I. CALL TO ORDER

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL

Present: Supervisor Anthony Colavita
Councilman Joseph Dooley
Councilwoman Theresa Nicholson
Councilwoman Sheila Marcotte
Councilman Luigi Marcoccia

Present: Town Clerk Linda Laird
Town Attorney Louis Reda
Comptroller Dawn Donovan

IV. APPOINTMENTS

Supervisor Colavita offered a motion that was seconded by Councilman Marcoccia to approve the probationary appointment of Anthony Spinelli of Eastchester, NY to the full-time position of Laborer (Group BE5S, Step 1) at the annual salary of $46,958 effective November 13, 2020.

If approved he will be required to serve a probationary period which will run not less than twelve weeks and not more than fifty-two weeks. The appointment is contingent on the successful completion of the background investigation and pre-employment testing. Funds are provided in the 2020 budget.

On the roll call, all voted “AYE.” Motion carried.

Supervisor Colavita offered a motion that was seconded by Councilwoman Marcotte the probationary appointment of Elias Neto of Eastchester, NY to the full-time position of Laborer (Group BE5S, Step 1) at the annual salary of $46,958 effective November 13, 2020.

If approved he will be required to serve a probationary period which will run not less than twelve weeks and not more than fifty-two weeks. The appointment is contingent on the successful completion of the background investigation and pre-employment testing. Funds are provided in the 2020 budget.

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

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Dooley offered a motion that was seconded by Councilwoman Nicholson to approve the Minutes of the October 13, 2020 Town Board Meeting, 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 TO ENGAGE THE SERVICES OF COUGHLIN & GERHART, LLP TO SERVE AS SPECIAL COUNCIL REGARDING DISABILITY RETIREMENT MATTERS

Supervisor Colavita offered a motion that was seconded by Councilman Dooley to approve a RESOLUTION authorizing the Town Board to engage the services of Coughlin & Gerhart, LLP to serve as Special Council regarding disability retirement matters, and be it further resolved that Coughlin & Gerhart, LLP will be compensated at the rate of $275/hour for partners, $225/hour for associates, and $190/hour for paralegals.
On the roll call, all voted “AYE.” Motion carried.

**B) TOWN CLERK’S REPORT** for September 2020 was received for filing.

**VII. CORRESPONDENCE**

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

Councilman Marcoccia offered a motion that was seconded by Councilman Dooley to approve the following Budget Transfers:

- **From:** Library – Salaries P.T. 
  **To:** Building Maint. Supplies
  **L7410.102** $12,000.00

- **From:** Stenographic Services
  **To:** Contractual Services
  **A1110.469** $12,000.00

- **From:** Tan Interest
  **To:** Taxes of Town Properties
  **A1900.702** $30,000.00

- **From:** Tan Interest
  **To:** Labor Negotiations
  **A1900.702** $10,000.00
  **A1900.427** $11,000.00

On the roll call, all voted “AYE.” Motion carried.

**B) MEMORANDUM FROM ASSESSOR RE: TAX REFUND APPLICATION - 211 BEECH STREET**

Supervisor Colavita reviewed a memo submitted by Assessor Todd Huttunen in which he requests approval for a Real Property Tax Refund for tax year 2020 for property located at 211 Beech Street (Section 70.B/Block 6/Lot 19). This refund, which has been approved by the Westchester County Tax Commission, totals $3,352.30 and is due to a clerical error. An Enhanced STAR Exemption was approved but not entered on the 2020 Assessment Roll therefore producing an incorrect 2020/21 school tax bill.

Supervisor Colavita offered a motion that was seconded by Councilman Dooley to approve a **RESOLUTION** approving a 2020/21 Enhanced STAR refund in the amount of $3,352.30 for property located at 211 Beech Street (Section 70.B/Block 6/Block 5/Lot 29).

On the roll call, all voted “AYE.” Motion carried.

**C) MEMORANDUM FROM ASSESSOR RE: TAX REFUND APPLICATION - 37 MILL ROAD**

Supervisor Colavita reviewed a memo submitted by Assessor Todd Huttunen in which he requests approval for a Real Property Tax Refund for tax year 2020 for property located at 37 Mill Road (Section 65G/Block 2/Lot 16). This refund, which has been approved by the Westchester County Tax Commission, totals $1,831.19 and is due to a clerical error. An Enhanced STAR Exemption was approved but entered as a BASIC STAR therefore producing an incorrect 2020/21 school tax bill.

Supervisor Colavita offered a motion that was seconded by Councilman Dooley to approve a **RESOLUTION** approving a 2020/21 Enhanced STAR refund in the amount of $1,831.19 for property located at 37 Mill Road (Section 65.6/Block 2/Lot 16).

On the roll call, all voted “AYE.” Motion carried.

**D) MEMORANDUM FROM ASSESSOR RE: TAX REFUND APPLICATION - 74 FISHER AVENUE, EASTCHESTER, NY**

Supervisor Colavita reviewed a memo submitted by Assessor Todd Huttunen in which he requests approval for a Real Property Tax Refund for tax year 2020 for property located at 74 Fisher Avenue (Section 43/Block 3/Lot 1.6). This refund, which has been approved by the Westchester County Tax Commission, totals $1,831.19 and is due to a clerical error. An Enhanced STAR Exemption was approved but not entered as a BASIC STAR therefore producing an incorrect 2020/21 school tax bill.
Supervisor Colavita offered a motion that was seconded by Councilman Dooley to approve a **RESOLUTION** approving a 2020/21 Enhanced STAR refund in the amount of $1831.19 for property located at 74 Fisher Avenue (Section 43/Block 3/Lot 1.6).

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

**E) MEMORANDUM FROM ASSESSOR RE: TAX REFUND APPLICATION - 20 JOYCE ROAD**

Supervisor Colavita reviewed a memo submitted by Assessor Todd Huttunen in which he requests approval for a Real Property Tax Refund for tax year 2020 for property located at 20 Joyce Road (Section 66.G/Block 2/Lot 90). This refund, which has been approved by the Westchester County Tax Commission, totals $3,024.58 is due to a clerical error. An Enhanced STAR Exemption was removed therefore producing an incorrect 2020/21 school tax bill.

Supervisor Colavita offered a motion that was seconded by Councilwoman Marcotte to approve a **RESOLUTION** approving a 2020/21 Enhanced STAR refund in the amount of $3,204.58 for property located at 20 Joyce Road (Section 66.G/Block 2/Lot 90).

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

**VIII. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS - none**

**IX. COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS**

Councilman Marcoccia had no report.

Councilman Dooley announced Census 2020 has concluded with a response rate 75.6% in Eastchester; which exceed the 2010 rate. Mr. Dooley thanked the community for their participation.

Councilwoman Nicholson announced the Town of Eastchester Recreation Department is offering a Drive Up Movie Night with a screening of the holiday favorite "ELF" at Lake Isle on November 20, 2020. The movie will be shown in the parking lot at Lake Isle Country Club on Friday, November 20. The rain date will be the following day (Saturday, November 21) at the same scheduled time. Tickets are $25 per car and are available ONLY to residents of Eastchester, Bronxville and Tuckahoe. Proof of residency will be required upon entry into the parking lot. The lot will open at 5:30 PM with the movie slated to start at 6:15 PM.

In closing, Mrs. Nicolson announced the Eastchester Rotary Interact Club Food Drive. The organization is collecting items for the Eastchester Community Action Program's (ECAP) Thanksgiving Food Needs on Saturday, November 7th from 11:00 am - 2:00pm at the Eastchester Library. The Interact Club will deliver the items to ECAP on November 13th.

Councilwoman Marcotte thanked the over 18,000 residents of Eastchester, Tuckahoe and Bronxville for voting in the November 3rd Election. The strong participation rate was seen throughout Westchester County with over 352K people voting; many utilized the Absentee Ballot Boxes by dropping their ballot off at the polling locations.

Mrs. Marcotte announced the Veteran's Day ceremony at American Legion Post 979 will be held on November 11th at 11 o'clock. Veterans Day is a day to give respect and thanks to all who served and are serving.

In closing, Councilwoman Marcotte invited residents to participate in Bronxville's Take Back Day being held on November 7th behind Village Hall (enter via Gramatan Ave for access to Palumbo Place). The event, sponsored by the Bronxville Green Committee, will feature an e-waste drop and a paper shred truck. In addition, towels and blankets will be collected for a local animal shelter and gently used, clean clothing will be collected for donation to the Vietnam Veterans of America. The event will be held between the hours of 10 am and 1 pm.

Supervisor Colavita reminded residents that the town has not participated in the CBDG grant program in over 10 years. The program allows municipalities to apply to Westchester County for funding for infrastructure improvements such as sewer and water treatment, sidewalk rehabilitation, playground and field upgrades in "low income" areas. The only area in town that would qualify for the program is the area near the town center, where upgrades have already been made. The Supervisor called on Westchester County to restart and complete the development of the Scout Field Project and provide much needed recreational space for the youth of the community.

Supervisor Colavita presented the 2021 Tentative Budget to the Town Councilmembers. In doing so, the Tentative Budget becomes the Preliminary Budget.
The Supervisor stated this year has been challenging, to say the least. We have been working tirelessly to bring to you a realistic budget during these uncertain times. There has been a marked decrease in revenues within the Justice Court, parking fees and recreation fees. As we have done in past years we have made certain that we stay within the tax cap as not overburden our residents.

The 2021 Tentative Budget marks the 10th straight year that Eastchester will deliver a budget within the 2% tax cap. Although some of us recall budgeting before the tax cap, the truth is that responsible municipal budgeting is the norm in Eastchester; it has been for the past decade and will continue to be going forward.

The total budget for 2021 is $36,360,425 which represents a $8,745 increase over the 2020 budget. The 2021 tax levy cap set by the State of New York is 1.56%. Our allowable levy is $21,848,617. The 2021 Town of Eastchester tax levy is $530,232 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.

The budget for 2021 required some very difficult decisions in order to balance a budget in COVID times that represents significant drops in non-real property revenues and increased costs across the board. The change in assessments from 2020 to 2021 caused an estimated 0.29% 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 saw reductions in the assessments. The estimated assessed value used for the 2021 budget is $101,253,108. The assessed value used for the 2020 budget was $101,333,974. This is a decrease of $80,866 or 0.080%.

Salaries increases for CSEA members are reflected in the 2021 budget. The PBA contract expires on December 31, 2019, and we have started to negotiate with them and any changes will be reflected once the contract is settled. There are no increases for Department heads and other non-union personnel. Elected Official salaries have not changed and will remain at the current levels.

The total Townwide Tax levy for the 2021 budget is $3,837,381. Property taxes count for 42% of the Townwide revenue budget, 13% or $1,200,000 from fund balance with the remaining 45% mainly consisting of department revenue, and mortgage taxes. The 2021 Townwide budget will generate a 2.75% property tax rate increase, which amounts to an increase of $1.0138 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 $21.90 more per year ($1.83 per month); an average house in the Village of Tuckahoe with an assessment of $7,300 will pay $7.40 more per year ($0.62 per month).

The total Town Outside Tax levy for the 2021 budget is $16,876,163. Property taxes account for 73% of the Town Outside revenue budget, 9% or $1,960,000 from fund balance and the remaining 18% mainly consisting of department revenue and sales taxes. The 2021 Town Outside budget will generate a 1.15% property tax rate increase, which amounts to an additional $3.5272 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 $8,900 will pay an additional $41.28 per year ($3.44 per month).

Assumptions for the 2021 Tentative Budget are as follow: Revenue estimates for 2021 are relatively flat. We have not decreased any revenues substantially. Sales Tax is coming in higher than anticipated due to the increased rate but our budget assumption is remaining flat. Mortgage is anticipating in coming in higher than budget but due to the unpredictable nature we have not changed our budget assumption. This budget utilizes $3,160,000 in fund balance. This is the same as in 2020. Health Insurance premiums will increase 4% in 2021. One of the most significant obligations of the Town which has the greatest impact on this budget is our pension contribution. The 2021-22 pension contribution is estimated to be $2,988,415, which is a large increase from prior years. The chart below reflects the actual 10 year amounts the Town has had to pay.

In closing the Supervisor explained the Preliminary Budget will be available on the website (www.eastchester.org) and Budget Workshops and a Public Hearing will be schedule to receive public comment.

X. **SECOND OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE BOARD** - none

There being no public comment, the meeting was adjourned at 7:25.

Minutes prepared by:

Linda Laird
Town Clerk