposal resulting in a revised budget proposal of $41,606,395 (General Operations and BOE). Changes being suggested included, but were not limited to, a reductions in Police Overtime, regulatory funds (miscalculated dues), vehicle repairs (fire dept.) and Fire Department awards and Road Repairs, increasing Contingency and moving Conversation & Lake funding out of Capital and into General Operations. This proposal, he acknowledged, reinstates the $200,000 that he was proposing on March 30th be cut from BOE Budget. ***Mr. Markham made a motion to accept the amended budget proposal of $41,606,395 for General Operations, $3,449,270 for Capital Bonding and the $750,000 financing technology initiative. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hurst. No Vote after discussion.***

Mr. Hurst stated that, contrary to public comment, all of these reductions have in fact been discussed in public sessions throughout the budget cycle. He also explained his perspective and support of the amendments.

Mr. Lambert verified some public works, police OT and fire related calculations with input from Mr. Jylkka and Chief Cox. He then stated that while he wants to support the $750,000 technology proposal, he is struggling because he has received no information.

Chairman Turner shared his perspective that since the traditional process of departments submitting a 5-year plan tends to result in being cut before they can truly make progress, he feels starting with a dollar amount and then figuring out how to spend it might work instead.

Chairman Turner then asked Ms. Dugas if she would like to comment. Ms. Dugas stated that the timing is perfect given the planning behind the High School Renovation Project and distributed a 1-page proposal of what would be needed at Memorial and the Middle School (and Center providing the ability to transfer with teachers and students if and when necessary). After describing the proposal in some more detail, Ms. Dugas stated that while full technology improvement planning for all 4 schools has been estimated to be 1.5 million, this “gift” of $750,000 catapults things further than anticipated in a short amount of time.

Ms. Dostaler initiated a discussion around the public works lease line item vs. cash option and proper portrayal in the Budget. After discussion that included commentary by Mr. Jylkka and Mr. Maniscalco as well as Board members, it was agreed that rationale around this line item is required to accompany the budget as it moves to the Council. She then moved to the lack of previous discussion around the $750,000 technology proposal. And echoing Mr. Lambert, while a huge

proponent of the concept, she feels execution will prove to be problematic because the “cart is being put before the horse”. She fears that this will set a precedent on how “big ticket items” are put on the Capital Plan and does not like the idea of securing funding before a comprehensive plan is in place.

Ms. Dostaler then shifted gears to initiate a lengthy discussion around the proposed cuts to the Road Repair budget by stating her disagreement with this “arbitrary” cut in order to meet a certain Mill Rate. The perspective of multiple Board Members questioning the amount requested and having varying views resulted in the allowance of Mr. Sissick to comment and provide historical data and detail (ex: East Hampton has 95 miles of road or 200 lane miles) that clarified their questions.

Discussion continued with the non-democrat Board members reiterating the poor timing and the inappropriate, out of turn, development and delivery of a much needed and wanted initiative. This included acknowledgement that when the budget process began, departments were instructed to be conservative and, therefore, in no way were provided any guidance that they could be creative and propose any “game changing” initiatives. There was also a common theme of doing as the public has asked and recommending the budget as originally proposed.

The Democratic Board members continued to support the new proposal as well as its design and delivery and feel the BOF and Town Council “molds” need to be broken.

Based on earlier openness of all members of the Board to discuss the Road Repair Budget, ***Ms.* *Dostaler made a motion to amend the current motion by reinstating the $225, 000 reduction to Road Repairs which would bring it back to the originally proposed $500,000. The motion was seconded by Ms. Wilcox. Vote: 3-4. Motion did not pass.***

***Mr. Lambert then made a motion to amend the current motion by adjusting the reduction to Road Repairs from $225,000 to $125,000 which would bring the line item to $375,000. The motion was seconded by Ms. Dostaler. Vote: 7-0. Motion Passed.***

After agreement by the Board that the $750,000 remain for this vote but be discussed further if the budget doesn’t pass on May 5th. ***Mr. Markham made a motion to accept and recommend to the Town Council the amended amendment Budget of $41,706,395 for General Operations, $3,449,270 for Capital Bonding and the $750,000 financing technology initiative (Tentative Mill Rate increase of 1.25). The motion was seconded by Mr. Hurst. Vote 7-0. Motion Passed. Budget to move to Town Council.***

**Adjournment:**

Mr. Hurst made a motion to adjourn at 8:12 p.m., seconded by Mr. Lambert. **Vote was unanimous in favor. Motion Passed.**

Respectfully submitted,

Renee Bafumi

Recording Secretary