

**TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON  
EAST HAMPTON, CT 06424  
BOARD OF FINANCE  
SPECIAL MEETING**  
Wednesday, March 28, 2018  
EHMS Library

**Approved Minutes**

**Present:** Michael Rose, Richard Brown, Janine Jiantonio, Alannah Coshow, Bridget McLennan, Barbara Moore and Ted Turner

**Other attendee(s):** Jeffery Jylkka: Director of Finance, Michael Maniscalco: Town Manager, Paul Smith: Superintendent of Schools

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

**3. Public Remarks on the 2018-2019 Budget**

The following residents spoke in favor of the Board recommending both budgets (Town and Education) to go to referendum as presented (no cuts):

1. **Deb Field:** 18 Oak Knoll Road
2. **Jackie Russell:** 12 Arden Drive
3. **Kristen Flannery:** 8 Flannery Row
4. **Sherry Banack:** 47 Peach Farm Road
5. **Eva White:** 44 Blue Heron Drive
6. **Beth Kelpen:** 11 Oak Knoll Road
7. **Irene Kuck:** 11 S. Main Street
8. **Nancy Oakley:** 71 Pocotopaug Drive
9. **Tania Sones:** 17 Curry Lane
10. **Rachel Mansfield:** 10 Eastham Bridge Road
11. **Joanna Mercaldi:** 1 Aldens Crossing Road
12. **Jen Palma:** 3 Wangonk Trail
13. **Bob Hein:** 19 Birchwood Road
14. **Ellen Nosel:** 152 Main Street
15. **Marc Lambert:** 20 Brookside Court
16. **Holly White:** 82 Young Street
17. **Erica Sharpe:** Collie Brook Road

The following residents spoke in favor of the Board reconsidering the budgets as presented and balancing the budgets realistically for all residents:

18. **Pete Brown:** 76 Barton Hill Road
19. **Tom Macey:** 6 Tall Wood Drive

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**4. Discuss and Possible Recommendation on the 2018-2019 Budget**

Chairman Rose began the discussion by asking Mr. Maniscalco for insight on the frequently mentioned suggestion by residents to use fund balance to offset some of the requested funds. Mr. Maniscalco stated that past use of the fund balance was always to purchase a "hard asset" and was a one-time cost. It is not a good management practice to use it in order to offset operating costs. This is because the offset costs will exist again in future years on top of new needs and the money will not be there to use again. Mr. Maniscalco asked that the minutes reflect that he *does not recommend* use of the fund balance, as even a short-term "fix" in order to offset operating costs.

Chairman Rose then stated that prior to making any recommendations on the Budget; the Board would like the opportunity to meet with the BOE for further discussion.

*Dr. Brown made a motion to schedule a joint BOF / BOE meeting for April 3, 2018 followed by a BOF Special Meeting on April 5, 2018 to make a Recommendation on the 2018-2019 Budget. The motion was seconded by Ms. Jiantonio.*

**Vote: 7-0. Motion Passed.**

Before formally adjourning, Ms. Moore asked to read a statement (please see attached for full transcript of her statement).

**6. Adjournment:**

The motion to adjourn made by Dr. Brown was seconded by Ms. Jiantonio.

**Vote: 7-0. Motion Passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:21 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

Renee Bafumi  
Recording Secretary

As I have already stated, I am a supporter of doing all that we can to prepare our students for college and their adult life. When they graduate from EHHS, they will face many challenges and obstacles and we need to prepare them for the choices they must make. They will be faced with many peers who have had more AP classes than they have but I hope they will be equal to those students when faced with difficult decisions when applying for college.

We have already heard many statistics and ideas about the willingness and/or ability to pay a higher tax. I cannot speak for our residents...that is why we have the opportunity to vote.

I, for one, am very proud of our school system and our town employees. I believe that they put their energy and knowledge into their jobs. The BOF has met with the department heads and the Superintendent of Schools. This experience is very eye opening and impressive. I left those meetings feeling a deep sense of pride and the need to keep our town moving in a positive direction.

I do not have the feeling that we are going to move in that direction. My thoughts following our Monday night meeting are not very positive. We talked about reducing the capital budget. This is a bit confusing to me since the capital committee made up of 3 Republicans and 2 Democrats have already listened, discussed and approved what is now before us. My vote will not change! I do not agree on reducing the Public Works budget and not keep our sidewalks safe. We had long discussions about Chrome Books and the need for them and we all agreed to leave them in the budget. We voted to fund the Chief's vehicle. Now it has been decided that we can wait another year. Why...because next year will be different??? The Capital Committee also approved the \$30,000 for the playscape. Park and Rec is already building it over time so the impact is less for the taxpayers. And just to impact families more, it has been suggested that we return to the policy to charge our taxpayers to use Sear's Park. So now the children will not have a playground and must pay to swim at the Park. The school age children will have bigger class sizes and reduced resources. It is our obligation to support our youth and help them as they grow and plan for their future. The EH Public Library budget might be reduced and we will not be offering a raise to employees who make \$12.25 per hour. This reduction will impact what our library offers and impact many seniors and students who use it every day.

We need to plan ahead so that our residents can plan ahead. We agreed to have our next meeting of the Capital Committee in September to begin that planning process. The Town Council, BOF and BOE needs to look ahead, work together and discuss future needs and the direction for the town. We need to have a plan on how we will comply with the state and begin to withdraw from the reliance on that money.

I am planning to support the budget as proposed with the understanding that we must be serious about our future and how we are going to adjust our goals. I will let our voters make the decision and let them know that we will provide a better plan in the future

- Barbara Moore