

**TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON  
EAST HAMPTON, CT 06424  
BOARD OF FINANCE  
SPECIAL MEETING  
Wednesday, July 25, 2018  
EHHS T-Bell Room**

**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 7:01 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.**

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

None

**4-6. Discuss and Possible Recommendation on the 2018-2019 Budget for Town Council – 3<sup>rd</sup> Referendum *and/or* a 2018-2019 General Fund transfer to the Board of Education *and/or* a 2017-2018 General Fund additional appropriation.**

Dr. Brown began the discussion by reading a prepared statement directed at BOE members and tax payers (see attached for full detail). His statement was followed by the Superintendent providing comment on, as well as clarifying, some of the items Dr. Brown mentioned. The discussion then segued into discussion about ECS funding vs. Town Surplus and possible use of each. With a push from some Board members to come up with a compromise that will put forward a Budget that will not be voted down, discussion addressed items, including but not limited to, a reduction of the capital funds budgeted for Seamster Park Playscape Project, that were not put to a formal vote based on the direction of the discussion (lack of majority support), the following formal motions were made and went to a formal vote:

*\*Mr. Turner made a motion to recommend the funding of a supplemental appropriation (funding TBD upon motion passing) to BOE \$250,000 for 3 teachers. Mr. Turner's motion was seconded by Ms. Moore. **Vote: 3-4 (Brown, Jiantonio, Coshow, McLennan). Motion Failed.***

*\*Chairman Rose made a motion to recommend the Town Operations portion of the budget move forward to the Town Council for approval as is (no changes from Referendum 2 Town Operations portion). The motion was seconded by Dr. Brown. **Vote: 7-0. Motion Passed.***

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*\*Dr. Brown made a motion to recommend the reduction of \$91,000 (budgeted for Community Center repairs) from the 2018-2019 Capital Budget. The motion was seconded by Ms. Coshow.*  
**Vote: 6-1 (Rose). Motion Passed.**

*\*Dr. Brown made a motion to recommend that the Town Council appropriate \$223,000 for costs in connection with repairs to the roof at the Community Center. The appropriation shall be funded from unassigned General Fund Balance with the total amount being transferred to the Capital Reserve Fund. The appropriation may be spent for expenses related to the project with any unspent funds being returned to the General Fund. The motion was seconded by Mr. Turner.*  
**Vote: 6-1 (Rose). Motion Passed.**

*\*Ms. Moore made a motion to recommend the Town Council approve the 2018-2019 Capital Budget (after the removal of the \$91,000 above). The motion was seconded by Dr. Brown.*

*Prior to a vote, discussion was had on whether the remaining \$130,000 of General Fund surplus (after \$347,000 being appropriated for 2 PW vehicles and \$223,000 being appropriated for the Community Center roof) could be used to fund or pay down anything additional. After consensus that the \$130,000 should be used to keep the fund balance right around 12%, Ms. Moore's motion went to a vote. **Vote: 7-0. Motion Passed.***

*\*Dr. Brown made a motion to recommend the Town Council approve the 2018-2019 Debt Service Budget of \$3,228,386. The motion was seconded by Mr. Turner. **Vote: 7-0. Motion Passed.***

## **7. Adjournment:**

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

**Vote: 7-0. Motion Passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:27 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

Renee Bafumi  
Recording Secretary

**Prepared Statement of Dr. Richard Brown – Read at Board of Finance Meeting on July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018**  
(Transcribed by BOF Recording Secretary from Dr. Brown's handwritten notes)

There are some people who feel the Town Budget should be cut further. There will always be people who feel that it is too high and there are things that we will be working on to reduce it such as looking at the manual posting system and overtime.

The real reason that we are looking at a 3<sup>rd</sup> referendum is that, even though the (BOE) Budget was passed and accepted, the schools want more money. To accomplish that, the BOE is acting to cut 8 teaching positions with 3 layoffs.

(My) Question to the BOE is why the following items were not considered instead of cutting teachers:

1. High School JV Volleyball Coach
2. Public Relations position
3. Raises (some 6.5-8%). Don't tell me that it is the contracts unless you approached the Unions and they refused to work with you.
4. Very highly paid administrative position whose very need was questioned by the last person in that position.
5. When so many parents are complaining of too many study halls, why do you have a teacher sitting in front of that study hall rather than actually teaching?
6. Was there an understanding that when the town undertook the funding of a \$56MM High School project that the increase in the school operating budget would be restrained or kept reasonable? If not, why not?

These questions are directed to the BOE, not the Superintendent, whom I highly respect, because they are the representatives of our town who make these decisions and are responsible for these decisions; not the BOF.

If parents are concerned about the BOF actions, and they should be, they need to address the BOE at their next meeting. We are here to discuss the Town Budget, a lean and responsible budget, that deserves to be enacted now.