

**TOWN OF EASTCHESTER
MINUTES OF THE TOWN BOARD
November 7, 2018**

Minutes of a Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Eastchester held on November 7, 2018 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

IV. OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE BOARD ON AGENDA ITEMS – none

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Bellitto offered a motion that was seconded by Councilman Marcoccia to approve the Minutes of the October 16, 2018 Town Board Meeting Minutes as prepared by Town Clerk Linda Laird.

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

VI. REPORTS OF DEPARTMENTS, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

A) LAW DEPARTMENT REPORT

1. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SETTLEMENT OF A CERTIORARI PROCEEDING BY CITIBANK N.A. – 725 WHITE PLAINS ROAD

Councilman Marcoccia offered a motion that was seconded by Supervisor Colavita to approve a RESOLUTION authorizing the settlement of a certiorari proceeding instituted by Citibank N.A., affecting premises known as Section 63-J, Block 1, Lot 5 – 725 White Plains Road, Eastchester NY as follows:

Citibank N.A., Sec. 63-J, Block 1, Lot 5 – 725 White Plains Road

ASSESSMENT YEAR	TAX YEAR	ASSESSED VALUATION	PROPOSED SETTLEMENT A.V.	AMOUNT OF REDUCTION
2011	2012	\$56,250.00	\$37,500.00	\$18,750.00
2012	2013	\$56,250.00	\$37,550.00	\$18,700.00
2013	2014	\$56,250.00	\$40,550.00	\$15,700.00
2014	2015	\$56,250.00	\$39,000.00	\$17,250.00
2015	2016	\$56,250.00	\$36,000.00	\$20,250.00
2016	2017	\$56,250.00	\$36,000.00	\$20,250.00
2017	2018	\$56,250.00	\$35,550.00	\$20,700.00

To be bonded at a later date

Eastchester School Board approved

TOTAL TOWN TAX REFUND.....\$ 41,293.90

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

VII. CORRESPONDENCE

A) MEMORANDUM FROM COMPTROLLER RE: BUDGET TRANSFERS

Supervisor Colavita offered a motion that was seconded by Councilman Bellitto to approve a RESOLUTION approving the following Budget Transfers:

		<u>Transfers</u>	
<u>Transfers</u>			
From:	Training	B3120.430	\$ 3,296.00
	Uniforms & Accessories	B3120.434	\$ 3,500.00
To:	Small Equipment	B3120.203	\$ 5,046.00
	Material & Supplies	B3120.401	\$ 1,750.00
From:	Personal Services	D5110.100	\$ 65,000.00
	State Retirement	D9000.801	\$ 15,000.00
To:	Material & Supplies	D5112.401	\$ 5,000.00
	Winter Abrasives	D5110.438	\$ 75,000.00
From:	Personal Services	R8160.100	\$ 16,700.00
	State Retirement	R9000.801	\$ 10,000.00
	Health & Dental Ins.	R9000.806	\$ 6,300.00
To:	Maint. & Repairs	R8160.414	\$ 33,000.00
From:	Materials & Supplies	A7140.401	\$ 3,500.00
To:	Taxi Program for Seniors	A6770.456	\$ 3,500.00
From:	Contractual Services	A1410.450	\$ 750.00
	Travel & Auto	A1410.432	\$ 528.00
	Materials & Supplies	A1410.401	\$ 556.00
	Assoc. Dues & Meetings	A1410.402	\$ 300.00
To:	Material & Supplies	A3325.401	\$ 2,134.00

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

B) MEMORANDUM FROM COMPTROLLER RE: PART TIME SEASONAL EMPLOYEES

Supervisor Colavita offered a motion that was seconded by Councilman Dooley to approve the following seasonal employees:

NAME	JOB TITLE	APPOINTMENT TYPE	RATE	EFFECTIVE DATE	DEPT.
Constantino, Kristina	Rec Attendant	Rehire	\$10.00	11/8/2018	Recreation
Doukas, Alexandria	Rec Attendant	New	\$9.00	11/8/2018	Recreation
Guarino, Thomas	Rec Attendant	Rehire	\$10.00	11/8/2018	Recreation
LoParrino, Mark	Rec Attendant	Rehire	\$10.00	11/8/2018	Recreation
LoParrino, Nicholas	Rec Attendant	Rehire	\$10.00	11/8/2018	Recreation
Medici, Ralph	Rec Attendant	Rehire	\$10.00	11/8/2018	Recreation
Policicchio, Luca	Rec Attendant	Rehire	\$10.00	11/8/2018	Recreation
Reda, Ava	Rec Attendant	Rehire	\$10.00	11/8/2018	Recreation
Schultz, Liam	Rec Attendant	Rehire	\$10.00	11/8/2018	Recreation
Ungaro, Marisa	Rec Attendant	Rehire	\$10.00	11/8/2018	Recreation

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

C) MEMORANDUM FROM SUPERINTENDENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION RE: MISSION STATEMENT FOR SENIOR PROGRAMS AND SERVICES & SENIOR CENTERS – TABLED

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS - none

IX. COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

Councilman Marcoccia announced ECAP is accepting donations and contributions to the Annual Thanksgiving Basket Program.

Councilman Bellitto announced the Eastchester High School Boys Basketball Team will offer a free clinic to players and coaches of the Eastchester Instructional Basketball League (EIBL) on November 16th.

In addition, Mr. Bellitto encouraged residents to reference the Parks and Recreation page of the Town of Eastchester website (www.eastchester.org) for Holiday Programs during the month of December including: Santa Stop on December 1st at Gazebo Park from noon to 2:00 p.m., the annual Gingerbread House Contest at Haindl Field Rec Room on December 2nd from noon to 2:00 p.m., the Holiday Lights ceremony on December 2nd at Memorial Park at 4:30 p.m. and the Chanukah Menorah Lighting and Gelt Drop on December 6th at 5:30 p.m., also at Memorial Park.

Councilman Dooley extended appreciation to the Friends of the Library for the success of the annual Tag Sale held to benefit the Library. The necessary funds will support upcoming activities and programs.

Mr. Dooley concluded with a reminder to residents to rake leaves into a pile on the grass, near the curb – not in the street.

Councilwoman Nicholson congratulated the Eastchester/Tuckahoe Chamber of Commerce on the success of the Fall Festival held at Depot Square on October 20th.

Supervisor Colavita provided the public with information regarding a new initiative introduced by Con-Edison. When and if you should lose power in the coming months, the process for reporting outages to Con Edison has been streamlined.

There are now multiple ways to communicate with Con Edison:

- Report an outage using the Con Edison app for Apple and Android devices
- Text REG to OUTAGE (688243) and follow the prompts to register (You will need to have your Account # available in order to register)
- Once registered text OUT to OUTAGE (688243)

To check the status of a restoration, use any of the following:

- Go to coned.com/StormCentral and see “Check Status” or “View Outage Map”
- Check the Con Edison mobile app from your Apple or Android device
- Once you register for text alerts (see above), text “STATUS” to OUTAGE (688243)
- Call 1-800-75-CONED (1-800-752-6633)

Supervisor Colavita distributed a copy of the 2019 Tentative Budget and the following Budget Overview to the Town Board Members announcing the levy increase stays within the allowable Tax Cap.

2019 Budget Overview Submitted by Supervisor Colavita

The budget for 2019 required some very difficult decisions in order to balance a budget and to maintain a reasonable level of increases especially in light of the Tax Act that has limited the SALT deduction to all New Yorkers and especially to the residents of Eastchester. I believe that this budget does a good job of balancing the two.

The 2019 tax levy cap set by the State of New York is 2%. Our allowable levy is \$20,624,324. The 2019 Town of Eastchester budget levy is \$482,085 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, 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 2019 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 2018 to 2019 caused an estimated 0.82% increase 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 2019 budget is \$101,839,825. The assessed value used for the 2018 budget was \$102,264,945. This is a decrease of \$425,120 or 0.42%.
- CSEA contract expires on December 31, 2018 and we will be negotiating with them shortly. 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.
- The settlement with the Eastchester Fire District has changed the hydrant maintenance fees to be a charge added to rate payers' water bills. The town needs to make up this change over the next several years.
- 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 2019 is \$35,554,236 which represents a \$28,809 decrease over the 2018 budget.

The total Townwide Tax levy for the 2019 budget is \$3,662,251. Property taxes count for 40% of the Townwide revenue budget, 13% or \$1,255,000 from fund balance with the remaining 47% mainly consisting of department revenue, and mortgage taxes. The 2019 Townwide budget will generate a 1.42% property tax rate increase, which amounts to an increase of \$0.504 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 \$10.99 more per year (\$0.92 per month); an average house in the Village of Tuckahoe with an assessment of \$7,300 will pay \$3.68 more per year (\$0.31 per month).

The total Town Outside Tax levy for the 2019 budget is \$16,388,376. Property taxes account for 57% of the Town Outside revenue budget, 9% or \$3,140,000 from fund balance and the remaining 34% mainly consisting of department revenue and sales taxes. The 2019 Town Outside budget will generate a 0.74% property tax rate increase, which amounts to an additional \$2.1895 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 \$9,000 will pay an additional \$19.71 per year (\$1.64 per month).

The current and projected tax rates are as follows:

	TAX RATES	
	2019	2018
Entire Town	35.9606	35.4569
Town Outside	298.8533	296.7638
Sewer Charge	6.9793	5.7251
Garth Resident Parking District	47.2025	41.6917

Assumptions for the 2019 Tentative Budget

- Revenue estimates for 2019 are relatively flat. We have not increased any revenues substantially.
 - Mortgage tax is slightly higher than anticipated
 - Sales Tax is also slightly higher than anticipated
 - Highway street opening permits are higher than anticipated due to the work being done by Con Edison
- 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 \$3,165,000 in fund balance. This is a decrease of \$90,000 over 2018.
- Health Insurance premiums will increase approximately 9% in 2019.
- One of the most significant obligations of the Town which has the greatest impact on this budget is our pension contribution. The 2019-20 pension contribution is estimated to be \$2,180,276, which is a minor decrease from prior years. The chart below reflects the actual 10 year amounts the Town has had to pay.

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 3%)

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

The Town has received the National Government Finance Officers Award for excellence in fiscal reporting, this is the twentieth (20) year.

X. SECOND OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

David Levy noted the current interest rate and suggested the Town complete necessary capital projects, specifically the Highway Yard, while the interest rates are low.

There being no further public comment, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Minutes prepared by;

Linda Laird
Town Clerk