

MINUTES OF THE TOWN BOARD
December 1, 2015

Minutes of a Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Eastchester held on December 1, 2015 at 7:00 p.m., at the Town Hall, Eastchester, New York.

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – FLAG

III. ROLL CALL

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

Deputy Town Clerk Mary Swikata
Town Attorney Louis Reda
Comptroller Dawn Donovan

IV. PUBLIC HEARING

A) PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER THE ADOPTION OF THE TOWN OF EASTCHESTER'S 2016 CALENDAR YEAR BUDGET

Prior to opening the Public Hearing, Comptroller Dawn Donovan and Supervisor Colavita provided highlights of the 2016 Preliminary Budget and the financial health of the Town.

The 2016 tax levy cap set by the State of New York is .73%. Our allowable levy is \$19,926,477. The 2016 Town of Eastchester budget levy is \$44,756 less than that amount. The Board has had a conservative fiscal management of the Town's finances. It has been the judgment of this administration to submit a budget with the most services at the minimum cost to the residents.

Presented below is the 2016 Tentative Budget:

The budget for 2016 continues to require some very difficult decisions in order to balance a budget that represents significant drops in non-property revenues and increased costs across the board.

- The change in assessments from 2015 to 2016 caused an estimated 1.8% 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 tax levy cap. The Villages and Town Outside all saw reductions in the assessments. The estimated assessed value used for the 2016 budget is \$103,349,453. The assessed value used for the 2015 budget was \$104,030,501. This is a decrease of \$681,048 or 0.65%.
- The 2016 budget reflects a 2% increase for PBA members, as per the agreement reached with them. The CSEA contract will expire on December 31, 2015, and negotiations have begun, 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 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.
- We offered a Town retirement incentive and some individuals accepted the incentive, these individuals will be replaced with lower salary employees with increased health insurance contributions.

The total budget for 2016 is \$34,433,080 which represents a \$31,384 decrease over the 2015 budget.

The total Townwide Tax levy for the 2016 budget is \$3,489,335. Property taxes count for 40% of the Townwide revenue budget, 12% or \$1,100,000 from fund balance with the remaining 48% mainly consisting of department revenue, and mortgage taxes. The 2016 Townwide budget will generate a 1.56% property tax rate decrease, which amounts to a

decrease of \$.5342 per thousand dollars of assessed valuation. What this means is that: an average house in the Village of Bronxville with an assessment of \$21,600 will pay \$11.54 less per); an average house in the Village of Tuckahoe with an assessment of \$7,400 will pay \$3.95 less per year.

The total Town Outside Tax levy for the 2016 budget is \$19,881,721. Property taxes account for 58% of the Town Outside revenue budget, 9% or \$3,185,000 from fund balance and the remaining 33% mainly consisting of department revenue and sales taxes. The 2016 Town Outside budget will generate a 2.62% property tax rate increase, which amounts to an additional \$8.1726 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 \$9,300 will pay an additional \$76 per year.

The current and projected tax rates are as follows:

	TAX RATES	
	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Entire Town	33.7625	34.2967
Town Outside	281.4544	272.8656
Sewer Charge	5.4348	5.3167
Garth Resident Parking District	29.3301	27.0067

Assumptions for the 2016 Tentative Budget

- Revenue estimates for 2016 are flat. We have not increased any revenues substantially. Mortgage tax is higher than anticipate, but we will not be raising this economically sensitive revenue due to the anomaly in 2015.
- 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 \$3,185,000 in fund balance. This is a decrease of \$125,000 over 2015.
- Health Insurance premiums will increase approximately 3-6% in 2016.
- One of the most significant obligations of the Town which has the greatest impact on this budget is our pension contribution. The 2015-16 pension contribution is estimated to be \$2,226,003, which is a decrease from prior years. The chart below reflects the actual 10 year amounts the Town has had to pay.

YEAR	TOTAL	POLICE AMOUNT	ERS AMOUNT
2007	1,375,028	661,975	713,053
2008	1,446,257	735,475	710,782
2009	1,336,868	722,594	614,274
2010	1,193,412	599,031	594,381
2011	1,670,977	736,054	934,923
2012	2,345,828	966,441	1,379,387
2013	2,555,308	1,261,511	1,293,797
2014	2,664,705	1,316,822	1,347,883
2015	2,521,937	1,268,763	1,253,174
2016	2,268,003	1,176,195	1,091,808

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.

Moody's Investor Services upgraded the Town's bond rating from Aa1 to 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.

The Town Board members thanked the Department Heads and Town Hall staff for their diligence in holding the line on the departmental budgets and spoke in support of the overall budget and the budget process.

In closing, Supervisor Colavita thanked Comptroller Donovan for her expertise and stewardship of the budget process.

Councilman Dooley offered a motion that was seconded by Councilwoman Nicholson to open the Public Hearing.

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

Peter DeFelice referred to specific line items in the Preliminary Budget and questioned an apparent increase in compensation for a few individuals and inquired why all employees are not receiving a cost of living increase. Supervisor Colavita explained it has been proposed that the non-civil service employees and department heads receive a 1.75% increase; while civil service employees will receive the, yet to be agreed upon, amount determined by the CSEA contract. It is anticipated the contract will be ratified by membership in the coming days and considered by the Town Board at the next Town Board Meeting.

Robert Cartolano, President of the Eastchester Library Board, spoke on behalf on the entire Library Board in thanking the Town Board for their continued support and for approving the necessary funds to install a new roof on the library.

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

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

Supervisor Colavita explained the following changes to the Preliminary Budget would be considered prior to it being adopted. The net change to the Townwide Budget will be a \$5,964 reduction, while the Town Outside Budget remains the same.

Changes to the Preliminary Townwide Budget:

Councilman Dooley offered a motion that was seconded by Councilman Bellitto to increase A1110.100 Justice Court (Pers Svce) an additional \$51,767 from \$261,790 to 313,557.

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

Councilman Marcoccia offered a motion that was seconded by Councilman Dooley to decrease A1110.102 Justice Court (PT Sal) by \$43,803 and moved to a full time position.

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

Councilman Marcoccia offered a motion that was seconded by Councilman Dooley to decrease A1110.469 Justice Court (Steno) by \$2,000 from \$18,000 to \$16,000 and moved to a full-time position

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

Councilman Bellitto offered a motion that was seconded by Supervisor Colavita to increase A1355.100 Assessor (Per Svce) by \$20,001 from 168,059 to \$188,060 as a reallocation from the part-time line.

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

Councilman Dooley offered a motion that was seconded by Councilman Marcoccia to decrease A1355.102 Assessor (PT Sal) by \$20,001 and moved to the full-time line.

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

Councilman Bellitto offered a motion that was seconded by Supervisor Colavita to increase A1410.100 Town Clerk (Pers Svce) by \$7,323 from \$123,295 to \$130,618 to relocate staff from Senior Programs and Services.

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

Councilman Marcoccia offered a motion that was seconded by Councilman Dooley to decrease A6770.100 Senior Program (Pers Svce) by \$7,323 from \$265,508 to \$258,185 to relocate staff to Town Clerk.

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

Councilman Dooley offered a motion that was seconded by Councilman Bellitto to increase A7140.100 Recreation (Pers Svce) by \$3,000 from \$256,442 to \$259,442 for a stipend.

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

Councilman Dooley offered a motion that was seconded by Supervisor Colavita to decrease A7150.414 Parks (Maint & Repairs) by \$3,000 from \$275,000 to \$272,000 as a reallocation for a stipend.

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

Councilman Marcoccia offered a motion that was seconded by Supervisor Colavita to decrease A01001 "Real Property Taxes" by \$5,964 from \$3,489,335 to \$3,495,299.

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

Changes to the Preliminary Town Outside Budget:

Per a request from Police Chief Bonci, Councilman Marcoccia offered a motion that was seconded by Councilman Dooley to decrease B3120.201 Police (Equipment) by \$25,000 from 133,000 to \$108,000 as a reallocation of funds.

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

Per a request from Police Chief Bonci, Councilman Bellitto offered a motion that was seconded by Councilman Dooley to increase B3120.203 Police (Small Equipment) by \$3,000 from \$41,000 to \$44,000 as a reallocation of funds.

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

Per a request from Police Chief Bonci, Councilman Marcoccia offered a motion that was seconded by Councilwoman Nicholson to increase B3120.401 Police (Materials & Supplies) by \$2,000 from \$28,000 to \$30,000 as a reallocation of funds.

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

Per a request from Police Chief Bonci, Councilman Marcoccia offered a motion that was seconded by Councilman Dooley to increase B3120.428 Police (Telecom) by \$15,000 from \$53,000 to \$68,000 as a reallocation of funds.

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

Per a request from Police Chief Bonci, Councilman Bellitto offered a motion that was seconded by Councilman Dooley to increase B3120.430 Police (Training) by \$5,000 from \$35,000 to \$40,000 as a reallocation of funds.

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

Councilman Dooley offered a motion that was seconded by Councilman Bellitto to increase B3620.100 Bldg Dept (Pers Svce) by \$2,000 from \$200,244 to \$202,244 due to a title change to Sr. Code Enforcement Officer.

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

Councilman Dooley offered a motion that was seconded by Councilman Bellitto to decrease B3620. 458 Bldg Dept (Consulting) by \$2,000 from \$124,400,244 to \$122,400 due to a title change to Sr. Code Enforcement Officer.

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

CORRESPONDENCE AGENDA ITEM: B) MEMORANDUM FROM COMPTROLLER RE: ADOPTION OF 2016 BUDGET

Councilman Bellitto offered a motion that was seconded by Councilwoman Nicholson to approve a RESOLUTION to adopt the 2016 Preliminary Budget; the salaries of Elected Officials incorporated in said preliminary budget are as follows:

		<u>Each</u>	<u>Total</u>
Supervisor	(1)	\$98,093.00	\$98,093.00
Council Members	(4)	\$15,831.00	\$63,324.00

Judges	(2)	\$42,545.00	\$85,090.00
Receiver of Taxes	(1)	\$35,000.00	\$35,000.00
Town Clerk	(1)	\$82,605.00	\$82,605.00

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

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

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Dooley offered a motion that was seconded by Councilman Bellitto to approve the Minutes of the November 4th and November 17th Regular Town Board Meetings and the November 18th and November 23rd Special Town Board Meetings as prepared by Town Clerk Linda Laird.

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

VII. CORRESPONDENCE

A) MEMORANDUM FROM COMPTROLLER RE: PART TIME SEASONAL EMPLOYEES

Councilman Dooley offered a motion that was seconded by Councilman Bellitto to approve the following Seasonal Appointments in the Recreation Department, effective 12/5/2015:

NAME	JOB TITLE	RATE	TYPE
Cesarini, Michael	Rec Attendant	\$8.00	Rehire
DeVito, Dominick	Rec Attendant	\$13.00	Rehire
DosSantos, Leandro	Rec Attendant	\$8.00	Rehire
Meduri, Justin	Rec Attendant	\$8.00	New
Negro, Jillian	Rec Attendant	\$8.00	New
Retta, Joseph	Rec Attendant	\$13.00	Rehire
Stern, Matthew	Rec Attendant	\$8.00	New
Tiso, Sophia	Rec Attendant	\$8.00	New

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

B) MEMORANDUM FROM COMPTROLLER RE: ADOPTION OF 2016 BUDGET – see above

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS - none

IX. COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

Councilman Marcoccia spoke of the improvements made at Lake Isle during 2015 and the commitment to continued progress in 2016. During the past year, the bunkers at golf holes 3 & 10 were renovated, Sportstime experienced both successful summer and winter programs and a new website and social media communications initiated. Mulino's renovation of the catering facility was completed and reservations for 2016 have begun. Additionally, plans for opening a restaurant will come to fruition in the Spring of '16.

Councilman Bellitto renewed his commitment to maintain a watchful eye on the budget while continuing to invest in infrastructure projects; such as road and sidewalk maintenance, roof repairs, truck and equipment purchased for the highway department and support for environmentally friendly initiatives; such as LED lights.

Councilman Dooley announced the Santa Stop event sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce on Sunday, December 6th from 2:00 – 4:00 pm at Gazebo Park. Children will have the opportunity to have their picture taken with Santa, make a craft and enjoy hot chocolate and cookies.

Mr. Dooley extended an invitation to the Eastchester Historical Society's Victorian Christmas Party at the Marble School House on Saturday, December 12th from 1:00 – 4:00 pm.

Councilwoman Nicholson announced the following upcoming holiday events; the Anne Hutchinson Student Council Community Service Club is hosting the annual Senior Citizen Holiday Breakfast & Concert on Friday December 4th and the Girl Scouts Holiday Craft Fair will be held at Eastchester Middle School on Saturday, December 5th from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm,

In closing, Mrs. Nicholson provided the schedule for the Civic Association Holiday Tree Lighting events; Wilmot Civic Association on December 4th at 6:00 pm, Greenvale/Green Knolls on December 5th at 4:00pm, Bronxville Manor Social at the Cottle School on December 5th from 5-8 pm, Twin Lakes Civic Association on December 6th at 4:00 pm and the Huntley Association on December 12th at 4:00 pm.

Supervisor Colavita congratulated local orthodontist Dr. Joseph Comizio for receiving a ‘Volunteer NY’ award. The award is given to 50 businesses for their volunteerism and support of local projects and organizations.

X. SECOND OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Eastchester Fire Commissioner Steven Baker clarified issues raised during the Fire Commissioner campaign and reminded residents the election will be held on December 8th from 2:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

There being no further public comment the meeting was adjourned at 8:10.

Minutes prepared by;

Mary T. Swikata
Deputy Town Clerk