

**TOWN OF EASTCHESTER
MINUTES OF THE TOWN BOARD
November 1, 2022**

Minutes of a Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Eastchester held on Tuesday, November 1, 2022 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: Town Clerk Linda Laird
Town Attorney Louis Reda
Comptroller Dawn Donovan

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

V. APPOINTMENTS

A) APPOINTMENT – HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Per a request from Comptroller Dawn Donovan, Supervisor Colavita offered a motion that was seconded by Councilman Dooley to approve a RESOLUTION appointing Paul Dombek to the full-time position of Laborer – Group E, Step 2 Sch. 3 at the annual salary of \$50,519 effective November 14, 2022.

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

Per a request from Comptroller Dawn Donovan, Councilwoman Marcotte offered a motion that was seconded by Councilman Dooley to approve a RESOLUTION appointing Michael Romano to the full-time position of Laborer – Group E, Step 2 Sch. 3 at the annual salary of \$50,519 effective November 14, 2022.

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

B) APPOINTMENTS – LAKE ISLE ADVISORY BOARD

Councilman Marcoccia offered a motion that was seconded by Councilwoman Marcotte to approve the re-appointment of Brian Connolly (Golf Seat), Donna Demarco (Golf Seat) and Joseph Santamaria (Pool Seat) to the Lake Isle Advisory Board effective October 1, 2022 to September 30, 2024 and the appointment of Chris Scovotti (Tennis Seat) to the Lake Isle Advisory Board effective October 1, 2022 to September 30, 2024.

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

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Supervisor Colavita offered a motion that was seconded by Councilwoman Nicholson to approve the Minutes of the October 18, 2022 Town Board Meeting as prepared by Town Clerk Linda Laird.

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

VII. CORRESPONDENCE

A) MEMORANDUM FROM ASSESSOR RE: TAX REFUND APPLICATION

Per a request of Assessor Michelle Liscio, Supervisor Colavita offered a motion that was seconded by Councilwoman Marcotte to approve a 2022 County and Town Tax Refund in the amount of \$3,810.28 for the property located at 16 Crawford Street, Bronxville (Section 77, Block 6 Lot 179.B).

The parcel is a boarder property with the Village of Bronxville. It has been determined the property is 45% in the Town of Eastchester and 55% in the Village of Bronxville, not the 85/15% ratio that was used to calculate the 2021 Town of Eastchester Assessment Roll. This error produced an incorrect 2022 County and Town tax bill resulting in a \$3,810.28 tax refund. The 2022 Town of Eastchester Assessment Roll reflects this correction.

The refund has been approved by the Westchester County Tax Commission.

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

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS - none

IX. COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

Councilman Marcoccia reminded the public that Early Voting for the General Election is being held at the Eastchester Library.

Councilman Dooley thanked members of the Eastchester Parks and Recreation Department, as well as members of the Emergency Services in town, for the very successful Halloween events of the past weekend. The 'Trunk and Treat' and Rag-A-Muffin Parade were attended by hundreds of families.

Councilwoman Nicholson announced upcoming programs offered by the Eastchester Library, including Mystery Club, a crocheting class and Baking with Tina.

Councilwoman Marcotte had no report.

Supervisor Colavita distributed the 2023 Tentative Budget to the Town Board and reported:

The 2023 tax rate increase is 0% for the Town Outside. The largest portion of the Budget is for the Town Outside. This year has been challenging with inflation unbelievably high and supply chain issues. We have been working tirelessly to bring to you a realistic budget during these unprecedented times. As we have done in past years, we have made certain that we stay within the tax cap as not to overburden our residents.

The 2023 Tentative Budget marks the 12th 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 2023 tax levy cap set by the State of New York is 2%. Our allowable levy is \$22,050,422 and the 2023 Town of Eastchester tax levy is \$633,690 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 are some of the highlights in the 2023 Tentative Budget:

The budget for 2023 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 2022 to 2023 caused an estimated 0.20% 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 a small increase in the assessments. The estimated assessed value used for the 2023 budget is \$100,949,118. The assessed value used for the 2022 budget was \$101,762,798. This is an increase of \$186,320 or 0.18%.
- Salaries increases for Department Heads and other non-union personnel are included in the budget. CSEA contract expires on December 31, 2021 and we have begun our negotiations. The PBA contracts expires on December 31, 2022, and we will begin to negotiate with them and any changes will be reflected once the contract is settled.

The total budget for 2023 is \$37,923,041 which represents a \$1,237,985 increase over the 2022 budget.

The total Townwide Tax levy for the 2023 budget is \$4,010,051. Property taxes count for 41% of the Townwide revenue budget, 13% or \$1,300,000 from fund balance with the remaining 46% mainly consisting of department revenue, and mortgage taxes. The 2023 Townwide budget will generate a 4.28% property tax rate increase, which amounts to an increase of \$1.6310 per thousand dollars of assessed valuation. Therefore, an average house in the Village of Bronxville with an average assessment of \$21,700 will pay \$35.39 more per year (\$2.95 per month); an average house in the Village of Tuckahoe with an average assessment of \$7,300 will pay \$11.91 more per year (\$0.99 per month).

The total Town Outside Tax levy for the 2023 budget is \$16,820,118. Property taxes account for 71% of the Town Outside revenue budget, 10% or \$2,250,000 from fund balance and the remaining 19% mainly consisting of department revenue and sales taxes. The 2023 Town Outside budget will generate a 0% property tax rate increase.

The current and projected tax rates are as follows:

	TAX RATES	
	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Entire Town	39.7235	38.9025
Town Outside	309.9142	309.8173
Sewer Charge	7.3100	7.4721
Garth Resident Parking District	49.7669	49.6740

Assumptions for the 2023 Tentative Budget

- Revenue estimates for 2023 are relatively flat. We have not decreased any revenues substantially.
 - Sales Tax Revenue is coming in higher than anticipated therefore we increased our assumption slightly.
 - Mortgage Tax Revenue is coming in higher than anticipated therefore we increased our assumption slightly.
- This budget utilizes \$3,550,000 in fund balance. This is an increase of \$390,000 over 2022.
- Health Insurance premiums will increase 7% in 2023.
- One of the most significant obligations of the Town which has the greatest impact on this budget is our pension contribution. The 2023-24 pension contribution is estimated to be \$2,766,114, which is a increase 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. Moody’s has again in August 2022, reaffirmed our AAA rating which is key in keeping our borrowing rates low. 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 – none

Supervisor Colavita and two residents from Chester Heights discussed an ongoing rat problem in that area of town, specifically in an area near the Mobile Station. The Eastchester Building Department has issued summonses at the location and advised the services of an exterminator were required as rats had created borrows on the property. The Building Department has worked with residents and merchants throughout the area advising on proper trash receptacles. In addition, the town contracted an exterminator to ensure the town owned parkette remains free of rats.

David Levy thanked the Town Board for their fiscal responsibility and offering forth a strong 2023 Budget, spoke in hope that a Diner would return to the site of the closed Eastchester Diner and discussed the temporary closing of the Leewood tunnel.

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

Minutes prepared by;

Linda Laird
Town Clerk