

**TOWN OF EAST HADDAM**

**Board of Finance**

Special Meeting Minutes

May 8, 2018

Old Town Hall

In attendance:

Board of Finance Members

William DiCristofaro, Chairman

Gregory Lauria, Secretary

Bruce Dutch

Tracey Gionta

Harvey Thomas

Others

Emmett Lyman, First Selectman

Deb Denette, Town Clerk and Recording Secretary

Cindy Varricchio, Finance Director

Mr. DiCristofaro called the Board of Finance meeting to order at 8:08 pm.

**2018-2019 BUDGET DISCUSSION**

Mr. DiCristofaro noted that the referendum on the budget was declared passed this evening. He stated his appreciation to both staff and board members. He noted that a motion to set the mill rate is necessary.

**SET MILL RATE FOR 2018-2019**

**Motion was made by Mr. Lauria to establish the mill rate for the 2018-2019 fiscal year at 29.66 representing a budget of \$31,562,517. Mr. Thomas seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.**

**1986 SEAGRAVE PUMPTER FIRE APPARATUS GIFT ACCEPTANCE**

A Seagrave Pumper was acquired by the Town circa 1986. Lieutenant Bill Siegmann representing the Fire Department advised that in 2013 it was traded/sold to the Eastern Connecticut Fire School. The fire school has offered to return the truck to East Haddam for no cost. The Fire Department would like to reclaim the vehicle and utilize it for public education and memorial events. Lieutenant Siegmann added that a complete DOT inspection has been done on the vehicle and it runs well and is mechanically sound. He stated that the vehicle would be housed at Company #3 and engine #2 will be brought over to Company #2 where there is excess capacity.

Mr. Thomas stated that he is troubled that we would remove a functioning piece of equipment from the Lake Hayward area and replace it with a museum piece. He noted that his father was a founding member of Company #3 and that in his youth he served as well. It was noted that prepared firefighters will come faster from Moodus, than they will from Company #3, it was also noted that there is mutual aid for that area.

Mr Thomas inquired about the value of the truck. He was advised that it is approximately \$5,000. The Fire Department has committed to fundraising to provide for the maintenance of the truck, and is looking for the Town to carry the insurance. Mr. Thomas inquired what would happen if the fundraising efforts fell short? Lieutenant Siegmann also stated that should the need arise, it may be feasible to rebuild the truck and put it back into service. No one present was able to advise why the truck was discontinued in 2013. Mr Thomas further inquired as to what apparatus would remain at Company #3 in Lake Hayward. He was advised that the Buffalo, a 1931 antique that was the first fire apparatus owned by East Haddam and this Seagrave pumper.

Mrs. Gionta shared concern of the plan that would take away functional equipment from an area that we are responsible for. Mr. Lauria also stated that he would be concerned with response time. The fire department explained that it would be faster for firefighters to come from Moodus fully prepared, then drive to Company #3 and need to suit up and get the truck out, etc. Mr. Thomas suggested that if Company #3 is not operational as anything more than storage, it should be closed. Mr. DiCristofaro noted that would be a discussion for another day, he further noted that there would be salvage value associated with these vehicles. It was reiterated that the fire department fundraises for costs associated with the Buffalo and would for this as well. Brief discussion was held relative to fund policies. It was noted that fund raising efforts are outside of the budget. It was further inquired if the Fire Department would fundraise for the insurance costs as well, so there was no burden to the town for such acceptance. Such costs were deemed "uncertain".

**Motion was made by Mrs. Gionta to accept a gift of a 1986 Seagrave Pumper Fire Apparatus valued at \$5,000 from the Eastern Connecticut Fire School and to request that the Board of Selectmen schedule a Town Meeting for approval. Mr. Lauria seconded the motion.**

**Discussion:** Mr. DiCristofaro solicited additional discussion. Mr. Thomas stated his views were already expressed. Mr. Dutch stated that he would like to move it forward for the people to decide. Mr. DiCristofaro noted concern with how quickly this item appeared, it was noted that the fire school needs the apparatus moved as soon as possible and Chief Auld would like to see it returned home. Mr. DiCristofaro called for a vote on the motion.

**FAVOR: DiCristofaro, Dutch, Gionta, Lauria**  
**OPPOSED: Thomas**  
**MOTION CARRIED**

Mr. DiCristofaro noted that materials for next Monday's meeting were distributed this evening to Board members regarding fund policies. He stated that this is a culmination of work over a couple of years, by the subcommittee, consisting of Mr. Thomas and Mr. DiCristofaro. He encouraged members to review

the materials and be prepared for discussion. He also noted that there are several sets of minutes that need to be acted upon, he encouraged the Board to review the materials prior to Monday's meeting.

Mr. DiCristofaro again thanked the Board for its efforts.

**Motion was made by Mr. Dutch to adjourn at 8:39 pm. Mrs. Gionta seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Denette, Recording Secretary