**Approved Minutes**

**Present**: Allison Tokarz, Alannah Coshow, Marc Lambert, Steve Ritchie, Alan Hurst and Dean Markham

**Not Present:** Janine Jiantonio

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

**1-2. Chairwoman Tokarz called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.**

**3. Public Remarks on the 2016-2017 Budget:**

**1. Donna Neal – 51 Chestnut Hill Rd.:** As a 30-year resident and a teacher too, expressed that increased class sizes (that could be a result of a budget decrease) really do impact the quality and quantity of teaching.

Chairwoman Tokarz also acknowledged 7 emails received in support of reinstating the 1.9% BoE Budget. Submitters included:

1. Alka Arcai - 32 Whispering Woods Rd.

2. Peter & Carla Correia – 23 Tarragon Dr.

3. Victoria Muggleston – 18 Haddam Neck Rd.

4. Laureen Coppolelli – 6 Michael Dr.

5. Nancy Kohler – 31 Daniel St.

6. Dana Vick – 30 Viola Dr.

7. Marissa Mills-Burt – 45A Smith St.

**4. Discuss and possible recommendation on the 2016-2017 Budget for Town Council**

Discussion began with Mr. Lambert sharing a detailed handout of proposed changes to the budget as recommended by the Town Manager. He went on to describe the proposed changes which included:

* **+ $500,000** to Board of Education (1.72% increase over last fiscal year)
* - **$18,288** from Town Operations
* - **$11,700** from Public Safety
* - **$3,107** from Regulatory
* - **$310,000** from Capital Improvements-Transfers to Other Funds
* **+ $62,000** to Debt Service (financing both Plow Trucks)

*After explanation of his proposed changes, Mr. Lambert made a motion to amend the Town Manager’s proposed budget in accordance with the discussed changes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ritchie.*

The motion was followed by discussion that included an understanding of Private Road

Regulations, Mill Rate Stabilization, Safety Regulations (as a result of Sandy Hook) and Fire Truck financing rather than cash purchase (i.e. replenishing the Mill Rate Stabilization in order to use $650,000 rather than $400,000 to offset this budget’s mill rate increase).

*After discussion, Mr. Markham made a motion to amend Mr. Lambert’s motion to also include lease financing of the fire truck which would result in an additional $250,000 (total of $650,000) to offset the mill-rate but add $84,000 (in the form of a lease payment on the fire truck) to debt. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hurst.*

**Vote: 5-1 (Ms. Coshow). Motion Passed.**

Discussion then moved to the new line item in the 2016-2017 Budget, Paramedic Services in the amount of $13,000.

*Upon a motion by Mr. Markham, seconded by Mr. Hurst to amend Mr. Lambert’s motion to include removal of the $13,000 paramedic/emergency services line item from the 2016-2017 Budget, discussion ensued*.

Mr. Maniscalco explained that Middlesex Hospital will be billing the town $13,000 that if not paid, will result in an extravagant per-call fee or no paramedic assistance on ambulance calls in East Hampton (i.e. just emergency transportation with no emergency care). He followed by urging the Board not to remove this item from the budget. Mr. Lambert agreed with Mr. Maniscalco that it should not be removed.

*After discussion, Chairwoman Tokarz called for a vote on the current amendment motion on the table (….to include removal of the $13,000 paramedic/emergency*

*services line item from the 2016-2017 Budget.)*. **Vote: 1-5 (Mr. Markham). Motion Failed.**

*Ms. Coshow followed with a motion to amend Mr. Lambert’s motion to include a reduction of $2,450 from the Registrar’s Budget. The motion was seconded by Mr. Markham.* **Vote: 6-0. Motion Passed.**

A brief discussion was had about Park and Rec mower replacement with no motion to follow after some clarification.

Mr. Markham acknowledged the reasonable effort made by the Board to reinstate funds to the BoE budget although not the full amount requested.

*Finally, upon a motion by Mr. Ritchie, seconded by Ms. Coshow, to amend Mr. Lambert’s motion to add back $25,000 for a cold planer attachment for the trackless tractor (PW). A brief discussion was had on it’s use.* **Vote: 5-1 (Mr. Lambert). Motion Passed.**

Through discussion and with amendments, Mr. Lambert’s open motion reflected the following:

* **+ $500,000** to Board of Education (1.72% increase over last fiscal year)
* - **$18,288** from Town Operations
* - **$11,700** from Public Safety
* - **$3,107** from Regulatory
* - **$300,000** (changed from original $310,000)from Capital Improvements- Transfers to Other Funds
* **+ $62,000** to Debt Service (financing both Plow Trucks)
* **+ $84,000** to Debt Service (financed Fire Truck payment)
* - **$250,000** due to replacement of the funds to the Debt Stabilization Fund removed for the Fire Truck Purchase resulting in $650,000 rather than $400,000 being used to off-set the Mill Rate increase.
* - **$2,450** from Registrar’s
* + **$25,000** to Capital (cold planer attachment for PW’s Trackless)

All changes equaling a 1.77 increase to the Mill Rate (New Mill Rate = 29.55).

It was also noted that if the Fire Truck purchase is not changed to leasing over cash purchase, the impact to the Mill Rate increase would be 1.92 instead of 1.77 (or a new Mill Rate of 29.70 instead of 29.55).

*With no further discussion requested, Chairwoman Tokarz called for a vote on Mr. Lambert’s proposed changes (including all passed amendments).* **Vote: 6-0. Motion Passed.**

1. **Public Remarks:**

**2. Kevin Reich – 9 Arch Dr.:** Thanked the BoF for all their hard work and dedication throughout the process and encouraged the audience to attend the Town Meeting being held on Tuesday April 5th (tomorrow) here in the Middle School Library at 7:00 pm where the Emergency Dispatch [911] (move to Glastonbury Dispatch from KX which is closing as of June 30th) will be voted on.

**3. Patience Anderson – 17 Anderson Way:** Also thanked the BoF for their diligence and also encouraged the audience to attend the Town Meeting where the Christopher Brook Culvert will also be discussed and voted on.

**4. Josefina Weatherwax – 195 White Birch Rd.:** Verified that the budget the BoF is recommending to the Council includes a 1.72% increase to the BoE Budget. She then verified the budget process now that the BoF has completed their portion.

1. **Adjournment:**

Mr. Hurst made a motion to adjourn at 7:27 p.m. that was seconded by Mr. Markham. **Vote was unanimous in favor. Motion Passed.**

Respectfully submitted,

Renee Bafumi

Recording Secretary