

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN BOARD**  
**Special Meeting December 2, 2017**

**Minutes of a Special Meeting of the Town Board held on December 2, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. in the Community Room, 40 Mill Road, Eastchester, New York.**

Supervisor Colavita called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. noting the presence of Councilman Marcoccia, Councilman Bellitto, Councilman Dooley and Comptroller Dawn Donovan and stated the purpose of the meeting is conduct a Budget Workshop to discuss and review the 2018 Preliminary Budget.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN BOARD**  
**December 5, 2017**

Minutes of a Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Eastchester held on December 5, 2017 at 7:00 p.m., at the Town Hall, 40 Mill Road, Eastchester, New York.

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**III. ROLL CALL**

Present: Supervisor Anthony Colavita  
Councilman Glenn Bellitto  
Councilman Joseph Dooley  
Councilwoman Theresa Nicholson  
Councilman Luigi Marcoccia

Present: Town Clerk Linda Laird  
Comptroller Dawn Donovan  
Town Attorney Louis Reda  
Department Heads: George Barletta, Rocco Cacciola, Hector DiLeo, Karen, Gizzo, Todd Huttunen,  
George Papademetriou, Judge Frederick Salanitro, Margaret Uhle, Sally Veltidi, Tracy Wright

**IV. PUBLIC HEARING**

**A) PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER THE ADOPTION OF THE TOWN OF EASTCHESTER'S 2018 CALENDAR YEAR BUDGET**

Councilman Marcoccia offered a motion that was seconded by Councilman Bellitto to open the 2018 Budget Public Hearing.

**On the roll call, all voted "AYE." Motion carried.**

Gerry Frusciante asked if the Town Board members receive health insurance via the Town as well as their places of employment to which the Supervisor replied, 'no.'

Robert Cartolano, President of the Eastchester Library Board, spoke on behalf on the Library Board in thanking the Town Board for supporting the renovation projects that have culminated during the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Eastchester Public Library (1967 – 2017). Projects include the new outdoor Reading Patio, new lighting, furniture, carpet and the installation of new shelving.

There being no further comment, Councilman Marcoccia offered a motion that was seconded by Councilman Dooley to close the Public Hearing.

**On the roll call, all voted "AYE." Motion carried.**

Supervisor Colavita and Comptroller Donovan provided an overview to the 2018 Budget. The 2018 tax levy cap set by the State of New York is 1.84%. Our allowable levy is \$20,518,048. The 2018 Town of Eastchester budget levy is \$4,349 less than that amount. The Board has had a conservative fiscal management of the Town's finances. The Town Board has stayed within the tax levy cap since its inception, the 2012 budget, and will continue to do so with this and future budgets. It has been the judgment of this administration to submit a budget with the most services at the minimum cost to the residents.

The budget for 2018 continues to require some very difficult decisions in order to balance a budget that represents significant drops in non-real property revenues and increased costs across the board.

- The change in assessments from 2017 to 2018 caused an estimated 0.59% decrease in the tax rate before the commencement of the budget process, without the changes in assessment the Town tax rate increase would have been at the allowable real property tax levy cap. The Villages and Town Outside all saw reductions in the assessments. The estimated assessed value used for the 2018 budget is \$102,264,945. The assessed value used for the 2017 budget was 101,683,406. This is an increase of \$581,539 or 0.6%.
- The 2018 budget reflects a 1.75% increase for CSEA members effective 4/1/18, as per the agreement reached with them. The PBA contract expired on December 31, 2016, and negotiations are ongoing and any changes will be reflected once the contract is settled. There are small increases for Department heads and other non-union personnel. Elected Official salaries have not changed and will remain at the current levels.
- There are several retirements this year due to the Town's retirement incentive that was offered. One from the Assessor's office, one from Recreation/Senior Services and two from Highway. These replacements will be made at lower rates as these individual who are retiring have over 95 years of combined service to the Town.
- There will continue to be restrictions on purchases of materials and supplies. This directive has been in place since the fall of 2008 and will continue through the foreseeable future.

The total budget for 2018 is \$35,553,045 which represents a \$740,739 increase over the 2017 budget.

The total Townwide Tax levy for the 2018 budget is \$3,626,000. Property taxes count for 40% of the Townwide revenue budget, 13% or \$1,175,000 from fund balance with the remaining 47% mainly consisting of department revenue, and mortgage taxes. The 2018 Townwide budget will generate a 1.08% property tax rate increase, which amounts to a increase of \$.3786 per thousand dollars of assessed valuation. What this means is that: an average house in the Village of Bronxville with an assessment of \$21,800 will pay \$8.25 more per year (\$.69 per month); an average house in the Village of Tuckahoe with an assessment of \$7,300 will pay \$2.76 more per year (\$.23 per month).

The total Town Outside Tax levy for the 2018 budget is \$20,351,412. Property taxes account for 57% of the Town Outside revenue budget, 9% or \$3,250,000 from fund balance and the remaining 34% mainly consisting of department revenue and sales taxes. The 2018 Town Outside budget will generate a 1.67% property tax rate increase, which amounts to an additional \$5.5442 per thousand dollars of assessed valuation. What this means is that an average house in the Town Outside portion of Eastchester with an assessment of \$9,100 will pay an additional \$50.45 per year (\$4.20 per month).

The current and projected tax rates are as follows:

	TAX RATES	
	2018	2017
Entire Town	35.4569	35.0332
Town Outside	296.7638	291.4980
Sewer Charge	5.7251	5.8253
Garth Resident Parking District	41.6917	31.3251

**Assumptions for the 2018 Tentative Budget**

- Revenue estimates for 2018 are relatively flat. We have not increased any revenues substantially. Mortgage tax is slightly higher than anticipate, but we will not be raising this economically sensitive revenue due to the anomaly in 2017.
- The purchase of equipment and capital outlay or property improvement projects continue to follow our long-range plan and will not be put in the operating budget.

- This budget utilizes \$3,250,000 in fund balance. This is a decrease of \$5,000 over 2017.
- Health Insurance premiums will increase approximately 8.8% in 2018.
- One of the most significant obligations of the Town which has the greatest impact on this budget is our pension contribution. The 2018-19 pension contribution is estimated to be \$2,232,318, which is a minor decrease from prior years.

The Office of the State Comptroller (OSC) reviews the Town's fiscal stress on an annual basis. The Town of Eastchester continues to be in the no designation category. (top 15%)

Moody's Investor Services reaffirmed the Town's bond rating at Aaa, the highest rating category. This is based on the Town's strong financial management.

In closing, it was stated the Town has received the National Government Finance Officers Award for excellence in fiscal reporting, this is the nineteenth (19) year.

Anticipating an continued increase to the number of children who will attend camp in the Summer of 2018, Councilman Bellitto offered a motion that was seconded by Councilman Dooley to amend the Preliminary Budget as follows:

**PROPOSED CHANGES TO 2018 PRELIMINARY BUDGET**

		2018	2018		
		Preliminary	Additions/	New Budget	
		Budget	(Reductions)	Amount	
					COMMENT
<b>TOWNWIDE</b>					
A7141.450	Camp - contractual	183,000	30,000	213,000	Anticipated use of Tuckahoe facilities for camp
A 02002	Recreation - Camps	650,000	30,000	680,000	

**On the roll call, all voted "AYE." Motion carried.**

Councilman Marcoccia thanked Comptroller Donovan for her hard work in preparing the budget and the Department Heads in attendance for their efforts to keep expenses down and for their continued service to the town.

Councilman Bellitto explained the budget maintains the sound financial practices and goals set by the Town Board.

Supervisor Colavita offered a motion that was seconded by Councilman Dooley to approve a RESOLUTION adopting the 2018 Preliminary Budget.

**On the roll call, all voted "AYE." Motion carried.**

**V. OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE BOARD ON AGENDA ITEMS** - none

**VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Supervisor Colavita offered a motion that was seconded by Councilman Bellitto to approve the Minutes of the November 20<sup>th</sup> and November 27, 2017 joint Lake Isle Advisory Board and Town Board Special Meetings, the November 21, 2017 Regular Town Board Meeting and the November 29, 2017 Special Town Board Meeting as prepared by Town Clerk Linda Laird.

**On the roll call, all voted "AYE." Motion carried.**

**VII. CORRESPONDENCE**

**A) MEMORANDUM FROM COMPTROLLER RE: BUDGET TRANSFERS/REVISIONS**

Supervisor Colavita offered a motion that was seconded by Councilman Marcoccia to approve the following Budget Transfers and Budget Revisions:

**Transfers**

From:	Police Holiday Pay	B3120.104	\$ 20,000.00
To:	Overtime	B3120.103	\$ 20,000.00
From:	Material & Supplies	D5112.401	\$ 5,000.00
	Fuel Station	D5110.450	\$ 3,000.00
To:	Maint. & Repairs	D5130.414	\$ 8,000.00
From:	Gas & Diesel	D5110.408	\$ 5,000.00
To:	Materials & Supplies	D5110.401	\$ 5,000.00

**Revisions**

Increase:	Recreation Fees- General	A02001	\$152,720.00
Increase:	O.T. Carnival	A7140.103C	\$ 9,245.00
Increase:	Misc. Events	A7140.491	\$143,475.00

**On the roll call, all voted "AYE." Motion carried.**

**B) MEMORANDUM FROM COMPTROLLER RE: ADOPTION OF 2018 PRELIMINARY BUDGET**

- see above -

**C) MEMORANDUM FROM LAKE ISLE GENERAL MANAGER RE: GOLF CART LEASE**

Supervisor Colavita reviewed a memo submitted by Lake Isle General Manager George Papademetriou in which he explains preparations for the 2018 golf season are underway. Lake Isle will be entering into the fifth and final year of the existing golf cart lease with Club Car. We have turned over these leases in four years in previous years because by the fifth year the carts have gone through heavy usage. In addition, manufacturer warranties for cart batteries are for four years, regardless of the term of the lease. Therefore, as batteries need to be replaced in the fifth year, the cost of batteries for just 2-3 carts alone would exceed what the difference is between the existing lease and a new lease.

It is best to once again set up a five year lease regardless if the lease is turned over early or not as the monthly payments will be lower. The final year lease payment is either absorbed by the existing vendor or paid off by the new vendor, depending on who has submitted the lowest qualified proposal.

Requests for proposal were received from Club Car and E-Z-Go. The new 5-year lease, in the amount of \$72,360 annually, would be for 70 new 2018 Club Car Precedent Excel electric golf carts, 2 new 2018 Gasoline Villager 8 Passenger Transportation Vehicles (trams) and 10 refurbished/like new 2014/5 gasoline golf carts with utility box beds. That would take place of the current lease, with annual payments of \$69,900.

Lake Isle's experience with Club Car supplying carts for many years along with their service has been great. Club Car's market share in Westchester County is about 75%, due in large part for their competitive pricing as well as their high level of service.

Therefore, Councilman Marcoccia offered a motion that was seconded by Councilman Bellitto to authorize Supervisor Colavita, on behalf of the Town, to enter into this proposed agreement with Club Car Inc., 72 Grays Bridge Road, Brookfield, CT 06804 for a 5-year lease for an amount of \$72,360 annually.

**On the roll call, all voted "AYE." Motion carried.**

**LATE FLYING ITEM:**

Councilman Dooley offered a motion that was seconded by Supervisor Colavita to approve a RESOLUTION; Whereas the Town has reviewed its staffing needs in the supervisory structure of the Police Department now therefore be it resolved that the position of Police Captain is abolished effective immediately.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: Upon abolishment of Police Captain position employee # 23 shall be immediately returned to his prior permanent position of Police Lieutenant.

**On the roll call, all voted "AYE." Motion carried.**

**VIII. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS - none**

**IX. COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS**

Councilman Marcoccia congratulated Eastchester recipients Alan Benedict and Rose Gentile on the induction into the Westchester County Senior Hall of Fame.

Councilman Bellitto reported on the 'great holiday weekend in Eastchester' with many events and tree lightings that took place on December 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. Of special note, the Greenknolls/Greenvale festivities included roving carolers, while Santa and his reindeer (actually a horse in disguise) entertained those in attendance in Chester Heights.

Councilman Dooley commended the efforts of the Eastchester Beautification Foundation for organizing the annual tree lighting ceremony at Memorial Park. The event has grown over the years with the help of the Knights of Columbus, the DelVecchio Family and the Boy and Girl Scouts.

In closing, Mr. Dooley asked residents to 'Shop Local' during the holiday season.

Councilwoman Nicholson announced the registration for the High School Boys Eastchester Instructional Basketball League (EIBL) is currently underway for students in 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades who do not currently play on their High School Team.

Mrs. Nicholson congratulated Tom Andruss and Crestwood Shoe Repair on being named recipients of the 2018 Green Medallion Award by the Eastchester Environmental Committee. The awards will be presented at a reception held on December 7<sup>th</sup> from 6- 8 at Broken Bow Brewery.

Supervisor Colavita reported the Michael Frey Memorial Holiday Tree had been lit at a ceremony on December 1<sup>st</sup>. The tree, located on the grounds of Town Hall at the corner of Mill Road and Michael Frey Drive, had been donated to the town by the Bronxville Police Department to commemorate Officer Frey's service. Supervisor Colavita thanked Bronxville Police Chief Chris Satriale and members of the department for attending and Steve Altamura for his donation of the LED lights used to illuminate the tree.

The Supervisor congratulated Eastchester resident Judge Barbara Gunther Zambelli on her retirement from the bench. Having been first elected a judge 1987, she joined the Westchester County Court in 1998 and has served as an Acting Supreme Court Justice since 2000.

**X. SECOND OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE BOARD**

Gerry Frusciante inquired as to the status of the Community Center at Lake Isle. Supervisor Colavita responded the project has been bid twice and both bid results exceeded the budget and were rejected. The bid list will be expanded and the project will be re-bid. Mr. Frusciante stated he is looking forward to the seniors having a access to handicap facilities and brightly lighted rooms.

There being no further public business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Minutes prepared by;

Linda Laird  
Town Clerk