Minutes of a Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Eastchester held on December 1, 2020 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 Joseph Dooley
Councilwoman Theresa Nicholson
Councilman Luigi Marcoccia
Councilwoman Sheila Marcotte

Present: Deputy Town Clerk Mary Swikata
Comptroller Dawn Donovan
Town Attorney Lou Reda

IV. PUBLIC HEARING

A) PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER THE ADOPTION OF THE TOWN OF EASTCHESTER’S 2021 CALENDAR YEAR BUDGET

Comptroller Dawn Donovan presented an overview of the 2021 Preliminary Budget by reviewing:

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 all 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).

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 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.

Supervisor Colavita stated he doesn’t use a Town car, doesn’t gas up at the Town pump, doesn’t charge any expenses to the Town for lunch, meals, etc. and hasn’t taken a raise in 18 years.

Councilman Dooley commended the Comptroller, Dawn Donovan and her team, along with all those in Town Hall for being on target to make our budget numbers this year despite court, parking meter and recreation fees all being significantly down. Councilman Dooley further stated sales taxes are in good shape as well as the mortgage taxes, and with across the board cuts, the town was able to manage this year’s budget.

Councilman Marcoccia stated the overall budget is once again under the 2% tax cap, for the 10th consecutive year. Councilman Marcoccia said this was a tough year, and the pandemic has created many challenges with this budget, but the Town has done its best to maintain the essential services its residents have been accustomed to while keeping within the 2% tax-cap levy. He stated the Town offered an early retirement incentive, which was a cost savings and has really tightened the belt across town government.

Councilman Marcoccia says he attended productive Lake Isle budget meetings, and the Lake Isle Advisory Board members did a thorough analysis of revenue and expenses, and begrudgingly made a collective decision to raise membership rates going forward to help increase revenue. Councilman Marcoccia further added, with that in mind, Lake Isle will be adding addition shaded areas to the pool deck, will be expanding the adult pool area and plan on enhancing the children’s playground adjacent to the kiddie pool.

In closing, he says he envisions Lake Isle bubbling the Olympic pool, which will provide year round revenue to the club, thus creating many other options in the future.

Councilwoman Marcotte thanked the Comptroller, Supervisor Colavita, and the members of the Town Board who worked incredibly hard on the budget, and stated this was the year that there could have been layoffs and a large tax increase due to the pandemic. Councilman Marcotte said kudos to the Town Board for a great job.

Councilwoman Marcotte offered a motion that was seconded by Councilman Dooley to Open the Public Hearing. An Affidavit of Publication of the Meeting Notice was received. A copy of the Preliminary Budget has been available to the public on the website.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Officer</th>
<th>Each</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Supervisor</td>
<td>(1) $98,093.00</td>
<td>$98,093.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Council Members</td>
<td>(4) $15,831.00</td>
<td>$63,324.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Judges</td>
<td>(2) $42,545.00</td>
<td>$85,090.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Receiver Of Taxes</td>
<td>(1) $35,000.00</td>
<td>$35,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town Clerk</td>
<td>(1) $87,605.00</td>
<td>$87,605.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
On the roll call, all voted "AYE." Motion carried.

David Levy spoke in support of the 2021 Budget, objecting only to the fact that the Elected Officials have not received cost of living increases in their salaries. He also stated he thinks it’s a mistake to increase the pool rates at Lake Isle, and a great idea for the bubble on the pool. Mr. Levy says he is worries about sales tax revenue with L&T leaving as well as Audi.

The Supervisor stated that presently the Town is working with two parties, the L&T landlord and another entity, and says once they consummate their transaction, the residents of the Town will be extremely pleased with the entity coming into that space.

There being no further public comment, Supervisor Colavita responded to specific questions submitted via email and Councilman Marcoccia offered a motion that was seconded by Councilwoman Marcotte to Close the Public Hearing.

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

Supervisor Colavita offered a motion that was seconded by Councilman Marcoccia to Adopt the 2021 Preliminary Budget.

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

V. OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE BOARD ON AGENDA ITEMS

VI. REPORTS OF DEPARTMENTS, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

A) LAW DEPARTMENT

1. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SETTLEMENT OF A CLAIM BY PAT BALDINO

Supervisor Colavita offered a motion that was seconded by Councilwoman Marcotte to approve a RESOLUTION authorizing the settlement of a claim by Patt Baldino against the Town of Eastchester in the amount of $1,005.10 for damages sustained to Mrs. Baldino’s vehicle on September 7, 2020.

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

2. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SETTLEMENT OF A CLAIM BY DANIEL IORIO

Supervisor Colavita offered a motion that was seconded by Councilman Dooley to approve a RESOLUTION authorizing the settlement of a claim by Daniel Iorio against the Town of Eastchester in the amount of $2,985.89 for damages sustained to Mr. Iorio’s vehicle on October 27, 2020.

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

VII. CORRESPONDENCE

A) MEMORANDUM FROM SUPERINTENDENT OF HIGHWAYS RE: PERMISSION TO BID – UNIFORMS

Per a request from Rocco Latella, Superintendent of Highways, Supervisor Colavita offered a motion that was seconded by Councilman Marcoccia to approve a RESOLUTION authorizing the Highway Department to go out to bid for uniforms.

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

B) MEMORANDUM FROM LIBRARY DIRECTOR RE: AWARDING OF BID FOR THE LIBRARY WINDOW REPLACEMENT AT THE EASTCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY

Supervisor Colavita reviewed a memo submitted by Tracy Wright, Director of the Eastchester Library, in which she reports on Monday, November 9, 2020 bids for the library window replacement project were opened in the Town Clerk Office. Three bids were accepted before the 4:00 p.m. deadline and are detailed below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME OF VENDOR</th>
<th>TOTAL AMOUNT OF BID</th>
<th>5% Bid Bond</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ross Window Corp.</td>
<td>$179,200 (Lump Sum)</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAME OF VENDOR</td>
<td>TOTAL AMOUNT OF BID</td>
<td>5% Bid Bond</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Mt. Vernon Avenue Mt. Vernon, NY 10550</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Alt. #1 - $155,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Alt. #2 - $48,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Alt. #3 - $17,250</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suburban Construction Co., of NY, Inc. 157 Montgomery Avenue Suite: 7 Scarsdale, NY 10583</td>
<td><strong>$262,500 (Lump Sum)</strong></td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Alt. #1 - $150,700</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Alt. #2 - $61,750</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Alt. #3 - $33,250</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFI Glass &amp; Architectural Metal, Inc. 161 Smith Street Poughkeepsie, NY 12601</td>
<td><strong>$327,000 (Lump Sum)</strong></td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Alt. #1 - $180,900</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Alt. #2 - $102,550</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Alt. #3 - $37,000</td>
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Councilman Marcoccia offered a motion that was seconded by Councilman Dooley to approve a RESOLUTION awarding the Library Window Replacement Project to the low bidder Ross Window Corporation, 4 Mt. Vernon Avenue, Mt. Vernon, NY at the bided total amount of $349,500.

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

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS - none

IX. COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

Councilman Marcoccia thanked all of the Town's Department Heads for managing the budget cuts. Mr. Marcoccia asks that all stay safe and be careful during the next couple of months due to the resurgence of the COVID virus.

Councilman Dooley also asks that all stay safe and be careful.

Councilwoman Nicholson thanked Comptroller Dawn Donovan and the Department Heads for their work on the budget.

Councilwoman Marcotte stated the Tuckahoe Snow Angel program will be back and if you need someone to shovel your snow or want to volunteer, please send an email to Tuckahoesnowangels@yahoo.com.

Councilwoman Marcotte also stated the Local Firefighters 916 are doing their annual Toys For Tots Drive, and they ask residents to purchase new unwrapped toys that can be dropped in a bin outside any firehouse in the Town of Eastchester. In closing, Councilwoman Marcotte asks all residents to stay safe, and please shop locally to support merchants throughout the Town.

Supervisor Colavita thanked everyone on their efforts, including the Town Board, the Lake Isle Advisory Board, and the Department Heads for making cuts where necessary, which allowed our budget to come in at 1.1%.

X. SECOND OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Paul Mangione of 128 Clarence Avenue stated that an increase in price at the Lake Isle pool may mean a decrease in demand. Mr. Mangione stated the interest rate of .89% is terrific, but asks that the Town Board keep in mind that the SEC is always changing rules for all kinds of funding, and they should be aware of any changes.

Mr. Mangione asked for an update on the Dam at the Hutchinson Reservoir and expressed concerns regarding the ongoing matter and the fact that in late November, all property owners and communities were served with Claim by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

By way of background Supervisor Colavita explained, the Town of Eastchester, City of New Rochelle and Village of Scarsdale have retained an engineering consulting firm, to investigate and develop flood mitigation measures along the
Hutchinson River corridor through each of the communities. Working under an Inter—Municipal Agreement (“IMA”) the objective of the Communities is to resolve flooding conditions for adjacent properties, most of which have been designated by FEMA as being wholly or partially located within floodways and floodplains. The County of Westchester is a partner with the Communities and will aid through funding and administrative oversight. The flood mitigation measures are anticipated to take place on both public right of ways and private properties.

The flood mitigation effort will be undertaken in two phases. In the first phase, was to conduct a feasibility study which will include the development and preparation of preliminary designs of potential flood mitigation improvements. The study includes a full analysis of the Lake Innisfree (“reservoir”) dam for related improvements and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) dam safety compliance.

The second phase, will include design and construction support. Funding for identified future improvements will require state, county and local dollars, and a state grant has been secured to begin to layer the necessary financial contributions to get to a fully funded project status. With the complexity of securing financing from multiple levels of government, it is anticipated that improvements could be phased for implementation over multiple construction and budget cycles. It is also anticipated that future improvements will be proposed on both public and private properties. Improvements on private properties will require right-of-access agreements and/or easements from all the impacted property owners in order to proceed with the selected improvements.

A 2018 lawsuit to get the dam repaired was expanded in November to include Westchester County, the towns of Eastchester and Scarsdale, as well as 49 lakefront homeowners in Eastchester and New Rochelle received the summons in November.

Supervisor Colavita spoke in support of Westchester County paying a portion of the costs to upgrade the dam and suggested a taxing district that includes the municipalities of Eastchester, Scarsdale and New Rochelle.

There being no further public comment, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Minutes prepared by;

Mary T. Swikata
Deputy Town Clerk