

Report
by the
Communications Sub-committee
(Bruce Dutch and Todd Gelston)

2/12/18 BoF Meeting

Feedback from the Tri-Board (Budget Kick-off) Meeting

- People really appreciated the Meeting.
- Provide Timely response to the citizen's questions
 - preferably at the meeting, but no later than the next meeting.
- Print all of the questions & answers in the East Haddam News and on Website.
- Present and publish a preamble of the Town's financial status.
- Set and communicate a budget goal for this budget season.
 - For example, ask for a 5% reduction across all areas.
- Require a suitable job description for every hired position in town government.
- The Library situation needs to be resolved.
- Do not need a full-time administrative assistant for the Building Department.

Ideas for improved BoF Communication

- Put the Budget Meeting Calendar in a prominent location on the EH Website.
- Print the Budget Meeting Calendar each week in the East Haddam News (EHN).
- Print the questions heard at the BoF Meetings and their answers in the EHN.
- Write a series of short articles explaining financial terms. Print them in the EHN.
 - Some of the articles can focus on basic government financing terminology.
 - Some can focus on key informative metrics such as the CERC data.

Sample of CERC Data

Town	Popul.	Tax Revenue (Dollars)	Per Capita Tax (Dollars)	Total Expenditures (Dollars)	Annual Debt Service (Dollars)	Education Expenditures (Dollars)	Enrollment (K-12)	Education Expenditures per Student (Dollars)
	Year 2015	Year 2015	Year 2015	Year 2015	Year 2015	Year 2015	Year 2015	Year 2015
East Haddam	9,139	23,870,943	2,606	29,392,651	2,008,575	20,920,432	1,032	20,272
Portland	9,447	25,715,084	2,729	31,991,474	2,803,149	21,094,353	1,337	15,777
Hebron	9,611	28,024,898	2,936	36,793,268	1,118,549	28,797,677	2,264	12,720
Haddam	8,338	27,718,031	3,320	28,813,439	257,785	22,376,890	2,117	10,570
Durham	7,349	24,901,805	3,380	28,814,958	0	22,854,758	1,745	13,097
East Hampton	12,915	31,199,130	2,407	42,235,837	1,329,972	31,336,281	1,876	16,704
Colchester	16,142	37,226,671	2,287	56,554,639	2,318,240	43,909,369	2,488	17,648
Salem	4,193	11,340,498	2,699	14,996,162	5,925,240	11,559,640	409	28,263
Lyme	2,454	8,742,839	3,663	11,281,175	492,411	6,556,450	1,308	5,012