

TOWN OF EAST HADDAM
Board of Finance
Regular Meeting Minutes
April 10, 2019
Nathan Hale Ray High School
Friedman Auditorium

Mr. DiCristofaro called the Board of Finance meeting to order at 8:08 pm (following the budget Public Hearing).

In attendance:

Board of Finance Members

William DiCristofaro, Chairman

Gregory Lauria, Secretary

Bruce Dutch

Todd Gelston

Tracey Gionta

Harvey Thomas

Others

Emmett J. Lyman, First Selectman

Debra Denette, Town Clerk and Recording Secretary

Cindy Varricchio, Finance Director

2019-2020 BUDGET

a. **Budget Review and Discussion:**

The Public Hearing on the budget had concluded. Mr. Thomas stated that good comments were received during the budget process. He stated that he did not hear any compelling argument to warrant additional changes to what the Board of Finance brought forward. The other board members concurred.

b. **Guests and Audience Comments:**

None.

c. **Vote to Send to Town Meeting:**

Motion was made by Mrs. Gionta to present to the Annual Town Budget Meeting scheduled to be called by the Board of Selectmen for April 24, 2019 at 8:00 pm at the Town Meeting Hall a total budget of \$33,574,866, based on a grand list of \$878,265,775. The budget would require a mill rate increase of .78 or a 3.4% tax increase. Mr. Gelston seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

a. **Tax Collector's Report:**

There were no comments or questions

b. **Board Subcommittee Reports:**

- **Communications:** Mr. Gelston noted that the article regarding endowments has been submitted. He noted that the Committee will begin work on another article shortly. Mr. DiCristofaro noted the "cool tool" with the *Citizens' Guide* with the QR code that can be scanned via smartphone to calculate the tax increase.
- **Financial Needs Roundtable:** Mrs. Gionta advised that the next meeting is scheduled for May 6, 2019. Mrs. Varricchio reported that the meeting may be rescheduled depending upon the availability of the Town's financial advisor

FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT

Mr. Lyman reported that:

- The East Haddam Ambulance Association has agreed to provide compensation to the Town at the same rate as it would compensate its own staff when town paid staff respond to calls. He stated that this amount in 2017-2018 would have generated approximately \$8,500. Responsive to inquiry from Mr. Gelston, it was noted that a separate revenue line would need to be created. It was noted that the details still need to be worked out.
- William Thody commenced work on Monday as the new Building Official.

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mrs. Varricchio reported that the May 13, 2019 meeting will be cancelled and the Board will meet on May 7th prior to the referendum, recess for the results and reconvene to set the mill rate or discuss how to move forward.

a. **March 2019 YTD Budget Report:**

Mrs. Varricchio reported that the Public Works budget will be over budget due to general highways. The Snow Removal budget was under budget. Mr. Gelston noted that the expenditures for snow removal was higher than he anticipated given the minimal amount of snow that we had. Mrs. Varricchio reported that ice treatment can be more expensive than snow removal. The price of salt can be a factor.

Questions were also asked regarding the recently created Police Special Revenue Fund. Mrs. Varricchio will provide a report to the Board for Expenses and Revenue.

Mrs. Varricchio reported that she will begin year end forecasts next month.

LIAISON REPORTS

None.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

a. **FY2018 Emergency Management Performance Grant:**

It was noted that this grant is budgeted for each year. Acceptance of this grant offsets stipends for the Director (\$4,000) and Assistant Director (\$1,000) of Emergency Management.

Motion was made by Mr. Lauria to recommend to the Board of Selectmen the acceptance of the State of Connecticut, Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security grant, entitled "FY 2018 Emergency Management Performance Grant", in the amount of \$5,000 (revenue budget 10542-43000 and expense budgets 10541810-51510-\$4,000 and 10542070-51590-\$1,000) and to ask the Board of Selectmen to schedule a Town Meeting for approval. Mr. Thomas seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

GUESTS AND AUDIENCE COMMENTS

Ray Zalewski apologized for not making the Public Hearing, however, he wished to convey that his taxes have gone up 8%. He stated that these increased costs are driving senior citizens out of town. He suggested the town implement a student tax as incentive for seniors not to move. He felt the school was top heavy. He further noted frustration with the condition of the boat launch; and that he picks up the trash.

OTHER

It was reiterated that the next meeting will be on May 7th. The Board was encouraged to attend the town meeting sending the budget to referendum on April 24th.

Motion was made by Mr. Dutch to adjourn at 8:3 pm. Mr. Lauria seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra H. Denette