

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN BOARD
November 1, 2016**

Minutes of a Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Eastchester held on November 1, 2016 at 7:00 p.m., at the Town Hall, 40 Mill Road, 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
Councilman Luigi Marcoccia
Councilwoman Theresa Nicholson

Town Clerk Linda Laird
Comptroller Dawn Donovan
Town Attorney Louis J. Reda

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

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Bellitto offered a motion that was seconded by Supervisor Colavita to approve the Minutes of the October 18, 2016 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 ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE THE COST OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF RECREATIONAL AREA IMPROVEMENTS

Supervisor Colavita explained the turf installed at Haindl Field in 2006 has a useful lifespan of 10 years. During the recent annual safety inspection it was determined the turf is in need of replacement. Additionally, there are several other improvements that are required including; the netting is in a state of disrepair, there are 'dark areas' that need to be illuminated and a repositioning of the audio system that angles toward retail and away from a residential area.

Supervisor Colavita offered a motion that was seconded by Councilman Dooley to approve a RESOLUTION authorizing the Issuance of \$950,000 Bonds of the Town of Eastchester, Westchester County, New York to Finance the Cost of the Construction of Recreational Area Improvements, including reconstruction of the turf field; and lighting, sound system and netting improvements at the Town recreation facility for use by the Department of Parks and Recreation in and for the Town.

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

2. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUPERVISOR TO EXECUTE AND DELIVER AN AMENDMENT TO THE LICENSE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWN OF EASTCHESTER AND EASTCHESTER EVENTS, INC.

Town Attorney Lou Reda explained that when the town entered into the Lake Isle catering contract in February 2014, it was anticipated the caterer, Eastchester Events, Inc., would invest \$950,000 to renovate the catering facility. Since that date, over four million dollars has been spent on renovations to the facility and plans are underway to spend an additional \$1,500,000 to complete the renovations. Whereas, Eastchester Events, Inc. and the Town seek various amendments to the Lake Isle catering Agreement including an extension of the terms from 10 years with a 5 year option to a term of 20 years with two additional 5 year options. Mr. Reda explained additional terms of the Agreement to include; a 2% increase to the Minimum Annual License Fee, the payment of the 1% of the 'Percentage of Gross Receipts' and an agreement that

during the construction phase of the restaurant and the new Senior Building, Eastchester Events will relocate the Senior Nutrition Program to one of the main ballrooms.

Per the recommendation of Town Attorney Reda, Supervisor Colavita offered a motion that was seconded by Councilman Marcoccia to approve a **RESOLUTION** authorizing the Supervisor to execute and deliver an amendment to the License Agreement which was originally made between the Town of Eastchester and Eastchester Events, Inc. on February 24, 2014.

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

3. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUPERVISOR TO EXECUTE AND DELIVER A CONTRACT BETWEEN THE TOWN OF EASTCHESTER AND AUCTIONS INTERNATIONAL, INC. FOR THE SALE OF GOVERNMENT ASSETS BY ONLINE AUCTION

Councilman Dooley offered a motion that was seconded by Councilman Bellitto to approve a RESOLUTION authorizing the Supervisor to execute and deliver a contract made between the Town of Eastchester and Auctions International, Inc. for the sale of government assets by online auction.

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 the following Budget Transfers:

Transfers

From:	Materials & Supplies (Planning)	B8010.401	\$ 300.00
To:	Materials & Supplies (Safety Insp)	B3620.401	\$ 300.00
From:	Secretarial Services	B8020.467	\$ 2,500.00
	Consulting Services	B8020.458	\$ 2,000.00
To:	Consulting Services	B3620.458	\$ 4,500.00
From:	Gasoline & Diesel	R8160.408	\$ 40,000.00
To:	Maint. & Repairs	R8160.414	\$ 40,000.00
From:	Materials & Supplies	S8120.401	\$ 6,000.00
To:	Maint. & Repairs	S8120.414	\$ 6,000.00

Revisions

Increase:	Consulting Services	B3620.458	\$ 22,500.00
Increase:	Safety Inspection Fees	B01560	\$ 22,500.00

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

B) MEMORANDUM FROM COMPTROLLER RE: 2016 CAPITAL PROJECT REQUESTS – ADDITIONAL REQUEST

Per a request from Comptroller Donovan, Supervisor Colavita offered a motion that was seconded by Councilman Marcoccia to approve a Capital Project for Haindl Field at the estimated amount of \$950,000 and to authorize bonding. See Law Department Report Item A (1) above.

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

C) MEMORANDUM FROM COMPTROLLER RE: SMART BUY PURCHASING PROGRAM

Supervisor Colavita reviewed a memo submitted by Comptroller Dawn Donovan in which she recommends the Town's participation in the Smart Buy Purchasing Program. In participating with this program, the Town can piggyback with other jurisdictions in making purchases to save time and money.

The Keystone Purchasing Network has already gone out to bid for synthetic turf, which is needed to redo Haindl Field. As a participant we will not have to go out to bid separately. There is no fee to join this program.

Councilman Dooley offered a motion that was seconded by Councilman Bellitto to authorize the Town of Eastchester to participate in the Smart Buy Purchasing program in order to purchase a new turf field for Haindl Field through the Keystone Purchasing Network.

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

D) MEMORANDUM FROM LIBRARY DIRECTOR RE: PERMISSION TO RE-BID LED LIGHTING REPLACEMENT

On Tuesday, October 11, 2016 at 11:00 am the bidding closed to the LED Lighting Replacement Project at the Eastchester Public Library. No bids were submitted.

Councilman Marcoccia offered a motion that was seconded by Councilman Bellitto to authorize the Eastchester Public Library to go out to bid for the LED Replacement Project.

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

VIII. **MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS** - none

IX. **COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS**

Councilman Marcoccia announced various changes in the FOIS fee schedule, and that the Lake Isle Advisory Board/Town Board Budget Workshop will be held on November 14, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Room of Town Hall

Further, Councilman Marcoccia announced the upcoming Flu Vaccination Clinic being offered free of charge to adults 19 and older at the Bronxville Reformed Church on November 10th from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. The clinic is co-sponsored by the NY Presbyterian/Lawrence Hospital and The Community Fund of Bronxville, Eastchester and Tuckahoe.

Councilman Bellitto announced the following upcoming meetings: Architectural Review Board – November 3rd at 7 p.m., Zoning Board of Appeals – November 10th at 7 pm and Traffic and parking Advisory Board on November 22nd at 7pm. All meetings will be held at Town Hall.

Councilman Dooley encouraged residents to support our Veterans on November 11th at Memorial Park at 9:00 am and at Parkway Oval at 10:30 am.

Councilwoman Nicholson encouraged residents to review recreational programs, including Teen Scene and instructional basketball, on the Recreation page of the Eastchester website (www.eastchester.org).

Supervisor Colavita presented the 2017 Tentative Budget to the Town Board and announced several Budget Workshops would be scheduled in the coming weeks. The Supervisor summarized the Tentative Budget, noting the levy increase stays within the allowable cap. The 2017 tax levy cap set by the State of New York is 0.68%. Our allowable levy is \$20,062,967. The 2017 Town of Eastchester budget levy is \$16,461 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 2017 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 2016 to 2017 caused an estimated 3.02% 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 2017 budget is \$101,683,406. The assessed value used for the 2016 budget was \$103,349,453. This is a decrease of \$1,666,047 or 3%.
- The 2017 budget reflects a .5% increase for CSEA members, as per the agreement reached with them. The PBA contract will expire on December 31, 2016, and negotiations will begin shortly and any changes will be reflected

once the contract is settled. There are small increases for Department heads and other non-union personnel and the Town Clerk. Other 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.

The total budget for 2017 is \$34,812,306 which represents a \$373,262 increase over the 2016 budget.

The total Townwide Tax levy for the 2017 budget is \$3,562,297. 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 2017 Townwide budget will generate a 3.59% property tax rate increase, which amounts to a increase of \$1.2130 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 \$26.44 more per year (\$2.20 per month); an average house in the Village of Tuckahoe with an assessment of \$7,300 will pay \$8.85 more per year (\$0.739 per month).

The total Town Outside Tax levy for the 2017 budget is \$19,921,644. 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 2017 Town Outside budget will generate a 3.63% property tax rate increase, which amounts to an additional \$11.6471 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 \$9,200 will pay an additional \$107.15 per year (\$8.92 per month).

The current and projected tax rates are as follows:

	TAX RATES	
	2017	2015
Entire Town	35.0332	33.8202
Town Outside	291.4980	281.4544
Sewer Charge	5.8253	5.4348
Garth Resident Parking District	31.3251	29.3301

Assumptions for the 2017 Tentative Budget

- Revenue estimates for 2017 are 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 2016.
- 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.
- Health Insurance premiums will increase approximately 17% in 2017.
- One of the most significant obligations of the Town which has the greatest impact on this budget is our pension contribution. The 2016-17 pension contribution is estimated to be \$2,312,338, 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 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.

I believe this tentative budget sets forth a fiscal responsible plan while still preserving and maintaining essential municipal services.

X. SECOND OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Norman Sherran requested the coin operated meters on Scarsdale Avenue be replaced with newer meters that can be paid via a credit card or electronically via an app. Supervisor Colavita responded that several systems are currently being reviewed for installation throughout the Town.

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

Minutes prepared by,
Linda Laird
Town Clerk